



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 38 Number 1

1935

77 Years

2012

January 2012

Thursday, January 5, 2012, 8:00 pm

Swearing in—Councilman Mark Weprin

Meet The Sikh Community

Discuss Redistricting

Refreshments will be served

Holy Trinity Church Basement, Corner 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd.

No Meeting in February, Next Meeting, March 1, 2012.

The Gavel

by Lourdes Hartrick, President

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone has enjoyed their holidays and are ready for this new year. I am excited to be able to help out again in our community and I hope to see many new neighbors attend our meetings. Our beautiful Bellerose area needs all of us to be involved to be able keep it this way.

Mark Weprin will be at our meeting to swear in all the new board members. We are grateful he was able to take time from his busy schedule to be here with us. Also we have a representative from the Sikh Temple that will speak to us about their plans in the community.

I hope to see you January 5th at p.m. and look forward to a great New Year!

NEW: Queens Library

<<https://owa2003.nycboe.net/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.facebook.com/queenslibrarynyc>>

Want a free and legal way to expand your music collection? All you need is a Queens

Library card! All card holders are now eligible to download three free songs a week. Have your library card number and PIN handy? Head to

<https://queenslibrary.freegalmusic.com/>
<<https://owa2003.nycboe.net/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%253A%252F%252Fqueenslibrary.freegalmusic.com%252F%26h=dAQGunVPNAQF2tzen1KIMbxjw0DN%26mehs-yrBWeZDGRag>> and get instant access to hundreds of thousands of songs from the Sony Music catalog. The best part? Any title you download is yours to keep! Plus, you can transfer the music to any computer or MP3 player or even burn it to a CD.

Community Parent Meetings:

By Resources for Children with Special Needs:
Special Camp Fair—2012 for Children with Special Needs: Saturday January 28, 2012. Great summer resources and a free copy of RCSN's Camps 2011-2012

Sign language and Spanish translators available
TIME: 11:00 AM-3:00 PM

PLACE: Church of St. Paul the Apostle
Columbus Ave. & West 60th Street Manhattan

For more info: info@resourcesnyc.org

www.resourcesnyc.org/events

or call 212 677 4650.

Holy Trinity News

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us!

Bible Study resumes Wednesdays at 10 am and 7:30 pm. All are welcome for some interesting discussions on God in everyday life and stories. We continue to explore "The Message", the **Bible** in Contemporary Language.

Young at Heart meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm. Enjoy lunch and some social time.

Youth Club for Middle and High Schoolers meet the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7-9:30pm No charge - attendees decide on activities which include games, movies, talent events - chaperoned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? call the church or send an e-mail holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Breakfast Run on December 10 and 24. On the 10th, thanks to your donations we provided the homeless of NYC with coats, clothes and they were especially thankful for new underwear and socks. The Leos with a generous donation made it possible to provide a good hot breakfast. On the 24th Holy Trinity was able to provide about 70 homeless people with new waterproof boots, what a great way to spend Christmas Eve morning.

Events:

Our annual Pasta Dinner and Bingo night is Saturday, January 28th. Join us for a fun evening of food, raffles and bingo.

for any questions about anything contact Carol Robinson

holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com or at 718-470-1756.

Bellerose Library Announcement

Jennifer Manley representing Queensborough Public Library (QPL) reported to a full house of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association that a fund of nearly \$1.5 million has been pulled together for a major upgrade of the Bellerose Library branch. Electronic self-check-in and check-out, new computers, new furniture, badly needed building improvements including repairing exterior cracks and roof leaks and designated adult and youth areas are included. Work is expected to start in late spring and take about six months. With lots some luck it will be complete by year end. A temporary location will be set up for continued use. Jennifer also reported on QPL plans for lending e-books and other electronic downloads.

Special recognition for pulling this fund together goes to Councilman Mark Weprin for \$600,000 for technology improvements, \$150,000 for Senator Tony Avella and to Assemblywoman Barbara Clark for \$100,000 for general improvements to the library. And thanks also go to Queens Public Library for matching these funds. We look forward to a significant refurbishment in 2012.

BCCA Board Changes

The BCCA is pleased to announce the results of the December 2011 election of officers. We congratulate Lourdes Hartrick and express our gratitude for volunteering to once again be president of your civic Association. We look forward to having Lourdes at the helm. In addition we are very pleased to welcome a new member to the board, Chris Eichler of 253rd St. Chris will fill the remainder of Lourdes' term. He has been a good friend of the BCCA. He has been very concerned about his block and has helped his neighbors combat several problems. We anticipate great new input to the board from Chris and Lourdes. Good luck to all new and reelected officers and directors.

Redistricting—Bellerose Area Unites

Once every 10 years, after the decennial census, our state legislative districts are reviewed and changed based on population. Occasionally this redistricting is influenced by politics and in the past has not served the need to keep communities together and whole. Over the past several months several civic associations in the Bellerose/Floral Park area have banded together to work on several issues of mutual concern. The civic associations have gotten together to establish Eastern Queens United. At a recent meeting of the group it was decided to put up a significant fight to keep the Bellerose Floral Park area together in any future redistricting and to take several actions to make sure that this happens. ***A rally has been scheduled on January 12, 2012 at 7pm in the Queens High School of Teaching at the Padavan School Campus*** on Union Turnpike and Commonwealth Blvd in Bellerose to bring together area residents to demand that Bellerose, Floral Park, Glen Oaks be kept together in one Senate, Assembly and Congressional districts.

This is extremely important as we all have similar needs, concerns and issues and can best be handled if we are united as our groups have been. To separate us in different districts would weaken us. ***Please make your calendar and join us on January 12*** to call the redistricting committees to keep us together. A large turnout is needed to make our point strongly and effectively.

BCCA Joins Local Civics To Bring Truth to the ICCC Claims

You will recall that the Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC), a group affiliated with the Indian Orthodox Church, has purchased property on Creedmoor and despite early plans for a community center and athletic field, has decided to build two nine-story apartment buildings. The Bellerose area civics once again united to fight this plan that would create buildings out of scale and character with our low-density community. The project is now on hold while investigations by the State Inspector General and Attorney General review irregularities in the state sale of the land.

While these reviews go on, the civics have remained quiet—but the ICCC has not. In letters to the editors of several Queens weekly papers the ICCC made several false claims about their project and accusations against to community opposition. You may recall that Community Board 13Q opposed ICCC's variance request by a vote of 22 against, one in favor and one abstention following the delivery of over 2,200 letters protesting the project from local community residents.

The BCCA joined with six other local civics to publish a lengthy and thorough point-by-point repudiation of numerous false claims in a full page ad (copies available at January meeting). In addition, it was recently revealed that a NYS Supreme Court judge has vindicated our claims by demanding that the ICCC turn over its files to the state Inspector General with regard to the purchase and investments by members of their community (press release copies at meeting). We do not believe any final action will be taken on the variance application until the two investigations are concluded.

Queens Civic Congress Installs New Officers

BCCA has been a member of the Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella group of over 110 civic associations representing all of Queens, from its inception in 1995. We are proud to report that Richard Heltenbrecht of the BCCA was inducted on December 11 as the fourth president of the borough-wide group. Richard was Executive Vice President and became president following the tragic car accident that killed Patricia Dolan. We wish Richard luck in this new role and hope he still has time for the BCCA.

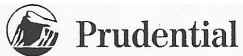
Trees

For two years we have been requesting two trees for the empty tree pits inside the Bellerose playground. We recently received the trees, but some lower branches have already been broken. We also received some new street trees in our area. You may remember the "Arborcide" last August after hurricane Irene. The street trees were intentionally cut down in front of the Bazaar market on Hillside Avenue, which will replace the old Fine Fair supermarket. The trees were just replaced by the City.

This space available for local businesses.
 \$10/month, \$80 for full year. Contact:R. Hellenbrecht—
 rch.brecht@verizon.net

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Keep it in Bellerose!!!



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