



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

# *action news*

Volume 38 Number 2

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77 Years

2012

March 2012

Thursday, March 1, 2012, 8:00 pm

## **Community Discussion Night**

### **Brief Chat on Sailing School (see pg 3)**

Refreshments will be served

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

\*\*\*Next Meeting Special Date due to Church Holiday, April 12, 2012\*\*\*

## **The Gavel**

We start this month with sad news on the death of several long term Bellerose residents: Gertrude Berninger and Rosemarie Waibel and Howard Slaney. Gertrude and Rosemarie were both dedicated block captains and often came to BCCA meetings. Howard Slaney is a past BCCA president and long term board member beginning with our reorganization in the early 1970's until his retirement several years ago. We will miss them all and we send our sincere condolences to their families and friends.

The Slow Zones proposal has been submitted to NYC Department of Transportation by their application deadline. Last month we wrote about this important new program. In areas that are selected as Slow Zones, DOT will work with local civics and other organizations to design a street plan that would reduce the speed of traffic in the boundaries to improve safety. DOT will carefully select a limited number of locations from the submissions. Once selected, the design will be carefully customized for each area to include traf-

fic calming devices and strategies that will ensure safety and slow traffic. We have proposed the area between Commonwealth Blvd and Little Neck Parkway, from Hillside Avenue south to 87th Drive. This area has constantly been subject of complaints about speeding, particularly on the east-west avenues and many accidents have caused serious property damage, including to homes near the intersections. BCCA has repeatedly but unsuccessfully requested speed cutting ideas such as four way stop signs or alternating the direction of stop signs at certain intersection to calm traffic. We believe, if Bellerose is selected, this program can finally improve traffic and pedestrian safety of our interior streets.

We appreciate the support of our bordering civic associations, Queens Colony and North Bellerose, as well as Senator Avella, Councilman Mark Weprin and Holy Trinity Church and others for supporting our request.

Please note that our normal April meeting evening coincides with Holy Thursday. Holy Trinity hall not be available. Our meeting will be held as a Joint meeting with Queens Colony Civic Association on April 12 at Holy Trinity at 8pm. Please note that on your calendar.

## Holy Trinity News

### HOLY TRINITY NEWS

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

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

Lenten Services every Wednesday beginning February 29th at Noon followed by a soup luncheon.

Services continue uninterrupted during Past Schulz' convalescence. He continues to do well after recent triple bypass surgery. He appreciates everyone's prayers and well wishes. We look forward to his return.

Bible Study and Confirmation classes are on hold until Pastor's return.

Young at Heart continues to meet 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](mailto:holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com)

**Events:** Mark your calendars:

Maifest - May 5<sup>th</sup>

for any questions about anything contact Carol Robinson at [holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com](mailto:holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com) or at 718-470-1756

### News From Our Elected Officials

The office of Senator Avella has provided some news items for our area.:

**Mobile mammography unit**—Senator Avella is sponsoring a mobile mammography screening in conjunction with the Italian American Cancer Foundation (IACF) on Saturday, March 31 from 10am to 4pm at Glen Oaks Shopping Center, 259-01 Union Turnpike, near Waldbaums.

The no cost screening service will cover women 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months. Bring health insurance card, women without health insurance will be covered by the local Screening Partnership.

Appointments ARE REQUIRED. For more information or appointment please call Senator Avella's district office at 718-357-3094 or the IACF at 877-628-9090.

**Split the 105th Precinct**—Sen. Avella conducted a press conference on January 27 regarding his proposed legislation to split the 105 precinct. The BCCA and other area civic associations have been screaming for this for 30 years. The senator, joined by Assemblyman Ed Braunstein and a representative for Councilman Mark Weprin announced state legislation to make two precincts out of the huge 105th precinct. Local leaders have been concerned for years that the ten mile distance from the current 105 precinct house to southern parts of the district can take a half hour or more in heavy traffic and it should be split up. Speakers stated that a serious accident or terror incident at Kennedy Airport would deplete police presence in the Bellerose/Floral Park area.

**Snow Removal Program**—Senator Avella is collecting names of local youths that would be willing to help remove snow from neighbors, as well as names and numbers of seniors or others who would like to get access to dependable, inexpensive snow removal service. Call the Senator's office for more info.: 718-357-3094

Volunteers of all ages can contact the Senator's office directly at 718-357-3094. Student volunteers will receive 10 hours of community service credit.

**Congressman Gregory Meeks' Clergy and Community Leadership Breakfast**—Twice a year, Congressman Meeks hosts a breakfast of leaders from his district to discuss pressing issues. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 27 at 8:30am at the Robert Ross Family Life Center at 172-17 Linden Blvd. in St. Albans. Plenty of free food, coffee and juice and lots of interesting information.

## ***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.

As reported last month, Bellerose area civic associations have gotten together to establish an informal group, called Eastern Queens United, to fight any redistricting proposal that would divide our area or split up any nearby civic association.

The legislative committee responsible for drawing lines published the new district boundaries at the end of January and the Queens public hearing was held at Borough Hall on February 7. At a packed hearing lasting for almost eight hours, Eastern Queens United held up a strong, united front to oppose the proposed lines. One of our member groups would be represented by three different assembly districts.

## ***ICCC Update***

Last year the Indian Cultural and Community Center proposed to build two nine story towers immediately adjacent to single family homes in violation of local zoning ordinances. The BCCA and other local civic associations, anxious to preserve the low rise, low density residential character of this area, protested and gathered over 2,200 letters objecting to various aspects of the massive project. In addition, the Board of Standards and Appeals, the agency responsible to approve a zoning variance, presented ICCC with numerous detailed questions about their plan. To our knowledge ICCC has not responded to those questions, but they have now filed a request to waive other city regulations requiring project frontage on a city mapped street, which the land-locked property does not have. In addition, documents provided with the waive request propose cramming an addition “community facility” building and twenty additional residential units on part of the lot which was originally designated as an athletic field. Local civics continue to object to this massive project and the additional request for waiver of rules.

## ***Learn to Sail—In Queens. A talk by Richard Hellenbrecht***

As the spring approaches we would like to introduce a unique, unusual and inexpensive way to learn how to sail, right here in Queens. The American Small Craft Association (TASCA), an all-volunteer sailing school, offers a basic sailing program with 7 on-the-water sessions and two lectures at nearby Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadow Corona Park. TASCA has a fleet of fourteen foot sloop sailboats at the lake available for program graduates and two larger sailboats on Long Island Sound. The basic class covers points of sail, rigging, weather, knots, navigation, etc. Graduates are offered membership in TASCA for as little as \$25 per year. Membership entitles sailors to use the lake boats for free and to crew on the Long Island Sound on the school’s 22 foot and 28 foot sloops.

Many people think it would be very expensive to get involved in this “rich man’s” sport, but because this is a volunteer organization, the basic class is only \$300. Additional classes after basic sailing are free to members. These advanced courses include Instructor (learn how to teach sailing), Dock Master, Skipper (of the 22 and 28 foot sloops), and Cruise Skipper (bareboat charter).

TASCA is now offering several programs for youths and open sailing dates so come down with your buddies or scout troop and try sailing for free. For more info, see our calendar and videos on our many programs, go to [www.sailtasca.org](http://www.sailtasca.org).

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

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