



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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77 Years

2012

October 2012

Thursday, October 11, 2012, 8:00 pm
Joint BCCA/QCCA Candidates' Night
For U.S. Congress

Democratic Candidate/Incumbent: Hon. Steve Israel
Republican Candidate: Stephen Labate

Refreshments will be served
Holy Trinity Church Basement, Corner 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd.
Next Meeting: November 1, 2012 at 8:00pm

The Gavel

Dear Members,

Autumn is here upon us now and I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather. This is a great time to go apple picking with the family and make some great apple pies or apple cobblers and many other ways to enjoy them. Our joint meeting last month was very well attended. We had a representative from Barbara Clark's office (her daughter) to speak about the Assemblywoman's position. Barbara's opponent, Clyde Vanel, spoke about his vision and his desire to serve as Assemblyman. We also heard from Senator Tony Avella and his opponent Joe Concannon. They all answered questions gracefully and respectfully.

The Civic does not endorse any political party but it was a good opportunity for us to hear directly from the candidates their vision and the policies that they would support. It gives us a better understanding of what they believe in and stand for. Hopefully it will help us make a good decision when we vote in November.

This month we will again join with our friends of the Queens Colony Civic on October 11th, to meet with Congressman Steve Israel and his opponent Stephen

Labate. We hope you can attend this meeting as well and be prepared to ask questions if you have any.

This month is Breast Cancer Awareness month. Please take the time to get a mammogram. It's extremely important to have a baseline for future exams. Have a safe and fun Happy Halloween! See you soon.

From Lourdes

Inside—please read articles on:

Holy Trinity News

Tree Branches down in Bellerose

What's going on in Bellerose

City Council Redistricting

BCCA Officers:

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Holy Trinity News

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

Sunday School Classes have begun. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. It is not too late to Join us!

Young at Heart once again 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

Holy Trinity continues to help the homeless with a breakfast run on November 17th - we provide season appropriate clothing and a hot meal along with toiletries. We could especially use new underwear (men's and women's), bras, and new socks. Backpacks are always welcomed. Toiletries, especially razors and shaving cream, small sized moisturizers, hand sanitizers, tooth brushes and tooth paste. Drop off at Holy Trinity or contact Carol Robinson.

Holy Trinity along with the Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness is looking to sponsor a homeless veteran to concentrate assistance to other homeless vets. This is a growing problem in the US and you can help. If you or your organization wants to help in this worthwhile cause or to make a donation, please contact Holy Trinity at holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com or visit holytrinitybellerose.org to make an on-line donation.

Events:

October 7th - first Sunday dinner following a healing service, 5pm - all welcome.
Oktoberfest - October 20th, doors open at 11 am. Join us for traditional wursts and beer.

Purchase something from our fresh baked goods or German specialties.

November 10th - Wine Tasting (watch for details)

April 20th - Murder at the Movie Premier - Holy Trinity will sponsor a special interactive dinner theater show fundraiser at the Plattduetsche Park Restaurant. Details soon!

For any questions about anything contact Carol Robinson at holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com or at 718-470-1756

Tree Branches

Several storms over the past couple of weeks have left a lot of branches and limbs down and even some property damage. Senator Tony Avella's office called several leaders to ask if trees came down or other conditions needed urgent attention. Meanwhile, there are a lot of branches still blocking sidewalks or gutters. We have suggested to Senator Avella that Parks Department should send trucks generally through the area to chip and remove tree debris. Meanwhile call 311 for help.

What is going on in Bellerose? Letter To The Editor

On Thursday September 20, 2012 to be exact, my wife was confronted by a stranger panhandling for money in our driveway. The stranger was wearing athletic pants (with a stripe down the side) and a white tee shirt. The stranger said "I live right here" pointing to the houses on the northern side of 87th Avenue, and that his wife had gone out and locked him out. He then asked her for \$2 for a cup of coffee. My wife simply said no and quickly entered our house and told me about her unsettling encounter.

On Friday September 21 our doorbell rang violently in the afternoon and there was a man standing there who said, to my wife, he was from North Carolina and he was selling furniture from his HUGE tractor trailer – you could "go into the trailer and see the furniture". She told him no and he happily stated she could catch up with him as "he would be in the neighborhood". I thought such huge trucks need to have a reason, other than peddling the sale of furniture, for being on 87th Avenue in this neighborhood. Other neighbors on our block were approached by the truck driver as well. Unfortunately, no one took the plate number of the truck.

On Saturday I was speaking to a neighbor and told him about my wife's encounter with the pan handler on Thursday and what do you know, our neighbor had this same kind of encounter a just few days before. We can't know if it was the same person but the story was virtually the same. He was told the man "lives here" and "his relatives went to Astoria and locked him out". He asked for money for coffee.

These incidents within a short period of time are worrisome as was the man who came through my gate a couple of weeks ago and we saw him as he was going by the side window - (I beat a path to the door to ask him why he was in our yard). The stranger responded "I am looking for a friend's house". Really? I said "You passed by two cars in the drive way, unlatched opened and closed the gate and walked by the side door – where does your friend live"? During the confrontation he commenced to leave heading west on 87th Ave. As I proceeded to check my garage I looked back from the driveway and he had changed direction and headed east.

I don't know if these things may sound minor to some of you; they are not minor to me. These are quality of life issues. We have a right to peaceful use of our property without having to feel that we must be "on guard". So, Bellerose, what's going on?

A Concerned Resident of Bellerose on 87th Avenue

NYC Council Redistricting

New York City has formed a redistricting commission to redraw City Council districts and has released its first draft maps for public input and comment. After every decennial census, the City is required to determine its total population and to draw new lines as necessary to ensure that each of the 51 districts throughout the city is approximately the same size. In the 2010 census it has been determined that each district should consist of approximately 160,000 people, with a permissible range of plus or minus five percent. Each borough will have a public hearing and Queens hearing will be held on October 10 at LaGuardia Community College. Additional information and maps can be found on line at:

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dc/html/maps/maps.shtml>

There's even a link where you can draw your own lines and see the change in census count immediately.

Luckily, we in Bellerose are part of Council District 23, which in the first draft does not change. We remain in Councilman Mark Weprin's district. BCCA will fight to make sure that our council district is not changed in final maps.

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