



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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75 Years

2010

December 2010

Thursday December 2, 2010, 8:00 pm

Joint Meeting with Queens Colony Civic

Guest Speaker Councilman Mark Weprin

Special Refreshments—Bring Your Appetite

At Holy Trinity Church Basement Corner Commonwealth Blvd and 87th Ave.

The Gavel

This newsletter is going out to all 1,200 Bellerose households by mail with the dues mailing. This may be the first time you are getting Action News. We welcome you and hope you enjoy reading it. We encourage you to join us at the December meeting and other meetings. If you have not received Action News before, you are welcome to let us know by emailing rch.brecht@verizon.net so we can investigate why and make sure you get it.

As we approach the holiday season we would like to wish everyone a happy holiday, whether its Christmas or Hanukah or other holiday. Our December meeting will be joint with Queens Colony. Both civics wanted to invite Councilman Mark Weprin but he is only available on December 2. In honor of the holidays there will be a great spread of food and desserts. Please come, find out what's going on in the community, enjoy meeting your neighbors and great food.

We would like to thank everyone who came out to the rally on 253rd Street on November 13. We guess about 100 people showed up. Please see the brief article/ photo on page 3.

As mentioned, you just received the annual dues letter with this edition. Dues is for 2011 and remains \$5 per household. We would like to add you to our email blast list so you can get Action News immediately by email as well as frequent updates on critical Bellerose issues. Please use the space provided on the form to insert your email address, make any name corrections or add your phone number. We apologize that we can't use first names and Mr. or Mrs. People move and the family unit has changed recently. Invariably someone will cross "Household" out and write Mr. or Mrs. In—please don't, we can't track it.

Your dues helps pay for meeting expenses, printing and delivery of Action News and support for the Bellerose Business District and Queens Civic Congress. Thank you in advance for returning your dues by next April. Let us know if you think the record of previous payments is incorrect and we will investigate and correct as appropriate.

Bellerose prepares for major changes in our Albany representation when the new year turns. Please see our articles on Senator Padavan and Senator-elect Tony Avella.

Finally, a study to rezone Bellerose and our neighboring areas has started again with a target to be finished in the next year.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church www.Holytrinitybellerose.org

Join us for any of our great opportunities for fellowship! Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am continue. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us! We will have only one service at 10 am on December 19th, 26th and January 2nd. December 5th is our next first Sunday of the month dinner and healing service (begins at 5:00 pm) Join Us. Confirmation Class also 5:30-6:30 Bible Study (listening for God) continues at 10 am and 7:30 pm. All are welcome for some interesting discussions on God in everyday life and stories.

Upcoming Events: Gold Buying Party - Sunday, December 5th (1-4pm) Cash on the spot for your old gold - Gold prices are at peak levels. Reservations required! In January - Annual Pasta Dinner and Square Dance - 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 meeting the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 7-9pm No charge - attendees decide on activities including games, movies, talent events - chaperoned by Diane Gilroy.

Senator Frank Padavan

Many of us woke up shocked on the morning of November 3rd to learn that our long-time state senator, Frank Padavan, was not victorious in his 20th campaign for election. The BCCA and other civics are not political organizations, we do not support, endorse, advocate or promote any candidate, but now that the election is over, we can state that Frank Padavan will be sorely missed. We have been truly blessed to have a completely ethical senator who has constantly gone "above and beyond" for his constituency. He has come to every event he is invited to as long as it is humanly possible. We have never seen a legislator who has responded to every request, phone call, email or even minor question at a civic meeting. Within a day of pointing something out, you can count on a detailed letter to the right agency—and a strong follow up letter when (not if) the agency doesn't respond. No one can completely count the funding that Senator Padavan had brought to Bellerose for numerous projects of the Bellerose Business District, the volunteer ambulance corps, little league baseball, local civics, business groups, social groups and others.

We will miss Senator Padavan at civic meetings, demonstrations, season openers, girls scout events, church anniversaries and other events. We thank Frank and his fantastic staff from the bottom of our hearts.

Shop Bellerose

We've recently heard that the Bellerose Hardware Store at 247-39 Jericho Turnpike may be closing. As we all know, these are tough times and a start up business is very difficult to get going and ride over the rough spots. I have been to the store many times and always walk out with something useful. Next time you think of driving miles to a big box store for some nuts and bolts, light bulbs, ice melt or shovel, etc. - save the gas and help a neighbor. If you need some lumber or sheetrock, try Marks Lumber at 248-15 Jericho Turnpike, grab a coffee at Bellerose Deli or get something stronger at Rollin' Greens—by the way, try dinner at Rollin's—great! Don't forget our terrific restaurants for a more formal evening out—Arturo's, Trattoria Lucia or Nancy's, or bring a pizza or yummy Chinese meal home. Anyone need a Bellerose Business District Directory? Email rch.brecht@verizon.net for a directory or map!

New Commanding Officer at 105th Precinct

Det. Jovoda Cooper, Community Relations Officer at the 105 Precinct, notified us that after one of the longest assignments as Commanding Officer of the 105 Precinct in recent memory, Inspector Paul Piekarski has been reassigned to the Midtown South Precinct.

Det. Cooper sent us this message to civic associations from our new 105 Precinct Commander, Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis:

"I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. I am Deputy Inspector Joseph Courtesis and I have just been designated the Commanding Officer of the 105th Precinct. I previously commanded the 106th Precinct for over 3 years and I was the Executive Officer of the 113th Precinct. I am looking forward to meeting you as soon as possible and addressing the needs of the community."

Senator-Elect Tony Avella

While we've lost a dynamo of a senator in Frank Padavan, we welcome our new State Senator-elect Tony Avella. Tony has come "up from the ranks" through civic activism, to working as staff for elected officials, to his own election eight years ago as city councilman for the Bayside/College Point area. Tony stands for principle. Tony was elected as a two term councilman and refused to run for a third term when the mayor forced a third term through. Tony was known to refuse the "lulus" (additional stipends available for special City Council chairmanships). He refused salary increases and turned down the special parking plaque available to councilmembers.

Like Senator Padavan, Tony is very responsive to community requests. He tracks agency responses and follows his letters up with stronger letters if proper action is not taken by the agency. For example, BCCA and Queens Colony proposed a new zone, we call R2N, that would maintain one-family houses on narrow lots (under 40 feet wide). Tony signed on to our recommendation and wrote to the Commissioner of the City Planning Department (CPD) in support. To our surprise, and without request or fanfare, two years later when there was no response and no apparent action by City Planning, we received a copy of a letter from Tony to CPD requesting an update on their actions.

While we will deeply miss Frank Padavan, we welcome Tony and look forward to our first meeting with him early in the year. We do not have permanent contact information yet on Tony, but will send it out as soon as we get it. We encourage you to be as active with Tony as you were with Frank.

253rd Street Rally

Last month several residents of 253rd Street appeared at Community Board 13's meeting and then came to BCCA to complain about several problems at the recently opened Super Halal Market at 253rd Street and Hillside Avenue. The store has caused severe disruption due to increased traffic, parking, shopping carts left on the block and bright lights 24 hours a day. Most importantly, there are several open Buildings complaints and violations against the current owner, some that we consider serious for patron safety or zoning violations. Exiting 253rd Street onto Hillside Avenue has become very difficult and exiting the shortened parking lot is nearly impossible.

At the BCCA meeting we called for a rally at 10 AM on November 13 to support our 253rd Street neighbors and to call on the City agencies to enforce zoning, parking, sanitation, health, transportation and other regulations.

We were pleased to see a hundred or so give up Saturday morning to come and support their neighbors. Councilman Mark Weprin and Assemblyman David Weprin were represented.




Photo by Bruno DeFrancheschi, Pres. North Bellerose Civic Assn.

St. Gregory's Christmas Craft Fair

St. Gregory the Great Church is holding its annual Christmas Craft Sale in the Oak Room (church basement) on Saturday, Dec. 4th, 1:30-6:00pm, and also on Sunday, Dec. 5th from 8:30am- 1:30pm. Unique and affordable hand-made crafts, jewelry, personalized items, religious articles will be sold. There will also be a cake sale, raffles and a 50/50. All proceeds go to charitable organizations. Come, shop and support a worthy cause.



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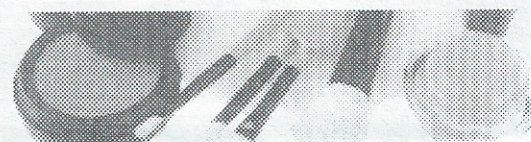
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