



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 36 Number 1

January 2010

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

Thursday January 7, 2010, 8:00 pm

Installation of Officers

By Councilman Mark Weprin

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

Next Meeting March 4, 2010

Happy New Year to One and All

The Gavel

Happy New Year. The Board and Officers of Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. This month we've expanded to four pages in order to begin advertising local businesses again. These ads help pay for the printing and distribution of the newsletter and defray some of the costs and make your dues money go further. If you are interested in advertising, see contact info see pg. 4

Speaking of dues, as you know we sent dues letters out with the December newsletters and have had a terrific response so far. By Christmas we have already received 333 dues checks and several donations. Thank you for your quick response. As usual, we will keep the roster open until April. Several people cross out "or Current Resident" on the label. As in all neighborhoods, there is always a lot of turnover and we can not predict what house may change. Please disregard this unfortunate language. In addition, we use "Household" or "Family" rather than "Mr. and Mrs." Please accept that we can not keep track of all the relationships in 1200 households and we have very few first names in the database.

As many of you know, we have made a significant effort in 2009 to develop an email list and to get time-sensitive information out as soon as we get it. We have gotten some very favorable comments from this list and we would like to continue to expand and use it more frequently. We also send out a pdf version of the newsletter via email to these addresses several days earlier than the hard copy edition. If you would like to get added to our distribution list please send me an email with your address to rch.brecht@verizon.net. If you have included your email on your dues return slip and have not received emails from us, we've noticed two problems with emails: 1) don't take offense, but sometimes its hard to decipher the handwriting and we get the address wrong; 2) you may have a spam blocker on your email system. If you have a spam blocker, please add Jim Delaney at delaneys2@verizon.net to your friends list so your system will accept the message. In some cases we get our message kicked back in which case we delete the address, please let us know if we can put you back on the list. The next dues letter will include your email address from our records for your verification.

Please come to our January 7 meeting to welcome our new Councilman Mark Weprin, wish him well and seek his help with City problems and needs.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Commonwealth Blvd & 87th Ave.

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

Don't miss Holy Trinity's Annual Pasta Dinner and Square Dance, Saturday January 30th—dinner starts at 5pm. No experience necessary and single dancers welcome.

Kids Club (K-5th grade) will begin on Wednesday, January 6th. A story, games, a craft and light dinner \$4 per session. 5:30 to 7:00pm.

Adult Bible Study resumes Wednesday, January 6th at 10 am and 7 pm (join us at 6:30 pm for light supper).

Young Hearts meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month at 12:30pm. Enjoy lunch and some social time. Watch for some exciting events coming up.

Call: 718-347-0278 or visit www.Holytrinitybellerose.org

Public Service Commissions Gas Explosion Hearing

We have been notified by Community Board 13Q that the Public Service Commission will be holding two public hearings in our area concerning the 2009 gas explosion on 260th Street that took a life and left a husband and three young boys without a wife and mother. Our community raised very serious concerns about the lack of coordination and communication by Con Edison at the time and about the aging of our area's gas and electric utilities. There have been several gas leaks in our neighborhood and we remain concerned about aging gas pipes in close proximity of the electrical distribution lines under our streets. We and the Community Board have called for major changes to coordination between Con Edison, the police and fire departments and communication with schools and with all nearby residences when a leak is reported. Many changes were reported to Community Board 13 within a month of the accident. Since then we have noticed several occasions when FDNY has responded, closed streets and notified neighbors along with Con Edison workers. We also called for a replacement of aging gas and electrical lines. Significant Con Edison activity has been noticed around Belle-rose over the past six months.

The public hearings will be on January 7 at 2pm at SNAP (Services Now for Adult Persons) on Creedmoor Campus, Building 4—enter at the traffic light on Winchester Blvd, North of Hillside Avenue. The second hearing is at 7pm at PS 115 at 80-51 261st Street, Glen Oaks. Please attend a hearing and voice your concerns about these critical life/safety issues. Remember that the BCCA meeting is the same evening at 8pm.

Holiday Tree Mulchfest 2010 (Jan 9 & 10) and Going Green in Queens (March 10)

Our friends at Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces have asked us to pass along information on upcoming "Green" events in Queens. Anyone with live Christmas trees should put them at the curb on regular pick up days from January 4 to January 15. Make sure to remove all tinsel, garland, lights and ornaments. Do not put trees in bags. We can all "chip" in and use the mulch from all these trees to give a present to the trees and gardens on your property. See <http://home.nyc.gov/html/dsny/html/pr2009/122809.shtml> for more information.

Mulchfest 2010 will take place from 10am to 2pm on January 9th and January 10. You may drop off your tree for mulching or pick up bagged mulch. The closest park to us is Cunningham Park parking lot at Union Turnpike and 196th Street (West of Francis Lewis Blvd.) Volunteers are wanted to help bag mulch or to teach visitors about environmental benefits of mulching. Check out <http://www.nycgovparks.org/services/mulchfest/mulchfest.html#documents> for more information.

The Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces holds an annual Going Green in Queens conference each spring. March 10 is set for the third green spaces conference and it has gotten bigger and better every year. The location is being finalized since the event outgrows its locations. Watch for more info next month. Visitors will see presentations on the many Queens parks, talk to Parks Rangers, learn Street Tree Pruning, get info on kayaking and small boat use, hiking safety, birding, gardens, and other parks and outdoor activity issues.

Snow Shoveling, Plowing Problems

The pre-Christmas snowstorm is now washed away, but not forgotten. Its very unusual to get over a foot of snow around here, and quite rare to get it before Christmas. The news reports say there's only a 10% chance of a white Christmas in any particular year. But it is a good opportunity to remind everyone of snow removal requirements and parking restrictions during a snow emergency. For the safety and convenience of everyone in Bellerose we encourage everyone to follow these guidelines.

Owners or occupants of residential or commercial lots must clean snow and/or ice from sidewalks within four hours after the snow stops falling or by 11am if the snow fall stops after 9pm. You must NOT shovel snow into the street. Packed snow or ice that can not be removed must be strewn with sand, ash, sawdust or similar material, but the sidewalk must be cleared as soon as weather permits. Fines \$100 up to \$350 for repeat offenses.

We have all experienced the case where we just finish hours of shoveling a sidewalk or driveway just as a Sanitation or Transportation plow speeds down the block and packs two feet of snow in your driveway or plows a spray of snow over onto your clean sidewalk. Several neighbors on 253rd Street and other places called BCCA and 311 to complain of this problem. Of course it is necessary to plow so we can get out and, more importantly, so emergency vehicles can get in. But we have formally asked the community board to notify DOS and DOT to slow down, watch for driveways and to reverse direction near the 253rd Street malls to plow onto the mall.

Bellerose Business District (BBD) Map and Directory



The Bellerose Business District, of which the BCCA is a founding member, has produced a "cartoon map" of the Jericho Turnpike/Braddock Avenue shopping strip. Over one hundred businesses are displayed on the fun map and many member/sponsors who have balloons signifying our area. The caricature map includes houses of worship, including St. Gregory's, Holy Trinity, House of Hope and other local churches. On the back of the map, we have listed over two hundred stores and business on the strip with phone numbers and other contact information. The same information and more is available in the handy BBD Directory.

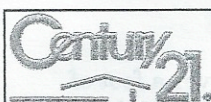
BCCA members are entitled to a copy of the Directory and we have many maps, conveniently folded for mailing—all for free. A framed flat map is available for \$35. Great conversation piece in your family room. Call Rich at 646-732-5784 for info, they are available and we'd love you to have them.

105th Precinct Issues, Crime Reports, BCCA Online News, Census Warning

Commissioner Kelly and Mayor Bloomberg are all over the news as we go to press, talking about how the city is safer now in terms of violent crimes and felony than at any time since 1962 when recording crime started. There are times when it doesn't seem to be the case around here, but the Bellerose area is extremely safe and secure. Nonetheless, it is always important to take precautions so that your house or car are not "easy pickings." Most importantly you must keep doors and windows locked and only open the door when you know or trust your caller. Make sure you have a front porch light and a motion sensor rear yard light. Be careful not to leave anything of value visible in your car. While shopping place valuables in your trunk, but make sure no one is watching. Never leave your wallet or purse in the car, cash or keys visible in the car. Never start your car and leave it running unattended to heat up or cool off. Unattended, running cars can be taken in seconds.

At home, watch your trash, particularly during the holiday season. Boxes for TVs or laptops should be turned inside out before putting out for recycling. Be careful of identity theft. Buy and use a shredder for personal papers, old bills, credit card or other receipts, etc. People have been seen taking or going through clear recycling bags. Always safeguard your wallet, photo ID and credit cards. Never carry your Social Security Card—put it in a safe deposit box with your other important papers. Its too easy to lose and too valuable. Above all, sign up for your BCCA On-Line News to get up to date security and crime information—see page one for info.

A reminder on the Census—we urge a complete and accurate count, but there are con artists and imposters who may prey on conscientious citizens. Valid census workers will carry ID and badge, a canvas Census bag, and confidentiality documents. They will not ask for SS numbers or any financial information like credit cards, bank accounts. No Census worker will contact you by email, so delete any email Census solicitation.



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Support Our Advertisers

As mentioned elsewhere, BCCA is inviting advertisers to post a business card sized ad (approximately 3 1/8" w x 2" h) in Action News for only \$90 per year, double-sized ads (vertical 3 1/8" w x 4" h or horizontal 2" h x 6 1/4" w) for \$180 per year for insertions in 9 issues from January through December. We hope to fill a page or more of our expanded 4 page newsletter with ads. Please contact Rich at rch.brecht@verizon.net or 646-732-5784.

Standard Business Card ad \$10 per month. Double size available.