



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 37 Number 5

1935

76 Years

2011

June 2011

*****Special Meeting/Special Date*****

Thursday, June 9, 2011, 8:00 pm

Joint meeting with Queens Colony Civic Association

U.S. Congressman Gregory Meeks

Come meet our representative in Congress

Refreshments will be served

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

The Gavel

We have a special opportunity this month to hear from Congressman Gregory Meeks at the June meeting. We welcome Representative Meeks to our civic associations and hope that he will come back often. I have met him and heard him speak at several venues and he has a commanding presence and a thorough knowledge of what is going on in Washington. There is so much to talk about now, with the whole health care discussion, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, the Federal budget and deficits, wars and actions overseas and veterans care. For veterans in the community there is a very important subject and the Congressman has been most active. The former St. Albans Naval Hospital has been operating for years as a clinic and nursing home while serious need exists for additional hospitals for our vets, including the many vets returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, many with need for long term care and treatment. Vets, and their families, currently need to travel to Brooklyn or East Northport for full medical treatment. Queens has the largest number of veterans of any borough and they should have close and immediate access to medical treatment. For-

tunately, a plan to turn this facility into hundreds of private houses has recently been defeated following the strenuous objections of civics in St. Albans and Addesleigh Park, along with support from veterans groups, the Queens Civic Congress and many other organizations. Let's hope we can see a more full service medical facility in our backyard to support our troops!

Meanwhile, closer to home we have noticed a shift in apparent regulations that relate to land use in our area. A formerly state-owned site on Creedmoor campus that was slated for an Indian cultural center is now being proposed for two 9 story apartment buildings. Also, Iris Hill, another Creedmoor location is taken over by a private institution with no apparent public review. We thank Senator Tony Avella for initiating an investigation to find the facts of how this happened and what is proposed. We will keep a close eye on these issues.

Last month Senator Avella and Councilman Mark Weprin held Town Hall meetings. We were most proud of the terrific turnouts from Bellerose and the BCCA. We hope you felt satisfaction and hope for the future. With panels packed by agency heads, we heard many questions about snow plowing, but many important questions on what's going on at Halal, food carts, illegal conversions, etc.

Holy Trinity News

Regular Sunday Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am continue. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us! **Ascension Service and Dinner:** June 2nd for a special service celebrating Christ's Ascension. Service begins with a Meatloaf Dinner at 6:30 pm.

Father's Day Brunch between services at 10:00 AM on June 19th. Bring Dad.

Bible Study continues on Wednesdays at 10 am and 7:30 pm. All are welcome for some interesting discussions using the new Bible translation "The Message 2.0". Bible copies will be available.

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

Yoga continues Fridays at 7pm - all levels are welcome! Only \$15.

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 which include games, movies, talent events - chaperoned by Diane Gilroy. Questions? call the church or send an e-mail holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com

The Holy Trinity Youth Club needs your help. They will provide a Midnight Run for the homeless on June 10th. They will provide the homeless with a hot meal as well as much needed items. For this run we are concentrating on light and medium weight jackets, T-Shirts, pants (jeans), sweatpants, new underwear (both Men and Women's) and socks as well as small sized toiletries. Please drop all donations at the church by June 9th. Contact Carol Robinson if you want to help!

holytrinityinfo@verizon.net

Events:

Keep an Eye out for Flyers announcing the next fundraiser at Silver Moon Diner on Hillside Avenue in Queens Village. We are working out the details for a kick-off dinner event and on-going fundraising opportunities to help Holy Trinity on those days you don't feel like cooking.

SAVE THE DATE - Vacation Bible School & Day Camp: Join us for two weeks of fun this summer. Beginning July 11th Holy Trinity will be offering two-weeks of programming for youth 3years to 6th grade. The first session (July 11-15) will have as its theme 'Panda

Call: 718-347-0278 or visit www.Holytrinitybellerose.org or send an e-mail to holytrinitybellerose@verizon.net for more information on anything

St. Gregory The Great's Annual Festival

This year, 2011, is a special year for St. Gregory the Great. The church and its parishioners are celebrating, through various activities, the 75th anniversary of the church in Bellerose. The Diamond Jubilee theme is: "All are welcome in this place."

Along with the special celebrations, St. Gregory's is also planning its 32nd Gregorian Summer Festival which is scheduled for the evenings from June 16th to June 26th. The Festival is renowned in the area for its entertainment, dancing, games, prizes, amusement park rides, and variety of international foods. In fact, some would say it puts Bellerose "on the map" for great things to do nearby.

You are all invited to participate in this favorite summer festival. Join us in St. Gregory's schoolyard every evening from June 16th to the 26th.

[Editor's Note]

Many nearby homeowners enjoy and participate in the festival and look forward to it each year. However, we call upon all Festival visitors to respect the property and privacy of the close neighbors. Families nearby live with and enjoy the noise from rides and bands late at night. They simply ask that visitors use the many refuse receptacles at the gates to dispose of cups, plates, etc. Also, please be mindful of driveways around the fairgrounds. Occasionally gates may obscure curb cuts and residents may be seriously inconvenienced by a car blocking their driveway. Neighbors have no problem hunting for a parking space near home for ten days, but losing their driveway is too much to ask.

Halal Market and Local Conditions Update

Anyone who attended the recent Town Hall meetings by Councilman Mark Weprin and by Senator Tony Avella know that a frequent concern raised was the conditions on Hillside Avenue between 249th Street and Little Neck Parkway. Time and again we heard comments about illegal parking, double parking, dangerous drivers' maneuvers and much more along Hillside Avenue. The Super Halal on Hillside Avenue at 253rd Street has been the brunt of the complaints received, but it is not alone. While there have been numerous complaints about noise, litter, loitering, parking problems, off-route and oversized trucks, traffic and circulatory problems, we have learned that some of the problems affecting the residents of 253rd Street have somewhat subsided. However, it seems that every week there is a new violation at Super Halal. We met a few weeks ago with Halal reps, Senator Avella, Councilman Weprin and Assemblywoman Clark. Halal was clearly apprised of the numerous problems they've created by their expansion that restricts the parking area, endangered pedestrians and cars passing-by and caused reduced quality of life of neighbors, near and far. They were offered every opportunity to let us and the community know what future plans would further impact the area. While they said no, the day after the meeting, they installed an awning over the vegetables that is further restricting the parking area. This week they've put lights on the temporary awning and took another parking space with pallets of BBQs and lawn chairs. They have already created hazardous conditions by reducing parking area: this further reduces space pushing customers into streets. While some problems have lessened, this is unacceptable.

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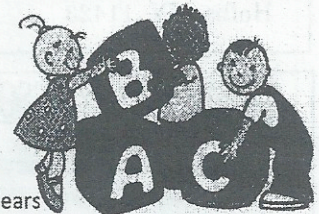
85-32 253rd Street

Bellerose, NY 11426

718-347-0053

gangananda215@aol.com

Children Ages 6 Months to 12 Years



Queens Civic Congress Transportation Forum Wrap-up

Queens Civic Congress brought together the MTA's bus unit, the Queens commissioner of the Department of Transportation and City Council Transportation Committee Chair Jimmy Vacca. The meeting was at the Queens Farm Museum and was very well attended. The agenda was divided between policies governing bus operations, routing, cleanliness, etc. and broader transportation policies, particularly current trends toward increasing bike paths, creating "pop-up street cafes" and getting street closures, speed humps, traffic lights, etc.

Regarding buses, there were several questions about removal of the Q79 bus on Little Neck Parkway. Councilman Vacca agreed to reopen and push for resumption, providing we could recommend something innovative and sensible, like merging two routes. It was pointed out that while we can't get buses on LNP we suddenly see convoys of buses deadheading to Hillside Avenue, Union Turnpike and points north, supposedly due to "road problems" on Cross Island Parkway where the deadhead buses previously traveled north. Bus Street Operations agreed to review the situation.

Queens Commissioner McCarthy of DOT offered to look into conditions like, stop lights or stop sign requests, speed humps, etc. Bike lanes were largely chastised, but some supported healthful biking.

Congratulations to Community Board 13Q

Complaints have been escalating over recent years because of extremely noisy daytime parties being held at Preller Field near the Cross Island YMCA. Local civics met with administrators of the field and were promised they would be apprised of any rental of the lot for parties. Despite no notification, local residents saw posters advertising a celebration and notified Community Board 13. The district manager and chair arranged for officers from the 105 and DEP to monitor noise. The noise was kept pretty reasonable and there were fewer complaints — Good job CB13, DEP and 105.



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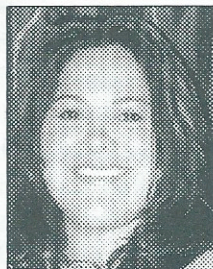
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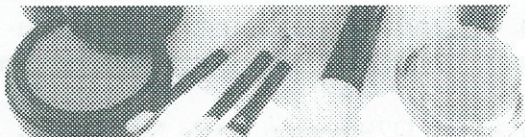
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