



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association/Queens Colony Civic Association

Special Date: Thursday May 13, 2010, 8:00 pm

NYC Department of Finance Spokesman

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

Next Meeting Block Captain Recognition, June 3, 2010

The Gavel

11 Please join us with another special joint meeting with Queens Colony. QCCA had invited a speaker from NYC Finance Department (DOF) and asked if we would like to combine. DOF is responsible for city taxes, particularly real estate taxes and we've heard good feedback from this presentation. Find out about the implications of home improvements, ask about the STAR program. Learn if these large home expansions pay more taxes.

Last month we had a huge turnout at our joint meeting with Queens Colony Civic Association. We hosted NYC Sanitation Department's community liaison manager Ignazzio Terranova to address a number of questions and confusion regarding the many roles of the DSNY. It can truly be said its not our grandfather's Sanitation Department. Iggy, as he prefers to be called, provided a lot of new and sometimes unexpected information and explained why some pickups don't get made or why some streets get plowed in a certain way.

Many people were quite perplexed at the plowing during several winter storms earlier this year. Driveways and walkways

in some cases had to be hand shoveled over and over after plow trucks blocked them. Many suggestions dealt with either reversing the plows or alternating the direction of the truck-plowing the street. Most ideas were met with either union rules or cost effective or safety related explanation. Of course, the highest priority is getting a truck to every block and clearing as much snow as possible.

Many members were surprised about the discussions of recycling plastics. After years of looking at the little numbers in triangles on the bottom of plastics, Iggy basically said plastic items should only be recycled if the neck of the item is smaller than the body. New rules are being formulated on plastic recycling—watch for our notice.

Things you should know:

Jars like peanut butter jars and plastic food container with lids are not to be recycled; garbage out before 5pm the evening before collection day subject to tickets; cover garbage pails or put in plastic bags; DOS may check inside cans for recyclables and will ticket you; debris on a yard that can be seen from the street can be ticketed; homeowners must sweep the first 18" of their gutter—tickets issued between 8 and 9am and 6 to 7pm; on ANY snowfall collections stop—plowing is first priority.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church www.Holytrinitybellerose.org

Commonwealth Blvd & 87th Ave. Regular Sunday Services at 9:00am and 10:30am.

Adult Bible Study continues Wednesdays 10 am and 7 pm through May 12. Join us any day.

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

Mark your Calendars:

May 1st - Maifest at 6pm (tickets purchased in advance - \$15 per person/ \$40 per family) for a great German meal

May 9th—Make mom happy, come to services and then enjoy brunch.

June 12th - Holy Trinity Yard Sale (10am to 3pm) - Feel free donate items for sale or rent or if you have your own items to sell—rent a space for \$25 and sell for yourself. Contact Carol at holytrinitybellerose@yahoo.com.

July 12th - Vacation Bible School starts—two weeks.

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

Update from LIJ Hospital Center

Community Board 13 recently had a major presentation from LIJ. We know that many people in Bellerose use Long Island Jewish Hospital, so here's a very brief update on the expansion and modernization project. Construction of the new Women's wing in front of the old main building is moving quickly ahead and is significantly below budget. As a result of the cost savings, LIJ is adding an upgrade of the façade of the old main building to match the new structure. The completion of the Women's wing will provide many state of the art facilities, including individual rooms and modern birthing suites. Additional cardiac care services will be on the upper levels, with a crossover to the existing building. The new building and façade improvements to the main building will make a significant improvement to the center. Much of the outpatient services have been centralized off campus across Lakeville Road in the (former) iPark buildings, so these patients do not have to deal with the campus or increase traffic going to the limited parking. A new pediatric emergency room is now being constructed in the new Children's Hospital building, alleviating patient traffic to the main ER, which itself was recently expanded with more beds, better medical facilities and a massive glass enclosed waiting room.

The hospital is working hard to address parking issues both on campus and off. With construction, construction materials and equipment everywhere, this has been a big problem. Hospital employees park on nearby streets, occasionally block driveways and fire hydrants and sometimes leaving debris. The new multi-pronged approach of free on-campus parking and beefed up off-campus parking enforcement has so far not discouraged employees' illegal street parking. The hospital also announced at the community board meeting that the new building's foundation can accommodate an additional two floors if and when the need and financing exists. The parking problem that only promises to get worse with the completion of the expansion. While we benefit from having a world-class medical center, we must sympathize with our neighbors in Glen Oaks, Floral Park and New Hyde Park, Queens, who live with the traffic, congestion, parking issues and even litter every day.

Memorial Day

At the end of May each year since 1868 our nation has paused to honor the war dead in a holiday first called Decoration Day and more commonly called Memorial Day since the end of World War II. Since 1971, the former May 30 holiday has been commemorated on the last Monday of May each year. This year's Memorial Day is celebrated on May 31. Please reflect and remember the sacrifice of our fellow countrymen and women in all wars past and present and members of police and fire departments who have given their lives for us. One ceremony of note will be at Borough Hall on May 25 at noon, where Borough President Helen Marshall will officiate at the Veterans' Memorial Garden outside Borough Hall at 120-55 Queens Blvd. Please stop by.

New York City Drinking Water Saved

Story courtesy of Queens Civic Congress

The City could not exist without a safe reliable supply of clean water. On Earth Day, April 22, the State Department of Environmental Conservation announced strict new rules regulating drilling for gas in the New York City watershed. The new rules effectively prohibit drilling by requiring an Environmental Impact Statement for each new well.

Over the past two years State officials and the gas industry pursued plans to allow an unconventional method of natural gas drilling, called hydraulic fracturing, throughout New York, including in and around the City's drinking water supply. This type of drilling has contaminated water in states across the country, and if such accidents were to occur in the watershed the consequences could range from pollution of our drinking water, to drastically increasing water rates.

About 90 percent of New York City's drinking water comes from a series of reservoirs and lakes, collectively called the watershed. For more than a decade, advocates for safe water, including QCC, have supported City Hall's efforts, led by Councilman Jim Gennaro (Fresh Meadows), to implement a comprehensive plan including land acquisition and management programs. As a result, New York is one of only five major cities in the nation to be granted federal exemption from water filtration requirements. One benefit of this exemption is that the City has avoided the need to construct a \$10 billion filtration plant, which would cost \$100 million annually and increase the water rate by an estimated 30 percent. In 2009, QCC supported CM Gennaro's City Council Resolution calling for the State to prohibit hydraulic fracturing in the watershed. Subsequently, City Hall released a technical report, which concluded that drilling in the watershed "presents an unacceptable risk to the City's water supply," reinforcing the Council's position. Since then, the State has been reviewing this position along with +13,000 public comments before issuing a response on April 22.

Parks Issues

May 15 is Its My Park Day and time to start talking about Parks issues. Our parks are vital City resources that hold a very special in the Mayor's sustainability project called PLANyc2030, yet, ironically don't have sufficient funds for seasonal workers. The mayor's 2030 plan includes planting one million trees on streets and in parks around the City and a promise of a park within walking distance of every city resident. Many trees have already been planted and a new zoning requirement for all new developments calls for mandatory tree planting in the grass strip between the curb and sidewalk every 25 feet. Existing street trees that are removed must be replaced and a one-stop program is being formulated to schedule removal and replacement in one call. Jim Delaney recently submitted a list of over 15 Bellerose tree stumps that need to be replaced.

Unfortunately in Bellerose we don't have any green parks, but Alley Pond and Cunningham parks are pretty close, each with some good facilities including tennis, bocci, cricket, shuffle board, ball fields, etc. Flushing Meadows Corona Park, about 10 miles from here has soccer fields, a skateboard plaza, a model airplane field and even sailboat training and paddle boat rentals. We urge residents to use these parks.

City Budget Issues—Community Boards, Borough Presidents, etc.

The economic slowdown is affecting NYC tax revenues and, therefore city services of all sorts will be impacted. There are both short term and long term implications of this. For the short term we will probably see reduced library hours, fewer pothole repairs, graffiti may stay longer, subway and bus schedules cut (e.g. Q79 elimination) and class sizes increase. The administration appears also to be moving to address some decentralization issues it feels slows progress. Initially budgets for community boards and borough presidents have been drastically cut. Borough presidents budgets already cut in half since 2000 have taken another dramatic cut and community boards, which received no increases, except citywide staff raises, during the decade, have now been cut from \$192,000 to \$166,000. The cuts, if finalized, reduce the ability of these important community advocates to meet their City Charter mandates. Community Boards, for example, have a small staff of three to four workers can no longer afford three full-time staff or printing and copy services necessary to maintain vital communication about city projects and services. Longer term, the City is pursuing a Charter Revision which is expected to severely restrict community oriented powers and responsibilities of community boards and borough presidents while centralizing those powers in Manhattan. We'll keep you posted.



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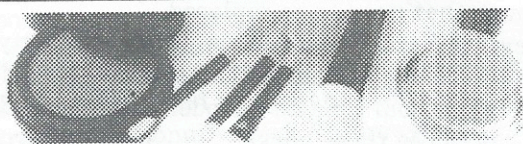


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