



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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Volume 39 Number 7

1935

78 Years

2013

October 2013

Thursday, October 3, 2013, 8:00 pm
*Borough President Candidates Melinda Katz
and Tony Arcabascio*

Refreshments will be served, Raffles, 50-50 Drawing
Holy Trinity Church Basement, Corner 87th Avenue and Commonwealth Blvd.
Next Meeting: November 7, 2013 at 8:00pm
Raffles and 50/50 at BCCA Meetings

The Gavel

Hello Bellerose,

At the September meeting we heard from Karen Phillips from the Department of Environmental Protection about various issues, but primarily about the program initiative by DEP introduced earlier this year called Water and Sewer Line Protection Plan. Ironically, when Karen asked who in the audience had the protection plan, most of the members already have signed up.

In addition, Officer Epps, the 105th Precinct replacing Matt DiPietro came to the meeting to introduce himself and update us on crime and security issues in the neighborhood. Officer Joseph McCoy, the 105 Crime Prevention Officer, accompanied Officer Epps. Officer McCoy was with us several months ago as well.

In October we have arranged for both Borough President candidates to stop by for an introduction. Melinda Katz and Tony Arcabascio will try to squeeze us in among other appointments. Tony may be there just after 9:30. Please stay.

BCCA Dues

For many years we have sent out individual letters to all members listing their past 5 years' dues payments requesting their new dues. This process seemed to be popular and often resulted in members paying back dues they may have forgotten.

Dues continues to be \$7 for 2014 and we will be soliciting payments in November and December. The process we've used for these years is very expensive and tremendously time-consuming for the Treasurer. We are considering simply inserting a generic dues envelope in the newsletter to return your check. We would sacrifice the individual messages to members, but would save hundreds of dollars in printing, envelopes and a separate mailing. We encourage a discussion at the October meeting.

Bellerose Business District Luncheon

The BBD will hold its biannual meeting on Saturday, November 9 at 1pm at Trattoria Lucia. The fare is \$35 per person (at cost) for a full multi-course lunch with dessert. We would like to support this organization's efforts by having at least a table. Traditionally BCCA votes to pay half the fare for board members and spouses and other members who would like to attend. It's a great opportunity to meet some of the shop owners and get some great food.

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Holy Trinity News

Our summer at Holy Trinity ended with a great Rally Day and BBQ, we collected donations for the All Saints Food Pantry to help those struggling local families.

Fall is here and Holy Trinity is back to 2 services on Sunday at 9am and 10:30am. We would love to have you join us.

Sunday School Classes resume on the 15th. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Children have a great time Join us!

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 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. Diane could use a few parents to occasionally help, think about helping.

Future Events:

Karen DiTusa (nee Poje) Memorial Service - October 5 at 11 am

Oktoberfest - October 19 from 11am to 3pm (german sausages and all the sides, raffle can auction, 50/50 raffle) no door charge

1st Communion Classes start on October 22nd - contact the office (718-347-0278)

Wine Tasting - November 1st at 8pm - reservations required, contact Carol for more details.

Ethnic Pot Luck Dinner - November 3 - join us with a dish to pass at 5:30pm after 5pm healing service.

Annual Talent Show - November 16 @ 7pm

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

BELLEROSE LIBRARY TO CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

Thomas Galante, C.E.O. of the Queens Library system, has advised us that the renovation of the Bellerose Branch will begin around October 28th. This will necessitate the closing of the library for six months or more.

Your civic has been asking for improvements at the library for several years. At a meeting set up with BCCA reps at Senator Tony Avella's office about two years ago, Mr. Galante acknowledged that three of the library's four exterior walls had structural damage and he agreed work was needed on the library. Earlier flooding due to a leaky roof had been repaired, but the library, built in the early 1970s, has long been in need of renovation. Queens Library often depends on funding from legislators for construction projects. Galante promised to add money from the Library budget on a renovation of our library.

Many of the Queens Library's branches, such as Glen Oaks (now 17,000 sq. ft.; cost- \$18 million), have been replaced with beautiful, modern facilities. Bellerose Branch, with funding from Senator Avella, Councilman Mark Weprin, Assembly Member Barbara Clark, and from the Queens Library, will be renovated, with more public computers, fast RFID self-check out and 24/7 self-check in. The refurbishing of the 7,500 sq. ft. Bellerose Library, which will cost over \$1 million, will not increase its size.

Some of our members may recall demonstrating outside the library in the 1970s. The new building lay vacant and its opening was delayed for years because of funding problems. With pressure from Bellerose civic associations, the library finally opened on February 27, 1978.

No plans have been announced for bookmobile service while the library is closed.

BCCA Officers:

Lourdes Villanueva Hartrick, President
Manzoor Patoli, Vice President
Ruth Mezistrano, Recording Secretary
Richard Hellenbrecht, Corr. Sec'y / Treasurer

Directors:

Lorraine Anzalone	James Delaney
Van DaSilva	Patricia Pearson
Chris Eichler	Bill Turis
John Reh	George Wolf
Michael Weisbord	

Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Assn.
P.O. Box 260225
Bellerose, NY 11426

BCCA Introduces Social Media! - Back by Popular Demand

Social Media Comes To The BCCA!

Social media has become an integral part of society. It started in some form or another in the nineteen seventies and today just about everyone uses social media. From individuals to big corporations. From the young to the older. From the Pope to the President of the United States! Social media is everywhere. There are BLOGS, there is TWITTER where people can "TWEET." Yes you read that right, "TWEET" (send a message) and of course FACEBOOK. Everyone stays connected through social media these days. It is a vehicle to get information out to a large amount of people almost instantly and therefore keeping them connected and aware. Therefore, the natural progression of our civic should be to join in with this connectivity of people, and we have.

We are happy to announce that in addition to our monthly newsletter and email blasts that Richard Hellenbrecht kindly sends out, the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association has now joined this social media revolution! At our June meeting we announced that our Civic had a new website found at www.bccaqueens.weebly.com. We are now announcing that the website also has a BLOG which anyone can subscribe to and get daily email alerts of any information posted on the blog. We are also happy to announce that the BCCA is now on Facebook and Twitter. Our Facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/BCCAQueens and our Twitter page can be found at www.twitter.com/bccanyc. Both of these sites can be accessed through our website as well.

We hope that all BCCA members and indeed all members of our community are able to link into the BCCA through the social media of their choice. Through these forms of media you can post your comments on ideas put out by our civic and hopefully get dialogue happening on issues that affect our community. These issues can be discussed by all. Members will also be updated of any news or events before the monthly meetings. It is to be hoped that this will help to make our meetings even more successful and productive going forward.

If you are looking to join the social media scene and be a part of this great information sharing within our community but are new to it, just let us know we will be happy to assist you with joining either Facebook or Twitter and showing you how to subscribe to our blog. The process is easy and once you learn a few basics, you too will be a part of the Social Media Revolution. See you on TWITTER!

[ED Note—Our sincere thanks go out to Juan Zubizarreta who designed our new website and conceived and executed this social networking program for BCCA.]

Bellerose Misc.—Liquor Licenses & ICCC

Disclaimer—there are numerous exceptions and exemptions regarding liquor licenses. Please see the State SLA website (<http://www.sla.ny.gov/>) or consult an attorney for detailed info.

We have learned that there is a request for a permit (off premises consumption license) with the State Liquor Authority for a new liquor store at Hillside near 252nd Street. Under the current regulations, there is no requirement to notify the community about an off-premises consumption license. Off premises consumption may be Grocery Beer and Wine ("wine products" - i.e. wine mixed with juice and not exceeding 6% alcohol) and Liquor Store. It is up to the community to be vigilant about off-premises requests by checking the SLA website. The only specific regulation seems to be the 200' rule, whereby a store may not sell liquor at retail (off premises consumption or liquor [wine or beer alone is permitted] for on-premises consumption) within 200 feet on the same street in a straight line of a school, church, temple or other house of worship. The measurement is from the nearest door of the store to the center of the nearest regularly used door of the house of worship. There is a requirement, however, for notification to the community board for permit requests for on-premises consumption, such as a bar, catering hall, nightclubs or restaurant. Generally there is a 500' rule prohibiting licensing of certain licenses for on-premises consumption if there are three other on-premises licenses within a 500' radius. License notifications must be submitted to the community board 30 days before filing with SLA. The community board will publish new notices and renewals in its newsletter (call 718-464-9700 to get on the list) and will consult with the 105th precinct before responding.

With the exact premises name or address you can use the following web address to search for permit information: <http://www.trans.abc.state.ny.us/JSP/query/PublicQueryNameSearchPage.jsp>

The result of a two year investigation by the State Inspector General was issued this month into various issues surrounding the ICCC's proposal to construct two nine-story towers on Creedmoor campus. Some of the findings are of deep interest and concern to nearby civic associations, including BCCA. Interested parties can read the 20 page report at <http://ig.ny.gov/pdfs/ICCCPublicReport.pdf>. Further discussion at the meeting.

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