



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

Volume 37 Number 6

1935

76 Years

2011

September 2011

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

Thursday, September 8, 2011, 8:00 pm

Joint meeting with Queens Colony Civic Association

Recent Events in Bellerose

Come meet our representative in Congress

Refreshments will be served

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

The Gavel

by Richard Hellenbrecht, Acting President

I hope you all enjoyed the meeting in June with our Congressman Gregory Meeks. The meeting went very long and many very controversial topics were covered. I can truly say—Bellerose residents did not hold back. Truth be told there was some strong kick back from the press, but our folks feel justified in their comments.

A lot is going on in our area and the BCCA board has not just slept through the summer. We look forward to getting back together with the community and hearing your views. Inside you will read articles about a civic request to resume bus service on Little Neck Parkway as well as updates on happenings at Creedmoor campus and Halal.

We will be meeting this month, once again with our friends, the Queens Colony Civic Association. The BCCA usually meets the first Thursday of most months, but we believe many residents are still on vacation mode before Labor Day, so we asked Queens Colony if we could share their date on September 8. We have had a very good relation-

ship with QCCA and we know we can expect a spirited meeting when our groups do get together.

This month we remember the tenth anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. This was the worst terrorist attack on US property ever executed by foreigners. I don't talk about it often, but I retired before 9/11 after 27 years working in the World Trade Center for the Port Authority. I lost several friends and many agency colleagues, including PA Police, who risked everything, side-by-side with NYPD and FDNY workers who ran into the buildings unaware of either the danger, nor the outrageous perpetrators of these attacks. We approach 9/11 with a heavy heart and can only pray that somehow the world becomes a better place, with all peoples accepting and respecting the views, beliefs and traditions of others. There is no excuse for any God-fearing people to perpetrate the murder of over three thousand innocent people as occurred in September 2001. Let us pray that hatred that provoked this attack can be eliminated and that the victims and families of victims get some peace. We honor those who fell and those first responders who gave selflessly to come to their aid.

There are a few other articles inside that highlight the help and support of our area's elected officials. We thank and applaud their efforts. Keep it up!

Holy Trinity News

You know you are thinking about it so why not just do it! Join us for any of our great opportunities for fellowship! Every thing starts again in September.

Regular Sunday services at 9:00 and 10:30 am resume on September 18th. Children are dismissed from the early service for Sunday School classes. Join us!

Sunday, September 11 at 10:00 am service is a special service to **remember those who lost their lives on 9/11/2001.** **Sunday, September 25 is Holy Trinity's 85th Anniversary** - Join us for a special service at 9 and 10:30 am. Celebratory lunch at noon - contact the church for details.

Bible Study resumes September 28th on Wednesdays at 10 am and 7:30 pm. All are welcome for some interesting discussions on God in everyday life and stories.

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 meet 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 Breakfast Run for the homeless on December 19. They will provide the homeless with a hot breakfast as well as much needed items. For this run we are concentrating on heavy weightweight jackets, sweaters, sweatpants, new underwear and socks as well as small sized toiletries. Please drop all donations at the church by December 18th. Contact Carol Robinson if you want to help!

Events:

September 10th - our huge yard sale 10 am to 2 pm. Come, shop for treasures or rent some space!

Oktoberfest is October 15th at 11 am - brats and all the trimmings for sale, bake sale, can auction, and raffles.

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

St. Anne's Council Breast Cancer Awareness Fund Raiser

An old friend of Bellerose, BCCA member and resident of 247th Street notified us of an event that deserves your attention and generosity. The St. Anne's Knights of Columbus Council, headquartered at nearby 263-15 Union Turnpike, is sponsoring a Breast Cancer Awareness Month Fund Raiser on September 17, 2011 at the Council headquarters on Union Turnpike. Doors open at 7:00pm with a donation of \$10 to enter. The program will feature a free buffet, DJ and dancing and there will be a 50/50. All proceeds will be donated to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Please join in for the fun and make your donation count to the important effort to reduce breast cancer.

Creedmoor—The Mystery Continues

Around 2006, a group of Asian Indian residents came to Community Board 13 requesting support of the board for the group to acquire nearly four acres on the Creedmoor grounds to establish a one-story community center, some parking and outdoor recreation area near Union Turnpike. After several questions, the board, under the guidance at the time of Chair Richard Hellenbrecht, supported to proposed scope of the project and state legislation was advanced by Assemblywoman Barbara Clark and then Senator Frank Padavan. It was clear to all involved that there could be no residences. The legislation authorized the Dormitory Authority to negotiate the terms of the sale, with no criteria. It has recently come to light that the group's intent was really to construct two nine story residential towers in the commercial zone and the Dormitory Authority provided a deed to develop a residential facility with "assisted living" capacity and providing co-op ownership to seniors, but allowing unrestricted residence by "dependent children". The building would be in violation of several city regulations, including lack of access to a mapped city street and residences in a commercial zone. Following objections by the City's Buildings Department, a formal process is required to request a variance from Board of Standards and Appeals, which must first be "heard" by the local community board. The public hearing will be held on September 20, 2011 at Bellerose Assembly of God Church at 241-15 Hillside Avenue at 7:30pm. As a result of questions by the BCCA and surrounding civic leaders, Senator Avella has asked for state review of the circumstances surrounding the sale. The State's Inspector General and separately the Attorney General are looking into these questions. From a community perspective, 100 foot towers within feet of one family homes is unacceptable. The group has been prevailed upon by Dormitory to remediate and demolish a power plant, abandoned gas station and several out buildings. Serious questions remain about this whole transaction. Stay tuned.

Halal Market and "Push Carts" Update

Can anyone in Bellerose not know that Super Halal Market is the storefront at the corner of Hillside Avenue and 253rd Street? The site was most recently occupied by Blockbuster and before that by a dry cleaner. Since last October we have been dealing with the outcomes of this new business. Challenged by the desire to have successful new businesses on our Hillside Avenue shopping corridor, and the negative affects of incompatible stores, the BCCA, neighbors on 253rd Street and civic associations started to ask some serious questions. Unpermitted building expansion to the front, back and side, and loss of on-site parking spaces resulted in problems for the neighbors. Members attending BCCA meetings throughout the spring know that there have been many complaints from the store's neighbors, particularly due to personal insults and threats. A food pushcart has been added using more parking spaces. We have not received updates or complaints through the summer, but more pushcarts are on the avenue. We will continue to work with city agencies on this.

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Q79 Meeting

We reported last month that the Queens Civic Congress held a forum on transportation. One of the key issues was MTA's decision last year to discontinue the Q79 bus route on Little Neck Parkway. After much discussion with DOT and MTA officials at the meeting, City Council Transportation Committee Chair Vacca agreed to reopen the subject and push for resumption, providing we could recommend a innovative and sensible solution that was cost neutral.

Local civics, including the BCCA, convened almost immediately to address this challenge. We considered many alternatives and settled on extending the Q36 Jamaica Avenue bus onto Little Neck Parkway northbound to the Little Neck Rail Road station. This would provide three positive results for our area—a) continued service on Little Neck Parkway for St. Mary's, the Farm Museum and several doctors, shopping areas and schools; b) direct access, now defunct, to the LIRR in Little Neck and; c) a direct connection for riders destined to the F train terminus at 179th Street.

Councilman Mark Weprin supported the proposal and coordinated a meeting with MTA and Chair Vacca. Unfortunately the MTA barely listened to the recommendation and knocked it out as not revenue neutral. A press release by local civics was issued, stating: "MTA to eastern Queens—DROP DEAD". Unfortunately, there will be no easy solution to the loss of the LNP bus route, but the BCCA, QCCA and our friends from Glen Oaks Village, other civics and Councilman Weprin will not give up.

Bellerose Library Branch Update

Senator Tony Avella heard complaints from BCCA, QCCA and other Bellerose area civics about the out-dated facilities at the Bellerose Library. Senator Avella immediately tried to broker a meeting with Bellerose civic leaders and executives from Queens Public Library. After many false starts to meeting is scheduled in early September. In the mid-1980's (yes, over 25 years ago) this civic association requested a second floor expansion or replacement of the Bellerose branch. Unfortunately, the response was that we would be in the 2032 capital budget (not a joke!). A follow-up letter two years later brought a "capital budget of 2036" reply (wow, good thing we didn't ask four years later!).

We learned a while ago that Bellerose Branch was scheduled for a technology upgrade that would not provide additional space, but bring us into the twentieth century. That upgrade was deferred due by moving funds to other projects, but is now in final planning. BCCA will work with Senator Avella and our other City, State and Federal representatives to get the branch replacement we requested a quarter century ago, like the beautiful improvements taking shape at the Glen Oaks branch. Help us!



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