



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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April 2016

Thursday, April 7, 2016, 8:00 pm

CB13 District Manager Mark McMillan

Next Meeting: May 12, 2016 at 8:00pm—Special Date

Refreshments will be served

The Gavel - Juan Zubuzarreta, Pres.

Hello Bellerose.

Unfortunately there has been several home break-ins in our area as you may be aware of by now. We don't know why there is such a spike in these crimes. We can only speculate. It is for the 105th pct. to investigate. There has been two arrests in regards to these break-ins as per the 105th pct. We urge all our residents to remain vigilant. Not only for your home but also for your neighbors homes. Do not open the door to anyone you don't know. Usually around this time when the weather gets warmer, there are multiple "companies" that go around house to house trying to drum up business. I make it a habit not to open the door to anyone ringing my bell unless I have invited them or personally know them. You never can tell if the person or persons ringing your bell are legitimate. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please call 911 and let the police handle the situation. For your safety do not personally confront a suspicious person. For more information on this and other issues affecting our area, please join us at our next general meeting. You can always find out the date and time of our meeting by visiting www.bccaqueens.org.

See inside for additional articles on police issues.

Joint Meeting—April 12

You are cordially invited to this special joint meeting of all the local civic associations. It is on April 12, 2016 at 7:30pm at P.S. 18, 235th Court off Hillside Avenue. In addition to our regular meeting on April 7, BCCA is one of the sponsors of a special joint meeting featuring New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer. Comptroller Stringer, the former Manhattan Borough President, has been a strong supporter of Queens and comes to numerous events here with Queens Civic Congress. He has a unique perspective on city-wide issues and has completed numerous investigations on financial issues in the City. He has conducted audits on city agencies and reviews the city budget. Stringer reviewed the Buildings Department and issued a stinging report on its failure to control overbuilding and respond to buildings complaints.

We are noticing more and more trash on our streets. I am often finding myself picking up empty cigarette boxes, empty water bottles, etc. from the street in front of my home and have seen other residents doing the same. Reminder that when you put your trash and recycle out for pick up, they should be in garbage cans with lids. This will prevent the wind from tossing the trash around as well as keeping squirrel and cats from foraging through the garbage cans.

BCCA 2015-2016 Annual Dues Drive Ends May 2016

If you have not paid your dues please clip above and send your dues check made out to "BCCA" to:
BCCA, P.O. Box 260225, Bellerose, NY 11426-0225

Name: _____ Address: _____

Town: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

If you would like to verify or check your payment record please email rhellenbrecht@outlook.com

The New Neighborhood Policing Plan

Garbage Enforcement—It has been reported that members along 247th Street have been tagged for \$100 tickets for putting garbage out too early on collection day. Make sure you know your day of the week and put your garbage out AFTER 5pm. During the dark winter hours garbage may be put out after 4pm. We recommend placing regular household garbage in bags and in covered garbage cans. Also so that lighter recycling bags don't blow into the street, you should place them in covered cans marked as recycling. Check <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dsny/collectionandcleaning/collection.shtml> for collection and recycling rules and tips.

Telephone Scams—There are many telephone scammers out there. Sometimes its hard to tell what's true and what is a rip off in disguise. I recently got an urgent call from a number showing as Puerto Rico and a very urgent sounding voice on the other end. Apparently my brother was in a serious car accident in PR and asked for me. Luckily I don't have a brother, but, no, it was my cousin...I hung up.

My wife got repeated calls from "Bob" from "the Microsoft Department" urging her to go right to her computer because they are getting critical error messages from her computer. If its not Bob its some other name that doesn't match the accent. We have actually called Microsoft and reported the last call. Microsoft confirmed that they would never contact you unless you first initiated a support call to them. Of course its best to keep your computers backed up and have reliable anti-virus program. We've had similar issues with Hewlett Packard printers, where their technician somehow put us in touch with an outside technician who wanted to do all sorts of diagnostics on our computer. We didn't let them do it. There are many good technicians, get references and consider preventive maintenance.

Girl Scout Early Registration for October

It is the time of year to start getting your young daughters registered for an exciting and enlightening time in Girl Scouting. Girls learn all sorts of crafts and activities, participate in badges and learn about life preparedness. Many of the troops have educational and fun trips. We are also looking for adults interested in helping to provide program and activities for our local Bellerose girls.

Bellerose has at least twelve troops meeting on various days of the week after school, in either Holy Trinity or in Our Lady of Snows. Ages are from kindergarten through senior year of high school. After graduation some girls come back as assistant leaders to help out and continue their learning.

The girls' activities usually include community service, STEM programs, badge work, leadership qualities, diversity, scholarship and career preparation, trips. Leadership skills and social interaction are critical components. Advanced scouts can participate in bronze, silver and gold awards. The award requirements increase in complexity and intensity up to the gold award and they prepare young ladies for college and careers. The awards are looked favorably upon in college application.

Applications are being accepted now. For information call Mary Ann at 917-865-9268 or

Bellerose Runners Wanted—April 24, 5 Miles @ Alley Pond Park!

Alley Pond Striders is hosting a 5 Mile Challenge all within Alley Pond Park, to benefit local charities. RAIN OR SHINE. The FUN RUN starts at 9:00am, the 5 mile race at 9:30am. Run the historic Vanderbilt Motor Parkway and beautiful Alley Pond Park.

Eligibility: Open to all runners, joggers & walkers, 13 years old & older. Fun Run children 12 & less.

Pre-Registration: \$25 posted before April 20, register at <http://nycruns.com/> - includes race shirt.

Race Day Registration: \$30 from 8:00am to 9:00am at Alley Pond Parkhouse on Winchester Blvd.

Children Fun Run Registration: \$7, all Fun Run finishers receive a memento.

Awards: Three overall male and female winners receive a trophy. Awards for male and female age group winners in 5 year age-groups from 20 years old to age 70 and from age 13—19.

On-line registration and more info: <http://nycruns.com>. **Results Posted at:** www.apstriders.com

Recent Burglaries In Bellerose Area

On March 17 we reported via our email blast to BCCA members:

Please be advised that there is a report of a rash of home break-ins in the Bellerose area over the past few days. Please exercise care in locking your doors and windows and keep an eye out for unusual activity, unfamiliar vehicles circling the block, unexpected visitors at your door. As we have many times in the past we recommend keeping the outside of your house well lit at night and use sensor lights in your rear yard. If you go away for several days either have a trusted friend pick up your mail or request the Post Office to hold your mail. If you suspect someone entered your home while you were out, contact 911 right away, the intruders may still be there and you could put yourself in danger entering.

One particular break-in occurred on Tuesday in the vicinity of 86 Road near the Cross Island Parkway. The house was ransacked with drawers turned over, a safe broken into and photography equipment, cash and jewelry stolen. The 105th Precinct has been notified. Three or four other break-ins apparently delayed the arrival of the 105th precinct. BCCA has reached out to the 105 for more information.

Also, don't forget about your cars. Always lock your doors when not in use, do not leave any cash or valuables (pocketbooks, backpacks, iPhones, etc.) exposed and do not leave your car idling unmonitored. Tires and rims are susceptible to theft, often leaving additional damage to your car. Wheel locks are inexpensive (about \$50/set) and easy to install. Hide the special wheel lock key carefully. The locks can probably be broken, but a thief would probably rather just go to the next car—an ounce of prevention...

Detective Cooper at the 105th Precinct Replied:

In the past 28 day period, there were 10 incidents classified as burglaries in Bellerose (this includes attempted or possible attempted burglaries). Two incidents were reports of a woman, possibly Hispanic, who was reported peeking into house windows while carrying a clipboard. Four incidents were burglaries of garages by a group of four kids on the same night. Two of the four teens have been arrested. In those incidents, a motorcycle was taken (since recovered) and a car was pushed out of a garage into the driveway. Four other incidents were separate house burglaries, with no pattern identified.

In a later email, the precinct also advised to report all suspicious activity to 911.

Other youth activity—late one evening a loud explosion happened on the corner of 86th Road and 247th Street. Its was apparently a firework, like a cherry bomb or M80 and four youth were seen running from the location. We have been advised of other such activity and a hang out has developed near St. Gregory's School on 246th Street. Please be curious about what your kids are doing out at night. We need to keep our kids safe and our community peaceful with a high quality of life.

BCCA Officers:

Juan Zubizarreta, President
 Lourdes Villanueva Hartrick, Vice Pres.
 Ruth Mezistrano, Recording Secretary
 Richard Hellenbrecht, Corr. Sec'y /
 Treasurer

Directors:

<u>Elect Dec. 2017</u>	<u>Elect Dec. 2016</u>
Lorraine Anzalone	James Delaney
John Reh	Gulen Zubizarreta
Bill Turis	Van DaSilva
Ron DeMaria	Michael Weisbord

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

Bellerose Briefs

Snow Removal is Sooo Over!

Well we had a pretty mild and calm winter as far as snow is concerned, but it is time now to trade the hum of snow blowers with the hum of leaf blowers. Both annoying, but leaves are a lot easier than shoveling or sweeping.

Bear in mind, however, as you should keep your snow as much as possible on your own property, you should use leaf blowers or demand your gardener not to blow leaves and dirt onto your neighbors curb or property. In addition, if you have a contract service for your lawn or garden, the contractor **MUST** remove and dispose of the bags.