



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

# action news

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81 Years

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**Thursday, June 2, 2016, 8:00 pm**  
***Block Captain Recognition***  
***American Flag Raffle***  
***Next Meeting: September 8 2016 at 8:00pm***  
***Refreshments will be served***

## **The Gavel - Juan Zubizarreta, Pres.**

Hello Bellerose.

At the last BCCA board meeting the board approved another set of awards to a Class of '16 graduating boy and girl from St. Gregory school and PS133. They'll receive a certificate, letter and a check from BCCA in recognition of the students most involved as school citizens. The awards will be presented by a BCCA executive.

At the general meeting we were very pleased to hear from the new commander of the 105th Precinct, Deputy Inspector Jeffrey Schiff. The DI just came from the Ozone Park/Howard Beach area but he spent much of his youth here in Bellerose/Glen Oaks so he is very familiar with our area. Crime is down 15%, although there have been some patterns of burglaries recently. Our XO, Capt. Ireland, also came to the meeting, she will focus on domestic violence and traffic safety in addition to supporting the DI in running the precinct. One of their initiatives is to greatly increase communications and they are working on building a large email list to get info out quickly. They have established an email address to send immediate information about suspected criminal activity. We will let you know how to get listed on these new communication emails. 105precinct@nypd.org will be available shortly to receive crime info for investigation.

The second speaker was Anthony Iuliano of the City Buildings Department (DOB). We have been working with Anthony for many years. He explained the dual roles of DOB: to enforce the building code and zoning restrictions; and, to support development (ie. issue permits).

## **Memorial Day & Flag Day**

Don't forget Memorial Day is celebrated on May 30 this year and June 14 is Flag Day. Please proudly fly your American Flag on these days and on Independence Day, the fourth of July. There's nothing wrong with flying your flag every day. Let's remember how great this nation is and, especially on Memorial Day, think of all of those who sacrificed everything so that we can enjoy all the benefits those brave men and women got for us.



Based on numerous complaints recently about massage parlors, Anthony investigated some of these sites. Several violations were issued, one was closed, one had no violations. He was also asked to check into the Hindu Temple expected at Hillside Ave and 264th Street, but permits have so far been denied.

You should be aware that you can look up your address, or any NYC address, for permit info, violations, etc. at [www.nyc.gov/bis](http://www.nyc.gov/bis), enter the address and follow the links.

### Inside

Sidewalks, Curbs.....	2
St. Gregory's Festival.....	3
North Shore/LIJ.....	3
Bellerose Playground.....	3
Advertisers.....	4
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## Congressional Democratic Candidates' Night

Details are coming together about the candidates' night we mentioned previously. As you know Congressman Steve Israel has announced that he will not run for re-election as our district's U.S. Representative. The scheduled Democratic Primary date for this election is June 28. This candidates' forum will be held on June 1 in conjunction with our surrounding civic associations. The list of candidates is below. The session will start at 7:30pm in the auditorium at Irwin Altman Middle School 172, located at 81-14 257 Street. This will follow immediately after the North Bellerose Civic Association meeting, which begins there at 7pm.

Please take this opportunity to find out who the candidates are and what their positions are on the issues we face.

The confirmed candidates are: Jon Kaiman, Jonathan Clarke, Philip "Flip" Pidot, Tom Souzzi and Anna Kaplan.

## Sidewalk Violations, Street Trees and Curbs, Pruning

Community Board 13 recently asked representatives of the Parks Department and the Department of Transportation to speak about cracked, broken and raised sidewalks and what to do about violations. We all know that the homeowner is responsible for the repair and maintenance of sidewalks around their homes. Walking around Bellerose can be quite challenging in places, especially if you are pushing a child's stroller, wheelchair or if you have any mobility issues. Dangerous trip hazards abound and can be a major liability to the homeowner. Except for damage caused by street trees (trees in the grass area between the curb and sidewalk), the homeowner must repair cracked, broken or raised sidewalks. The Department of Transportation (DOT) is responsible to inspect sidewalks and may issue violations if they find or are called to a problem sidewalk. The homeowner has 45 days to repair and reinspect any violations or at some point a lien will be placed on the property. If that lien is not satisfied the sale or refinancing of the property may be impeded. The homeowner may hire a reputable concrete contractor, pull permits and have the completed job re-inspected, or eventually the city's contractor will do the job, including permits and inspections—and then bill the homeowner. The city's contractors will probably cost more. The homeowner may opt to pay extra for expedited service by DOT. In the event the sidewalk damage is caused by a city street tree, the city is responsible to repair the damage, but it can take a long time to get there. Please be sure to check [www.nyc.gov/sidewalks](http://www.nyc.gov/sidewalks) for more information.

Curbs are the City's responsibility to repair and replace. The recent repaving in Bellerose left many curbs barely showing over the pavement. Curb repairs are severely underfunded.

It is the duty of City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to inspect street trees, prune them or remove the trees and stumps when necessary. Unmanaged trees can create a dangerous hazard during storms, such as Sandy. Pruning is necessary also to prevent damage to your house and wires, etc. Please call 311 to request pruning if a street tree is impacting your house. Unfortunately street tree pruning is another item that is routinely underfunded in the city's budgets. While each tree should be pruned every five years, it seems this schedule is rarely achieved. Overgrowth may contribute to dangerous conditions, particularly, when trees, limbs or branches fall during a storm. DPR says that its top priority is to remove blockages from city streets so that ambulances, fire trucks and police can get through. After that, damage to homes, buildings, yards, etc. will be addressed. When a street tree is to be removed, ropes and bucket trucks will be used by DPR or its contractors. Report any damage caused by crews that do not follow safe and proper procedures.

Trees that are removed for whatever reason will leave a stump. Supposedly, contracts over recent years require the crews to return and remove the stump. Unfortunately there is a serious backlog of previous stumps. BCCA on a number of occasions surveyed stumps in our area and submitted detailed lists to DPR for removal, but many still remain. The DPR representative suggested to report stumps to 311, but for stumps and pruning requests to also notify your community board, CB13Q—718-464-9700 with the 311 reference number. The rep also said that the fastest way to get a stump removed is to call 311 and request a new tree, new trees get priority.

## The Festival!

**ST. GREGORY THE GREAT**

**OUR 37th GREGORIAN SUMMER FESTIVAL**  
87th Ave. & CROSS ISLAND PKWY, BELLEROSE, NEW YORK  
JUNE 16th - JUNE 26th

**VISIT US AT:**  
[www.sgtgfestival.com](http://www.sgtgfestival.com)

- PARADE AND OPENING NIGHT THURSDAY, JUNE 16th - BELLEROSE NIGHT
- FRIDAY, JUNE 17th - IRISH NIGHT
- SATURDAY, JUNE 18th - IRISH NIGHT
- SUNDAY, JUNE 19th - IRISH NIGHT
- MONDAY, JUNE 20th - ROCK-N-ROLL NIGHT RIDES - P.O.P. ALL AGES - FILIPINO NIGHT
- TUESDAY, JUNE 21st - POLISH NIGHT RIDES - P.O.P. ALL AGES
- WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22nd - GERMAN NIGHT RIDES - P.O.P. ALL AGES
- THURSDAY, JUNE 23rd - GERMAN NIGHT RIDES - P.O.P. ALL AGES
- FRIDAY, JUNE 24th - ITALIAN NIGHT
- SATURDAY, JUNE 25th - ITALIAN NIGHT
- SUNDAY, JUNE 26th - ITALIAN NIGHT  
12:30 Mass In Honor Of St. Gregory

Hours of Operation: ALL NIGHTS 7PM - 11PM

**AT 37 - CLOSEST THING TO HEAVEN**

St. Gregory the Great’s annual festival is turning 37 years old this year. Be sure to come and join in the fun and games and have a great time. The kick-off will be with the traditional parade through Bellerose on Thursday, June 16, which is Bellerose night, and run through 11pm on Sunday, June 26th starting nightly at 7pm. Pretty soon we’ll see the tents and rides start to materialize on the school yard and field and we will know for sure that summer has started.

Each night has a theme, which features wonderful Irish, German, Filipino, Polish and Italian foods, music and dance. The arcade games are a blast, too! The proceeds go toward SGTG school. Please come and have a wonderful time. Just please be mindful of the neighbors, don’t block drive-ways and please don’t litter.

## Bellerose Briefs

### 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>
Lauren Ferrentino	James Delaney
John Reh	Gulen Zubizarreta
Bill Turis	Van DaSilva
Ron DiMaria	Michael Weisbord

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

### North Shore-Long Island Jewish Gets a New Name

You may notice the new name Northwell Health around town. LIJ and North Shore joined years ago and have grown to 19 hospitals from Manhattan to Westchester to Huntington. They also have dozens of ambulatory surgery centers, emergency medical centers, laboratories, etc. In order to more accurately convey the scope of their services they recently adopted Northwell Health for their corporate name. You can find out more about their services at [www.northwell.edu](http://www.northwell.edu). Our local hospital will continue to be known as LIJ and no new construction is planned with the exception of continuing upgrades.

### Bellerose Playground

Borough President Melinda Katz spoke recently at Community Board 13 and in addition to updating the board on many positive happenings in the borough, she mentioned that she and Councilman Grodenchik have budgeted funds for PS133. Stay Tuned.