



Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association

action news

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May 2016

Thursday, May 12 2016, 8:00 pm—Joint BCCA/QCCA Mtg
NYC Department of Buildings
Next Meeting: June 2, 2016 at 8:00pm—Special Date
Refreshments will be served

The Gavel - Juan Zubizarreta, Pres.

Hello Bellerose.

I hope all are enjoying the warmer weather. Planting season is upon us and over this last weekend my wife planted tomato and also pepper plants. I can't wait to start enjoying them.

There have been a few developments in Queens. The main one being that the City has placed in its budget \$70 million for the much requested and needed 116th Pct. In the southern section of eastern Queens. Although this may still take a long time to come to fruition it is still a huge step in getting it done. The 105th precinct (our local Pct.) as well as the 105th Pct. Satellite have been doing a great job with patrolling our neighborhoods. However, it does cut down or response time to police calls because of the vast area of Queens they are responsible for.

This new precinct will bring much needed relief not only to the community but to the 105th pct. as well. The community has been requesting this precinct for many years and now it looks like we are finally on track to see it realized.

I would like to congratulate the the leadership of the Queens Civic Congress on a wonderful and successful luncheon it hosted on April 17, 2016 at Antun's Catering Hall. Many local elected officials including Borough President Melinda Katz and City

Joint Candidates Night—June

You are cordially invited to this special joint candidates' night of all the local civic associations. It is on June 1, 2016 at 7:30pm at I.S. 172 located at 81-14 257th Street.. Our U.S. Congressman, Steve Israel, has decided not to run for reelection this year and several candidates are vying for the position at the Federal (non-Presidential) Primary date of June 28.

Your civic association and our neighboring civics have invited the candidates to introduce themselves and meet their potential constituents in the Bellerose area. The federal congress position is critical to providing funding to local programs and addressing critical issues like airplane noise, air pollution, transportation programs and national defense. Watch for more info in our June newsletter and email blasts as we get responses from the candidates.

Council Member Barry Grodenchik as well as local civic leaders were present for this great event. It included an inspirational speech by U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara. Our very own Richard Hellenbrecht did a wonderful job with the closing remarks. I hope to see you all at our next general meeting. Our civic has been active and we hope to see more good things coming to Queens and indeed to Bellerose.

Juan Zubizarreta

BCCA 2015-2016 Annual Dues Drive Ends May 2016 Dues for 2016 is \$7.00

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

St. Gregory Eighth Graders/DOT Tunnel Mural



BCCA and other local volunteers for years have been battling recurring graffiti in the tunnel under the Cross Island Parkway at 88th Road.

About two years ago an exasperated Senator Tony Avella held a press conference at the tunnel to try to get the City Department of Transportation (DOT) to recognize the fight to keep our tunnel graffiti free.

Happily the strategy worked and DOT dedicated funding to retain an artist to design a mural and he worked with St. Gregory the Great School graduating class to paint the beautiful mural. DOT patched and prepared the tunnel for the paint job. Of course, the challenge now will be to maintain the tunnel graffiti-free. We certainly hope that wherever the vandals are coming from, they will respect the beautiful and hard work and a year from now, we'll still have a tunnel we are proud of.

at left, DOT artist/consultant Joel Bergner doing finishing touches, photo courtesy NYC DOT Press Release April 29, 2016

Queens Civic Congress Biennial Luncheon

As President Zubizarreta mentioned in The Gavel, BCCA had a good representation at the Queens Civic Congress biennial luncheon. We heard great speeches, especially from U.S. Attorney for the Southern District Preet Bharara and we have an opportunity to increase our bonds with key executives and legislators to push for Bellerose priorities, especially protecting our community's zoning and re-envisioning our park, the Bellerose Playground at P.S. 133.

Juan and his wife, Gulen joined with Jim and Sylvia Delaney, John and Cathy Reh and Rich Hellenbrecht in a great lunch and in greeting our Councilman Barry Grodenchik and Senator Tony Avella to discuss local issues.



BCCA President Juan Zubizarreta, Queens Borough President Melinda Katz and former Nassau Executive Tom Suozzi.

Photo by Rich Hellenbrecht

Comptroller Scott Stringer Spoke at Joint Bellerose Meeting

At the invitation of Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association and other local civic associations, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer spoke at a very well attended joint meeting at P.S. 18 on April 12. Comptroller Stringer has been a very good friend of Queens civic associations and was well received. He spoke about the crucial responsibilities of his office, including management of the huge New York City pension fund with thousands of members and billions of dollars in funds. He is also responsible for monitoring and auditing the hundreds of New York City agencies. He spoke about the city's response to the on-going and increasing homeless situation and has conducted audits on the Department of Homeless Services, the recent Board of Election problems and minimum wage issue in the city. As a civic association, we at the BCCA board are very pleased that we are able to work with our great neighboring civic associations. Together we have strength and get attention of our elected leaders.

New Precinct in Southeast Queens

Last month we wrote about break-ins of several homes and garages in our area. We've also sent out some updates on our email blasts during the month (if you want to get on our blast list write to info@bccaqueens.org). One of the complaints we have always had in the northern part of the 105th Precinct is that we always have less police coverage than the communities in the south part, such as Cambria Heights, Rosedale, Springfield Gardens. Lack of regular, frequent patrols provides a void that petty criminals take advantage of to rob cars and break into houses.

Our civic association and Community Board 13 have called for creation of a separate precinct in the south for over 30 years. While the city long-ago dedicated the number 116 for our new precinct, we have never gotten the support of NYPD brass and the mayor's office. Several large or high crime areas have two precincts in a community board district, so it is not too much to ask, since CB13/105th Precinct is the largest community district in the city. Our neighboring community board, CB12 is quite a bit smaller, but has two precincts due to a more challenging crime issue.

A few years ago a satellite precinct office was set up in Rosedale to help address problems in the south. Unfortunately the satellite used officers permanently reassigned from the 105, it did not have a full command structure and it was closed in the overnight shift—when a lot a criminal activity takes place, again drawing on the 105 staffing. Local residents could get certain forms and report crimes at the satellite (during open hours) but had to drive to the precinct for many activities.

During April, Mayor de Blasio's budget finally included funding for a full precinct and we are assured that the staffing will come from existing forces plus additional staffing and equipment provided by Queens Patrol Borough South. This is very good news since we in the north areas can anticipate greater coverage and improved response time from the 105th Precinct.

We thank our Councilmember Barry Grodenchik and all of our elected officials as well as Congressman Meeks, Councilmen Donovan Richards and I Daneek Miller and all local officials who have pressured the administration to finally address this situation. The last precinct in the city to split was in Staten Island and we always felt that the 105 had a much greater population with more challenging issues and was a much higher priority. We are finally getting what we deserve and we look forward to reviewing the effects of this decision on crime and quality of life in a year and then ten years from now.

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 DeMaria	Michael Weisbord

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

One Way Street

We're looking for feedback on an idea that came from another civic association across the Cross Island Parkway. The suggestion is to make 87th Avenue one way eastbound between the CIP service road and Commonwealth Boulevard to improve the drop-off/pick-up for students. Before we make a recommendation on this we need to survey all residents on 87th Avenue and adjacent blocks. One alternative is to make the street one-way during required hours, but it gets confusing.

In any case we will only recommend this if the community is in favor. Issues like the annual Festival come to mind—how would that be affected?

Please send an email to info@bccaqueens.org with your thoughts.

Paving Nearly Complete

As we got to press it seems the milling and paving project is nearing completion. It is a noisy and messy project, but looks better,