



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER of the CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

APRIL, 1974

VOL. 43, NO. 6

TIME TO REPEAL THE STATE COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW?

Increasingly, as government usurps the prerogatives of parents, and mandates actions in the field of education, one must stop to reconsider the ramifications of the direction in which we are headed. What especially brings this problem to the fore, is the threatened court action against Community School Board #29 by the group of people dissatisfied with the decision by the School Board NOT to make any changes in the present zoning and structure of J.H.S. 109. This dissident group plans, via court action, to FORCE unwilling parents to send their children to Andrew Jackson High School in Cambria Heights. We need not go into the long history of why many parents of both white and black children have deemed it necessary to avoid enrolling their children in that school. They have sought variances to other schools on medical excuses and on the grounds that special curricula were not offered there, and so they asked for transfers to other schools.

In addition, the recent "hint" by School Chancellor Irving Anker that it may be necessary to cross bus students from Long Island into the City and from Westchester into the City, and vice versa, has shown how parents no longer have the final say in the upbringing of their children. They have in effect, become wards of the State. Many courses are now being taught in schools against the religious beliefs of parents. One such is sex education. This is now taught, for instance, at Martin Van Buren, although the Parents Association has been grossly dissatisfied with the program. The program at Van Buren is an elective, but not so all over. This is NOT how public education was meant to function. It was created to relieve parents of the burden of educating their own children, especially those who may be too lacking in schooling to accomplish the task. But now the State has become the parent, in effect, and is telling the natural parents how their children are to be raised.

It is interesting that when citizens ask how it is that some students are not in school during school days, but are roaming the streets, the answer is given that truant officers have been abolished. No one is around to enforce the compulsory education law. But if a parent should decline to send his child into a ghetto neighborhood for fear of the child's safety, that parent is promptly hauled into court on charges of "child neglect." Suddenly the compulsory attendance law becomes operative. The power of the State to dictate to parents must be broken. The best way, it would seem, would be to abolish the compulsory education law. This way a parent cannot be coerced into having his child partake of activities that the parent deems not in the child's best interest. Morally, it is up to the parent to make that decision, not the

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Regular Meeting Apr. 4 (Thurs.), 8:00 pm
at St. Gregory's Church, 242 St. & 88 Rd.

At the time of this writing we are trying to arrange a speaker from the 105 precinct to discuss the matter of street gangs. There are some known to exist in our general area, particularly at Martin Van Buren. We cannot, therefore, at this time guarantee that we will have a speaker on this topic, but we will try.

At a recent meeting of the Common Council of Eastern Queens, a report was given on the progress of our fledgling Church Home Buying Service. A program has been instituted whereby houses of worship seeking to maintain their congregations enter the real estate business in an effort to boost their sagging congregations. This program is legal, in that it is permissible to seek people of certain religious affiliations to buy homes in your area. This has been critical in areas such as Laurelton where white Jews were moving only to be replaced by blacks who for the most part are not Jewish. This leaves congregations with millions of dollars of church buildings but with no one of that faith to support them. Therefore, the Human Rights laws do permit seeking people of certain religious beliefs to buy homes in an area. Any other kind of selective maneuvering is considered discriminatory. So far the Cambria Heights-South Queens Village program has solicited home seekers to our area, but no sales have yet been consummated. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that the program will be a success and our area can be stabilized as an integrated community. Mrs. Janet Hatcher, president of Wayanda Civic Association, has stepped down as president of the Common Council, and has been replaced by Mrs. Marie S. Cascio, president of the Cambria Heights Civic Association. Janet was presented with a certificate of appreciation for her efforts in this organization by Assemblyman Esposito and Senator Padavan. A similar program which has been underway in Laurelton for some time has met with some success. They have sold over 500 homes, more than half to whites. This has helped to maintain a racial mix in that community.

We hope to make plans to have another community party at Braddock Playground. We hope to avoid mistakes we made in organizing the last one, and to have much more participation. Please come to our meeting and join the committee. The event should be around May or June, but a good affair requires plenty of preparation, and early.

Latest word on Braddock Avenue is that repaving should begin as soon as all other contractors are finished and off the avenue.

MEETING DATE FOR APRIL IS THURSDAY, APRIL 4.

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Last Call for Patrol Volunteers

The Creedmoor Civilian Patrol again wants to impress upon our members the more volunteers signing up, the fewer hours each patroller will have to perform during the month.

We must fill two-man patrols consisting of tours from 8 pm to 10 pm and 10 pm to Midnight, seven days a week. The need is due to the fact that too many of our volunteers who know when they are to patrol, do not show. It is requested that when it develops they cannot perform, they call headquarters so that we can replace them for that night.

We do not at the present time have additional volunteers who can be used as replacements. As a matter of information, while we know there are about 1,000 families in our area, we only have about 670 members in our Association. The Civilian Patrol only has about 60 men and women performing with the patrol, and another 10 who have volunteered for home-base operation in the 105 Precinct. This represents about 7% which is unbelievable in the lack of interest shown.

If this lack of interest continues, it may mean that those blocks who are civic-minded may want to separate themselves from the Creedmoor Civilian Patrol and reorganize themselves into individual Block Patrols. This we do not want to happen. **THEREFORE, THIS IS OUR LAST REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS.**

It is a known fact that we have a situation with the gang of teenagers who continually harass passing cars, who stand in the middle of the streets drinking and littering our streets with cans and bottles, who stop cars and hitch rides when there is snow and ice, as well as who destroy vacant houses. They even stole a new Civilian Patrol identification sign from one of our patrol cars.

When this happens, we receive all kinds of phone calls demanding to know what the Civilian Patrol is doing about it. We cannot satisfy everybody unless we have complete cooperation from our neighbors and members to participate in our Patrol, and in our home base radio.

It is also suggested instead of our only receiving complaints, we should also receive some names and addresses of the teenagers who are creating these disturbances and crimes. Please believe all we are asking is your time, if you're civic-minded.

(Continued on P. 5)

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Around Town

It is our sad duty to report the passing of Mrs. Ann Tierney of 238th St. Mrs. Tierney had been very active with the Creedmoor Civic Association for many years. To her husband, Edward Tierney, we offer our heartfelt condolences.

We hear that member Robert Ryan of 240th St. is home from the hospital and is on the mend. Our best wishes go to Bob for a speedy recovery.

We were gratified by the turnout at our meeting last month, perhaps the largest in decades, aside from our meetings we held jointly with Queens Braddock Civic Ass'n. We hope you will all continue to come out in full force. If you have ideas for speakers, please make them known to us. We like to have interesting programs planned for our members.

One of our guests last month, Mr. Al Feller of Bell Park, and an official with veterans organizations, has offered aid to any of our members who needs entry into a VA hospital, including the new St. Alban's VA, or with any veteran problem. Requests for aid should be funneled through Jim Trent, Creedmoor Civic president. We thank Al for his generous offer to our people.

Contracts have been let for the pruning of trees in Eastern Queens that were damaged in the Dec. 17 ice storm. If your tree has not yet been pruned, do not make calls, they should be around shortly. However, trees under 32" in circumference may not be part of the contract.

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Last Call for Volunteers Cont'd from p. 3

We need you and it is your civic duty to participate. Please make it your business to come to our regular civic association meetings where you will be kept informed as to what our association is doing to make our neighborhood a better place in which to live.

For full details on the patrol, please contact:

Bill Mattis(Chief) 89-02 Moline St.
465-5889

or John Albano(Security Officer) 88-29
Moline St. 468-8170

QUEENS THEATRE CLOSES, CENTURY'S AGREES TO COMMUNITY INPUT ON SALE

A community landmark since 1927, the Queens Theatre at Jamaica Ave. and Springfield Blvd. has closed after years of losing money. In fact, the Century chain, in general, appears to be in financial trouble due to TV's claim to their audience. The Theatre is for sale for a figure reported above \$900,000. Senator Frank Padavan has announced that the vice president of Century's has agreed to meet with the chairman of Community Planning Board #13 in an effort to locate a buyer who would put the theatre to a use that would best harmonize with the existing retail development of the area. Small department stores, as recommended by a recent consultant study commissioned by the City of New York for Queens Village, have been contacted, but so far no takers. The theatre, once the scene of live vaudeville acts, has a capacity of 2,200. It is only 200 seats smaller than Avery Fisher(Philharmonic)Hall at Lincoln Center! It would be ideal as a playhouse, if only a buyer could be found. Unconfirmed rumor has said that Robert Hall Clothes may be the next owner.

NOTE: MEETING IS APRIL 4th.

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Thanks to the efforts of Gerry Tiernan of the Mayor's office, the vacant house we described last month has been sealed.

Our thanks also to Capt. McKay of Ladder #162, Queens Village, for his aid in this matter.

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Time to Reveal Compulsory Ed. Law

Continued from page 1

government's. Some of you will recall in 1964 when many parents in Jackson Heights objected to the pairing of their elementary school with one in another area, they created their own private school in a converted brick house. They were forthwith visited by an army of building inspectors, educators, and every other bureaucrat looking for a violation in some law that would permit them to force the closing of this school. Why should a school have to meet State certification? This has been a means by which private schools have been forced out of existence so that the State could have a monopoly on education and the control of the child's mind.

Some will ask will every child stop going to school if the law is repealed? Certainly not. But educators will know that they cannot force things on parents or they will end up with an empty school. On the other hand, disruptive children who refuse to learn, could then be turned out of school so that the remaining children could secure the education that they seriously seek. Think of the money saved by emptying our schools of youngsters who spend most of their time cutting classes and vandalizing property in and out of the schools. Disruptive children are better a police matter than a school matter. Removing the compulsory attendance law would free up our schools so that teachers could get down to the business of education for which they are trained. The Board of Education's latest plan to create a police force similar to the Transit Authority police to patrol the schools is a case in point. This should not be necessary. Trouble-makers should not be in school to start with, but the law requires their presence in the building, although no pretense is made of their learning anything.

Anyone out there have any ideas on this? Our members are invited to submit short letters to the editor for response to this editorial.

Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER of the
CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

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