

Next meeting: Apr. 12 at 8 PM

Meetings at the Bellerose Baptist Church (basement), Braddock Avenue at 241st Street



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE **CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**
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CIVICS TO HOLD CONVENTION ON MAY 2

The Queens Civic Congress will hold its biennial luncheon/convention on May 2 at Antun's in Queens Village. Keynote speaker is U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

The Congress' Civic Award will be given to former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman. The event promises to be a blockbuster and Creedmoor Civic, as always, will be prominently in attendance.

Two years ago civics from throughout the borough jammed an upstairs room in the famed catering hall, and the belief is that this year the crowd will be even larger. The room can accommodate 250 people. Tickets through the civic are \$30 if purchased in advance and includes a full lunch. Meal choice is baked salmon or chicken francese. Call Jim Trent, Civic Congress luncheon chair, at 718-343-8830 to purchase tickets.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TO BE TOPIC OF SPEAKERS

At our April meeting, we will have a panel of speakers to discuss the current conditions in the NYC public schools. The speakers are: United Federation of Teachers District Representatives from District 26, Danny Feldman; and from District 29, Lowell Wayne; and from District 24 our own Vice President, Rosemary Parker.

The discussion will include the new curriculum and mandates, plus the issue of school safety and the radical changes in Special Education services.

Weprin Sponsors Name Change for Jamaica Avenue

Councilman David Weprin has reintroduced a bill to rename Jamaica Avenue to Jericho Turnpike. The previous bill sponsored by former Councilman Sheldon Leffler died in Committee. The name change was re-affirmed recently by Community Board 13.

PROTEST PROPOSED BY CIVIC LEADERS FOR JUNE 2

A discussion on March 29 on how to save the 112-year-old Bowne Street Community Church from demolition, led to a proposal for a borough-wide protest on June 2 in front of Borough Hall. The meeting was the monthly session of the Queens Preservation Council, chaired by the Borough Historian Stanley Cogan, who also is president of the Queens Historical Society.

The members of the council include leaders in Queens civic associations and museum and preservation groups. But the protest won't just be about the church which is proposed to be replaced by a 20-story apartment building. Instead, every civic/planning/preservation group in Queens fed up with inappropriate zoning, lacking of Building Department enforcement, a Board of Standards and Appeals that never met a variance it didn't like, and a Landmarks Commission that seems to have no interest in Queens, will use the opportunity to make their views known. It will be held on Wednesday, June 2 at 3 PM. It was considered important to have this protest while government offices were open, rather than on a Saturday which might bring more protesters, but would have less impact on the pols and bureaucrats. A turnout of several thousand people is hoped for. A recent rally in College Point to protest the redevelopment of the old Flushing Airport drew between 300 and 400 protesters who even blocked traffic on busy 20th Avenue.

We hope to have more details next month and to see how Creedmoor Civic can be an active participant.

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Around the Town

❖ **The play's the thing:** St. Gregory's Theatre Group announces "Broadway in Bellerose" as part of its 25th Anniversary Musical Revue. The show runs April 15, 16,17 at 8 PM, April 17 at 2 PM, April 18 at 3 PM. Dinner will be served April 15 at 7:15 and Sunday Brunch will be served on the 18th at 1:45. Performances will be in the Gregorian Hall. Tickets for Dinner/Brunch \$25 for adults, \$23 for senior/children. Show only is \$15 & \$12. For tickets call 718 779-8907 or SGTG.org.

❖ **Merchants in the news:** The Cedar Lane Superette on Braddock and 224 Street is closing. They are not selling the store to new owners but have decided to liquidate the contents of the store. The store owner also owns the land and there is some belief that the property is going to be redeveloped. The store is closing because the owner is retiring.

Also, the Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation just received a \$5,000 grant from the NYS Secretary of State for graffiti removal.

A new car wash is going in at a former gas station across the street from Reinwald's. Contractors were busy ripping out all the trees along the property line. Seems to be the new thing now in Queens. If you find grass, pave it over, if you find trees, cut them down.

❖ **Congratulations to:** the Porter Family of 239th Street on the March 9th birth of their daughter Chloe Michaela.

President's Message

Hello, Friends.

Have you ever walked through a neighborhood and wondered if it had always been overcrowded and run-down, or had it once been a beautiful area? Maybe their residents looked the other way when their neighbors parked on the front lawns, or worse, paved over them. Maybe they just shrugged when they first noticed four families living in a one family house.

That's how it starts. A slow but sure disregard for what happens to the neighborhood. We can't let that happen. When the civic is notified of quality-of-life violations, action is taken. You should be able to have visitors this summer and not be embarrassed by your surroundings. Your kids should be able to run down the block without having to step into the street because of how your neighbor parks his truck. Your neighbor knows he's being inconsiderate. He just doesn't care.

That's why your civic association is here. To preserve your quality of life. If you have a problem, give us a call at 718 464-3369. We no longer accept anonymous complaints, but your name will not be revealed without your permission.

Several neighbors mentioned that they have recently received summonses for defective sidewalks. At press time, we had not yet received many details. If you have received a summons, leave us a short message at 464-3369 with your address and what the summons was for. This will be discussed at Monday's meeting.

After several years as Financial Secretary, Patricia Dougherty of 242 Street has stepped down. Our bylaw states that officers must live within our civic boundaries, and unfortunately for CCA, Pat recently moved several blocks away. Good luck, Pat, and thank you so much for the great work you did for us.

Congratulations to all the officers of the Creedmoor Civic who were reelected last month, and welcome to Maureen Morris of 242 Street, who has now taken on the responsibilities of Financial Secretary.

Theresa McCreary has done a wonderful job of collecting dues on the 88 block of 239 Street, nearly 100%. That's fantastic!

If you haven't already sent in your dues for 2003, it's still not too late. Our member list is included in this newsletter. We will print additional names next month, if more are received.

Your Neighbor,

Rick Duszkiewicz

New Bill to Enforce Handicapped Parking

Councilmembers John Liu, Vincent Gentile and David Weprin are sponsoring a bill to train volunteers to photograph cars that are illegally parked in handicapped stalls to document infractions for police. The volunteers would wear badges. Such a law is already in place on Long Island.