

Next meeting: April 11 at 8 PM

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



Creedmoor Civic News

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BELLEROSE BOWL TO SHUT

The AMF Bellerose Lanes will close after May 27, it has been confirmed. The building will then be demolished. Rumors of a King Kullen replacing the bowling alley have been denied.

The 48-lane facility at 251-21 Jamaica Avenue, first opened during the height of the bowling craze in the late 1950s and survived the shake-out years later as bowling alleys all around the region began to close as the bowling fad waned. The Bellerose Lanes was home to many leagues and they are scrambling to find alternate locations or face disbanding. AMF also has a facilities in Mineola and Westbury, and some leagues have already relocated.

At a website called Collegebowling.com, was posted the following on March 22 by member “msulzer” from Bohemia, NY: “AMF Bellerose was sold to King Kullen for \$10 million. The building was sold, and the new owners are not honoring the lease and kicking AMF out. I’ve heard this from numerous bowling sources, as well as a district manager for King Kullen.”

However, the *Creedmoor Civic News* in an interview with the vice president for Real Estate for King Kullen Supermarkets, Ed Glackin, emphatically denied the rumor, saying that he had visited the site, but rejected it. He denied the rumor again to the chairman of Community Board 13, Richard Hellenbrecht, and offered to do whatever necessary to squelch the rumors.

However, as soon as one rumor is dispelled, another takes its place. Later it was stated by a source at the bowling alley that it was Waldbaum’s that was moving in. A call to the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company headquarters in New Jersey (owners of Waldbaum’s) went unanswered.

But the rumors don’t end there. We’ve also heard that the U-Haul Center next door has also been sold, but someone answering the phone at U-Haul claimed no knowledge. Another rumor has it that the two sites are possibly being consolidated to make room for a shopping center. Attempts

to check the Reeldex to determine who the new owner/owners might have been in vain thus far.

There are also rumors that additional properties on that block to the west, such as the interior decorators, have also been acquired, but as yet no confirmation. Many people many not realize that both the U-Haul and the Bowling Alley represent a combined total of 4.47 acres with frontage on Jamaica Avenue totaling 580 feet. It is virtually impossible to find that kind of acreage and frontage on a major street in our area any more that is in the hands of only a few owners, thus making the two sites a hot prospect for land assembly particularly in this overheated real estate market.

MORE STORE CHANGES

The shuttered Braddock Deli has been sold. The new owner will re-open as a delicatessen, but he has squelched the rumor that it will be styled as an Italian deli, stating in an exclusive interview with the *Creedmoor Civic News* that the store will cater to a variety of tastes. The owner also operates a deli on Tulip Avenue in Floral Park Village. A tentative opening date of May 15 has been given. The interior is being totally revamped.

We’ve also confirmed that the Reinwald’s Bakery next door is on the market. However, rumors that a new German bakery will be taking over are not confirmed by the present owners, who merely state that nothing is finalized yet.

A new hardware store has opened on Jamaica Avenue in the 247 numbers on Jamaica Avenue (just west of Queens County (old Roslyn) Savings Bank. Nice new interior, clean and bright. The Deli at the corner of Jamaica Avenue and 246th Street is under new ownership.

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Around the Town

❖ **Condolences to:** Correction: We had the wrong spelling last month. The name should have read: Mary O'Hare, formerly a longtime resident of 239th Street who passed away at age 106. Only the last two years were in a nursing home.

2004 DUES PAYMENT UPDATE

88th Road - 242 Block: Ali

88th Avenue - 234/235 Block: Sparacino

Gettysburg Street - 89 Block: His 'N Hers Haircutters

239th Street - 88 Block: Danielle/Peter

240th Street - 88 Block: Daddario, O'Keeffe

241st Street - 88 Block: Pfaff

Donations: Chironno

POTHOLE SEASON UPON US



Pothold located on Braddock Avenue near Reinwald's

This spring we will see the results of the winter's freezing and thawing cycles exacerbated by the addition of salt to melt snow which unravels the street paving. The hole as been marked by the City for repair. Please call 311 to report potholes.

President's Message

At last month's meeting, there were several comments about how dirty the streets were looking lately. I have to agree. While part of the blame (or excuse) can go to the weather we've been having, some sections of our neighborhood streets are really starting to appear, well, rather dreadful. Now that the warmer temps are around the corner, I hope we all take a few minutes each week to sweep the curbs. The law says we're responsible for 18" of the street. Let's hope the Dept. of Sanitation doesn't start showing up to issue summonses.

Our area has had more than our share of sidewalk problems. Mayor Bloomberg recently announced a pilot program to make it much easier to have a sidewalk repaired if a street tree has damaged some of the concrete. The city's contractors will work with the Parks Dept. to have the roots shaved down. In the past, a homeowner had to try to coordinate the schedules of his own contractor and the Parks Dept. Call 311 and ask for the "Trees & Sidewalks Repair Program."

In case you missed the short news coverage on this, a law passed late last year requires skateboarders under 14 to wear helmets.

Remember, if your block is planning a block party, you'll need to have 51% of the homeowners sign a petition, and you'll need to bring the petition into the community board office on Jamaica Ave at least 65 days before the event.

April started off on a very sad note with the passing of Pope John Paul II. As I write this president's message, I am watching the thousands of followers praying for him on TV. I will miss this great man.

Your neighbor,

Rick Duskwicz

NEWS ROUND UP

Douglaston: A new historic district has finally been created. Known as Douglaston Hill, it was approved by City Planning, the Landmarks Commission, and the City Council. It is only the sixth such district in Queens. It only took about 14 of fighting to make this happen.

Flushing: The New York Community Bank (owners of Queens County Savings Bank) has made a \$2,500 donation to the Queens Civic Congress to help pay for a zoning study for the Broadway-Flushing Civic Association. Additional funds are forthcoming from State Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin.

Richmond Hill: A downzoning has finally been approved for this beleaguered community. They are still fighting, however, for landmark district status.

Bayside: A hearing was held at City Planning in February to rezone much of R2 areas of Bayside to the new R2A. City Planning seems disposed to grant the change which will make McMansions difficult to build, thus preserving the context of existing architecture in that community. If finally approved, the new zone may be used in Bellerose.