

# Next meeting: Apr. 13 at 8:00 PM

**This Meeting only will be at P.S. 18, 86-35 235<sup>th</sup> Court, just south of Hillside Avenue**



## Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Founded 1927, Incorporated 1938

APRIL, 2015 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: <http://creedmoorcivicassn/weebly.com/> ★ VOL. 84, NO. 4

### BSA APPROVES FOUR-STORY ICCC BUILDING

On March 10, the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA) voted to approve the latest proposal from the Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC).

That plan consists of building a 4-story, 57 unit residence on land the group purchased on the Creedmoor campus. We were informed by our attorney, Mitchell Ross, that the BSA imposed certain conditions, including requiring that residents be 55 or older, and prohibiting catering for large events.

The ICCC purchased land with the stated intention of building a one-story community center, athletic field and parking area. On this basis, local elected officials helped the ICCC to buy the property, and local civic leaders approved.

Soon after the land transaction was completed, the ICCC filed plans with the Department of Buildings to build two 9 story buildings. This proposal was fought strongly by the community, and disapproved by a unanimous vote of Community Board 13. A later proposal to build 2 six story buildings was disapproved by the BSA. In 2013, the NYS Inspector General issued a report that stated, among other things, that the ICCC had acted "disingenuously" when it convinced officials of the NYS Dormitory Authority to revise the deed to allow residential occupancy.

It is undetermined at this point what further actions might be taken. We thank State Senator Tony Avella for his consistent support throughout this battle.

#### FDNY REP TO SPEAK

A representative from the New York City Fire Department will discuss fire safety at our April 13 meeting. We have been told that free smoke detectors with 10 year batteries will be distributed at our meeting, one per family.

#### STATE TO UNLOAD 53 ACRES ON THE BELLEROSE COMMUNITY

Creedmoor Psychiatric Center has been downsizing for decades. Now another parcel, perhaps the largest yet, is destined for sale to the private sector. The land is along Hillside Avenue, just east of Country Pointe, the seven acres that were sold some years ago and developed to 99 2-family homes.

The land is zoned R3-2. The Empire State Development Corporation has been reaching out to the civic leaders to determine what is deemed appropriate for the acreage. They also hired a consultant to gather the responses. Initially, they interviewed civic leaders over the phone, but then held a session at Queens Borough Hall to get more feedback. The meeting was by invitation only. Creedmoor Civic will keep you informed as this issue develops.



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## Creedmoor Civic News

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## President's Message

Our second annual joint civic meeting was a success. About 90 people came to hear Borough President Melinda Katz speak and answer questions. Many thanks to BP Katz and her staff.

Please vote for your favorite Participatory Budget projects from April 12-19. See this issue for projects and voting schedule. Make your voice count.

Since there were no new nominations put forth at the March civic meeting, the slate of officers listed in our March newsletter has been elected. We still need a Recording Secretary. Council Member Mark Weprin will swear in our officers at our June 8 meeting.

Local civic leaders attend meetings at Martin Van Buren High School on a regular basis. The co-location of the BTECH High School seems to be working out. More local students are applying to both schools. These are very encouraging developments.

The harsh winter sure has left things a mess! Let's take advantage of the coming spring weather to clean up our blocks. Remember that Dept of Sanitation regulations require homeowners to clean the street in front of their properties 18' from the curb.

We hope to see you at our meeting on Monday, April 13. We will be back at our usual location, the Living Hope Christian Church. A member of the FDNY will discuss fire safety. Please bring non-perishable food or household paper goods for the food pantry.

Your neighbor,

*Michael O'Keeffe*

### D.O.T. TO RESURFACE BRADDOCK AVE.

We have been informed by Council Member Mark Weprin's office that the NYC Department of Transportation has scheduled the resurfacing of Braddock Ave for the 2016 Fiscal Year, which begins on July 1, 2015. Thanks to Council Member Weprin for his help with this.

### GARAGE SALE SIGNS

With spring comes garage sales. Please do not staple garage sale signs to trees. If you post signs, please remember where you posted signs, and remove them as soon as the event is over.

### BLOCK PARTY NEEDS 90 DAY NOTICE

Remember that the procedure for applying for a block party permit has changed, and now requires 90 days advance notice. An application must be filed with the NYC Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO). Contact SAPO at (212) 788-7567, or visit their website at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/cecm/html/office/office.shtml>.

**Call 311 to report potholes!**

## Around the Town

✦ Condolences to the family of Robert Meyer of Gettysburg Street on his passing.

### ROBBERY SUSPECT ARRESTED

A Queens Village man, identified as Jose Escobar, was arrested on March 12 in connection with four alleged armed robberies in Queens Village and Bellerose. The first robbery took place on March 2 at the Baile Deli, located at 222-15 Braddock Ave. On March 8, three businesses were robbed: a hardware store at 212-44 91 Ave; the candy store on Braddock Ave and 237 St; and the Shell station on Jamaica Ave near the Cross Island Parkway. Thanks to the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct for quick work! Video surveillance was reported to be helpful in making this arrest.

### REZONING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

New York City has proposed changing zoning in many areas to allow for much greater density. The initiative, called Zoning for Quality and Affordability, is part of Mayor de Blasio's effort to build more affordable housing. As our readers know, our area was recently down-zoned to prevent overcrowding and over-development. At this time, it appears that the city zoning initiative applies to areas currently zoned for greater density than Bellerose. We need to monitor developments. Local civic leaders have contacted Council Member Mark Weprin to voice opposition to zoning changes that would lead to greater density.

In a separate initiative, the de Blasio administration has proposed legalizing illegal basement apartments. This has been met with universal civic opposition in Queens.

## PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROPOSALS - VOTING SET FOR APRIL 12-19

Council Member Mark Weprin has set aside \$1 Million for residents of Council District 23 to decide how to spend. The proposals are listed below. The items with the most votes will be funded up to a total of \$1 Million. There are 10 projects. Each voter can choose up to five. Residents of Council District 23 who are 16 or older are eligible to vote. Bring proof of ID and address.

### Libraries

1. CCTV upgrade at two local libraries. Total cost for both: \$223,000.
  - Queens Village Library, 91-11 217 St, Queens Village
  - North Hills Library, 57-04 Marathon Parkway, Douglaston
2. Exterior self check-in at Queens Village Library. Cost: \$385,000.

### Parks

3. Fitness equipment at two locations within Alley Pond Park. Total cost: \$450,000.
  - Winchester Blvd and Union Turnpike
  - Springfield Blvd and 73 Ave.
4. Rehabilitate Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, beginning in Alley Pond Park near Winchester Blvd. Cost: \$300,000.

### Transportation and Public Safety

5. Portable security cameras at three sites, locations to be determined by the NYPD. Cost: \$105,000.
6. Countdown clocks at eight bus stops, locations to be determined by the Dept of Transportation. Cost: \$160,000.

### Schools

7. Gym Renovations at Two High Schools. Cost for both: \$300,000.
  - Benjamin Cordozo High School, 57-00 223 St, Oakland Gardens. New flooring and equipment for the weight room.
  - Martin Van Buren High School, 230-17 Hillside Ave, Queens Village. New bleachers and basketball hoops.

8. New audio and video sound system at PS 33, 91-37 222 St, Queens Village. Cost: \$75,000.

9. Smart Boards at Four School Sites. Total Cost: \$200,000.

- PS 26Q, 195-02 69 Ave- 10 Smart Boards
- PS 188Q, 218-12 Hartland Ave. 7 Smart Boards.
- P4@PS 213Q, 231-02 67<sup>th</sup> Ave and P4@PS 179Q, 196-25 Peck Ave. 15 Smart Boards for two locations.

10. Technology Upgrades at Nine Schools. Total Cost: \$455,000.

- PS 18 Q, 86-35 235 Ct.
- PS 26 Q, 195-02 69 Ave.
- PS 115 Q, 80-51 261 St.
- PS 188 Q, 218-12 Hartland Ave.
- P4@ PS 179 Q, 196-25 Peck Ave.
- P4@ PS 213 Q, 231-02 67 Ave.
- Queens High School of Teaching, 74-20 Commonwealth Blvd.
- PS 811 Q @ QHST, 74-20 Commonwealth Blvd.
- PS 811 Q @ 61-25 Marathon Parkway.

## 2015 PARTICIPATORY BUDGET VOTING SCHEDULE

Note: Due to space constraints, only the locations closest to the Creedmoor Civic area are listed. For a complete list, visit <http://council.nyc.gov/html/pb/vote.shtml>, or call Council Member Weprin's office at 718-468-0137. District Residents 16 and over are eligible to vote. Bring ID to prove age and residence. Acceptable forms of ID include driver's license, non-driver ID, lease, bills with current address, tax forms, etc.

**Sunday, 4/12/15:** Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck. 10 AM- 2 PM.

**Monday, 4/13/15:**

- District Office, 73-03 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 10 AM-5 PM.
- Public School 18 Q, 86-35 235<sup>th</sup> Ct, Queens Village. 3 PM- 4 PM.
- Bellerose Library, 250-06 Hillside Ave. 3:30 PM- 7:30 PM.
- Beech Hills Co-op, behind 57-31 246<sup>th</sup> Crescent, Douglaston. 4 PM- 8 PM.

*(Continued on Page 4, Column 1)*

# BRADDOCK PHARMACY

236-01 BRADDOCK AVE.  
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**Participatory Budgeting** (continued from Page 3)

**Tuesday, 4/14/15:**

- District Office, 73-03 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 10 AM-5 PM.
- Glen Oaks Library, 256-04 Union Turnpike. 1:30 PM- 5: 30 PM.
- Hollis Library, 202-05 Hillside Ave, Hollis. 1:30 PM- 5:30 PM.
- Queens Village Library, 94-11 217 St, Queens Village. 1:30 PM- 5:30 PM

**Wednesday, 4/15/15:**

- District Office, 73-03 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 10 AM-5 PM.
- SNAP Senior Center, 80-45 Winchester Blvd, Queens Village. 10:30 PM- 1:30 PM.
- Bellerose Library, 250-06 Hillside Ave. 1:30 PM- 5:30 PM
- Windsor Park Library, 79-50 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 12:30 PM- 4:30 PM.

**Thursday, 4/16/15:**

- District Office, 73-03 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 10 AM-5 PM.
- Public School 33, 91-37 222 St, Queens Village. 1 PM- 5 PM.
- Glen Oaks Library, 256-04 Union Turnpike. 3:30 PM- 7:30 PM.
- Hollis Library, 202-05 Hillside Ave, Hollis. 3:30 PM- 7:30 PM.
- Queens Village Library, 94-11 217 St, Queens Village. 3:30 PM- 7:30 PM

**Friday, 4/17/15:**

- District Office, 73-03 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 10 AM-5 PM.
- Bayside Senior Center, 221-15 Horace Harding Expwy, Bayside. 11 AM- 4 PM.
- Windsor Park Library, 79-50 Bell Blvd, Oakland Gardens. 1:30 PM- 5:00 PM.

**Saturday, 4/18/15:**

- Alley Pond Park, park house at Union Turnpike and Winchester Blvd. 11 AM- 3 PM.
- Cross Island Y, 238-10 Hillside Ave, Bellerose. 11

AM- 4 PM.

**Sunday, 4/19/15:** Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck. 10 AM- 2 PM.

**QV SEARS SELLS “AS IS” APPLIANCES**

The Sears store on Hillside Ave in Queens Village is no longer selling hardware. It sells appliances, including “scratch and dent” items that are sold at a discount.

**BEWARE MORE SCAMS**

We have been talking about scams for a long time. During the past month, two telephone scams have been reported by civic members. In one, the caller states he/she is from the IRS, and says that the person who answered the phone owes back taxes. In these past, these calls have included instructions to send money, which goes to the scammers. The IRS does not notify taxpayers by telephone, but would typically send a letter.

In the other scam, the caller states he is from Microsoft, or some other well known company, and that your computer is in danger. The person who answers the call is instructed to do something on the computer, which in reality leads to the scammer gaining access to the person's computer. Don't fall for this!


We are advised by Detective Cooper from the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct that these scammers typically use disposable cell phones, so they are very difficult to trace.

**NEW RECYCLING RULES IN EFFECT**

Don't forget that it is now illegal to discard electronic items in the trash. Computers can be brought to electronic stores like Staples. Best Buy will accept computers and TV 's. If you need more information, call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/sanitation](http://nyc.gov/sanitation). Also, remember that all rigid plastic is now recyclable.

**“MODERN RUIN: A WORLD’S FAIR PAVILION”**

A documentary about history of the New York State Pavilion, and efforts to save it, will premier at the Queens Theater in Flushing Meadow Park on May 22 at 8 PM. The film's director, Matthew Silva, is the co-founder of the group “People for the Pavilion.” The other co-founder was Christian Doran, who grew up on 241 Street in our civic area. Known as “Tian” to family and friends, he died tragically of an asthma attack in Feb 2014. Tian was the son of long-time residents Steve and Cindy Doran. Last June, Borough President Melinda Katz provided \$5.8 Million to partially fund the restoration.

 <p><b>CROSS COUNTY MEDICAL CARE</b> A Modern Comprehensive Health Care Facility Marie A. Belotte, M.D. Board Certified, Internal Medicine 238-11 Braddock Ave, Bellerose, NY 11426 718.354.8300 fax: 718.347.9100 doctors@ccmconline.net      www.ccmconline.net</p>	Where your health matters	Complete Physical Examination Heart Diseases Hypertension Diabetes High Cholesterol Headaches Dizziness	Imbalance Women's Health Pap Smear Depression Medical Forms Heart Monitor (Holter) EKG	Pulmonary Function Test In-house Laboratory Pregnancy Test Vaccination Tuberculosis Test Sleep Apnea E-prescriptions