

Next meeting: Dec. 8 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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ILLEGAL POSTINGS RIPPED DOWN...

IT'S TIME TO SIGN OFF

by Rick Duskwicz. The proliferation of illegally posted advertisement signs on major streets such as Hillside, Braddock and Jamaica Avenues can really change the look of a neighborhood.

I've reported some of these signs to the Sanitation Department, and unfortunately, most of them have remained. Since there appears to be little or no enforcement of the laws that make these signs illegal, they're becoming more and more common. I figured it was time to do something about it. I knew I'd have an ally in Mike Augugliaro from the Queens Colony Civic Association. Mike gets even more agitated seeing these signs than I do. He jumped at the chance when I suggested that we go out together to start pulling these signs down.

Early one Saturday last month we grabbed a ladder and some tools and started off on our quest. Our goal was to remove as many of these ads as possible. We encountered so many that we started to walk from pole to pole, rather than drive. Within a couple of hours we accumulated the carcasses of several dozen signs. We needed the vehicle just to store the discarded ads.

We were encouraged by some of the comments from people passing. Many, it seems, are also disgusted by these companies who see fit to vandalize our neighborhoods for their profit. We decided to return a second day. In just a few hours, we pulled down a total of 75 or 80 signs. "It's a wonderful thing to see them dropping to the ground," Mike said. One police officer watched us as we set up near a telephone pole on Jamaica Ave and asked what we were doing. Mike explained that we were removing signs which were illegally installed. "Oh, they are?" was the officer's response. This helps to explain why these ads are so common. He allowed us to continue.

Mike and I will be cruising several other areas soon and will be making extensive notes of where other signs on poles and trees exist. We'll be sending this information to Councilman David Weprin, who has authored legislation to increase the fines against these violators. The city has the power to collect plenty of fines from these companies, although it's not exactly clear why they don't. When I see this in our neighborhoods, it makes them look a little too slum-like for me. I'm not comfortable with that. I hope you feel the same. If you see any of these signs showing up, let us know.



They ad up: Mike Augugliaro (left) and Rick Duskwicz rid Bellerose of some 80 illegal signs.

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Around the Town

❖ **Condolences:** to the family of Jimmy O'Keeffe, 20, of 88th Avenue, who passed away on October 10. Also to CCA board member Maureen Morris on the passing of her father, Lawrence Lennon, on November 8. As well, to the Peterson Family of 240th Street on the death of their daughter Bonnie.

❖ **Congratulations:** to PO Gino LoPresti of the 105th Police Precinct, who is now the precinct's Crime Prevention Officer. As well, congratulations to PO Joe Bonaventura of the 105 who is retiring this month.

❖ **Meeting Notice:** Our members are invited to attend the January 20 meeting (at 8 PM) of the Queens Village Civic Association at O.L.L. Stewart Hall, 92-96 220th Street. Their guest speaker will be Queens Borough President Helen Marshall. Free parking in lot entered from Springfield Boulevard.

Creedmoor Civic Party Rescheduled

Normally we have a Holiday Party at our December meeting, but since many of our regulars have scheduling conflicts on December 8, we will have only our regular soda and cake. Instead, we will have a New Year's Party at our January 12 meeting. It will be a covered dish (pot luck) supper. Please call Helen Trent at 718-347-3820 with what you plan to bring so that we can assure something of everything, and not too much of anything.

President's Message

One of the questions that come up most often is "What is this civic doing about basement apartments?" We will investigate and report any specific locations that are reported to us, but we need your help. You have to let us know where these problems exist. Some residents have complained about this problem in general, but have not helped in any way. They need to know that they are not alone, others are complaining about illegal conversions.

Recently, a group of civic association representatives agreed to start a local effort to combat the ever-growing problem of illegal basement apartments. Creedmoor Civic is part of that group. We will give you more information next month.

Recently, I attended a meeting at the 105th Precinct Community Council. Questions were once again brought up about the council's expenses and mailings, since it's been reported for quite some time that they've been desperate for money. In the past, several suggestions on how to save money were ignored. This time, the board members of the council were extremely defensive and insulting to the audience members with the questions. For a board member of a precinct council to state that seniors do not know how to use computers is very broad, and in my opinion, totally wrong.

Because of these evasive responses, Ms. Kathi Taylor of the Bell Park Community Council has requested financial records of the precinct council. I fully support her in this, and until she receives her answers, I am recommending that Creedmoor Civic withhold any donations.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday. Please remember our friends and relatives overseas, and pray for their safe return home.

Your neighbor,

Rick Duskwicz



Blocked Sidewalk: We've written about this before, and several residents have complained in the last two months about a couple of locations. Here is a perfect example of a resident who forces his neighbors on 91st Avenue to walk into the street.

CORRECTION: There was a typo last month indicating that 235th Court would remain one-way. It should have read TWO-WAY.