

# Next meeting: Dec. 10 at 8 PM

**Meetings at the Bellerose Baptist Church (basement), Braddock Avenue at 241<sup>st</sup> Street**



## Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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*"UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN"*

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### **SANITATION REP TO SPEAK IN DEC.**

**We've received confirmation that a representative of the New York City Department of Sanitation will be our December meeting speaker.**

He is Mr. Ignazio Terranova, the City-wide Community Affairs Officer.

If you have any questions about garbage pickup, street cleanings, recycling, etc., then please come out to the meeting. Low turnouts always signal to City agencies that their agencies need not consider the needs of our neighborhood, so please turn out in droves.

### **COMMUNITY BOARD 13 IN TURMOIL**

Tempers boiled over at the last meeting of Community Board 13. Police had to be called, and a responding officer threatened to handcuff everyone remaining in the room after nine board members left, if the shouting didn't stop.

The brouhaha is over the District Manager, Sally DeMartino-Fisher is intensely disliked by a portion of the membership of the board. She has been accused of a number illegal and/or unethical actions, one of which cost her a \$1,000 fine by the City.

Some board members want her fired, and she has threatened to sue those members trying to get rid of her.

Borough President Helen Marshall who appoints Community Board members so far has failed to intercede in this dispute which has been going on for over a year, causing the board to almost become paralyzed since almost every issue, including routine issues like setting a budget become ugly scenes. Board members are unpaid, although there are a few staffers who receive a salary including the District Manager. In fact her not getting a salary increase in years is also part of the ongoing dispute.

### **TEMPLE EXPANSION A BLIGHT ON THE NEIGHBORHOOD**



**East and South facades of expanded Sikh church fronting on 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue.**

Move over Chartres Cathedral, you've got competition. Well, not really. This church expansion that fronts on 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue between 242<sup>nd</sup> Street and the Cross Island Parkway must win awards for the ugliest structure in Bellerose. This concrete block box is listed as a one-story building yet towers over the two-story row houses immediately to its west. Steel columns protruding above the roof indicate something is being built that will be taller still.

Construction resumed after a stop work order halted construction due to complaints that the posted permits indicated work not consistent with what was actually being constructed. Workmanship is so sloppy that the steel beams actually stick out on the west side because they weren't properly measured. Instead of a stucco finish over the inept masonry work, and even messier paint job is the finish to this horror. Worse, they paved the whole width of the sidewalk and provided no landscaping.

## Creedmoor Civic News

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## JANUARY IS PARTY MONTH FOR CIVIC

Several years ago we abandoned having Christmas parties at our meetings. Due to changes in lifestyle habits, so many people are away on cruises, and vacations, that we shifted our party to January. Once again we will devote much of our January meeting to a New Year's party. Leaders of neighboring civics and local elected officials are invited. Our January meeting will be held on Monday, January 14. Food and drink will be provided free. Be sure to join us.

## BELLEROSE HARDWARE NEEDS BUSINESS

We were fortunate when a new hardware store opened on Jericho Turnpike a few years ago. Called Bellerose Hardware and Paint located at 247-39 Jericho Turnpike, the store is clean, bright, and neat inside. What's more, they almost always have everything you need. The problem is that business has been bad the last eight months and they are thinking of closing.

Our residents can't complain about the looks of the downtown area if they are not willing to patronize local stores. The owners have said customers have complained that their prices are high. As compared to what? Home Depot? Small mom & pop stores buy in small quantities and can't sell at the Home Depot and Wal-Mart levels. But add in the time it takes to get to these big stores and the cost of gas, and you may find shopping local really is the better bargain. So next time you need a clothes line pulley wheel, or say a window shade, consider this store.

## President's Message

### Hello, Neighbors!

As we prepare for the cold and snowy months ahead, please remember that it's illegal to shovel snow into the street. Too many residents have been seen doing this, and sooner or later, it's going to cause a car to slide and crash.

One of the more popular electronic "toys" this year is a GPS unit for cars. When you first install it, do not place it on the top of your dashboard for two reasons. In NY State, you're not allowed to block your own view out the windshield, plus it can become a projectile in a crash.

Also, keep in mind that the tell-tale mark on the windshield from the suction cup tips off thieves that you probably have your unit stored in the glove compartment.

Portions of both Hillside and Braddock Avenues used to be bombarded with illegal commercial signs on the utility poles. In the past, Mike Augugliaro of the Queens Colony Civic Association and I forwarded several lists of these locations to the Enforcement Division of the Dept of Sanitation, and they've responded well by giving these companies "Notices of Violation." We recently toured these areas again, and were happy to see that Bellerose is relatively free of these signs. Knowing that this kind of visual graffiti tends to creep back in slowly but surely, we expanded our search further down Hillside, Jamaica and Francis Lewis Blvds. We forwarded the new list of 150 signs to Sanitation last weekend. Sanitation not only issues the summonses, but they also remove the signs when possible. This is one agency that is certainly committed to following up on civic associations' complaints. If you have any questions about Sanitation, come to this month's meeting and meet our guest speaker, Mr. Terranova.

Your Neighbor,

*Rick Duszkiewicz*



## BELLE-ROSE IS NOT A BILL BOARD

This is the kind of visual eyesore that is illegal and which our Association in concert with others have been getting the Department of Sanitation to remove.