

Next meeting: Feb. 9 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 FINALLY GET CONFAB WITH DOB COMMISH

After repeated refusals to meet with both Queens Civic Congress leaders and Councilman David Weprin, Buildings Commissioner Patricia Lancaster finally relented and met with Civic Congress brass the morning of January 5th.

The Queens delegation consisted of Paul Kerzner (Ridgewood Property Owners), Nagassar Ramgarib (Queens Village Civic) Tina Chan (Kew-Forest Community Association), and James Trent (Creedmoor Civic), all officers of the Queens Civic Congress.

The delegation pled the case for homeowner groups regarding illegal conversions that are not being sufficiently reversed and penalized. The Department outlined their plan for overhauling the agency including streamlining permit processing and reporting to the State Licensing Board the identities of architects and engineers who fraudulently certify alterations as legal. While the City cannot revoke their licenses, the DOB can and does prohibit such professionals from self-certifying any future projects.

DOB also will be meeting periodically with civics to monitor the situation, and will allow civic leaders to sit in on training sessions on how to use DOB computerized data bases.

Queens Civics rejects Avella bill on Community Facilities

After Whitestone/Bayside councilman Tony Avella's protracted negotiation with the Department of City Planning to change the law regarding as-of-right construction of churches, non-profit facilities, and medical offices, the bill that was presented to the civic groups was rejected as not doing enough, and in fact, in some zone areas such as R-3, would actually see the situation get worse. Not only did the Queens Civic Congress turn it down, but so did a Manhattan coalition that the QCC had been working with. Seems it

didn't help them either in the higher density neighborhoods. The bill's problem stems from the fact that the City Planning Commission really doesn't want to make the changes, and has been using their old ploy that where they give in in one place, they want something back somewhere else. It remains to be seen now what will happen since the bill has no support. It is believed that perhaps a different council member will try to pickup the pieces.

Klein Farm Sold

In another loss for civics, the 2.2-acre private farm in Fresh Meadows that was hoped could be privately purchased and given to the Queens County Farm Museum was quietly sold to a party believed to be related to the notorious Tommy Huang of Keith's Theatre infamy. It was sold for \$4.3 million dollars. No subdivision plan has been filed, so the battle is still ahead of us to preserve the Special Preservation District status of the farm.

QUEENS HISTORIAN PUTS HIS MONEY WHERE HIS MOUTH IS

Stan Cogan, president of the Queens Historical Society and the Borough Historian, has had a lawyer draw up a restrictive covenant on the deed to his 80-year-old Bayside home that prevents anyone in the future from ever demolishing or altering the house. Way to go, Stan. We encourage others to do the same. It's one way to stop builders from destroying Queens.

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Around the Town

✓ **Condolences:** to the family of Veronica Bartholomew who passed away in January. Ms Bartholomew was the mother of Denise Creighton, formerly of Lyman Street.

✓ **Merchants in the news:** Big changes at **Reinwald's Bakery**. They are now open on Mondays, and have a larger selection of cakes than had been the case since the change of ownership when the shelves were sparse. A lot of new treats are available in addition to the old standbys.

Also, the pizzeria on that same block of Braddock is being renamed **Napoli Pizzeria and Restaurant** and is under new ownership. Please patronize our local businesses.

DUES PAYERS TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN MARCH

As we do each year, we will publish all the names of paid-up civic members. These will appear next month, so you will have time to pay in case your 2003 account is in arrears. **Remember, 2003 dues are \$5.00. The dues for 2004 are \$6.00.** Send to Rick Duskwicz at 88-01 Lyman Street, Bellerose Manor, NY 11427. Make check payable to Creedmoor Civic Assn.

President's Message

Hello, Friends.

Just when you think you've seen the last of the snow, bam, there goes another couple of inches. The cold and snow can really wear us down. It can be particularly hard on the elderly. Take a few minutes and give one of your older neighbors a call. Saving them a trip to the store, or adding some water to their boilers can really make their day.

It amazes me to see normally clear-thinking adults shoveling snow into the street, figuring the plows will take it away. All the plows do is push the snow further down the street. If this is done on a side street, and the plows don't come through, the snow can sometimes remain as a slippery patch for another week or two.

When shoveling heavy, wet snow, the snow tends to stick to the shovel. Spray a little WD-40 on the shovel, and it'll make the job just a little easier.

There have been a few more burglaries in the area. Most burglaries occur during the daytime, when the occupants are less likely to be home. Is your home safe? Is it difficult to break into? Try this: Step outside your house and imagine you've locked yourself out. Knowing your house the way you do, how would you get in? Would you try the back door? The second floor rear window? Take the time to secure your home. The thief wants the easy targets first. We hope to convince the 105th Precinct's Crime Prevention Officer, Gino LoPresti, to speak at either this month's or next month's meeting.

Quite a few of you have sent in your dues already, even though we haven't sent out the dues envelopes yet to all the blocks yet. Thank you. Last year, and this year, we've received quite a few additional donations. Sometimes a note is enclosed, such as, "Here's a little more, in case someone else cannot pay their dues," or, "Thank you, Creedmoor for the work you do, here's a little extra to help." Quite unexpected. Thank you.

Finally, we've received a few calls on the civic line where the callers did not leave numbers so we could return the calls. It's frustrating, please take the time to leave enough info so we could help you.

See you at Monday evening's meeting.

Your Neighbor,

Rick Duskwicz

Light Poles Finally Going Up

The new cast iron lampposts for Jamaica Avenue are finally going up, with the first ones being worked on February 2nd. The contractor, Welsbach Electric, insisted on being paid for the ordering of the poles before they would start the construction. The Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corp., the entity paying for the poles, first had to get the money from the State before work could continue. The 49 poles are part of a grant from State Senator Frank Padavan.