

Next meeting: Feb. 14 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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BELLEROSE GETS NEW BANNERS

The Joint Bellerose Business District has installed new banners on lampposts on Jamaica Avenue, but for the first time has also included Braddock Avenue.



It's a banner year for Braddock - Eight new Business District banners grace commercial strip from Jamaica Avenue to Gettysburg Street

The dark green banners replicate the familiar slogan “Two Counties-One Town” that appeared on earlier maroon banners, and includes the District’s distinctive logo. These banners create a sense of place as part of the non-profit corporation’s goal of improving the viability of the downtown Bellerose business strip.

Although Braddock Avenue has always been a part of the Business District’s zone of influence (only up to Gettysburg Street), the District has not heretofore had the resources to share many improvements with Braddock Avenue. There are 34 new banners installed, with eight of them placed on Braddock Avenue. All of them are on the Creedmoor Civic side of the street where 95% of the businesses are located.

In the last two years, the District has also been maintaining the Braddock Avenue mall between 243rd Street and the Cross Island Parkway.

Funding for the banners and landscape maintenance is made possible by a grant from State Senator Frank Padavan.

CB 11 APPROVES NEW R2A ZONE

Community Board 11 in early January approved with comments the new R2A zone that will eliminate loopholes that have allowed crafty architects to build houses larger than originally envisioned on small-sized lots. Since these loopholes, however, still exist in other low density zones, pressure is being brought to bear, while the final approval steps are being taken to adopt the R2A, to tighten up R1, R2, and R3 and their subcategories.

Since much of Bellerose has been rezoned in the last year, it has been suggested that Bellerose may need to be rezoned again, since the R2A would be better than the R2 it now has (note: Bellerose south of the 87th Avenue is zoned mostly in variants of R3, or even R4.) The two options we have is either close the loopholes which bureaucratically has been described as difficult, or change the zone entirely which experts say is actually easier.

Meantime, local civics in the Bellerose area are trying to put together a joint meeting at which the Mayor will be the primary speaker. Tentative plans call for using the new High School for Teaching Careers as the venue because of ample off-street parking and because many Bellerose residents have not seen the new 31-acre campus.

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President's Message

In December, several homeowners in our area received solicitations from a "private developer." The letters warned that the homeowners' properties would be worth much less if rezoning efforts were to succeed. This was brought to Councilman Weprin's attention, and he organized a press conference in December. A half-hearted apology letter from the company soon followed. Last week, Councilman Weprin introduced legislation prohibiting this scare tactic called "zonebusting," making it a class A misdemeanor. Residents should not be frightened into thinking their homes are losing value because of some bogus claims.

As this newsletter goes to print, we still have snow on the ground. Every year, I see the same thing; snow being thrown into the street. I guess the thought is that the cars will pass over the snow and it'll melt. Many times, all this does is place a large patch of ice in the middle of the street. Please don't do this. It's dangerous, and if you're caught, could cost you a hefty fine.

A pair of "No Standing" signs showed up one morning at the intersection of 88th Ave. and 240th Street. The Department of Transportation installed these signs at the request of the community board, who had received a request from a resident in the area. The Creedmoor Civic Association was not informed of this request, and we were totally unaware of the installation of these signs beforehand. Unfortunately, once the Dept. of Transportation grants requests for "daylighting," which clears the corner for better sightlines, they are very reluctant to remove them for liability reasons.

We have requested that the Community Board inform this civic association of requests such as these before they are passed on to the city agencies.

I'd like to thank Walter Audubon of 238th St. for volunteering to deliver the packages of newsletters to the block captains. That's greatly appreciated.

In this issue we have printed the names of the members who have paid for 2004. If we left your name out, please let me know at 718 464-3369. It's still not too late to pay. We will also publish additional names for the next two months. Please indicate on your check which year you're paying for. Quite a few members have been very generous with additional donations, that's very kind of them.

Your neighbor,

Rick Duskwicz

DUES ARE DUE FOR 2005

Creedmoor Civic operates on a fiscal year which is the same as the calendar year, thus dues for 2005 are due. Cost is \$6.00 per household. We anticipate making it simple for you by enclosing dues remittance envelopes with the March issue of the *Creedmoor Civic News*. Please mail in checks, not cash. Please don't wait for a block captain to come around. This is time consuming for our volunteers and not really fair to them. For better than three-quarters of a century, this civic association has been effectively representing our community. Let's keep it that way.

Around the Town

❖ **Condolences to:** The family of Pauline DiGioia of 89-06 241st Street who is reported deceased. Also, to the family of William F. Hefferon of 90th Avenue who passed away suddenly. And finally, to Kathryn Payne, president of the Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation, on the death of her husband, Graham.

❖ **Get well wishes to:** Nagassar Ramgarib, president of the Queens Village Civic Association, who is recovering from back surgery. Also, to Barney Aquilino, president of the Rocky Hill Civic Association, and his wife, Elsie, who have both been feeling under the weather these last three weeks.

❖ **Congratulations to:** Patty Phelan on her election to the presidency of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, and as well to Neil Modi, the newly elected president of the Parkside Civic Association.

BUILDING DEMO WORK STOPPED

The property at 224-50 Braddock Avenue received a Stop Work Order from the Department of Buildings last week for demolishing more than 50% of the building without the proper permits. The property at 236-08 Braddock Avenue is still under a Stop Work Order for improper work.

GRAFFITI REWARD

The NYPD has announced that it will sponsor a \$500 reward program funded by the NY Police Foundation for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals.