

Next meeting: Jan. 12 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.
Founded 1927, Incorporated 1938

JANUARY, 2004

"UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN"

VOL. 73, NO. 1

FOLKS GET ROWDY AT WEPRIN MEETING

Some 400 residents turned out for a December 16th town hall-style meeting convened by local councilman David Weprin. There was screaming, shouting and carrying-on the likes of which have not been seen at a civic meeting in many years. The residents were venting their frustrations at the representatives of the Departments of Buildings and City Planning.

Some even vented their spleens at Weprin himself. At one point, Weprin called the police to insure that no violence took place, but that was probably overkill. While angry, this group which included virtually every civic leader in the 23rd Councilmanic District, was not likely to start throwing furniture around. But they were mad as hell and weren't going to take it anymore.

As part of the aftermath of the meeting, Weprin staffer Arthur Flug resigned. The meeting was held in the auditorium of M.S. 172 in Floral Park. The Queens DOB commissioner Magdi Mossad, and the chief of the Queens Office of City Planning, John Young, were the special guests. Nothing gets Queens people more worked up than issues regarding inappropriate zoning which is causing sound housing in beautiful suburban neighborhoods to be bulldozed, and the lack of enforcement of the Building Code by the Department of Buildings.

The cartoon at right which has been making its way around the Internet is typical of the public's contempt for the DOB.

While some City Planning has achieved some recent downzonings, other neighborhoods are still waiting and the process is way too slow. Many neighborhoods are being lost while the process makes its way. The Landmarks Commission is also under fire. They have nothing but disdain for Queens and repeatedly refuse to move in any meaningful way on landmark districts for Queens. They've turned down Richmond Hill twice and just recently rejected Douglaston Hill with its beautiful turn-of-the-century Victorian mansions. But the DOB probably frustrates Queens people the most. No matter how outrageous the alteration, DOB seems to find



some way to find the change legal. And when there is agreement on the illegality, nothing is done to reverse the change. Illegal buildings are never torn down. And it didn't help that Mossad's thick accent made his answers to the people's questions almost unintelligible. As we've reported in the past, one plan to deal with the problem is to reorganize the DCP and DOB and put the borough offices under the Borough Presidents who would be more accountable.

Creedmoor Civic News

Published since 1931

Published 10 times per year by the Creedmoor Civic Assn., Inc.
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Around the Town

✓ **Condolences:** to the family of Fritz Buhrer of 239th Street and family on the passing of his wife Marie. Also to Mr. & Mrs. Frank Chironno of 239th Street on the death of his sister Irene on December 18.

✓ **Welcome New Neighbors:** The Benjumea Family of 88-19 242nd Street, and also Peter and Rene Dellabovie at 242-21 88th Avenue.

Moline Crime Update

Deputy Inspector Michael Bryan of the 105th Precinct announced last month that a suspect was arrested in the August 22 homicide of Fabian Ceballos of Moline Street. DI Bryan confirmed that the crime was drug-related, and that the suspect and the victim knew each other.

Pot Luck Supper Unlucky

There's been a change of plan to our Covered Dish Supper, or Pot Luck Supper, that we planned as our New Year's Party for our January meeting. Due to lack of support for this format, the CCA is providing the food. Members need not bring anything.

Windshield Flyer Law

A State law that was signed by Gov. Pataki makes it illegal to place flyers on windshields or windshield wipers. Similar to the public pole posting law, the company whose telephone number or address is on the flyer can be held

responsible. If you receive a flyer on your car windshield, you may call 311 to file a complaint.

President's Message

Hello, Friends.

Our neighborhood looked absolutely beautiful last month with all the decorations. It appears that more and more homeowners are really going all-out with their light displays.

Ten months out of the year, our newsletter is delivered by our volunteer block captains. Some not only deliver the newsletter, but also collect dues. It is because of them that we do not need to mail our newsletter, as a lot of other civic associations do. A special congrats this month must go to Domenica Chironno of the 89 block of 239 St., who collected nearly 100% of her block for 2004 already.

As of this month, dues are now \$6.00. Please keep that in mind when sending yours in.

There have been many questions about recycling and street cleanliness. Our guest speaker this month, Mr. Tom Fitzgerald of the Sanitation Dept., will address many of those issues at this Monday's meeting.

Hope to see you there.

Your Neighbor,
Rick Duskwicz

Padavan Brings \$ to Local Organizations

The Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation has received a contract for \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2003-2004, and the Queens County Farm Museum is being awarded \$100,000 for the same fiscal year, as a result of the negotiations that State Sen. Padavan completed with the legislature and the Governor. Many other groups such as school boards, ambulance corps, seniors centers, etc. also received grants, too numerous to mention here.



Sky writing: The 105 Police Precinct has been after graffiti writers such as this one scribbling on the roofs of local stores. Creedmoor Civic has been assisting the Police in providing information such as the names of building owners so that prosecution of the culprits can be expedited.