

Next meeting: Jan. 10 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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LOCAL GRAFFITI VANDALS ARRESTED

A rash of graffiti vandalism plaguing eastern Queens, particularly Bellerose and Queens Village, may be coming to an end now that two arrests have been made.



Stores on Hillside Avenue at 252nd St. in Bellerose sport graffiti damage. This is an attack on our Society as civilized people. Picture provided by the North Bellerose Civic Association.

As members of the Joint Bellerose Business District, Creedmoor Civic is fortunate that graffiti in our area can be removed quickly because we have the funds to do it. However, other areas look like a war zone when the steel gates are down. Recently there's been a rash of graffiti activity on Union Turnpike and Hillside Avenue in Bellerose that has driven our civic neighbors to the north to distraction. They have been able to remove much of it by appealing to store owners, and using their own volunteers. They also insisted on enforcement of the law and were successful in getting two Bellerose teens arrested. Both have prior graffiti arrest records. The police have traditionally been good at getting those arrested to divulge the names of accomplices.

January Speaker: Mr. Robert Hudak of the Dept. of Buildings.

CITY CAVES, REVISES R2A ZONE

The time to get things done is just before an election, particularly when the incumbent is worried about his chances of re-election. Queens civic groups attempted to tighten the loopholes in R2 zoning. City Planning responded with a disingenuous new zone called R2A that would actually worsen conditions by allowing private homes to occupy a larger footprint than the law provided for under R2, while insisting that everyone who criticized the new zone didn't know what they were talking about. Councilman Tony Avella, who initiated the new zone, was particularly miffed at those who criticized it, but eventually came around to realizing he had been duped by City Planning, an agency that was really working for the developers, not the civic groups. When Tony Avella realized that he had alienated everyone on the R2A issue, and our own State Senator Frank Padavan jumped into the fray with a strong letter to City Planning head Amanda Burden that the new zone wouldn't work, the R2A finally got re-written thanks to the input of two individuals representing local civics, Paul Graziano, a city planner from Flushing, and Brixton Doyle, a graphics artist from Bayside who was the first to notice that the new zone wasn't all that it was cracked up to be. The Queens Civic Congress put some heat on the mayor warning him that he wouldn't get re-elected unless the overdevelopment issues in Queens were addressed effectively and sincerely. Amanda Burden was reported to have told her staff to fix the R2A or be fired. Much of Bellerose was recently rezoned from R3 to R2. Now it has to be done all over again if the R2A is finally approved, because the old R2 won't do the job.

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President's Message

Our guest speaker last month was Jeff Schneider of the Citywide Vandal Task Force. He discussed the many different ways his officers work with the community and the local precincts to combat graffiti. Braddock Ave had been hit recently, but Hillside Ave and Union Turnpike have been vandalized numerous times in the last several months. Recently, an off-duty officer caught two teenagers in the act and they were arrested. Both had been caught several times before. At least one is a Bellerose resident. Hopefully these arrests will prove fruitful in catching others.

Many other civic associations incur large postal expenses by having their newsletters mailed every month. Our block captains have always helped out by delivering ours door to door, and for this I'm very grateful. Rose Daddario and Helen Trent prepare nearly 1000 newsletters every month for delivery to the block captains. The winter months can be difficult for them, so I'm hoping that I can get a volunteer to drop off small packages once a month to the 20 block captains. This would definitely help us out. If you have about an hour to spare, once a month, I'd really appreciate it. If you might be interested, or have a question or two before committing yourself, give me a call at 718 464-3369 in the evening.

Every civic association has horror stories about overbuilding in their areas. While we've been fortunate that we haven't really been bombarded with some of the monstrosities that have plagued other neighborhoods, we do have some problems with builders and developers. A good example would be Moline Street. Our guest speaker this month will be Mr. Robert Hudak from the Department of Buildings. We'll have a list of questions that will be presented to him. If we have time, he'll also accept questions from the audience. Come to the meeting this Monday, it's sure to be very interesting.

Your neighbor,
Rick Duskwicz

SIGN OF THE TIMES

A recent inspection of Hillside Ave from Springfield Blvd to Little Neck Parkway uncovered only one illegally posted sign. That's a great improvement from the dozens that were found just a few months ago. A similar improvement was also found on Linden and Merrick Roads, as well as Springfield Blvd, which are all within Community Board 13's boundaries. Several lists of illegal signs were sent to the Community Board, which forwarded these lists to the Sanitation Dept. Our thanks to both the Community Board and Dept of Sanitation for their work in helping to eliminate this blight.

DUES REMINDER

Next month we will publish the roster of paid-up 2004 members. If you are not yet paid, please do so immediately. Dues are \$6.00 per household, a bargain for all that the Association does. No one working for the Civic is paid, but we do have expenses. We prefer checks to cash. Thank you.

Around the Town

❖ **Thanks to:** Josephine Venditelli of 89th Avenue for the large donation, and a big thank you and good luck to Mike Duggan, formerly of the 88 Block of 240th Street. Mike just moved to Florida and left a very, very generous cash donation to Creedmoor Civic.

❖ **Condolences to:** The family of Matthew Troy of 88th Avenue, in the Rocky Hill Civic territory. Matthew Troy served as City Council from our area for many years. He was both popular and controversial, and as a conservative Democrat, was long supported even by local Republicans. In fact, when Creedmoor Civic's Jim Trent was asked by the Republican Party to run against Mr. Troy one year, he refused.

❖ **Speaking of politics:** How many of our residents know that the Queens Village Republican Club, which serves Bellerose, is the oldest in the United States, founded in 1875. They will celebrate their 130th anniversary on February 13 at Antun's. Among the honorees at the dinner are our own Community Board 13's chairman, Richard Hellenbrecht, former president of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic, receiving the Outstanding Civic Leadership award; Mayor Michael Bloomberg receiving the Businessman Extraordinaire Award; and Assembly Member Barbara Clark, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award, the Club not minding that she's a Democrat. Clark began her community involvement in a local Cambria Heights PTA, and was once employed as a staffer at Community Board 13.