

Next meeting: June 13 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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"UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN"

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Mayor signs Jericho Turnpike bill...

ONE STREET, ONE NAME

A seven-year ugly war has finally been won by the people of Bellerose. On Monday, June 6,

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg signed a bill renaming Jamaica Avenue to Jericho Turnpike.

The bill only affects that portion of Jamaica Avenue that has two names, that is, from Cross Island Parkway east to the City Line. A portion of Jamaica Avenue within Bellerose from the Cross Island Parkway west to 225th Street, already is Jamaica Avenue on both sides

What should have been a simple process got ugly when some opportunistic people decided to pit neighborhood against neighborhood and try to fight Bellerose's attempt to end 85 years of confusion.

Continued on Page 3...



Bellerose civic leaders are beaming with pride as they pose with Council Member David Weprin (holding paper in front row) to celebrate the renaming of Jamaica Avenue.

of the street, so the new law does not affect that area. The bill gives the City's Department of Transportation 90 days to change the street signs.

TRATTORIA LUCIA HONORS CALLA LARGA GIFT CERTIFICATES

The new Trattoria Lucia, which opened in place of the shuttered Calla Larga, has informed us that they are in fact honoring the gift certificates issued by Calla Larga. It is rare that a new business honors the liabilities of a former corporation. Trattoria Lucia held a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 9th at 2 PM and the Mayor of Bellerose, Donna Sherrer, officiated along with officials of the Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation. The restaurant was completely redecorated and an extensive menu featuring affordable prices has been issued. They also do catering. Please support our local businesses. Local businesses are more convenient than shopping malls, and their viability preserves our property values.

Creedmoor Civic News

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Around the Town

❖ **Condolences to:** the family of Marion Sheldon of Lyman Street who passed away on June 5th.

❖ **Hold the pickles:** Welcome to the new Pickles Deli at the location of the former Braddock Delicatessen. The owner, who also owns a Deli on Tulip Avenue in Floral Park, has totally rebuilt the interior, paved a new sidewalk and would appreciate your support. This new store bodes well for reviving the 236 block of Braddock as a major retail node.

❖ **Let them eat cake:** Beginning July 1, Reinwald's Bakery will be under new management. Word is out that the new owner is an outstanding baker who hopes to revive the flagging reputation of Reinwald's. It is important that all of our residents support this bakery that has been a fixture on Braddock for close to 50 years.

❖ **Bella Napoli shuts:** Just as we try to rebuild the fortunes of the 236 Block of Braddock, Bella Napoli Restaurant closes its doors. An auction house came and stripped the interior, so reopening as a restaurant is problematic unless someone can invest a lot of money.

❖ **A cut above:** Serge, the manager of Allen's Barber Shop on Jericho Turnpike (formerly Jamaica Avenue!) has opened his own barber shop in West Hempstead. The young, affable, Arthur has taken over as manager and promises many improvements to the operation in terms of services and appearance of the shop.

❖ **A berry nice event:** Berry Festival at Queens County Farm Museum on Sunday, June 25, 11 AM - 4 PM. Free.

President's Message

As summer approaches, I look forward to our neighborhood coming alive again.

I'd like to congratulate the new board of this association, who will be installed by Senator Frank Padavan this Monday. I hope that together, we can make a difference. Marie Grandison, who recently served as CCA's Second Vice President, has graciously agreed to continue to help out as our PS 18 liaison.

Over two years ago, the Creedmoor Civic Association approached then-Superintendent Michael Johnson of School Board 29 about the possibility of converting PS 33 to a K-8 school. Unfortunately, we were met with an absolutely closed mind. It was recently announced that several schools within District 29 will now be converted to K-8 schools. We are considering approaching the District again.

A very good friend of mine, and also a good friend of CCA, Barney Aquilino, has just announced that he will be stepping down as President of the Rocky Hill Civic Association at the end of the year. Barney has served as president of the RHCA since 1981. I wish him the best.

For the past several months, Walter Audubon has delivered the packages of newsletters to all of the block captains, and I'd like to thank him for that. He will no longer be providing this service. If you have about an hour to spare, once a month, will you consider volunteering for this task? If so, please give me a call at 718 464-3369, even if you only have some questions about it.

In another section of this newsletter, you'll find an article written by Jim Trent about the Farm Museum. What you won't read in that article is how important Jim's own role was in helping to procure that land for the museum. Without Mr. Trent, that beautiful space would now be filled with nothing but houses. Thank you, Jim.

Our civic line remains available throughout the summer: 718 464-3369. Please remember to repeat your phone number. Another way of reaching your civic is via e-mail: info@creedmoorcivic.org Of course, you can always visit our website at: www.creedmoorcivic.org.

Finally, I want to thank all the members who have paid their dues for 2005. For those who haven't, it's not too late. It's still \$6.00 for the year. We've received more donations this year and last than any other years. That certainly helps, especially since our expenses have gone up.

I'll see you around.

Your neighbor,

Rick Duskwicz

Bollard Vote

We will discuss and vote on whether rubber bollards should be installed along the southbound ramp of the C.I.P. as a preventive to the accident that occurred on the corner of 90th Avenue recently where a parked car was demolished.

Street Renaming

Continued from Page 1

None of the people who caused us this trouble years ago are active as leaders today, so we won't even mention their names, but their actions were despicable. Every newspaper and TV station had covered the controversy, but we finally had to put an end to talking



Bellerose leaders gather 'round Mayor Bloomberg in City Hall's Blue Room as he signs the bill changing the name of Jamaica Avenue. From left to right: Bruno DeFranceschi, Angela Augugliaro, David Weprin, Richard Duskiewicz, Lucy DeFranceschi, Richard Hellenbrecht, Paul Rubinfeld, Michael Augugliaro (partially hidden), Gun Gunadi, and James Trent.

to reporters to squelch the problem when the Canadian Broadcasting Company tried to insert itself and turn a simple name change into an international event. As a result, however, Council Member Sheldon Leffler refused to advance the bill for fear it would damage his political chances of becoming the next Borough President. It remained for the current Council Member David Weprin to reintroduce the bill, and he was nervous at first, but soon came to realize the merits of the idea, and the lack of merits of the bill's detractors. How ironic, that while the bill made its way through the City Council, Staten Island's Council Member Ed McMahon told Weprin how he had recently visited Bellerose and got lost because of the confusion in street names. Said McMahon, "Why isn't something done about this?" Weprin proudly announced that he was doing something about it and his bill would be shortly coming out of committee for a full vote.

Cash Donations Received

Following are cash donations received along with dues payments. We appreciate the generosity of our residents. Never before have so many contributed so much above their basic dues payments.

Venditelli - 89 Ave
Casado - 88 Ave
Grandison - 88 Ave
Montalbo - 242 St
Hall - 242 St
Laffin/Rose - 242 St
Martinez - 242 St
Coate/Conelli - 241 St
Robinson - 237 St
Jackson - Gettysburg St
Singh - Lyman St
Lopez - Lyman St
Soler - Lyman St
Duskiewicz - Lyman St
Fiorello - 241 St

BELLEROSE VILLAGE PROTESTS LIRR THIRD TRACK PROJECT

On June 6th, a group of concerned citizens, called CARE, held a rally at Bellerose Village Hall to fight the LIRR's proposed construction of a third track along the Main Line from Queens Village to Hicksville. The railroad also proposes eliminating some grade crossings which the group is not opposing. This track is to accommodate reverse commuters whose numbers are swelling in recent years, according to the railroad, but the citizens group disputes this, saying the third track is really for freight. The railroad decided not to reach out to Queens people, but the Village of Bellerose didn't agree that Queens should be excluded and asked Sen. Padavan and Assembly Member Barbara Clark to attend, along with the Queens civics. Community Board 13 and the Bellerose Business District Development Corporation were also present

CIVIC INSTALLATION

We will have the installation of officers at our June meeting. State Senator Frank Padavan will be the installing officer. We will serve celebration cake, so why not come out and wish our unpaid workers well as they start their new terms. This is our last meeting until September. If you've got issues to bring forward, do so at this meeting.

Ed: Note: We reprint below an article that appeared in the official newsletter of the Queens County Farm Museum, Vol. 31, No. 2 - Second Quarter. The Creedmoor Civic Association was the organization that first proposed that Creedmoor's farm property be made parkland instead of sold at auction. Few may know that the creation of the Farm Museum was a direct result of the actions of our Civic Association. Creedmoor Civic served on the City Planning Task Force that ultimately agreed that the State-owned property should not be sold, but instead be acquired by the City of New York. This is just one of many important improvements made to our community by the efforts of our 78-year old civic group.

Thirty Years Later:

Taking Stock of the Development of the Farm Museum and the local Preservation Movement.

By James A. Trent

July 4, 1975 is the date we observe as the official founding of the Colonial Farmhouse Restoration Society of Bellerose, Inc. This year is our thirtieth anniversary. We look back and chuckle over the well-meaning doomsayers who said this project would never get off the ground: a Community Board 13 member who said the idea was too rational, too good, too obvious, and too worthwhile to ever come about because that isn't how the City works.

There was the Parks Commissioner who refused the offer of the land saying that northeast Queens already had too many parks. And there was an Assistant Commissioner of Cultural Affairs who said we should merge the fledgling organization because we would need \$100,000 a year to operate the Farm and we would never get that kind of money. She invited the heads of the Queens Botanical Garden and the Bronx Botanical Garden to come out to see if they would be interested in assuming responsibility for the property. They weren't.

Today, we operate on an annual budget of some \$2.1 million, a few coins more than the \$100,000 it was predicted we would never get. We've been told by the school bus drivers that we are the number one school class trip destination of the New York City Public Schools. And the Parks Department's present Commissioner says the Farm Museum is one of his five favorite sites in the entire New York City Park System. We've also been told we are the most visited farm museum in the United States, if not the world. We serve ½ million people yearly.

We've had help along the way by a host of elected officials. Politicians, you know, lead by following. The community wanted the farm saved, so the pols worked to save it, whether they had personal misgivings, they never said. Borough Presidents: Donald Manes, Claire Shulman, Helen Marshall. Council members: Matthew Troy, Sheldon Leffler, David Weprin. Assemblymembers: John Esposito, and Mark Weprin. And of course there has been only one State Senator all that time: Frank Padavan who has done the most of all electeds. Community Board 13 chairs: Susan Noreika, and Richard Hellenbrecht. Critical to our success: the local civic associations which have been the conscience and pulse of Queens for the past century. It was their efforts on behalf of the Colonial Farmhouse Restoration Society that kept the pressure on the pols to make sure these 47 acres were not sold to development.

But thirty years later, we are faced with a new battle. Not one to save just a parcel, but to save an entire county that is being ravaged by inappropriate development. But worse, underlying this, there seems to be a loss of the sense of the social contract. In the past we didn't need certain laws, because some actions were deemed beyond the pale. We guided our own behavior with regard to how we took care of our property, because we cared about how our actions affected our neighbors. No more. Every property owner is his own island. Enlarge your house without regard for whether you block light and air from your neighbors. Pave over your lawn for parking without regard for the fact that your neighbors chose living in Queens over other City locations because they valued grass, trees, and the wildlife that grass and trees sustain. Surround your house with a grotesque fence, because you don't want anything to do with your neighbors, and that is further reinforced by non-attendance at civic association meetings, because you've no sense of belonging to a larger community.

But a reaction is setting in. Goaded by civic groups, the Department of City Planning is downzoning whole swaths of Queens to thwart outsized houses. New zones are being created to better conform to existing development. And a fight has developed over the Landmarks Preservation Commission's neglect of Queens. Promises are now being made by the LPC to look beyond Manhattan.

The battle in Queens, however, is spreading. Brooklyn, The Bronx, and Staten Island have seen the same anti-social attitudes attack their low-density communities as well. Even Nassau County is witnessing teardowns and the building of "McMansions". Because we don't live in a vacuum, the Queens County Farm Museum, now well-known and respected, is wielding its influence where it can. It is leading the fight to save the Klein Farm in Fresh Meadows (which we've agreed to operate if made a City park.) It is attending all the preservation meetings around the City it can: it has joined the Historic Districts Council and supports it. It is providing testimony at public hearings, fighting for funding for preservation, and providing expertise from our successful experiences to other cultural and preservation groups such as the Poppenhusen Institute, the Queens Preservation Council, the Metropolitan Historic Structures Association, the Queens Civic Congress, and the new Four-Borough Neighborhood Preservation Alliance. Since the bulk of our supporters and benefactors traditionally have come from the neighborhoods now most seriously affected by the over-development scourge, this outward reach on our part is a defensive move of self-preservation. If we lose our constituency because our supporters leave the area, who will support us going forward? Thus, while we are pleased with our milestone of our thirtieth anniversary, the fight continues. But just as we were undaunted by the gloom and doom predictions of 1975, we are just as determined today to win this new battle to save the low-density communities of Queens.