

Next meeting: Mar. 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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"UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN"

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Neighborhood preservationists seek City-wide alliances

The Queens Preservation Council is soon to meet with civic leaders in three other boroughs to strategize on how to save our low-density communities from further ruin.

The group, which meets monthly at Queens Borough Hall under the chairmanship of Stanley Cogan, the Queens Borough Historian (an unpaid appointee of the Borough President, has decided the battle for proper zoning and landmarking must be taken to similarly affected outer boroughs. It was decided not to bother to make contact with Manhattan, a borough that does not share the same problems.

In early April, the group will meet at the Neighborhood Preservation Council's office in Manhattan with representatives of civic and historical groups from the outer four boroughs to strategize on how best to achieve revised zoning and landmarking. Ten percent of the land area of Manhattan now falls within 57 designated Landmark Districts. In Queens the number is 8 districts covering only .64%. The Bronx is worse with 9 districts covering only .19% of land area. Brooklyn and Staten Island are little better with a little more than 1%. Issues to be dealt with also include building code enforcement, and a lax Board of Standards and Appeals. Creedmoor Civic association is represented at these meetings.

Meantime in our own neighborhood, a Laundromat opened at the site of the former Cedar Lane superette on Braddock Avenue but without benefit of proper permits, and a house is under construction in back of the former Roslyn Savings Bank on a side yard that belonged to a house whose owner argued before the Board of Standards and Appeals, that it was a "hardship" if the owner didn't build a house on his lawn. BSA, true to form, gave permission over the objections of the local civic association..

MUSEUM BRINGS THE COUNTRY BACK TO QUEENS



A genuine Aermotor windmill installed by Amish workers from Ohio now graces the grounds at the Queens County Farm Museum.

The Queens County Farm Museum has erected a 47-foot windmill just behind the 18th century Adriaance Farmhouse on Little Neck Parkway. This windmill which is designed to pump water, is a replica of one that stood on the same site from the late 19th century until about 1929. The windmill was part of a larger site contract that include a new duck pond, road paving, outdoor lighting, sewer and water line work, and new fruit trees for the orchard.

These windmills are virtually unchanged since their invention in the 1880s since they are deemed one of the most efficient pumps ever invented.

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President's Message

By far, the highest number of complaints we receive is about illegal cellar apartments. On the other hand, we're also asked many times, what difference does it make? Who does it affect? Why should we bother?

Every illegal apartment that is added to our neighborhood adds an additional strain on a lot of our services, the most obvious being parking, but the most important are our schools. In the past two months, several people have died because of illegal conversions, some were firefighters. Others couldn't escape a fire because there was only one exit. There's been talk of criminal charges against some of these landlords.

Identity theft seems to be someone else's problem until it hits home. On the morning of February 28, I watched as a man who was delivering flyers for a plastic slipcover company reached into a neighbor's mailbox and removed a piece of mail. After I took a picture of his face, I called 911 and asked to file a report. The neighbor whose mail was taken called the postal police and gave them the information. Be leery of these delivery persons who walk up to your door placing flyers. They may be rifling through your mailbox. If you recently received a flyer advertising plastic slipcovers, that thief may have already been at your front door.

Recently, we received reports of two men in a white van that were stealing items from driveways. Also, some expensive parts have been removed from cars while in the driveway. Be alert and aware of anyone unfamiliar walking down your neighbor's driveway.

Walter Audubon of 238th Street recently transcribed a copy of the 1930 census. Are you curious about who lived in your house at that time? Come to this month's meeting, we have a copy. Thanks, Walter!

The Creedmoor Civic Association maintains a free e-mail list for important and interesting information about our neighborhood and the surrounding area. If you're interested in adding your e-mail address to our list, send a short note to info@creedmoorcivic.org. Your privacy is always protected. While you're at it, visit the CCA website at: www.creedmoorcivic.org.

In the next few months, we'll be looking for volunteers for different projects, such as graffiti removal. This month, we'll be looking for volunteers for a Nominating Committee, since all of the officer positions will be open for re-election. Won't you consider?

The new Laundromat on Braddock Ave has opened and operating 24 hours a day, even though they do not have the proper permits. A complaint to the Dept. of Buildings has not yet resulted in an inspection. A complaint to the community board about the fact that the building has four video games in operation has not yet resulted in any action by the Dept. of Consumer Affairs. Not only is a special arcade license needed for four machines, but the fact that this store is within 200 feet of PS33 means that they may not have any video games at all! The owners are aware of this. Please keep this in mind if you intend to patronize this business.

Your neighbor,

Rick Duskwicz

Around the Town

* Condolences to: The family of Mary O'Hare, formerly a longtime resident of 239th Street who passed away at age 106. Only the last two years were in a nursing home.

2004 DUES PAYMENT UPDATE

238 block of 88 Ave: Wysowski
239 block of 88 Ave: Wall
89 block of Lyman St.: Eylers/Stein
88 block Gettysburg St.: Lydon
89 block of Gettysburg St.: Rodriguez
88 block of 237 St.: Stemmler
88 block of 238 St.: Dixon, Gallo
88 block of 240 St.: Forgione

Donations: Eylers/Stein, Cruz, Vasquez, Block, Simmons, Cartagena

ROCKY HILL CIVIC EXPANDS BOUNDARIES

The Rocky Hill Civic Association, the civic group immediately to the west and diagonally north of our civic, has entered into an agreement with Country Pointe at Alley Pond, the 99 two-family homes built on seven acres of former Creedmoor Psychiatric Hospital land, at Winchester Boulevard and Hillside Avenue, to join together. Country Pointe has a homeowners association that is responsible for the care of the gated community, but they are concerned about issues beyond their borders and asked Bernard Aquilino, the Rocky Hill president, to accept their territory into Rocky Hill. RHC members voted to accept the new members. One of the issues affecting Country Pointe internally, is the construction of structures in backyards that are probably illegal.