

Next meeting: Mar. 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

March, 2012 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: www.creedmoorcivic.org ★ VOL. 81, NO. 3

105 PRECINCT POLICE TO SPEAK AT MARCH MEET

We will have as our special speaker of the month, Police Officer Matthew DiPietro of the 105 Precinct Community Affairs.

We are fortunate to be able to have a representative of the Community Affairs Unit to be with us at our March Meeting. Please make every effort to attend. Crime determines a neighborhood's viability and affects property values. Show the Precinct that we care about protecting our neighborhood.

CEASE AND DESIST PROGRAM

Just a reminder for homeowners in Bellerose, Queens Village and certain other parts of Queens that the NYS Department of State's Cease-and-Desist List is still in effect. Under this program, real estate brokers and salespersons are prohibited from soliciting for sale or lease any residential property within a cease and desist zone.

Individual homeowners must register their names and addresses with the Dept of State to benefit from this regulation. Homeowners may register on line at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/licensing/realestate/cdform.asp> to be included on this list. If you do not have internet access, you may obtain a registration card at our monthly meeting, or by calling (212)417-5747.

The list is updated once a year. The last update took place on September 1, 2011. Once enrolled, you remain on the list for several years.

At least one real estate company on Hillside Ave in Floral Park was either blissfully unaware or purposely ignorant of this fact. The broker who answered the phone was

insistent that the list is no longer in effect. The Dept of State definitely says otherwise. The broker later called and apologized after he confirmed that he was wrong.

YELLOW CABS SIGNS

The Taxi and Limousine Commission has directed all yellow medallion cabs to start using a new roof sign system. Starting this fall, instead of the confusing existing system, there be will only two signs: "Available" or "Unavailable."

VINTAGE CIVIC NEWSLETTERS

We have recently added an additional 35 civic newsletters from the 1930s, 40s, 50s and 70s to our website. We already have many from 1998 through to the present. You can find them in pdf form on our website:

<http://www.creedmoorcivic.org/mainpage.html>

Just click on 'newsletters' at the bottom of the page for the index. Please, let us know what you think!

SHOP LOCALLY

In the space of just a few days, an officer of the Joint Bellerose Business District was told by three different Jericho Turnpike businesses that their customers almost never come from Bellerose. Maybe Queens Village, Jamaica, or Floral Park, but Bellerose residents shop elsewhere. This is disheartening and threatens the viability of our shopping district and by extension, the property values of our homes as a deteriorated shopping strip is the face of a neighborhood that home buyers see.

FUZZY'S WOLFROSE
239-21 Braddock Ave Bellerose, NY 11426 718 347-9616
St Paddy's Day Drink Specials
Free corned beef and cabbage with potato starting at 4 PM til 10 PM

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Around the Town

☼ **Get well to: Linda Dixon.** We continue to keep Linda Dixon in our thoughts and prayers as she continues to recuperate.

ST. PAT'S FETE AT OUR CIVIC MEETING

Join us for an early St. Patrick's Day celebration, including Irish music, scones and Irish soda bread, at the conclusion of our March meeting.

FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING

Senator Tony Avella, in conjunction with the Italian American Cancer Foundation, will host a no-cost breast cancer screening on Saturday, March 31, 2012, from 10 AM to 4 PM. This will take place in a mobile van at the Glen Oaks Shopping Center, located at 259-01 Union Turnpike, near the Waldbaum's supermarket.

The screening will service women ages 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months. For women with no health insurance, the cost will be covered by the local Screening Partnership. Women who have health insurance should bring their insurance cards, but they will not be charged a co-pay and will not receive a bill.

Appointments are required. To make an appointment, call Senator Avella's office at (718)357-3094, or the Italian American Foundation at (877) 628-9090.

President's Message

Creedmoor Civic 85th Anniversary Celebration July 21, 2012

Every five years, we hold a party to celebrate the founding of our civic association. Please join us at The Queens Farm Museum on Saturday, July 21, 2012 for our 85th Anniversary celebration. We will honor 3 current board members whose dedication and hard work have helped keep the Civic in business for over 50 years. During that time period, Treasurer/Newsletter Editor Jim Trent, President Emeritus Rose Daddario and 1st VP Rick Duskwicz have served as President for over 10 years each. Over the next few months, we will look back on our history. This will help us as we look forward to plan our future. You will see photographs and articles with historical information. Last week, Rick posted more old newsletters on our website, www.creedmoorcivic.org.

Home Safety and Security

Burglaries continue to be a problem in the 105th Precinct, including a few that have occurred in our civic areas over the past few months. Over the next few months, we would like to look at this issue in some detail. The first step is developing awareness. Police Officer Matt DiPietro from the 105th Pct. Community Affairs Unit will speak at our March meeting. Please bring your questions and concerns. On the last page of this newsletter, you will find a crime prevention message from the 105th Precinct. What are you doing to increase your security, and the security of your neighbors? It could be something as simple as bringing in your neighbors' garbage cans, or as complicated as installing surveillance cameras that you can monitor on your smart phone. Come to our meeting and share your ideas. If you can't make the meeting, call us at (718)464-3369, or e-mail your ideas to creedmoorcivic@gmail.com.

Redistricting

As we reported in our February newsletter, civic leaders from Eastern Queens United testified at a redistricting hearing held at Queens Borough Hall on February 7. As we go to press, we await the release of revised maps and/or a veto by Gov. Cuomo of the maps proposed in January.

ICCC Creedmoor Development

We have learned that the Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) has applied to the Board of Standards and Appeals for what is known as a GCL(General City Law) 36 Waiver. This waiver is required when a proposed building does not front on a mapped city street. The ICCC is attempting to build two 9 story senior residence buildings, a 3 story multi-use community center, and various other residential buildings on two lots that sit on an unmapped street on the Creedmoor Campus. Along with other local civic leaders, I have written to oppose this waiver, based on environmental and safety concerns. A public hearing may take place in the future.

Bellerose Baptist Church Food Pantry

Please bring any of the following to our meetings: Peanut butter, jelly, tuna, cereal, soup, pasta, sauce, tea bags, apple sauce.

Your neighbor, *Mike O'Keefe*

2012 DUES ARE DUE

Dues envelopes are being distributed with the March newsletters. Please return them at your earliest convenience with updated information. Include your e-mail address if you wish to receive timely information and announcements. All e-mails are sent out as blind carbon copies, so other people do not see your e-mail address.

Dues remain at \$6.00 per year, where they have been since 2004 (dues were \$4.00 in 1990's, and went to \$5.00 in 1999.) Thanks to the many members who paid their 2012 dues in advance. If you do not know whether you owe dues, call us at (718) 464-3369 or send us an e-mail at creedmoorcivic@gmail.com.

ARE STRAY CATS A NUISANCE ON YOUR BLOCK?

A civic member recently reported that stray cats are becoming a growing problem on his block. If you have observed this on your block, please let us know.

SOMEONE STEALING METALS

Several storm drain curb plates have been stolen from our area and the surrounding areas. It's thought that they're being taken for the scrap steel, since they're pretty heavy. The absence of these plates can be a real hazard to pedestrians. The Community Board has been notified. One of our civic members reported some loose aluminum being stolen out of his driveway at the same time two storm drain curb pieces disappeared from the Cross Island Parkway Service Road.



Cast iron curb section of this catch basin has been stolen.

CIVIC ELECTIONS COMING UP

The Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of officers and board members for the coming year. It is the same roster as currently holds office (see box on Page 2). Nominations in opposition to this slate may be made from the floor at the March meeting. Elections will be in April and the oath of office will be administered at the May meeting. Officers hold office for one year, and board members for three. Only one third of the six board seats expire in any one year.

Check Out "Going Green In Queens"

Celebrate the arrival of spring by attending Going Green in Queens 2012, a fun, educational and free event that will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012, from 9:30AM to 3:30PM, at the Al Oerter Recreational Center. This beautiful NYC Parks Department facility located at 131-40 Fowler Ave in Flushing, about a half mile north of the LIE, just west of College Point Blvd.

In addition to free admission, there will be food, exhibits, activities and workshops, all of which are free. Workshops will include composting, tree care and pruning, and a demonstration by the FDNY on CPR and use of AED's (Automated External Defibrillators). There will also be short movies with environmental themes.

You may bring cell phones to donate to a 911 only program. Batteries, videocassette tapes, ink cartridges, and eye glasses can be recycled. Recycle Queens (<http://www.recyclequeens.org>) will be hosting a mini swap area at the event.

Pre-registration is requested. For more information, or to register, visit <http://goinggreeninqueens2012.eventbrite.com/>, or request further information at goinggreeninqueens@yahoo.com.

While you are there, take a tour of the Al Oerter Recreation Center, a state of the art facility featuring a computer room, cardio room, weight room, locker rooms, dance studio, racquetball courts, indoor track and a gymnasium. The center hosts many special events throughout the year and offers programs for children, teenagers, adults and seniors. Membership is free for children under 18, \$ 150 a year for adults 18 through 61, and \$25 per year for people 62 and older.

MEMORY LANE PHOTO



Jericho Turnpike looking east from Little Neck Parkway before the Creedmoor freight spur trestle was replaced with a wider one in 1931. Newer trestle is now also gone.

A CRIME PREVENTION MESSAGE FROM THE 105 PRECINCT

WARNING!

Burglars are targeting this area!

You can help to stamp out burglaries by:

- 1) Be extremely vigilant of all suspicious persons and vehicles in your neighborhood, try to get a description of anyone or anything suspicious including license plate numbers, color and make vehicles and then call 911 right away - **YES CALL 911!**
- 2) **Call 911** if someone rings your bell or knocks on your door and tells you they are looking for a person you never heard of - they may be testing homes looking for unoccupied ones.
- 3) **Call 911** if someone at your door claims to be from a construction company, utility, power, gas or maintenance company that you don't have an appointment with. Don't be fooled, this may be a deception burglary attempt.
- 4) Don't forget to lock all your doors and windows before leaving, and remember to set your alarm (if you have one) even if you expect to return quickly. Burglars are *F A S T*.... you need to be ready!
- 5) Use the rear of this flyer to keep the make, model, and **serial numbers for all your valuables** and especially for your flat screen televisions, gaming electronics, laptops, and iPads in a safe place. Don't hide jewelry or money in your bedroom, that's the first place burglars look.
- 6) Enroll in Operation Identification - This FREE crime prevention program involves marking your valuables or electronics with a security pen (or an engraver) with a unique identification number, and registering them with the Police Department. Your property can be identified and returned to you if it is stolen or lost.
- 7) Call your local precinct crime prevention officer to discuss your security concerns or to **request a Crime Prevention Survey** of your premises.

For additional information, call the 105th Precinct Crime Prevention Officer –

P. O. Cuffaro at 718-766-9207