

Next meeting: March 11 at 8 PM

Our meetings are held at New Hope Christian Church at 240-16 Braddock Ave, lower level.



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Founded 1927, Incorporated 1938

March, 2013 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: www.creedmoorcivic.org ★ VOL. 82, NO. 3

BELLEROSE REZONING PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR MARCH 12

As we have reported previously, the Department of City Planning has been working on a rezoning plan for the Bellerose, Floral Park, New Hyde Park, Glen Oaks and Royal Ranch communities.

During the past 2 years, planners have canvassed over 400 city blocks in these areas. The purpose of the rezoning study was to determine the primary usage of each block, then adjust the zoning as necessary to allow reasonable development while preserving each neighborhood's character.

As the next step in the process, Community Board 13 will hold a public hearing on the rezoning on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 7PM at the Bellerose Assembly of God Church, located at 240-15 Hillside Ave. Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about the process.

Thanks to Council Member Mark Weprin, Chair of the City Council Zoning Committee, for his work on behalf of this initiative. Thanks also to State Senator Tony Avella for his assistance and support.

DON'T MISS OUR MARCH MEETING

The issue of mental health is important but often misunderstood. It has important implications both on community and personal levels. We are pleased to have two speakers at our March 11 meeting:

- Ms. Pauline Walfisch, LCSW, is the Program Director of Adult Outpatient Psychiatry at Zucker

Hillside Hospital. Pauline is a former resident of our civic, and the daughter of CCA Board Member Rosemary Parker.

- Dr Larry Grubler, Psy D, is the Director of Transitional Services of NY, Inc (TSINY). TSINY provides community based services to individuals with mental disabilities. They have recently purchased the office building on Braddock Ave just east of 242 St for office space for their case workers.

Both speakers will discuss services provided by their agencies. We will provide updates on rezoning, Participatory Budgeting and graffiti. We will also have Irish soda bread, scones and Irish music to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. Please try to join us!

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET UPDATE

On February 28, budget delegates presented their proposals. Voting will take place during the first week of April but dates and locations have not yet been finalized. Voting will be done before our next newsletter. Consider signing up for our e-mails to receive this information, or call Council Member Weprin's office at (718) 468-0137 for voting dates and locations.

There are several interesting proposals, two of which would directly benefit our community. These proposals would provide smart boards for PS 33 and Martin Van Buren High School. We need your vote!

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March Hospitality provided by.....Mike O'Keeffe

Congratulations to Glen Oaks Owners President Bob Friedrich for receiving the Emerald Award from the Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces. Under Bob's leadership, Glen Oaks owners have made many improvements to gardens and playgrounds.

Please continue to support the food pantry of Living Hope Christian Church, with items such as paper towels, tissues, toilet paper, tea bags, tooth paste, soap, rice, cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna fish and peanut butter.

Your neighbor,

Mike O'Keeffe

ELECTIONS AND NOMINATION SLATE

As per our constitution, we hold elections every year for officer positions and two board member positions. Our Nomination Committee has offered the following names as their slate:

President.....Michael O'Keeffe
President Emeritus.....Rose Daddario
First Vice President.....Richard Duskwicz
Second Vice President.....Thomas Holt
Treasurer.....James A. Trent
Recording Secretary.....Ann Marie Duskwicz
Financial Secretary.....Maureen Morris
Sergeant-at-Arms.....Brian Murphy
Board Member 2016.....Elizabeth Baumann
Board Member 2016.....Christine Larkins

The floor will be opened to nominations for any member in good standing who would like to be considered for any of the above positions. Nominations will be closed during this month's meeting and elections will be held at the April meeting.

AN ACCIDENT WAITING TO HAPPEN?

We received notification from the Dept of Transportation that the use of Moline St as a through street for trucks was authorized, since both Hillside and Braddock Avenues are truck routes. Using Moline Street and 235th Court is a permitted shortcut, even though 235th Court has an elementary school because it is a direct route, according to the DOT. The construction trailer on 235th Court also creates an additional hazard.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you can see from this newsletter, there is a lot going on this month.

Please vote on the Participatory Budget projects in the first week of April. PS 33 and Martin Van Buren High School would benefit greatly from new smart boards. This, in turn, would benefit us all. Thanks again to civic members Lydia and Brian Connelly for their hard work throughout this process.

Thanks to 1st VP Rick Duskwicz for his work to eliminate graffiti in and around Bellerose.

Creedmoor Civic is on Facebook! Check us out at
www.facebook.com/creedmoor.civic
or visit our website at www.creedmoorcivic.org

SEWER & WATER MAIN INSURANCE UPDATE

There has been a lot of interest in the recently announced insurance program for water and sewer lines.

In order to get as many answers as possible we used the following sources:

- DEP and Americal Water Services (AWR) literature, including AWR NYC Sewer Service Line Protection Program Terms and Conditions
- Telephone conversations with AWR representatives

- Articles from local newspapers
- Conversations with other civic leaders.

Note: We believe this information is as accurate as possible. Before making a decision, you are advised to verify the information or contact AWR with any other questions you may have.

Sign up:

Interested homeowners may sign up by mail, by phone, or on line.

When does coverage start?

Coverage is in effect 30 days after the date of enrollment.

Cancellation:

As per information provided by AWR, the homeowner may cancel coverage at any time. AWR may cancel if notified by DEP that the homeowner is ineligible for coverage or is delinquent in paying his water/sewer bill.

Cost:

The introductory prices are in effect through June 30, 2013. They are: \$3.99/month for water lines, \$7.99/month for sewer lines, for a total of \$11.98. They can also be purchased separately. Sales taxes are applicable, but they are included in the introductory rate.

After July 1, 2013, the water line protection cost will increase to \$4.49/month (not including tax), while the sewer line protection will remain at \$7.99/month (not including tax).

After July 1, 2013, a homeowner who has both water and sewer line coverage will pay an insurance cost of \$12.48/month plus 8.875% sales tax, for a total cost of \$13.59/month. This charge would appear on the quarterly DEP Water and Sewer bill as a separate item at \$40.77 (\$13.59 per month X 3 months).

Effective July 1, 2013, the annual cost for both water and sewer line protection, including sales tax, will be \$163.08 (\$40.77 per quarter X 4 quarters).

What is covered:

Repair of water and/or sewer lines from wall of house to connection to city main, if damage is due to “normal wear and usage.” Accidental damage, and damage due to natural disasters are not covered.

In addition to pipe repairs, the insurance covers “refill, rake and reseed” of any unpaved areas.

Private walkways and driveways will not be replaced with concrete. These areas will be refilled and covered with asphalt. *“Public roadways, sidewalks, curbing and driveway aprons will be restored in accordance with the NYC DOT rules and regulations once per occurrence.”* (Quotations from AWR NYC Sewer Service Line Protection Program Terms and Conditions).

What else to watch out for:

According to an article in the Feb 15, 2013 Times Ledger, other companies with similar sounding names are mailing similar sounding offers to homeowners. American Water Resources is the only company approved by DEP.

Contact Information

American Water Resources: Phone: (888)300-3570, on line: AWRUSA.com/NYC

IT’S OK FOR CIVICS TO USE SCHOOLS

Council Member Mark Weprin has notified CCA that he has received assurances from the Department of Education that community groups such as civic associations and tenant groups will be able to continue to meet in public school spaces. The Glen Oaks Village Owners Group had first notified Mr. Weprin back in November of last year that these groups were no longer allowed to meet in public spaces unless they became not-for-profit organizations.

105th PRECINCT REPORTS A DECEPTION SCAM

At the February meeting of the 105 Pct Community Council, Deputy Inspector Courtesis discussed a deception grand larceny that took place outside of a bank within the 105th Pct. When a woman walked out of a bank, she was met by a 2-person team. One person, unbeknown to the woman, sprayed shaving cream on her coat to create a distraction. The second person, a man, approached the woman, told her that something was on her coat, and offered to clean it. While cleaning the coat he seemed to have reached into her bag and took the money she had just withdrawn. Similar crimes have been reported in Bayside and Ozone Park.

Some good news: There have been several arrests for burglary in the past month. Burglary rates had started to climb in the beginning of the month, but declined after the arrests. While the precinct will continue to address burglaries aggressively, they will probably continue to be a problem, so continue to exercise caution.

THE GRAFFITI FIGHT CONTINUES

A recurring subject in our newsletter has been our attempts to control the plague of graffiti in Bellerose and the surrounding areas. We’ve spent many hours painting over the “tags” from various vandals. It is common knowledge amongst graffiti fighters that most spray paint is stolen from stores, not purchased. NYC passed a law several years ago requiring retailers to keep spray paint under lock and key. Our local Sears Hardware on Hillside Avenue has been notified several times that their cabinet has been found unlocked and wide open. Last month the NYC Dept of Consumer Affairs also found it unlocked and issued Sears a summons. Hopefully this

will convince management to keep those cabinets secure and help stop providing materials for the creation of more neighborhood graffiti. The paint cabinets were all locked in two separate visits last week.

In a bit of a twist to this story, graffiti has been noticed on the Hillside Ave side of the Sears building.

DUES AND MEMBERSHIP

Over 27 members sent in 2013 dues in response to the announcement in the February newsletters. We have also received several generous donations. Thank You! We will be printing the list of paid members before the summer.

Donations:

- 89 Gettysburg St Holt
- 88 238 St Block
- 89 238 St Lamonte, Palau
- 89 239 St Guintini
- 88 241 St Rissmeyer
- 236 88 Ave Mirbach
- 237 88 Ave Cashin
- 242 90 Ave Sileo

We have included the dues coupon in this issue. We made a mistake on the slip last month. It said 2012, but should have said 2013. It has been corrected. If you have not already done so, please fill out the coupon, enclose a check for \$6.00, and mail to our PO Box as listed on the coupon. If you are not sure if your dues are paid, contact us by telephone at (718) 464-3369 or by e-mail at creedmoorcivic@gmail.com.

GOING GREEN IN QUEENS 2013

Celebrate the arrival of spring by attending Going Green in Queens 2013, a fun, educational and free event that will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 10 AM to 3:30 PM, at the Al Oerter Recreational Center. This beautiful NYC Parks Department facility is 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 a demonstration by the FDNY on CPR and use of AED's (Automated External Defibrillators). There will also be short movies with environmental themes. For further information, email goinggreeninqueens@yahoo.com

A SAFER CORNER

In January, a civic member mentioned that there was a new "No Standing" sign at the southeast corner of Moline St and 88th Ave. It was obvious that this was done to ensure a clear line-of-sight for drivers approaching that intersection. We contacted both the Dept of Transportation and Community Board 13 to determine why the civic was not informed of this decision. Neither agency has returned with a response, as they had promised.

THANKS TO LOCAL MERCHANTS

Braddock Service Center (at the corner of Braddock Ave and Gettysburg St) just improved the appearance of their building by putting up new siding on the side and back. Also, a belated thanks to Wang's Stationery (Braddock and 237 St). During the power outage after Super Storm Sandy, Wang's ran a generator and let neighbors charge their cell phones for free. In case you were not aware, Wang's provides copying and fax services. While you are waiting for your fax, visit the other stores on the block!

CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT FOR SENIORS

St. Gregory the Great Community Service Center is sponsoring a 'Creative Writing Project' for the seniors of Bellerose, Floral Park and surrounding communities. We can't put your name in lights, but we CAN put your words in print! Have your story, poem or illustration included in a journal to celebrate your life experiences. Tell a story, write a poem about the past, memorable people in your life or a challenge you have overcome. You write it, we'll edit and type it, put it in a journal and present it to you. Contact (718) 343-5938 for information. The deadline is March 25, 2013.

Enclosed please find my dues payment for 2013 to the Creedmoor Civic Association (Annual dues are \$6.00. Make checks out to the Creedmoor Civic Association.) Membership is open to all residents of the Association's territory, whether a homeowner or renter. Businesses located within our territory are eligible also.

(Civic boundaries: North: both sides of 88th Ave; East: Cross Island Pkway, South: north side of Braddock Ave; West: both sides of Moline St)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Dues included: _____ I would like to make an additional donation: _____

Add my email address to the CCA email list for periodic news updates: _____

Mail this coupon to: Creedmoor Civic Association PO Box 26143 Bellerose Manor, NY 11426