

# Next meeting: May 9 at 8 PM

Meetings at the Bellerose Baptist Church (basement), Braddock Avenue at 241<sup>st</sup> Street



## Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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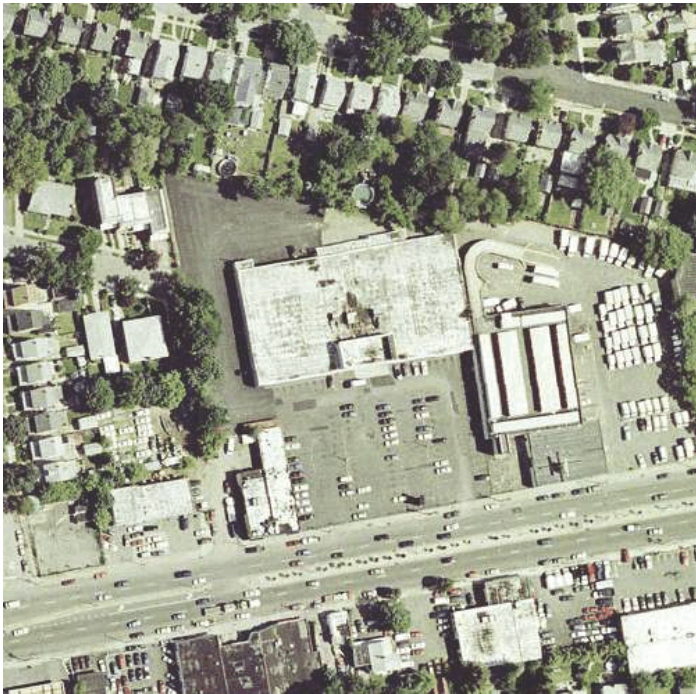
# Walgreens/Staples may replace bowling alley

A plan filed with the City Department of Transportation shows the old AMF Bellerose Lanes bowling alley site to become a shared location for Staples and Walgreens.

This information was learned just minutes after last month's issue of the *Creedmoor Civic News* went to press. We do not have a formal confirmation, but the plan showing curb cuts,

manager), but that the building will be gutted and redesigned to accommodate the two national chain stores, 20,600 square feet for the Staples, and 16,120 square feet for the Walgreens.

We don't know how final the drawing is. Perhaps it was just a schematic, but the plan shows no landscaping. The Bellerose Business District wants to meet with the developer to recommend some design changes that would enhance the project's aesthetics.



Aerial view of AMF Bellerose Lanes, site of possible new Walgreens/Staples. Street in foreground is Jamaica Avenue at 251<sup>st</sup> Street.

sometimes also called a Builder's Pavement Plan, shows that the old bowling alley is NOT being demolished (contrary to what *Creedmoor Civic News* was told by the bowling alley

### CALLA LARGA CLOSSES

Bellerose lost major bragging rights when the famed Calla Larga Restaurant closed very recently. No warning came, and some people holding gift certificates may be left holding the bag. Calla Larga has relocated, it has been reported, to Daytona Beach, Florida. A new owner immediately took possession of the building and is making minor cosmetic changes and will reopen again as an Italian restaurant, but featuring "everyday prices." Calla Larga was not inexpensive, but its cuisine was known far and wide. Calla Larga and Arturo's are venues for those interested in high-end dining experiences and helped put Bellerose on the map. Arturo's is probably the better known. By the way, a little known secret is that the Fiddler's Inn on Jamaica Avenue at Commonwealth Boulevard, is more than a bar. It has a small restaurant in the rear with reasonable prices and excellent food. Try it sometime. Another fine eatery, while we're on the subject, is Nancy's, formerly Nancy's Fireside. The Bellerose Business District has had its last three luncheons there.

## Creedmoor Civic News

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## President's Message

The recent hit-and-run accident of a 10-year-old boy in Brooklyn made me wonder if it was possible for something similar to happen in our area. Right after the boy was taken to the hospital, several neighbors said they recognized the driver as someone who usually drives much too fast down their streets. Unfortunately, several of our blocks have drivers such as this man. Will it take an accident for us to say something? If you see one of these thoughtless drivers, take a moment to let him know there are kids in our streets. It might just take a comment like that to get one of them to slow down.

Several comments have again been made about the condition of our streets, especially parts of Braddock Ave. We don't have street sweepers coming through our neighborhood. It's the homeowners' and merchants' responsibility to sweep 18" out from the curb. Those tickets from Sanitation can get very expensive. It's also the right thing to do for our area.

While I was at the 105th precinct last week, I noticed a few scooters near the front desk. When I asked about them, I was told that they had been confiscated for being operated on city streets. There were several complaints about one rider in our area that was using a motorized scooter at night and on the weekends. I believe he was caught recently and was warned to stay off the streets.

One of the little-known laws in this city makes it illegal to park a vehicle for more than seven days on a public street. One of the side-effects of leaving a car parked for so long is the trash that accumulates under it. If you have a car on your block that's been parked for more than a couple of weeks in one spot, leave a short note on the windshield, asking the owner to please move it. If it remains, you can either call the civic line at 718 464-3369 or 311.

By the way, if you need to call the civic line, please leave your name and phone number. We are no longer accepting anonymous calls, but your privacy will be protected.

Don't forget, get your applications in to the community board for your block parties!

Your neighbor,

*Rick Duskiwicz*

### BLOCK PARTY ALERT

We've learned that 239<sup>th</sup> Street will be undergoing a trench restoration to fix the collapsing sidewalks. Curbs and trees will also be affected. Work may start in July. If any part of 239<sup>th</sup> Street is planning a block party, please be advised of this planned major construction disruption.

### GRAFFITI REMOVAL

The graffiti removal at Ricotta Electrical Supply and Sal's Transmissions was due to the kind volunteer services of Marty Braun and Mark Ramos. Since they have the supplies, they will keep an eye out for Braddock Ave. graffiti issues that can be resolved with white oil based primer and an 8" roller. (With building owners' permission only.) Note: the Bellerose Business District does not remove graffiti west of Gettysburg Street so the work of these volunteers is greatly appreciated.

## Around the Town

❖ **Condolences to:** the family of Larry Burke, formerly Creedmoor Civic's vice president, on the death of his mother, Margaret Burke, a Bellerose resident for 50 years.

❖ **Congratulations to:** Scott Hansen of 237<sup>th</sup> Street, who is the new owner of George's Plumbing Supply at 213-09 Jamaica Avenue, Queens Village.

### FROM FENCE TO HEDGE



**Ugly chain link fence along gas station property is improved by addition of false hedge inserts.**

Thanks to three residents of Gettysburg St. for taking the time and the expense of brightening up an area near the intersection of Braddock Ave. and Gettysburg St. These three men, Tom, Bob, and Fish, purchased and installed green

"hedging" material for the chain link fence behind the gas station. Small acts of kindness such as this are greatly appreciated by many in the neighborhood.

### CIVIC ELECTION

We will conduct our annual election at the May meeting. All officers are the same except that Tom Holt will assume the office of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Linda Dixon will fill an unexpired one-year term on the Board, and Rosemarie Russo and Helene Schwizer will renew their terms for another three years.