

Next meeting: Oct. 12 at 8:00 PM

This Meeting Living Hope Christian Church on Braddock Avenue at 241st Street



Creedmoor Civic News

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

OCTOBER, 2015 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: www.creedmoorcivic.org ★ VOL. 84, NO. 8

CIVICS SPONSOR JOINT CANDIDATES NIGHT ON OCTOBER 8

Our City Council seat, District 23, has been vacant since Mark Weprin resigned this past spring to take a position in Governor Cuomo's administration.

In the Democratic Party Primary, held on September 10, Barry Grodenchik was the winner in a field of 6 candidates, beating nearest runner up Bob Friedrich by approximately 300 votes.

Grodenchik, a former State Assembly member, is currently on leave from his post as Deputy Queens Borough President. His opponent will be Joe Concannon, a retired NYPD Captain who is running on the Republican, Conservative and Reform lines. Concannon, a former President of the Creedmoor Civic Association, did not face a primary challenge. Rebecca Lynch, who lost to Grodenchik in the Democratic primary, will be on the ballot on the Working Families Line.

The two major party candidates have agreed to appear at a candidates' night on Thursday, October 8 at 8PM at the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, located on Commonwealth Blvd at 87th Ave.

The event is sponsored by several local civic associations, including Creedmoor Civic. Come to meet the candidates and learn about their positions. Don't forget to vote in the general election on Tuesday, November 3.

HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARADE SET FOR... WAIT FOR IT: HALLOWEEN! See FLYer ON BACK page For details.

HEARING HELD ON VAN BUREN HIGH SCHOOL'S RECEIVERSHIP LISTING



Despite the progress being made to improve Martin Van Buren High school under the dynamic new leadership of Principal Sam Sochet, the school remains on the State's "Receivership" list. It is in receivership to the Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education. The hearing was held at Van Buren on September 28 at 6 PM. As a demonstration of why the school is having problems, despite the fact that notices were given to the students to give their parents, only about 50 people showed up in an auditorium that holds about 1,000 people. Of those 50, most were civic leaders, students or teachers. Virtually no parents showed up, except for the president of the struggling PTA. The school has two years to improve its statistics in areas such as graduation rate, parent participation, attendance, and Regents completion rate. In the 1960s, the auditorium would have been filled to capacity, but the no-show on the part of the parents is disgraceful. However, we will allow that part of the problem is that too many children come from distant areas such as Far Rockaway that prevent parents from attending.

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Halloween Events

In addition to our annual Halloween Parade, there are a few other Halloween events nearby:

Bellerose Library: Not-So-Spooky Halloween movies. Thursdays in October. All start at 4 PM. October 15: Hotel Transylvania (rated PG), October 22: Ghostbusters (PG), October 29: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn, Part 2 (PG-13).

The Queens Farm Museum: <http://www.queensfarm.org/>

The Amazing Maize Maze: Weekends through October 25 and Columbus Day, Mon, October 12th

11 am – 4:30 pm (weather permitting; last ticket sold at 4:30 pm). Admission: \$9.00 / adult, \$5.00 / child (ages 4-11)

Pumpkin Patch: Weekends through October 25 and Columbus Day, Mon, Oct 12th. 11:00 AM – 4:30 PM.

Haunted House: Sat & Sun, October 24 & 25, 2015. 4 – 7 pm. Hayrides, Halloween treats, mulled cider, pumpkins and apples will be sold. Recommended for children age 6-12. Adults will find it creepy too! Admission: \$4.00 per person.

Children's Fall Festival: Sunday, October 25, 2015, 11 am – 4 pm. Admission: \$5 per person, *Free with Farm Membership*. Admission includes: Bounce houses & games for kids, pig racing, Halloween character photo ops, Savannah Sky country band, and ConEdison Ecology booth kids' crafts. Additional fees apply for: Petting zoo, pony rides, hayrides, Haunted House, and The

Amazing Maize Maze.

President's Message

This newsletter is a week early to publicize the Candidates' Night on Oct 8. Although this is an off-year election, it is very important for our community. Please vote on November 3 for the candidate of your choice to represent us in the City Council. Our regular meeting will take place on Monday, October 12 at our usual location, the Living Hope Christian Church.

Please take special note of the articles about virtual kidnapping and a recent arrest in our community. We have to be constantly alert to scams, and vigilant in our neighborhood.

It was great to welcome a few members who attended their first civic meeting last month. Come to a meeting and check it out. Bring a friend. We try to provide useful information, lively discussions and fellowship.

The Living Hope Church food pantry will not be collecting food donations until further notice. Thanks to all who have made donations for the last few years.

Your neighbor,
Michael O'Keeffe

PAID UP DUES ROSTER TO BE PUBLISHED IN NOVEMBER

It's not too late to pay your civic dues for 2015. Mail a check for \$6 to: Creedmoor Civic, PO Box 260143, Bellerose, NY 11426. Dues will be \$10 per year as of January 1, 2016. The paid up roster will be published in November. Thanks to all who have paid dues or made generous donations!

BRADDOCK PHARMACY IS UPS ACCESS POINT

Braddock Pharmacy is now a UPS pickup and drop off location. To leave a parcel for pickup, you must already have the shipping label (like those provided by vendors for returns). Packages may be left any day after 10 AM. Items left before 7:30 PM on weekdays will be picked up the same day. For same day pickup, parcels must be dropped off by 4:30 PM on Saturdays and 2:30 PM on Sundays.

Last call: Joint Bellerose Business District luncheon tickets. \$40 at Nancy's Restaurant, 255-41 Jericho Turnpike. October 17, 1 PM. Eleven from Creedmoor Civic are going. Don't be left out, join us. Call Jim Trent 718-343-8830.



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GOOD REPORT ON SEWER INSURANCE

Civic member Theresa Concannon reported that she called American Water Resources when her sewer line became blocked. A participating plumber was promptly dispatched. The blockage was found to be outside of the house, and was cleared at no cost. Points to remember: The insurance covers blockages between the house and the sewer main, as well as broken pipes. Theresa was told that a slow drain would not have been covered.

ALERT ACTIONS LEAD TO ARRESTS

A recent event in our civic area highlights the need to be observant and to call 911 if anything unusual is going on. During the middle of the day recently, Ed Wagner, a NYC firefighter who had previously served as a police officer, arrived home on 237 St and saw two males on a neighbor's stoop, acting suspiciously. He then observed as the pair went from house to house, ringing doorbells as they went. After they disappeared behind a house, Ed called 911. NYPD units arrived within minutes, and stopped the two men at 89 Ave and 242 St. The police found tools and items that may have been stolen and subsequently arrested the pair. The police obtained other physical evidence and also obtained video footage from several residents' security cameras.

This incident brings up a few lessons:

- ▶ This method has been described by police in the past: Potential burglars ring a doorbell. If someone answers, they pretend to be looking for a fictitious person, asking something like "Is John home?" If there is no answer, they may decide to try to enter the house.
- ▶ If something does not look right, call 911. Police officers, in uniform or undercover, may be nearby. Let them figure out what's going on.
- ▶ Packages left on a stoop may be stolen by thieves, or they may be a clue to criminals that no one is home. There were two packages on the front stoop of the home where the two men were first observed. Some residents have neighbors take in their packages. Others arrange for delivery people to put packages in an unobtrusive place, such as in a garbage can or behind a fence.
- ▶ It is important to report any theft of your property to the NYPD. You may think that it's too much trouble or that the property was of little value. But it is possible that your loss is part of a bigger pattern that the police wouldn't be aware of otherwise. Failure to report crimes also leads to a misleading picture of crime in the area.

BEWARE OF VIRTUAL KIDNAPPING SCHEME

CBS TV recently reported that law enforcement officials are seeing an increase in a telephone scam involving virtual kidnappings. There is no actual kidnapping. Instead, there is usually a phone call from a scammer stating that a friend or family member is being held hostage, and will be hurt or killed unless ransom money is wired according to their instructions.

According to the CBS report, the "kidnappers" are using social media to learn about their "victims," so that the claims sound very real. Typically, the scammers will claim that they are holding the victim's cell phone, and they threaten to harm the allegedly kidnapped person if anyone tries to call or text him.

The FBI reports an increase in this type of scam in New York, California, Nevada and Texas. Capture or prosecution of scammers is unlikely, according to FBI officials, because the cell phones used have their numbers blocked and are frequently changed.

The following recommendations are verbatim from the FBI website:

- ▶ "If you receive a phone call from someone demanding a ransom for an alleged kidnap victim, the following course of action should be considered:
- ▶ Try to slow the situation down. Request to speak to the victim directly. Ask, "How do I know my loved one is okay?"
- ▶ Ask questions only the victim would know, such as the name of a pet. Avoid sharing information about you or your family.
- ▶ Listen carefully to the voice of the kidnapped victim if they speak.
- ▶ Attempt to call, text, or contact the victim via social media. Request that the victim call back from his or her cell phone.
- ▶ To buy time, repeat the caller's request and tell them you are writing down the demand, or tell the caller you need time to get things moving.
- ▶ Don't directly challenge or argue with the caller. Keep your voice low and steady.
- ▶ If you believe you are a victim, FBI crisis negotiators suggest that you try to make contact with family members as quickly as possible, and get yourself to a place that feels safe. If you have any question about whether a ransom demand is a scheme or a legitimate kidnapping, contact your nearest FBI office immediately. Tips can also be submitted online at tips.fbi.gov. All tipsters may remain anonymous."

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**DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR DUES IN. LIST OF MEMBERS WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT MONTH!**

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|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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