

Next meeting: Sept. 12 at 8 PM



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NEW AMBULANCE CORPS THE BELLE OF BRADDOCK



Risen from the ashes of a fire several years ago that left the Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose Ambulance Corps without a headquarters, is a new building on the same site.

The fire-damaged 1920s vintage brick building was deemed not strong enough to support a second floor

which the Corps wanted for a training room, so the entire building was leveled. In its place is a stunningly handsome building that is "contextual," that is, in conformity with the prevailing style of architecture in our town. In an English Tudor style, which was common in the 1920s in our community, it nevertheless is rendered in modern materials such as rough-faced concrete block, architectural fiberglass roof shingles, and aluminum-clad rakes, eaves, and half-timbering. Even the casement windows are contemporary in construction details but period in feel. Given the complaints that one so often hears about ugly new buildings going up in Queens, the new Ambulance Headquarters is a welcome addition to our community. And what a contrast to the new headquarters the Glen Oaks Ambulance Corps built on Union Turnpike – a brutal looking box. No word yet as to when a ribbon cutting will be held. We've heard that the Corps wants to submit the building into an architectural award competition.

1,000 LOCALS RAIL AGAINST 3RD TRACK

The Floral Terrace in July was the site of the biggest protest turnout seen in our parts in years. One thousand residents of Bellerose Terrace, Bellerose Village, Floral Park, New Hyde Park, Mineola, Westbury, Queens Village and Bellerose Manor turned out to a hearing on triple tracking the Long Island Rail Road's Main Line from Queens Village to Hicksville, although Phase One only calls for construction to Mineola. No one except a business group from Suffolk spoke in favor. The local residents charge that the track is not for reverse commutation, but for hauling freight, probably garbage.

The fear of more noise, vibration, derailments, and the condemnation of adjacent property has the neighborhoods up in arms. Bellerose residents in particular pointed out that this is not a question of "not in my backyard", because the railroad is already in their backyard, and in fact the title of the project "Third Rail" is misleading because Bellerose already has four tracks, (two for Hempstead) so this will be a fifth track. Community Board 13 president Richard Hellenbrecht spoke against it, and the Joint Bellerose Business District has also taken a position in opposition. However, the State of New York approved an MTA capital plan for the next five years that funds this project. It also includes eliminating grade crossings in New Hyde Park which no one is opposing.

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This year, I'll be asking for some volunteers to help out. Graffiti removal, sign removal, Halloween parade help, small things like that. Please offer your time, it won't take much.

Ginger Prus of 240th St has been delivering newsletters on her block for many years, but recently let me know that she will no longer be doing this. Thank you, Ginger, for all those years of volunteering. Now, is there someone on the 89 block of 240 Street that's willing to give 30 minutes of their time, once a month, to deliver the Creedmoor Civic News? We'd certainly appreciate it.

Well, it looks like the ghetto has come to Braddock Avenue. I was shocked when I rode my bike down Braddock Ave on July 31 and saw a hideous graffiti mural on one of the storefronts on the south side. I was outraged when I realized it was done with the apparent permission of the store owner. In the two-hour period immediately after, I received two phone calls about this horror. I explained to the owner of this new clothing store that not a single other store along Braddock Ave had this type of look, and that the surrounding homeowners were already starting to complain. The owner, "Eddie," replied that he wasn't aware that others would complain, and he promised to have it removed in a week.

Around the Town

❖ **We're all in a Pickle:** The new Pickles Deli and Catering on Braddock Avenue, next to Reinwald's Bakery, is now open. Many of our neighbors have already been seen there. Nice new, clean store.

❖ **Other Store Changes:** 246-01, Jericho Turnpike, formerly the Om Green Market, is re-opening as a West Indian grocery store. 246-13, formerly the ice cream store has re-opened as a coffee/bagel/donut store.

❖ **Business District 10th Anniversary:** Who can believe it's ten years already. The Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation will celebrate its 10th anniversary at a luncheon at the new Trattoria Lucia on Sunday, October 23 at 1 P.M.

COP INJURED BY VANDALS

An off-duty police officer was chasing three graffiti vandals on foot in the vicinity of 88th Ave and 242 St on the night of August 21. They jumped into a car and sped off, hitting and injuring the officer. He was taken to the intensive care unit at Long Island Jewish Hospital. The vandals were not apprehended.

President's Message

When neighbors get together, good things can happen. Like what, you ask? Sometimes all it takes is a simple combined effort. Have someone on the block that drives just a little too fast? Is there someone that constantly blocks the sidewalk with his or her car? Complaining to your next door neighbor doesn't help. Let the offender know. Heck, there are kids that play on your block, think of them. If that doesn't work, then let your civic association know. We'll send them a letter asking them to stop.



Three weeks later, and this slum storefront is still there. I guess a man's word doesn't mean much when he's just looking to make money in the neighborhood, and doesn't live in it and have to look at the way he's trashing the neighborhood. This is definitely something for our residents to consider before patronizing a store like this. We spend a lot of our time cleaning up graffiti to keep our neighborhood looking clean and safe, there's no reason we should have to tolerate this because someone wants to save a few dollars on a real sign. On a bright note, it's great to see the new deli finally open on the strip of Braddock Ave near Gettysburg St. A small fortune was apparently spent totally renovating the place. Welcome!

I hope you enjoyed your summer.

Your neighbor,
Rick Duszkiewicz