

Next meeting: Sept. 11 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

September, 2006

"UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN"

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MTA'S JOSEPH RASKIN RETURNS

In May, our Association hosted Joseph Raskin from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to hear our complaints regarding the dismal Q1 bus service, and this month he returns with the results of sharing our complaints with the MTA scheduling department.

The May meeting was spirited with complaints not only about the Q1, but about other transit lines as well. Mr. Raskin, who works for the public relations staff at MTA, let it be known that he does not respond to the complaints directly since he does not create the schedules, but would take the complaints back to the MTA staff that establishes the schedules. Mr. Raskin said he would come to our September meeting, but we have no advance knowledge of whether he's bringing any good news.

QUEENS COLONY CIVIC DEMANDS DOWNZONING

Queens Colony Civic, located immediately to the east of Creedmoor Civic was rezoned years ago along with Creedmoor Civic from R4 to R3A. While our civic territory has seen little McMansion development, not so in the Queens Colony area where there are a larger variety of home styles. The most recent partial demolition and reconstruction has triggered a huge showing of outrage.

A developer claiming he's going to live in the house, extended the house over the porch setback, and pushed the rear of the house further into the backyard. He also is converting the house to 2-family occupancy. This particular property on 88th Avenue enjoys an extra deep backyard because of the acquisition of the railroad spur property, thus permitting the extra depth of the house. However, the expansion of this house has diminished the enjoyment of the property owners adjacent to the east who no longer can view sunsets and rainbows and can actually reach out and touch the new house from their rear yard deck because the house has virtually no setbacks from the side property line.

What's more, after damaging the adjacent property by this wall of construction the developer has the audacity to complain that his neighbors are harassing *him*.

As a result of this damaging development, Queens Colony Civic has joined the chorus of civic leaders demanding a new one-family home category for narrow lots. Currently, the only categories for single-family occupancy require lots of 40 feet, 60 feet and 100 feet frontages. The Chairman of Community Board 13 had initiated this request noting that so many homes in CB 13, especially in Queens Village, are built to 25-and 30-foot frontages and conversions to two-family use has caused dangerous overcrowding. There has been an increase in deadly fires in Queens Village due to this problem.

BUSINESS DISTRICT PROTESTS

BANNING OF WINE BANNER

The Joint Bellerose Business District has put up new patriotic banners on the Jamaica Avenue lampposts. These banners were paid for by merchants who place their store name on a tag along the bottom. (No new banners were placed on Braddock Avenue because no store on Braddock chose to sponsor a banner.)

However, the City must approve the placement of banners on their poles. When the JBBDDC submitted the paperwork, the City rejected the Village Wine Cellar because the City's policy is not to advertise alcohol. District brass were outraged that supermarkets that sell beer are not prohibited from advertising. (The City also bans tobacco advertising.) The District leaders are fuming that the City accepts the taxes generated by these businesses which are legal businesses, but selectively moralizes over which businesses it likes.

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September.....

President's Message

Hello, Neighbors!

Hope the summer was good to you all.

Although we live in a relatively safe neighborhood, we hear of occasional burglaries, car thefts, and items disappearing from our driveways. It's always good to let others know when you've heard of an incident in the area, it helps us all become more alert. One neighbor, whose bicycle was stolen from her driveway in August, was surprised to see someone riding it down 88th Ave a few weeks later. She followed the rider and with the help of the officers of the 105th Precinct, she was able to retrieve her bicycle. How did she know it was hers? There was something unique about the paint job. It helps to have each of your personal items stand out so you can identify it if necessary. It's even better if you have certain items, like bikes, registered with the precinct.

We're looking for a few good volunteers for two assignments. The first one is our annual Halloween Parade, which seems to get more popular every year. It will be held on Saturday, October 28 this year. We need volunteers to help with traffic control, and to help with the setting up with the refreshments. Will you consider?

The second request is for volunteers for officers for this civic association. Every position is open, including President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. If you think you can handle a few hours every month, please let us know, your neighborhood is counting on you.

There have been reports of an increase in landlords that are finding that they are having a very difficult time getting rid of their tenants in illegal apartments. There have been a few within the CCA borders, too. One tenant in an illegal cellar apartment was actually proud of the fact that she hadn't paid rent in many months. Landlords are discovering that the eviction process can take a very long time, and it's made especially difficult when they have to hide the fact that they've been accepting rent without paying taxes on it. This is something for others to consider before they attempt to rent out their cellar.

Several months ago, I asked for information on any sidewalk problems that you had, and quite a few people responded. None were happy with the response of the agencies that did show up to inspect. I was not happy with the Street Tree and Sidewalk Program's overall response, and I informed Phillip Goldfeder from the Mayor's Office about this. He promised to get us more information, and we may possibly have a representative speak at our October meeting. There may be a conflict, though, because it falls on a holiday, Columbus Day. We'll let you know.

Hope to see you at Monday's meeting.

Your neighbor,

Rick Duszkiewicz

Around the Town

☼ **Condolences to:** the

family of Frank Servino of 240th Street and the family of Nicholas Mongelli, also of 240th Street.

☼ **Save the Date:** Creedmoor Civic has reserved the date of Saturday, May 5, 2007 at the Queens County Farm Museum for its 80th anniversary celebration.

☼ **Welcome to Staples:** Recently, a Staples opened on Jericho Turnpike. They started with a "soft" opening (just opened their doors with no advertising) then later had a ribbon shredding with local political and civic leaders.

☼ **CVS to move?:** We've heard a rumor that CVS located on the Floral Park-Bellerose border in Floral Park Village may move next door to the new Staples in the Bellerose Commons shopping center. CVS is reportedly not happy that Floral Park Village will not allow the store to operate 24 hours a day. A move to the Queens side of the street will solve that problem.

More Dues for 2005 Received - Thanks

Reece - 89 Block, Gettysburg St
Poncel - 88 Block, 238 St
Loizou - 88 Block, 240 St
Mulcahy - 89 Block, 240 St

Donations

Vendittelli - 242 Block, 89 Ave
Mooney - 88 Block, Lyman St
Reece - 89 Block, Gettysburg St