

Next meeting: Sept. 12 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, 2011 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: www.creedmoorcivic.org ★ VOL. 80, NO. 7

THREE TREES MALICIOUSLY CUT DOWN, CIVIC LEADERS DEMAND CULPRIT BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE

On Monday August 29, the day after Hurricane Irene, three healthy trees were cut down on the north side of Hillside Ave between 256 and 257 St.

Two of the trees were located at 256-09 Hillside Ave, the former location of the Fine Fare Supermarket. A sign in the store window states "Balajisuer Bazaar coming soon." The third tree was in front of Friendly Realty, at 256-15 Hillside Ave. All 3 trees appeared to be cut with a saw



about one foot above the ground, and none displayed any damage from the storm. On Thursday, September 1, a news conference was held at the location, attended by civic and elected officials. City Councilman Mark Weprin and Fred Kress from the non-profit Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces donated a \$1,500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the perpetrator. The Creedmoor Civic Association joins neighboring civics in condemnation of this action. *[Ad below contains corrected phone number]*

CREEDMOOR PROPERTY UPDATE

In 1997, New York State informed local civic organizations of its intention to sell off parts of the Creedmoor Campus. Local civic leaders worked with then-Borough President Claire Schulman to draft the *Creedmoor Master Plan*, which came out in June 1999.

The goal of the master plan was to treat Creedmoor as part of the greenbelt of eastern Queens. It was appropriate to reuse the existing buildings, many of which had architectural merit, but no new buildings were to be built.

In 2008, a group known as the Indian Community and Cultural Center, Inc (ICCC) purchased two parcels of land with the stated intent of building a 15,000 sq. ft. community center, an athletic field and a parking lot. This plan was not opposed by neighboring civic leaders. But in May of 2011, the ICCC approached local civic leaders stating it was in the preliminary stages of planning two nine-story buildings for the stated purpose of providing senior housing.

Local civic groups, including the Creedmoor Civic Association, expressed opposition, not to the idea of senior housing, but to the scale of the project, which would have been out of character with the Bellerose neighborhood and

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1....)

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Creedmoor Civic News

Published since 1931
Published 10 times per year by the Creedmoor Civic Assn., Inc.
PO Box 260143, Bellerose Manor, NY 11426

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Around the Town

☼ **Get Well Wishes to:** Frank Chironno of 239th Street is in the hospital in serious condition. Frank's wife, Domenica (Block Captain of the 89 Block of 239th Street) asks us to keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

☼ **Don't Block Driveways:** We've received complaints of people parking in front of other peoples' driveways preventing them from getting out of their own driveways. Please be considerate of other people's rights.

Creedmoor Master Plan - continued from Page 1

contrary to the *Creedmoor Master Plan*. Leaders of local civic groups did some homework and found many troubling questions. For one thing, an application for a zoning variance with the Board of Standards and Appeals stated that the units would be co-op apartments with dependent children allowed. There were so many other questions that State Sen Tony Avella requested that the state conduct investigations into the entire matter. The project is on hold, pending the results of the various investigations.

At our June meeting, we passed the following resolution: **"The Creedmoor Civic Association joins other Bellerose civic groups in objecting to high rise, high density development of the Creedmoor Hospital Property. Development of the Creedmoor campus should be consistent with the Borough President's Master Plan for the Creedmoor Hospital Campus."**

The story is a lot more complicated than this, and has been

reported on extensively by the New York Post, the Queens Chronicle, and New York 1, to name a few media organizations. We will provide updates as information becomes available.

President's Message

Of Hurricanes, Earthquakes and Blackouts

We've had a wild ride this summer. Luckily, there are many sources of information available to prepare for and live through emergencies. But if you think of any tips that are unusual or are unique to our Bellerose neighborhood, send them to us by e-mail at creedmoorcivic@gmail.com or by phone at (718) 464-3369. We will set up emergency preparedness information on our website for future reference.

Working with Neighboring Civic Groups and Elected Officials

Two issues explained in this newsletter (The Creedmoor Campus and the tree destruction on Hillside Ave) are not within the geographical boundaries of our civic association. But, more and more it seems that issues are important to many or all of the 10 or so civics serving Queens Village, Bellerose, Glen Oaks and Floral Park. We need to work as effectively as possible with other civics, elected officials and government agencies.

E-mails

A lot has happened since our June newsletter that may be of interest to our community. We try not to send out too many e-mails, but at the same time we don't want to withhold important information. If you would like to start receiving informational e-mails from us, or if you have sent us your e-mail address but are not receiving e-mails, please e-mail us at creedmoorcivic@gmail.com.

Dues and Donations

So far, over 200 households have responded to our dues drive. Many have also made generous donations. Thank you! We will publish the names in our October newsletter, and we will add any that we receive in the next month. Thanks again for your support and generosity.

Mark Your Calendar! Our October meeting will take place on Monday, October 10th. The Halloween Parade will take place on Saturday, October 29th. This year's planned route will include Moline St and 239 St.

Your neighbor,
Mike O'Keeffe



Tropical Storm Irene knocks over tree across 89th Ave. near 239th Street. Photo courtesy of Philip Duskwicz