

Next meeting: Sept. 10 at 8:00 PM

This Meeting is held at Living Hope Christian Church, Braddock Avenue at 241st Street



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
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HUGE TURNOUT ON BELMONT DEVELOPMENT

On July 18, a meeting took place at the Elmont Memorial Library regarding the proposed development at Belmont Park.

Among those in attendance: Members of the Belmont Park Community Coalition (BPCC); representatives from the Empire State Development Corp (ESD); Sterling Properties, the lead developer; civic leaders from Elmont and surrounding areas; members of construction trade unions; members of the public.

The major concerns raised by BPCC included:

- ◆How was it decided that the best use of the Belmont property would be an arena to serve as the home of the NY Islanders and to host up to 150 events a year?
- ◆Traffic on the Cross Island Parkway and local roads is already extremely heavy, especially at rush hour. How would the area be able to absorb additional traffic created by 18,000 or more attendees at hockey games and other events?
- ◆The capacity to increase Long Island Railroad service is limited, and significant improvements would be very expensive. Realistically, how could mass transit be improved to absorb the extra travelers?

Prior to the meeting, the BPCC had provided several pages of questions to the ESD. Anger was expressed by some BPCC members that questions submitted in advance were not answered. The BPCC requested \$50,000 for an independent environmental impact study, because they didn't trust the ESD to perform an objective study. ESD officials refused to fund an independent study, stating that

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Deputy Inspector Nateis Gilbert, the new Commanding Officer of the 105th Precinct Stationhouse will be our guest speaker along with Neighborhood Coordinating Officers Shawn Gallagher and Joseph Contessa. Come out, get informed, ask questions. Refreshments served.

it was common practice for the state to perform such studies.

Representatives of the ESD said that several changes to the original plan had been made in response to community concerns. The proposed hotel will have a maximum height of 150 feet, instead of 250 feet. An electric substation that would have been built near the Bellerose-Floral Park school will be relocated to property near the LIRR tracks. Additional landscaping will be provided as a buffer between the proposed retail development on the southern end of the property and the nearby homes.

Some spoke in favor of the project, especially members of building trade unions. There was a difference of opinion among speakers as to whether the project would have an overall positive or negative effect on the local economy. Another question raised was whether the arena would pay local property taxes.

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President's Message

Thanks to Roy Okello who has delivered the newsletters to the 89 block of 241st Street for the past year. We wish Roy well as he leaves for college. We need a volunteer to take over newsletter delivery, preferably someone who lives on the block.

Thanks also, to the 142 civic members who paid their dues for 2018 and to those who have made generous donations. If you have not yet paid your dues, you may use the coupon in this newsletter.

Let's have a great turnout at the September meeting to welcome Deputy Inspector Gilbert and NCO Officers Gallagher and Contessa. DI Gilbert has started several new initiatives in the 105th Precinct. Officers Gallagher and Contessa have already helped us with several local problems. But they need to hear from us about what needs their attention.

Your neighbor,
Michael O'Keeffe

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- ◆Sept. 22 & 23: 36th Annual Agricultural (County) Fair. 11 am -6 pm. Adults: \$10/day. Children 12 and under \$5/day. Members free. See queensfarm.org
- ◆Sept. 22: **Healthy Community Day**. Location: Queens Village Veterans Plaza. 10 am-2 pm. Medical screenings, information on public safety, benefits, mental health, substance abuse, and services for seniors. Live music and free popcorn.
- ◆Sept. 22: **Free Flu Shots**. Hosted by the John F. Prince Post at Braddock Ave. and the Cross Island Parkway Service Rd. Noon - 4 pm. Shots provided by CVS.
- ◆Oct. 4: **Creedmoor Hospital Community Education Day**. Creedmoor North Campus Building 40 DOME. 2-4 pm. Featuring a panel of experts on psychiatry, medicine, nutrition, and support services. For more information, call 718-264-5627.

Around the Town

Belated death notices: Brother and sister Nicky and Helen Philips of 242nd Street who died within a short time of each other. There were no heirs, The City took possession of the house and sold it at auction to real estate interests.

TREE ROOTS AND SIDEWALK LAW AT WORK

You may have noticed that several homeowners in our area had their sidewalks replaced recently under the Trees and Sidewalks program. If a city tree has damaged your sidewalk, you can call 311 to request a sidewalk inspection from the Parks Department. If the inspector determines that a city tree caused the damage, a numerical score is generated for the sidewalk, based on the severity of the damage. We believe that the City has increased the funding for the program recently, which should shorten wait times.



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Name _____ Address _____ email (for announcements) _____
I am (we are) enclosing \$ _____ for dues, and \$ _____ as a donation (optional).

Please remit to Creedmoor Civic Association, Inc. at P.O. Box 260143, Bellerose, NY 11426.