



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER of the CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

February, 1974

Vol. 43, No. 4

NEW SITE SUGGESTED FOR DISTRICT 63 SANITATION GARAGE

Some problems never die, but continually come back to haunt civic workers. One of these is the 12-year search for a sanitation garage site to house the equipment of District 63. This is the district which now has store-front offices on Braddock Avenue between 239 and 240th Streets.

Among sites suggested in the past were the salt pile site on 99th Ave. in Queens Village, a piece of land zoned manufacturing and owned by Sam Piazza of Hollis Hills. Another site suggested many years ago is on Northern Blvd. near the old Kiddy City site, on what is now classified as "wet lands." The third site was the Creedmoor Farm property soon to be declared surplus by the State. All of these sites have met with vehement objection by some faction of the surrounding community.

The newest site is on Winchester Boulevard wedged in between the Grand Central Parkway viaduct and an access road to the parkway. It is estimated that there are about 3 acres of land involved, part of it wooded. A committee of civic leaders, Community Board members, representatives of the Environmental Protection Administration, and local residents met at the site on Saturday morning, January 26. The site is now park land owned by the State. There are no homes immediately surrounding the site. It is about three blocks south of the Cathedral Seminary, and about the same distance or more north of the Medical-Surgical Building of Creedmoor State Hospital. It is on the east side of the street. Already some local residents are objecting to this latest proposal. However, a decision must be reached soon by the community, or the City may proceed on its own, since 12 years is more than the City can wait. Currently trucks are stored outdoors on 73rd Avenue and Francis Lewis Blvd. on City parkland. The Parks Dept. wants to recall the land from Sanitation. In addition, sanitation workers have no shower facilities. Many of these trucks now park and double park on Braddock Avenue where a small field office is now located. It is expected that this office will no longer be needed.

A public hearing is due soon on this new site. As many as 1,000 may appear at this public meeting. Creedmoor Civic News recommends that all our residents take some time to visit the site themselves and come to a decision so that the Association can take an informed stand on the issue.

According to the City engineers, all employee cars will be parked off the street, most likely in a lot to be constructed underneath the viaduct. And landscaping of the facility has been promised to lessen the impact on the community.

Regular Meeting Feb. 5 (Tues.), 8:00pm
at St. Gregory's Church, 242 St. & 88 Rd.

AGENDA

1. Committee and Officer Reports
2. Report of Installation Committee
3. Board of Governors Report
4. Free booklets on Safety Tips from P.D.
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Refreshments

Our meeting is back on its regular schedule, which is, the first Tuesday of the month. We will meet on February 5, in the Oak Room of St. Gregory's Church.

This will be a good opportunity to bring new business and problems before the assembled leaders of your community. We have a light agenda and will be anxious to begin new projects for the coming year. It will also be a good opportunity to pay your dues for 1974. Help us by paying early in the year, we'll gain more interest in the bank if you do. (We like to run an efficient ship!) By the way, our auditing committee reports the Association as healthy, if not wealthy. Many thanks go to our block captains who have helped bring us out of the precarious financial condition we found ourselves in three years ago.

We are still looking for volunteers for several selected tasks. We would like Gettysburg to have their own dues block captain and newsletter captain. It is not fair that this work is farmed out to people who do not reside on that street. And, we need more volunteers for our civilian patrol. We still have several tours on certain days at certain hours that require some volunteers. We have as a goal that each team serve no more than once a month. That is not the case now with some teams, and they deserve to be relieved. So come on down to our meeting and sign up for the patrol. We are proud to say that we are the one community that did not wait for a tragedy or an epidemic of crime before acting to protect ourselves. We are already one of the largest patrols in the 105 Precinct even though we are the newest in existence. Please join us and let us meet our requirements for volunteers. The more that join, the less work there will be for everyone. Soon signs will be posted around the community indicating that our area is patrolled regularly as a warning to would-be perpetrators of crime. This will also be beneficial to our area. And now the report is from the 105, that purse snatchings have gone down to almost zero in the last several months. They attribute this to the activity of all the patrols in the precinct.

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They Want No Truck With Buses

Civic leaders in Queens Village and surrounding areas have been hopping from meeting to meeting discussing two problems confronting our community which cry for resolution.

One concerns the planned opening of Queens Village's mammoth Transit Authority Bus Garage on the site of the old Dugan's Bakery on 222nd St. Ways must be found to provide for feeding hundreds of buses each day into the local streets each rush hour period. A meeting with selected community leaders was recently held at Councilman Matthew Troy's office to discuss the Bus Garage and its impact on our community. We are anticipating a June opening of the garage. This is the largest such facility in the entire City. We can only hope for the best. Matt Troy still has TA funds held up in the Council as a wedge of forcing the TA to install all the necessary air pollution control devices to prevent our area from choking with diesel exhaust from buses running their motors in the garage. We are now attempting to get the TA's planned routes so that we can comment on whether adjustments must be made to prevent any one area of the community from becoming overloaded with bus traffic.

The other problem concerns diverting truck traffic from the Clearview Expressway away from local side streets in Queens Village, particularly 212th St., 212th Place, 213th Street and Hollis Court Blvd. It has been finally agreed to prohibit trucks in excess of 33 feet from using these streets. However, trucks heading south will now have to use either Francis Lewis Blvd, or Braddock Ave. Hillside Ave east of Braddock, and Springfield Blvd, south of Hillside are not certified truck routes and may not be used legally unless making deliveries. It was decided to allow a three-week test run to see just how much traffic comes which way before deciding on a firm course of action of whether to designate any more truck routes. It is not expected that many trucks will use Braddock because most truckers want to reach Hempstead Avenue. In addition, Braddock's road bed is not inviting, to say the least. A long range plan has been made, suggested by Creedmoor Civic Ass'n, and others, to require all trucks to transfer to the Long Island Expressway as they travel south on the Clearview, and prohibit trucks from coming south on Clearview at that point. Trucks heading east can use Lakeville Road in Nassau to come south, since most of them are heading for Nassau anyway. Why should we let them use Queens Village and Bellerose as a truck route? The only hitch to the plan is the State Dept. of Transportation. They are reluctant, but pressure is going to be brought to bear to reverse them.

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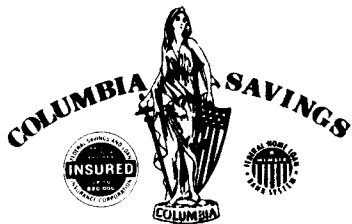
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Our condolences are offered to William Mattis, chief of our Civilian Patrol, on the loss of his dear sister in January. We are all sorry to learn of the sad news.

Deputy Inspector Walter Farrell has left the command of the 105 Precinct to assume duties at Police Headquarters downtown. We have learned that Captain Visser who was chief administrative officer at the 105 is moving up to head the precinct.

Gary Brough, our vice president, has been notified of his reappointment to a full 2-year term on the Community Planning Board of District #13. We extend our congratulations to Gary on his reappointment by Borough President Donald Manes.

We also send congratulations to another Creedmoor Civic booster, Albert Feller of Bell Park on his election to the Board of Directors of the Bell Park cooperative. Al is also a member of the Community Planning Board and has worked with us on many issues.

Another friend of ours who resides at Bell Park has been seen wearing a giant clock on a chain. We are told the clock can only tell time according to DST. The friend is none other than Helene Zaro, who several years ago collected several thousand signatures to petition to have DST instituted year 'round. President Nixon has made Helene's dream come true.

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SCHOOL BOARD 26 NIXES ETHNIC SURVEYS

School Board 26 voted to support District 28 in the continuing feud over the propriety and morality of conducting ethnic surveys of the employees of the district. Voting against such surveys were members Helene Zaro, Richard Barry, Lee Goldman, William Caufield and Vincent Dwyer. Opposition to such surveys was part of the campaign platform of Helene Zaro of Bell Park.

The purpose of these surveys was to require a shifting of teachers from school to school in order to achieve racial balance among the staff. The whole idea is an outrage. It's also called racism. Government employees are supposed to be hired on the basis of merit and here we have instigators from the Federal Government dictating the placement of teachers on the basis of skin color. We applaud the vociferous battle District 28 in Forest Hills and Jamaica has waged to prevent these censuses from being taken. It will spell the end of the merit system in Civil Service.

BELLEROSE BRANCH LIBRARY ON THE WAY

Bids were recently opened on the contract for construction of the new Bellerose Branch Library to be constructed on a site on the southeast corner of Hillside Avenue and 250th Street. It is expected that construction should start sometime in February or March. The library will house about 50,000 volumes. However, for our people, the Queens Village branch may well still be the better bet. It has twice the floor area of Bellerose and a larger book collection. For those who live on the west end of the civic area, it may still be closer.

COMMUNITY BOARD APPROVES PARKING FACILITY IN QUEENS VILLAGE.

The Community Planning Board #13 has approved the suggestion to build a combination stores-and-parking deck facility on Jamaica Avenue and 218th St. This is the site of the bombed-out O.T.B. building. It is now up to the City to fund and design the structure. It is not expected to be open until 1976 or 77. Additional off-street parking provisions have long been requested by Queens Village merchants looking to prevent the flight of shoppers to spacious shopping plazas in Nassau County. The beauty of this proposal is that it does not require the taking of any homes, or existing businesses, and is located at the very heart of the shopping district where it is needed most. With the demise of Jamaica as an attractive area to shop, more and more people have turned to Queens Village to fulfil their needs, and the parking problem has become all the more acute.

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More Changes Sweep Downtown Bellerose Businesses

Several more local merchants, familiar to Bellerose shoppers, are biting the dust these days. Our only remaining druggist on Jamaica Avenue and 247th St. has closed. Nearest druggist now is at Commonwealth Blvd.

Residents are holding their collective breath in anticipation of what is coming to replace these stores.

It seems "necessity" stores are leaving and are being replaced with businesses whose appeal is for people with special interests who come from long distances to do business with these people. Gone are the local shoemaker, local food market, local druggist, local deli, local baker, local florist, etc. Bellerose residents are often heard to say on the street, or on the bus that there is no place convenient to shop.

There is an outside possibility that the Community Planning Board can arrange to have a study done of the Bellerose Business District, including the entire length of Braddock Avenue, but even then, there is no way certain stores can be forced to locate just where we need and want them. Therefore, a consultant study may not solve our problems. If anyone has any thoughts on this matter, we would appreciate their coming to our meeting and giving us some advice.

A viable local business district is critical to a good residential community. Who wants to live in a ghost town? We need more stores to service our residents. Any businessmen out there listening?

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