



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER of the CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

January, 1974

Vol. 43, No. 3

L.I. PRESS EDITORIAL BACKS CIVIC PLAN FOR FARM ACRES

Creedmoor Civic Ass'n's proposal to convert the excess farm land at Creedmoor State Hospital into a City-owned tree nursery found a friend at the editorial offices of the Long Island Press, Long Island's oldest and largest daily newspaper. On December 3rd, appeared an editorial entitled, "Community unity with a purpose." It reviewed the plight of Queens communities faced with the prospect of more high-rise construction, and then zeroed in on the controversy facing Eastern Queens with 58 acres of buildable land up for grabs with an R3-2 zoning. It then mentioned that "A recent meeting of Community Boards 11 and 13, with several hundred local residents in attendance showed the community had done its homework. One plan, suggested by James A. Trent, president of the Creedmoor Civic Association, and supported by several individuals and groups, calls for use of part of the land as a tree nursery. This would preserve the rural character, as well as provide trees and plants for city parks and serve as a nature laboratory for students in nearby high schools and colleges.

"Mr. Trent also pointed out that his plan is compatible with other proposals, including the use of the 6.6 acre plot for a facility to care for several retarded children... Both (plans) should be expedited."

In addition, the superintendent of the office of high schools of the Board of Education, Mr. Abraham Wilner has written to Community Board 13 to express support. And, Mr. Marvin Weingart, superintendent of Community School District 26(Bayside, Little Neck, Bellerose)also wrote to Community Board 13 to lend his endorsement for the proposal because of the inherent educational value of the plan. Right now Boards 11 and 13 are deliberating on the merits of all the plans submitted at the hearing. President Trent has been asked to submit a cost analysis of his plan and is now working with the Nassau County Cooperative Extension Agents in an effort to come up with the most accurate study.

Esposito Spurs Railroad Meeting

Assemblyman John A. Esposito called a meeting of property owners abutting the defunct Creedmoor Spur of the Long Island Rail Road on December 17th. That was the night of the ice storm, but still some 50+ turned out. The purpose was to discuss resubmitting a bill in the state legislature to mandate the selling of the surplus land to the adjoining homeowners. State Senator Frank Padavan was also present. As a result of the discussion, some modifications of the original bill are being incorporated in the rewriting of the new bill. It is hoped that now with a new governor, we will not be faced with a veto as we were when the bill reached Nelson Rockefeller last time around. The revised bill will still call for selling the land at the original stated price of 20¢ a square foot as suggested by the Long Island Rail Road when they first solicited the property owners in the early spring of 1972.

Regular Meeting JAN. 10 (THURS.) 8:00 pm

at St. Gregory's Church, 242 St. & 88 Rd.

AGENDA

1. Committee Reports and Officer Reports
2. Report of Audit Committee for Fiscal Year 1973
3. Election of Officers
4. Discussion about moving meeting night to 1st Thursday of Month.
5. Discussion of Installation Plans and sale of Tickets
6. Discussion of Civilian Patrol
7. Other old Business
8. New Business
9. Adjournment and Refreshments.

Our Nominating Committee announced the slate of officers for the new year. Since several of the proposed officers are currently serving Board terms that will not run out at the end of the year, the Members decided to run the election in two segments, taking first the officers, then the Board positions separately. This way all positions can be filled at this one election, since with two people running for the same office in some cases, we would not know just how many Board positions would be open if we ran the whole election at one time.

President: James A. Trent(unopposed)
 Vice President: Gary R. Brough(unopposed)
 Treasurer: Doris McInerney, John Albano
 Recording Sec'y: Josephine Wickman(unopposed)
 Corresponding Sec'y: Ann Albano(unopposed)
 Financial Secretary: Edward Wohlfort(unopposed)
 Sgt.-at-Arms: Joseph Simon, Xavier Ardini

Board Positions(maximum of five, minimum of three):
 Lillian Simon, Rose Dillon, Josephine Knepple,
 Rose Daddario, Janet Eppich.

We wish to thank Mrs. Ruth Fuchs for serving on our Board of Governors. Ruth has resigned for personal reasons which prevent her from being able to attend meetings regularly. We also extend our thanks to Mrs. Josephine Knepple who is stepping down as Treasurer after 14 years of faithful service in that spot; and to Mrs. Rose Daddario who has served us zealously as Corresponding Secretary for the last several years. Mrs. Knepple, and Mrs. Daddario are available for places on our Board as the above slate reveals.

Nineteen Hundred Seventy Three has been an exciting and fruitful year for our Civic Association, we hope 1974 will be as good. We wish all our members the best of everything in the New Year.

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COMMUNITY REELS IN WAKE OF HOSPITAL EXPOSE

By now all of you have read Senator Frank Padavan's startling revelations about the high incidence of criminal activity on the grounds of Creedmoor State Hospital. Most people had inklings all along of what was going on, but never did we have a total listing over a 20-month period all tallied up for easy digestion. And it's pretty hard to swallow. Particularly when the Hospital and the State tell us that it isn't any different than what goes on outside the Hospital. Well, we beg to differ. The crime rate in northern Queens Village and Bellerose is not the same. But we bring up this issue because we have learned that Senator Padavan has been attacked for making public these statistics. It has been charged that it is not for the best interest of the Hospital, and that it is nothing but a vote-getting gimmick in revealing the sad state of affairs at Creedmoor.

The Creedmoor Civic News does not feel it is in the best interest of anyone to sweep these scandals under the rug, except of course for those who are responsible for its continuing unabated. We support Frank Padavan and are glad that he has vowed to pursue the matter. As it happens, we seem to have more auto thefts and house burglaries on the west end of the civic area, near to 235th Court which leads to Creedmoor Hospital, than we do on the east end, far away from hospital entrances. We wonder what connection there may be. It seems our elected officials are damned if they do, and damned if they don't. We should be glad this has been brought out publicly as there is much greater chance now that something will be done. It is a terrible thing when food and clothing earmarked for patients is taken by the employees, and other equipment disappears which has been paid for through tax dollars. But worse, are the reports of physical attacks on the patients, and the presence of narcotics peddlers. We hope now, that speedy remedies will be taken by the State Mental Hygiene Department to restore safety and peace to Creedmoor and its pitiful patients.

INSTALLATION TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

Our financial secretary, Ed Wohlfort announces that tickets for Creedmoor Civic's gala installation are now printed and ready for sale. They are \$3.00 each and entitle bearer to unlimited beer, live music, and pizza. The affair will be held at Cardo's Restaurant on Braddock Avenue, Friday evening, February 1st, from 9 pm to 1 am. Installing officer has not yet been arranged but is expected to be an interesting personality. For ticket info, call Mr. Wohlfort at 465-2408. Tickets will also be sold at our next meeting, Thursday, January 10th. Try to bring a whole table of 10!

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Around Town

Our congratulations are extended to Mr. Robert Pearsall who has been chosen as the new president of the Queens Braddock Civic Association which operates south of Braddock Avenue. Mr. Harvey Moder who had ably led Queens Braddock for five years stepped down in order to pursue further educational courses. Bob comes as no stranger to the civic arena having been a leader in the Parents & Taxpayers fight in 1964 and '65 to prevent the transfer of school children solely on the basis of race. Bob has been also in every other civic fight in our area for the last 10 years. We wish Bob and Queens Braddock a fruitful new year.

Three more families should be added to your 1973 Membership List as published last month. These names were received after the publication date: TIWARI of 242nd St., VOREL of Gettysburg St., and DEVITO of 239th St. That brings our total up to 659. We are now ready to receive your 1974 dues. Only \$2.00 per family. If you can, please bring your dues to the meeting, or mail to our financial secretary. This saves much work when we begin the door-to-door campaign since we will have to knock on that many fewer doors.

FREE AT OUR NEXT MEETING: We have on hand a supply of booklets printed by the Police Department giving tips on safeguarding your home against burglaries. These will only be distributed to those who attend our meeting.

Mrs. & Mrs. Henry Wahl of 91st Avenue were the lucky winners of our drawing for a 20-lb. turkey last month.

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Tel. 343-8830

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President	James A. Trent
Vice President	Gary R. Brough
Recording Sec'y.	Josephine Wickman
Corresp'g. Sec'y.	Rose Daddario
Financial Sec'y.	Edward Wohlfort
Treasurer	Josephine Knepple
Sgt. At Arms	Joseph Simon

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CREEDMOOR CIVIC COVERED BY NON-SOLICITATION BAN

One of the last acts of outgoing Secretary of State John P. Lomenzo was to sign a blanket order directing real estate brokers not to directly solicit sellers in an area which roughly conforms to the 23rd Assembly District. This is a large area and is probably the largest such order ever signed in the State's history. In our area the line reaches to Grand Central Parkway and runs east to the City Line. This is good news because it covers a broad enough area so as to cover the problem completely. All it means is that brokers will not call you on the phone, or mail you notices asking you to sell your home. They can lose their licenses if they do. This does not prevent you from seeking the services of a broker if you plan to sell. It's just the "don't call me, I'll call you" philosophy. The signing of this order is an outgrowth of a recent public hearing held in Queens Village on unscrupulous real estate practices which were causing heavy and unwarranted ethnic changes in lower Queens Village and Bellaire.

KINDERGARTEN SHUTOUTS NOW ADMITTED TO '33

Thanks to the action of our Corresponding Secretary, Rose Daddario, 10 children of kindergarten age who were refused admission to P.S. 33 on the grounds of "no room," have now or are in the process of being admitted. It started with the complaint of one of our members whose child was excluded, and Rose took the problem directly to the school and school board. The results of the negotiation were that all 10 on the waiting list were to be admitted immediately.

MEMBERS VOTE FOR ZONE CHANGE

Our members unanimously voted to request the City to change our zone from R4 to R3-1, after hearing all comments on the issue. It looks now, however, that our fears concerning the new zone as being overly restrictive were unfounded. Conversions to 2-family will most likely not be as difficult as mentioned in this newsletter last month. It is still up to the City to grant us this request.

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON CLEARVIEW TRUCKS

A hearing held by the Community Board was held at JHS 109 recently to discuss diverting truck traffic from local Queens Village streets to Francis Lewis Blvd. and Braddock Ave. Creedmoor Civic and Queens Braddock Civic spoke against sending trucks this way, and suggested they be sent east and west on the L.I. Expressway. If it hadn't been for Councilman Matthew Troy, we would not have had much to say on the issue. The matter however, is still unresolved, since the State refuses to deny trucks the right to use Clearview up to its terminus at Hillside Avenue.

MATTHEW J. TROY, JR.
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REMEMBER THE MAIN

Remember our new 18-inch water main each time you ride down bumpier-than-ever Braddock Avenue. The repaving contract was to have begun in November, but was held up pending the Dept. of Water Resources contract for a new water main running from Cross Island Parkway to Winchester Boulevard. Over a year ago, Creedmoor Civic wrote to the City and suggested a new line was needed since breaks were occurring at the rate of about one a month. The City apparently agreed with us. However, the Braddock work which was to have been done in two contracts about a year apart, will most likely go with the two contracts being carried out simultaneously, so we really are not losing much time. President Jim Trent has examined the plans for the paving at the offices of the Highway Department. They are taking bids now. The mall will contain turn-off lanes for cars making left-hand turns, and trees will be planted along the curbs wherever possible. Trees will not be planted in the mall because of poor survival rate experienced with similar projects in the past, Winchester Blvd. being one of them. A triangle will be built at the intersection of Braddock and Gettysburg to help facilitate the flow of traffic. Further discussion on this will take place at our meeting.

PONTIAC, MOLINE STREETS TO GO IN '74

A contract is now being prepared for the '74-75 capital budget to reconstruct Pontiac and Moline Streets. In addition, the intersection of 235th Court and 88th Avenue will be completely realigned --when finished will bear little resemblance to the Picadilly Circus madness that goes on there now with cars coming from all directions with many accidents and near-accidents. Details will be given on this at our meeting also. Other than these two streets, no others are planned for any work in the foreseeable future.

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