



# Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER of the CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

JUNE, 1974

VOL. 46, NO. 8

## CITY PLANNERS ZONK TREE FARM, COMMUNITY GIRDS FOR BATTLE

Another Forest Hills style community-City confrontation appears to be looming as eastern Queens learns that the City Planning Commission does not care to consider itself bound by the decision of the joint committee recommendation of Community Boards 11 and 13 concerning the disposition of the 52 surplus acres at Creedmoor State Hospital.

Thanks to the continuous needling by an editor of the Long Island Press, who informed the City Planning Commissioner that they had more than enough time to study the issue, it was finally revealed that they had ideas of their own concerning the use of the property. Specifically they wished to allow the construction of 900 dwelling units of housing on 30 acres, and allow the remaining 22 acres to be used for an undetermined kind of recreation. City Planning blamed the Park Department for the demise of the tree farm-educational complex the community wished to see located there.

Reaction by community leaders was swift and vociferous. "Over my dead body," reacted angry State Senator Frank Padavan. Mrs. Sue Noreika, chairman of Community Board #13 vowed that "the gloves were coming off." James Trent, president of Creedmoor Civic Association and originator of the plan that was finally adopted by the Community Boards charged that the CPC was "irrelevant", and threatened to see to it that the central Planning Commission was abolished as it is now constituted, and have it replaced with Borough Planning Commissions, responsible to the people. "I don't know who they are working for," Trent charged, "but they certainly aren't working for the people of eastern Queens." Contacted by the Long Island Press, Trent also indicated that a meeting between the Commissioner of Parks and the Community was necessary since the Planning Commission blamed the Park Department for killing the plan. He also indicated that a meeting with Mayor Beame was also being considered.

Despite the general gloom and pessimism that prevailed over the Press revelation, Trent said the issue was far from lost and told the L.I. Press that eastern Queens had the power, resources and the wherewithal to override the Planning Commission and insure that the plan would come to fruition yet.

"We have the legislators on our side", Trent remarked, referring to Sen. Padavan, Assemblyman John Esposito, and City Councilman Matthew J. Troy. "In addition we have been backed by Martin Van Buren High School; the Queens Historical Society; NATURE; the New York City Board of Education; the superintendent of District 26, Marvin Weingart; by political leaders; and by dozens of civic groups from Little Neck to Queens Village. These people deserve to be listened to, especially after the City saddled us with the monstrous North Shore Towers," Trent concluded.

Regular Meeting JUNE 4 (Tues.), 8:00 pm  
at St. Gregory's Church, 242 St. & 88 Rd.

#### JUNE 4 MEETING LAST UNTIL SEPTEMBER

At our June 4 meeting, we will try to entertain any problems affecting our members, so come prepared. You will not have another opportunity until September. There will, however, be a summer edition of the Civic News. We will also endeavor to have a speaker on the latest developments of the City Planning Dept.'s bombshell on the Creedmoor land.

#### SPUR BILL NOW SPUR LAW

We are all elated over the fact that Gov. Wilson has seen fit to sign the bill authorizing our homeowners on 88th Ave. to buy the railroad land behind their homes for 20¢ per sq. ft. Soon a canvas will have to be made to determine who is buying and who, if any, is not. We don't expect the railroad to do this for us since the bill provides that if the deal is not consummated by Jan. 1, 1976, the railroad is released from the obligations of the law, and can auction it off as they originally wanted to. Our thanks to Sen. Padavan and Assemblyman Esposito for their aid on securing the law for us.

#### A NEW KIND OF BUSING PLAGUES OUR TOWN

The sad news has finally been released concerning our new T.A. bus garage on 222nd St. They will house 216 buses (at least that's what they're admitting to), and of these 121 will use Springfield Blvd. as their means of feeding the bus routes. Only 15 are expected to use Braddock Ave., which is about all we have on the Q-1 Bellerose route anyway. Nevertheless, we will all suffer from the pollution which will descend upon us depending on how the wind blows. The battle with the T.A. over pollution control is not over, as Councilman Matt Troy is still holding \$1,000,000. up from the T.A. budget until they comply with our demands. We are now studying the routes to see if any changes, particularly for Springfield, can be made to alleviate the burden on any one community. The garage is expected to open in September.

#### CSB #26 MEMBER HELENE ZARO RETURNS PRESS FIRE

In response to a vitriolic L.I. Press editorial concerning the budget crisis in District 26, Board member Helene Zaro fired off a rebuttal which space does not permit a full printing. We will read the letter at our June meeting. Generally Mrs. Zaro charges the Press with using half-truths and mis-information in criticizing the Board in its actions in solving the monetary problem facing that district.

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# news briefs

**NEW BANK CONSTRUCTION:** The Columbia Savings Bank at 245-01 Jamaica Avenue has finally broken ground for their new drive-in window at the location of the old Kelly's Custard building and the old Rocky Hill filling station. The bank at the corner of 245th St. & Jamaica Ave. will remain after the construction. The new building is for drive-in business only. The mortgage department will still be located at the main building at 245-01 Jamaica Ave.

**THE STORY OF QUEENS VILLAGE:** The long-awaited book on the history of Queens Village has finally been published by the Queens Village Centennial Association. Written by Vincent F. Seyfried with aid from Robert J. Cassidy, this softbound book is chock full of interesting facts about our area and is laden with photographs of early homes and businesses. We will be selling the book at our next meeting. Copies are \$5. each. Don't miss out, this one is destined to become a collectors item.

**COSTUME PARADE:** A costume parade and judging for children is being held in Bellerose on June 15. The location is P.S. 133, 249th St. and 86th Ave. Sponsor is the Bellerose-Commonwealth Civic Association, and time is 2:45 p.m. C.C.A. president J. Trent has been asked to serve as one of the judges. For further information, contact Jim Delaney at 347-6950.

**LAST CALL FOR RAFFLE:** We will sell raffles at our June 4th meeting for four box seat tickets and four admission tickets to the Diamond Club at Shea Stadium for the night game on July 8, 1974. Game is Mets Vs San Diego. Proceeds of the raffle will go toward the Civilian Patrol, as will the proceeds of the Centennial Book sale. After the last call for raffles is made, the drawing will take place at the meeting. Winner need not be present.

**NEW CIVIC PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Kathrine Nubel has been elected as the new president of the Bell Vill Civic Association of Hollis. This group covers between Jamaica and Hillside Avenues and between 199th St. and 209th St. They have their own civilian patrol. Installation is at Cardo's on June 13th.

**NEW PARENTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT:** Mrs. Mary Walsh will be the new president of the Martin Van Buren High School Parents Association, succeeding Kathleen Conway. Installation will be at Villa Bianca on June 11.

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**Around Town**

It is with deep sorrow and regret that we must report the passing of Mrs. Millicent M. Hildebrandt of Lyman Street. As we reported in our Newsletter last November, Mrs. Hildebrandt was one of the original signers of the papers of incorporation of our Association, and one of our earliest members. At the time of her death, she was believed to be the oldest resident of our community, being about 94. R.I.P.

We are saddened to hear that member Anthony Prete is in the hospital, the Pretes are residents of 88th Avenue. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Don't forget the Senior Citizens Fair at the Q.V. Library at 217th St. and 94th Ave. It runs from Wed., June 5 at 10:30 A.M. to Fri., June 7 ending at 4 p.m. At our next meeting will be available the full schedule of events, which include, lectures, movies, free blood pressure tests, etc. Admission is free.

Sunday, June 23, there will be a walk through Queens Village sponsored by the Queens Historical Society. The walk begins at 1:30 p.m. at Jamaica Ave. and Hollis Ct. Blvd. Following the walk will be a showing of slides and a 1916 silent movie made in Queens Village showing local scenes and events.

Friday, June 14 is FLAG DAY. Don't forget!

This will be the last meeting of the year until September. We wish you all a happy and safe summer. Of course, our Board of Governors will continue to meet and take care of whatever crises may occur, during July and August. Please keep your officers and Board members apprised of any problems during the time we will not be having general meetings.

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**CIVILIAN PATROL RECEIVES INTRUSION ALARMS UNDER BLOCK SECURITY PROGRAM**

Our Creedmoor Civilian Patrol, under the leadership of William Mattis of Moline Street, has finally received some of the equipment we requested last July under the grant program between the City of New York and our Civic Association. Four sonic intrusion alarms have been delivered to our patrol. As we explained last year, any resident planning to go away may request an alarm be installed in his home. If anyone breaks into the home and crosses into the range of the alarm, the alarm will be activated and sound off from a horn which will be afixed to the exterior of the house. The general scheme is to leave a key with a trusted neighbor. When the horn sounds, the neighbor will call the police. When the police arrive, the neighbor will give them the key so they can enter the house. No neighbors are expected to do anything other than call the police. If anyone wants to make use of this apparatus, should call Bill Mattis at HO 5-5889.

Also secured are several special flashlights for the use of the patrol. These also came about through the matching program with the City. Receipt was also made of the two-way radios and walky-talky equipment but was deemed by all the patrols of the 105 to be inferior to what was originally requested. The equipment was returned and a new shipment is expected shortly of much better instruments.

Our Civilian Patrol was also scheduled to receive a citation for excellence in performance. The ceremonies were postponed from last May 22 and will be rescheduled soon. Our hats off to the men and women of our patrol for work well done, especially to our tireless chief of patrol, Bill Mattis. In such short time our patrol has become the envy of many other civic associations.

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## Braddock Ave. Phase 1 Contract Awarded

To the early Americans, it was the Road to the Rocky Hill, to the jet set Americans it is the Rocky Road to the Hill. Well, Bellerose natives will be over-joyed to learn that Rocky Hill Road, since renamed Braddock Avenue has moved one step closer to being paved. Commissioner Dan Garvey of the Highway Department informed us that Phase One contract has been awarded to Mascali. It has been registered with the Comptrollers office, and work should start by June 15. Phase One will run from Fairchild Funeral Home south to Moline St. Phase Two will be advertised shortly, and will pick up at Moline St. and run south to Cross Island Southbound Service Road. Braddock Phase Three includes Pontiac St., Moline St., and the intersection of 235th Ct. and 88th Ave. No date has been set for phase three yet. Comm. Garvey complained that the money for Phase I had been taken away, and he had to fight to get it back. This partly explains for the delay. He complained further that it seems this job has been "jinxed" from the start, since it is about three years behind. Unfortunately, we learned that the trees originally promised for the center mall have been deleted because trees in this type of situation do not survive well. However, curbside trees will be planted wherever possible. If necessary, we might prevail upon the Park Dept. in the future to plant the mall trees, but for now we'll be content with just getting a new road bed and treeless mall. We could also explore decorating the mall with plant pots which the civic associations would then have to keep planted and maintained.

## Creedmoor Civic News

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