



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWS LETTER of the CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, Inc.

MAY, 1974

VOL. 46, NO. 7

CITY STALLS, PADAVAN SAYS "CAN'T WAIT," SUBMITS FARM LAND BILL

ALBANY, NEW YORK,....State Senator Frank Padavan of Bellerose has announced Senate introduction of legislation that empowers the Commissioner of General Services of N.Y. State, to sell and convey to the City of New York, certain properties that have been declared as surplus, located at Creedmoor State Hospital.

Senator Padavan explained that this legislation culminates a long period of negotiations that have taken place between the community surrounding Creedmoor State Hospital and the State of New York. Several years ago, Creedmoor Hospital declared some 58 acres abutting the Northern State Parkway(Grand Central)as surplus land, and thereby subject to being placed on a list for public auction.

The Senator stated, "Several of my constituents feared that another high-rise, similar to the Glen Oaks project, would soon be forthcoming. The local community planning boards #11 and #13 became involved in this dispute and drew up recommendations to the City Planning Commission that the property be used as a tree farm, for recreational and educational purposes and other like uses, that were detailed in a report.

"The City Planning Commission has failed to act on this matter, and so I have taken the bull by the horns and introduced this legislation... despite my repeated requests and petitions from the community, they continue, as usual, to sit on their hands."

The City has yet to issue a home-rule message to the legislature indicating its desire to acquire and use the property. However, with the deadline nearing for submission of all bills before legislative adjournment, Padavan decided to draft the bill and submit it now. The Department of Mental Hygiene has agreed with the preparation of the bill.

Sen. Padavan also pointed out that the City Planning Commission has not recommended the down-zoning for this area so as to guarantee the integrity of the community surrounding the property. "Since the City Planning Commission has not acted, we have taken a serious and important step in protecting the rights of our Eastern Queens homeowners," Padavan stated.

Creedmoor Civic News has learned that at least one expert connected with the Department of Parks, City of New York, is very enthusiastic about the tree farm proposal, which plan was originally developed by the Creedmoor Civic Association. Unfortunately, the officialdom of the Parks Department, like the Planning Commission, has so far refrained from putting their endorsement in unequivocal terms in writing. Letters from our members on this issue to the City would be most helpful.

Regular Meeting MAY 7 (Tues.), 8:00 pm
at St. Gregory's Church, 242 St. & 88 Rd.

OFFICER SHELTON GIVES LOW-DOWN ON GANGS

We were fortunate last month to be able to have Officer Shelton of the 105 Precinct speak to our members on the serious issue of street gangs. Most of you are aware of the recent vandalism in which windows of the Post Office on Braddock Avenue were smashed, along with stained and colored glass windows at St. Gregory's Church (both in the same night). The police attribute this to gang action. Unfortunately, our civilian patrol was not operating that night, or perhaps this damage would not have taken place. Anyone with gang information is requested to contact Officer Shelton at the 105 Precinct. Call HO 4-1650. Ask for Officer Shelton. All information will be kept confidential.

The 105 Precinct will shortly set up a Block Security Council made up of civic and block associations who have made application for grants through the Block Security Program. The purpose of this new group which will meet for the first time May 8 is to help these groups learn how to thwart crime in their neighborhoods. Creedmoor Civic President Jim Trent has been asked to serve as temporary chairman of this group.

Speaking about police, the Common Council of Eastern Queens is disturbed over the erroneous newspaper accounts of the incident involving the Jack-In-The-Box eatery in Cambria Heights. The articles were all distorted and sensationalist in nature. Letters have been sent to the newspapers complaining about the coverage given. It is not true that 45 minutes elapsed between notification and the arrival of the police. Tapes on file at the 911 office reveal that the call to the police was not made as early as alleged, and that police were on the scene in 3 minutes. This bad publicity could well undo all the efforts that have been made to stabilize the Cambria community.

CLARIFICATION OF HOME-BUYING SERVICE IN Q.V.

In case there was any misunderstanding in last month's Civic News article on the South QV-Cambria Heights Church Home-Buying Service, it was not meant to imply that this organization was buying and selling in the Bellerose area. They only operate in the parishes represented by the respective churches and synagogues which belong to the service. There presently is no activity by this group north of Jamaica Avenue.

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Civic Completes 47 Years of Service

This past April, Creedmoor Civic Association completed its 47th year of service to the Bellerose community. Forty-seven continuous years of activity and stability is quite a feat, especially when the governments of some countries can't hold together that long. The 1920's were important years in the civic movement in Queens. The original Queens Colony civic association was founded in 1926, as was the Bellaire Gardens Taxpayers association. In 1927 came Creedmoor Civic Association and Rocky Hill Civic Association. The oldest civic group known to us in the eastern portion of Queens is the St. Albans Civic Improvement Association which was founded around 1906.

Now grown to great size, to our knowledge Creedmoor Civic Association is surpassed in numbers in the eastern Queens area only by the Jamaica Estates Association which claims 1100 members. We presently claim 670 and still hope to top that this year after our dues drive is completed. Our total potential is only 1000, so we are one of the smaller civics in terms of territory, but in terms of percentage of members, are one of the leading civics in Queens, if not in the City. We must compliment our members, who this year have made our dues collection so much easier by quickly and readily responding when our dues captains have come around. Collecting dues is no pleasant chore, and our captains receive no commission or other reward for spending so much time away from their private pursuits. Therefore your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Remember, membership is open to tenants as well as property owners; and merchants, whether tenant or owner. Dues are still only \$2. per family. Other civic groups are now up to \$3. and \$5. Again, at the close of the year we will publish our list of members and renewals as acknowledgement of those who thought enough of their community to help support it through membership in the association.

CIVIC LAUNCHES RAFFLE FOR BENEFIT OF PATROL

Tickets are now being printed for a raffle in which will be drawn the winning name to receive four box seat tickets to a night game at Shea Stadium on July 8, 1974. This is a Mets vs San Diego game, and included with the four tickets are four admission tickets to the Diamond Club, an exclusive restaurant in the ball park. Drawing will be held at our June general meeting, scheduled for June 4, 1974. Chances are 25¢, or 5 for \$1.00. These tickets were made available to us through the generosity of the Queens County Democratic Committee, Matthew Troy, Jr., chairman. Funds will go toward purchase of equipment for our civilian patrol. Call 343-8830 for chance books.

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Best wishes to Mr. & Mrs. Dickinson of 240th Street on the occasion of their 50th Golden Wedding Anniversary. The celebration was last month, and belatedly we wish to add our good wishes for many more happy wedded years.

We are very sad to learn that Robert Ryan of 240th St. is back in the hospital. We know his neighbors wish him back home again with a speedy mend.

The Greater New Hyde Park Concert Ass'n is once again presenting a musical campaign. The events will be held at Sewanhaka H.S. Oct. 19: Carnival de Mexico; Jan. 11: Theodore Uppman Bar; April 5: Lee Evans, his orchestra & voices; April 26: Longstreth and Escosa, duo harpists. Tickets subscription fee before May 15 is \$12.50 adults, \$30. family. After May 15 is \$15. adults, \$35. family. For more information call Helene Zaro at HO 8-0782.

The Queens Borough Public Library cordially invites you to the SENIOR CITIZENS FAIR, June 5,6,7 at the Queens Village Branch, 94-11 217th St. The library is setting up exhibit booths for Social Security, health, and social services, etc. Knowledgeable personnel from the appropriate social agency will be at these booths. Also a booth to provide info on free movies, and other senior citizens services. Also, friendship booths where you can join neighborhood organizations and exchange ideas. Open from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Stay as long as you wish, all free. For more information, call 776-6800.

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Subscription rate for all others (via First Class Mail): One Dollar (\$1.00) per year, payable in advance.

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Bellerose Village 50 Yrs "Inc."

The Incorporated Village of Bellerose in Hempstead Township from whence the Queens portion of Bellerose takes its name, is currently celebrating its 50th Anniversary as an incorporated village. Its history goes further back than 1924, of course, having been founded around 1910. Mrs. Helen Marsh was founder, and built the homes in the Village one at a time, living in each one until a suitable buyer could be found. She thus lived in 22 of the present day homes. The railroad station did not exist at the founding of the village, and was built by the townspeople. It was used as a dance hall, and all around public building for many years. The lovely structure with open verandas on each side was demolished several years ago to make provision for the elevating of the railroad in Floral Park which required re-grading as far back as Bellerose. The new station is a rather ugly affair, but functional.

June 1st is the culminating of the anniversary year with a parade and block party. William R. Bottemus, is mayor and also owner of the Bellerose Furniture Store on Jamaica Avenue (Queens side.) The village is the smallest in area in the State of New York, and contains 1300 residents, about 1/3 the size of the Creedmoor Civic Association in population.

In the early years the Queens side was more commonly known as Bellerose Manor, but the term has fallen into disuse except for the telephone company which still lists the word in the Queens phone book. There is also a Bellerose Terrace, an unincorporated portion lying to the west in Hempstead. The name "Bellerose" was taken by Mrs. Marsh from the sign on the loading platform in the area. The property was once owned by a Mr. Joseph Rose, a gladiola farmer in Floral Park, which area was famous for its commercial production of flowers. The village has its own fire department (vamps), but recently dismissed its own police force and opted instead to contract with the County police. There are 59 village officials, and they have their own ordinances, taxes, and everything else one finds in an independent village, though still subject to Hempstead Town.

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Gov. Wilson Derails Spur Express; Bill Not Dead

A temporary setback was experienced by Bellerose property owners abutting the defunct Creedmoor Spur of the Long Island Rail Road, once the Central of Long Island Railroad, back in its heyday.

The bill, submitted again this year after failing to be signed into law by Governor Rockefeller, was passed by both houses again this session with minor modifications to appease the critics of the last bill. Unfortunately the new Governor, Malcolm Wilson, threw a curve ball by stating that unless a provision was inserted guaranteeing that the L.I.R.R. would sell all the land at once and not be left with isolated parcels, he would not sign the new bill either. Immediately, Assemblyman Esposito, the original architect of the bill, made plans to file a bill amendment to include that very clause. It is believed that the clause presents no problem because if one homeowner declines his portion, there will still be two or three adjacent homeowners more than eager to snap up their neighbor's share.

John Esposito is confident that before long our suffering homeowners along 88th Avenue and adjacent streets will be able to claim deeds to this long embattled piece of land.

* * * * *

BRADDOCK PARTY DELAYED 'TIL FALL

Due to heavy commitments on the City's special traveling events, we could not stage a satisfactory party in Braddock Playground this June as we had hoped. The skatemobile, and other facilities will not be available until September, so we have decided to wait until then. We want to take advantage as much as possible of the City's help.

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