

*No Meeting*

*This*

*Month*

We meet the first Thursday of  
each month at the House of Hope  
Church, corner 248th Street and  
85th Avenue at 8:00 PM

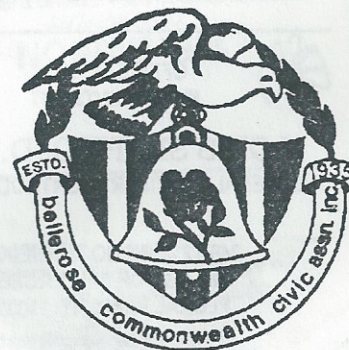
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*action news*





### President's Gavel

by: Richard Hellenbrecht

First of all, let me apologize for characterizing a dentist and other professional businesses as "stores" in last month's article on our request to expand the Library. This civic and our community strongly support these businesses.

Next, I recently learned at a Community Board 13 meeting that the Board of Education is planning to develop three schools on a ten acre parcel of property at the north end of the Creedmoor campus along Commonwealth Boulevard. The complex would include a grammar school for District 26 children, an Intermediate School for District 29 children and a High School for students for all of Queens.

An educational use of the northern 26 acres of Creedmoor has been under discussion for over a year, with the support of most local civic associations and the Queens Civic Congress. The current proposal reduces the space to just over 1/3 of the available space and attracts students from miles away.

Many questions were brought up at the meeting about this new plan, dealing with the students, property and the community. Let me restate some of these issues. We must pay close attention to these issues in the new year.

**Students** - some of the points were: the **lack of educational continuity** at the campus. Students from District 26 attend the grammar school and then go elsewhere for Intermediate School. Intermediate students must **travel many miles and change buses** to get there. There is **no single executive responsible** for the welfare of all students ranging from pre-K to high school senior. Finally, in the reduced campus there is not enough room for play yards.

**Property** - The ten acres is a sensitive and **unusual ecological space**. Protected by the Creedmoor campus, it is literally untouched with wetlands and dense trees. The three buildings would eliminate most of these trees and impact the environment of the neighborhood.

**Community** - Only about 5%, or 125 of the 2,500 students are within walking distance of the school. Imagine dozens of yellow buses and city buses and hundreds of private cars dropping off 2,375 students each day blocking Union Tpke and that short, narrow stretch of Commonwealth Blvd.

These are just the tip of the iceberg. Please carefully follow this story and stay informed.



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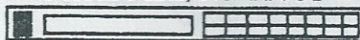
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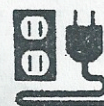
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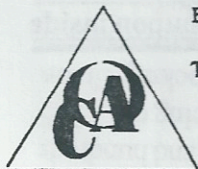
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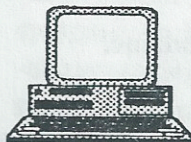
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**February 2000**

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***action news***

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