

Joseph O'Shea
Representative of
Gov. Pataki
****Block Captain**
Recognition**

June 4, 1998

8:00 PM

House of Hope Church
Cor. 248th Street and
85th Avenue

Bellerose Commonwealth
Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 260225
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bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

action news



Volume 24 No. 6

JUNE 1998

Creedmoor

We have previously reported that the governor has decided to try to sell off portions of the Creedmoor campus. The Empire State Development Corporation will be accepting proposals from private developers or other organizations with whatever ideas they may have. Currently there over 8 acres available at the campus' southwest corner, Hillside Avenue and Winchester Blvd., and approximately 26 acres at the north end of the property along Commonwealth Boulevard.

As additional property becomes available, it will be placed

there are over two hundred acres of property that could eventually be sold by the state. The objective is to return underutilized state property to the tax rolls and to reduce the long-standing bonded debt.

At its peak of operations, Creedmoor had over seven thousand clients and nine hundred employees. But as currently anticipated that about seven hundred clients will be housed in the single tall building just north of Union Turnpike and Winchester Boulevard.

These changes have

the community and have resulted in a resolution by the Queens Civic Congress to attempt to program the availability and sale of the various properties in a more systematic way and to control the development so that unnecessary or community un-friendly uses a could be avoided. For example, the Queens Civic Congress proposal would require that the buildings be reused within their original "Footprint". Many of the buildings on the property are very substantial and attractive buildings architecturally and are in good condition. Most of the buildings

have never really been seen by members of the community because of the previously restricted use of Creedmoor property.

The proposals to reuse this Creedmoor property have attracted considerable media attention recently with proposals by certain religious communities to establish communal facilities within the Creedmoor property, around which these groups would attempt

to relocate from other areas of the city, to the extent of an estimated four thousand families. In particular, the Satmar group has proposed to locate a Yashiva, ritual baths and other communal facilities in the acres on the western end of the Creedmoor campus. Many local communities feel that such reuse would violate the Queens Civic Congress's resolution by removing the very lovely and historic private houses in that parcel

of land. In addition, the communities adjacent to the Creedmoor campus have expressed a serious concern that such groups are very exclusive and would not contribute to the community by providing general purpose stores and shops or by using existing community resources.

We have asked Joseph O'Shae, Queens representative for Gov. Pataki, to address these concerns at our June 4th meeting.

LIE HOV Lane Blocked

We have recently received a letter from State Senator Frank Padavan announcing that the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane expansion of the long Island expressway will end in Nassau County by order of Governor George Pataki. The New York State Department of Transportation has withdrawn its plans for high occupancy vehicle lanes on the expressway in Queens.

The new preliminary plan announced recently resolves all the major objections of the Queens citizens who have joined Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, Assemblyman Mark Weprin in court action to oppose the original plan.

As a result of this change the residential character of neighborhoods in Little Neck and Douglaston will no longer be impacted. There will be no encroachment on the roadway buffers that currently exist between homes and the roadway. Under the original plan, the highway would have come within ten feet of homes along the expressway's north service road.

Key points in the new plan are:

- o the additional HOV lanes beginning in Suffolk County will end in Nassau

- o From the Nassau line to the Cross Island Parkway interchange, the LIE will consist of the three existing general use lanes and the existing shoulder will be converted to an exit-entrance-breakdown lane in both directions

- o The redesign of the LIE - Cross Island Parkway interchange will significantly minimize environmental impact to the trails, including the Tulip Tree Trail and Alley Pond Park

- o The interchange redesign will also allow land to be added to the preserves and more "old growth" trees to be saved; and will maximize storm water runoff to the adjacent wetlands

- o From the Nassau County line to the Cross Island Parkway interchange the buffer areas and the north wall will be retained; the LIE will stay within two and three feet of the highway's current paved "footprint"; and the expressway service road will remain intact.

- o In addition, the redesign will aim to reduce traffic congestion between the exits 30 and 32

on the expressway and keep traffic off Queens neighborhood streets.

In addition to protecting the local Queens residences, the governor's decision to order the redesign of the 1.1 mile Queens portion of the expansion will also protect a grove of tulip trees that are believed to predate Queens colonial period. This action is completely in compliance with the urging of local civic groups including the Queens Civic Congress. Our special thanks to Senator Frank Padavan for bringing a petition in Queens Supreme Court in June 1996 which ultimately led to this redesign.

Our Lady of Victory Youth Ministry

The youth ministry of Our Lady of Victory Church in Floral Park will present *Carousel*, the highly regarded play by Rodgers and Hammerstein. The play, originally ran at the Majestic Theater in Manhattan in April 1945 and was revived at Lincoln Center in 1995. *Carousel* will run this year on June 13th, 14th, 19th 20th and 21st at 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory School, 2 Bellmore Street in Floral Park, just off Tulip Avenue.

Vacation Bible School

Have fun at Vacation Bible School this Summer. Call Holy Trinity at (718) 347-0278 for information.

JBBDDC Triangle

On May 16th the Bellerose Business District worked on cleaning up the small triangle at Braddock Avenue and Jamaica Avenue. Plants were donated by the Rotary Club and the Bellerose Floral Park Florist. Thanks to all.

Vin Etching

On May 16th the BCCA, St. Gregory's Church and the 105th Precinct held a vin etching program at St. Gregory's School yard.

Over seventy-five local vehicles were etched (VID number etched on the car windows), or received theft deterrent decals. For the first time in this area, air bags were also etched to help prevent air bag theft.

Block Captain Recognition

At the June meeting, we customarily honor our block captains for doing such a wonderful job collecting dues and distributing the Action News. Thanks to all block captains for their dedication and for helping make the BCCA a success.

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BCCA Feedback Form

June 1998

To the BCCA:

I suggest the following article for Action News, or issue to pursue, or general comment: _____

I suggest the following speaker topic: _____

I suggest the following newsletter topic: _____

I volunteer to be Block Captain: _____

action news

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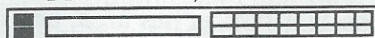
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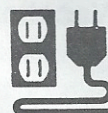
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