

Rocky Hill Civic Association Bulletin

.....proudly serving the community for over 80 years

Website: rockyhillcivicassociation.com

Practice "Random Acts of Kindness" It will make this a better community

May 2008 Bulletin

Rocky Hill Civic Association (RHCA)

Please email, phone or send your suggestions, updates or questions to:

88-19 Billings Street
Bellerose Manor, N. Y.
11427

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President Emeritus

Bernard Aquilino

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 13th

Time: 7:30 PM

**Place: PS 18, 235th Court near
Hillside Ave.**

ADVERTISER'S NIGHT

We have invited our Advertisers to come talk about their services so you can learn about your local merchants and service providers. Some of the presenters will be:

Maria DeMarco Begley—Speaking about Elder Law, Wills, Trusts

Dr. Rosemarie Bou and Dr. Jennifer Thompson---Speaking about Family Chiropractic Care

Kevin from Perfection Landscape will speak about Lawn Care services

Bernard and Elsie Aquilino will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary in June of this year. Please come and congratulate them and share a special Anniversary Cake.



HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!

The Glen Oaks Campus has been renamed the "State Senator Frank Padavan Campus." Congratulations to the Senator on this well deserved honor. (See details inside)

A Message From Your President, Frank Toner

Last month we provided a reprint of the "History of the Rocky Hill Civic Association" which we had created for our 80th Anniversary journal. This month, for your reading pleasure, I would like to provide "A History of the Rocky Hill Area". This is also a reprint (with one addition) from our 80th Anniversary journal and was developed by Linda Gritsch with editing assistance from Marie de Angelis.

History of Rocky Hill Civic Area

Queens Village was originally part of the area known as Little Plains in colonial times and was used as a commons for public grazing of cattle. In the 18th century, roads were laid out in the area and farms were established. In the early 19th century, Thomas Brush started a blacksmith shop in 1824 and eventually built other shops and a factory. The area became known as Brushville. In 1856, the local populace voted to change the name of the entire area to Queens. In 1923, to avoid confusion between the county and village names, the Long Island Railroad renamed the Queens station to Queens Village. In the mid-1970s, the Rocky Hill Civic Association was instrumental in having the name of the community changed to Bellerose Manor.

Development of eastern Queens began in earnest in the 1870s. A major housing boom occurred in the Queens Village area in the 1920s when an existing 105-acre potato farm was sold and developed and hundreds of houses were built in the newly opened streets north of Jericho Turnpike. In 1927, the Rocky Hill Civic Association was born to represent the new community. In 2000, Country Pointe at Alley Pond, a 100 2-family home gated community built on land formerly occupied by Creedmoor State Hospital, joined the Rocky Hill Civic Area.

The Creedmoor State Hospital was originally the site of the Creedmoor Rifle Range, established in 1873 for use by the New York National Guard. By the 1880's, the range was used extensively by a large number of private rifle societies, gun clubs and the German Schuetzenbund (Shooting Group). In 1908, the range was closed down and the site developed into the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center complex. However, 100-foot wide Range Street, down which National Guard units used to march, remains as a reminder of this area's military history. The local Hollis-Bellaire-Queens Village-Bellerose Little League, founded in 1951, has its ballfields located on land originally occupied by the rifle range as does the Cross Island YMCA and the Father Ritter Houses built in the 1990's to provide housing for the elderly. In the 1940s, our community even had a riding stable on Winchester Boulevard and Hillside Avenue called "The Old Homestead Bar and Grill and Horseback Riding Academy"

Our community has been served over the years by several fine public education institutions. The Creedmoor School (P.S. 33), located on 222nd Street, opened in September 1900. Children in our neighborhood attended P.S. 33 until 1956 when The Winchester School (P.S. 18) was built on 235th Court, formerly known as Powder Street. In 1955, Martin Van Buren High School, designed by the same architects that designed the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., was built on land formerly occupied by the Cottage Gardens nursery.

Farm Fest on May 18th at the Queens County Farm Museum
From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The farm is located on Little Neck Parkway between Union Turnpike and the Grand Central Parkway. Among other activities there will be sheep shearing demonstrations, Dutch crafts, cultural exhibits and a spring plant sale. For information call 718-347-3276 or go to the website: www.queensfarm.org

It is an Election year—If you know anyone who has not registered to vote, they can register in many ways: Online at vote.nyc.ny.us or they can contact the NYC Board of Elections at 126-06 Queens Blvd, Kew Gardens, NY.
Their phone number is: **718-730-6730.**

Steep Fines for Flyers and Posters
If you put up a poster on a lamppost, tree, or other public area, you may be subject to a big fine. It is our understanding that currently you will not be bothered if you hang up a sign for a lost pet etc. for a brief period, but be careful—you are at risk. If you know of a flagrant offender you can report that person to 311, ask for the Sanitation Posting Unit.

Graffiti Removal
Please remember to immediately remove any graffiti from your property. Failure to do so only encourages the graffiti vandal. You can report graffiti to **311 (there is a \$500 reward)**. An owner of a commercial property or dwelling of six units or more is required by law to remove graffiti or New York City will remove it provided the owner signs a waiver.

Glen Oaks Educational Complex Renamed for NY State Senator Frank Padavan

The school campus on Union Turnpike has been renamed in honor of Senator Padavan, an advocate for our children's education since he was elected some thirty six years ago. He had worked on this educational project since 1998 and coordinated various State and City agencies with engineering experts to diminish the environmental and traffic impact on the surrounding communities. The campus successfully serves several thousand students who were in need of an educational venue, due to a scarcity within our city and borough. We congratulate him for this well deserved honor.

Rocky Hill Civic Association, Inc. -- Annual \$5.00 Dues Drive Receipt for 2008

Name..... Email.....

Address..... Phone.....

Please make your check Payable to: **Rocky Hill Civic Association** and mail it with this coupon to:
RHCA Attn: Margaret Toner 88-19 Billings St., Bellerose Manor, N.Y. 11427-2646

I am interested in becoming a RHCA Board or Committee Member or would like to volunteer for a special project. Yes No We will contact you to discuss volunteer opportunities.