

Next meeting: Apr. 9 at 8 PM

Meetings at the Bellerose Baptist Church (basement), Braddock Avenue at 241st Street



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
Founded 1927, Incorporated 1938

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CREEDMOOR'S SOUTH CAMPUS REMOVED FROM THE 11TH STATE SENATORIAL DISTRICT

Civic leaders protested the new draft Senate and Assembly lines at a public hearing some weeks ago. The final lines turned out to be even worse.

Starting with the January 2012 newsletter, we have been reporting on the efforts of Eastern Queens United to have a positive impact on the legislative redistricting process. Our common goal has been the inclusion of Queens Village, Bellerose, Glen Oaks, Floral Park and New Hyde Park in a single NYS senate and assembly district. The first set of maps, released in late January, kept all communities in the 11th Senatorial District, but did nothing to unite us in a common assembly district.

On February 7, many civic and other community leaders testified at Queens Borough Hall before LATFOR, the legislative committee that drew up the lines. We felt that we made a good case for being kept together, since we are geographically close together, share a common Community Board and Police Precinct, and have similar problems and interests.

On March 11, the final version of the lines was released. Not only was there no improvement to the NYS Assembly lines, but the NYS Senate lines were far worse than originally proposed. Queens Village and parts of Bellerose Manor were removed from the 11th SD, and placed in the 14th SD, which extends south through Cambria Heights and Laurelton into the Rockaways.

In a shocking move, the Creedmoor Campus was removed from the 11th SD and placed in the 14th SD, even though all of the homes that surround Creedmoor remain in the 11th SD. Senator Tony Avella (11th SD) has been actively supporting the civic groups in our area in our opposition to attempts by the Indian Cultural and Community Center to build 2 nine-story residence buildings on the Creedmoor campus. Now, for some unexplained reason, the property has been removed from his district.

As you may be aware, on March 14 the New York State Legislature passed, and Governor Cuomo signed, a package of bills that included the finalization of these lines.

On Sunday, March 25, 2012, Senator Avella held a press conference on the issue. He is requesting a federal investigation into why this took place.

Although the lines are considered "final", there is a pending lawsuit that challenges the creation of a 63rd Senate District. If the courts rule that there can only be 62 senate districts, (as there are presently), there will have to be a re-writing of the lines all over again. This will throw the upcoming elections into a turmoil, but may give us a last ditch chance to restore the Creedmoor campus to the 11th S.D.

Braddock

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Around the Town

☼ Get well to: Linda Dixon. We continue to keep Linda Dixon in our thoughts and prayers during this especially trying time.

☼ Welcome to: our new neighbors, the Canarte Family of 88th Avenue.

☼ Congratulagations to: the Lopez Family of 239th Street on the birth of Julian.

SNAP

Services Now for Adult Persons (SNAP) has been serving senior citizens in Eastern Queens for over 30 years. In a press release dated October 19, 2011, Mayor Bloomberg announced that SNAP was one of eight senior programs in New York to be designated as "Innovative Senior Centers." Under this program, service enhancements include "robust health and wellness programs," and " additional access to health care services, arts and cultural programs, as well as technology and volunteer opportunities." In addition, the press release describes "specialty programming for the Indian immigrant community."

At the March 1, 2012 meeting of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, SNAP Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Windland explained that SNAP provides services at 3 locations. The main facility, and the one closest to the Creedmoor Civic area, is located on the Creedmoor campus, at 80-45 Winchester Blvd in Building 4, opposite the gates on Hillside Ave, across from Preller Field. Other locations are SNAP Bell Park Manor in Queens Village, and SNAP Brookville, located in Rosedale.

Meals, health care, and wellness programs such as yoga, tai chi, zumba and massage are provided. In addition, there are day trips, income tax assistance, as well as a monthly newsletter and a health newsletter. On Wednesdays, the lunch menu includes South Asian food.

Ms. Windland explained that the extensive Friendly Visiting Program recruits and trains volunteers who reach out to socially isolated seniors. Among the many other services provided are Meals on Wheels, transportation, case management, and support for care givers.

For more information about obtaining services or volunteering, call SNAP at (718) 454-2100, or visit their website at <http://www.snapqueens.org/>.

President's Message

Redistricting

As can be seen from the story on page 1, we did not have a good outcome from our efforts to improve the legislative lines that were just voted into law. Throughout the process, Governor Cuomo assured voters that he would veto redistricting lines that were done for political purposes. In the end, it seems that he looked at the redistricting issue as leverage to get the other parts of his agenda passed. The "reforms" that change the process for the 2022 redistricting still leave the Legislature in charge. The last minute deletion of the Creedmoor campus from the 11th Senatorial District is not good government. There will be many issues over the next few years concerning the sale and use of Creedmoor property, and it defies belief that this area was carved out of the senate district that represents the communities most likely to be affected.

Safety and Security

We received several suggestions about ways to improve the security of our homes, and have included some in this issue. Hopefully, this discussion will increase levels of awareness and safety.

Garbage on streets

I have noticed quite a bit of garbage on our streets that seems to have been dumped thoughtlessly. On a positive note, it is often gone within a day or two. Thanks to all of you who daily clean up other people's mess.

Dues and Donations

Over 100 members have paid their 2012 dues and/or made donations in the past month. Many other members paid their 2012 dues last year. Thank you to all. We will publish a roster on paid up members in June. A tear out dues form is included in this issue.

Bellerose Baptist Church Food Pantry

Thanks to members who bring non-perishable food to our meetings. Peanut butter, jelly, pasta, sauce, cereal, soup, tuna, tea bags and apple sauce are most appreciated.

Your neighbor,

Mike O'Keeffe

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

TIP #1: A large, locking mailbox, like the one pictured, has several advantages. The mail can't be removed without a key. The mail cannot be seen. Visible mail might be a sign that no one is home. And, several days worth of mail could fit without being seen.



TIP #2: Garbage cans: Nothing says "I'm not home" like visible mail and garbage cans that are out several hours after trash pickup. People might consider bringing in garbage cans for a neighbor who is gone all day.



TIP #3: Secure your ladders with a locking device so that they can't be used to rob your home or your neighbor's.



TIP #4: With wooden double hung windows, a hole can be drilled through both window sashes. A nail can be inserted to make the window more resistant to being forced open. Make sure that the hole is big enough to allow easy removal of the nail in an emergency.



TIP #5: A wooden block can be cut to fit snugly between a sliding window and the window jamb.



TIP #6: Many people have installed flood lights with motion detectors. These lights can also be left on continuously.



REMOVE STANDING WATER

While you are doing your spring cleanups, look for places where stagnant water is pooling: pool covers, flower pots, upside down garbage can lids, etc. Let's try to keep the mosquito population to a minimum.

NYC SAFE DISPOSAL AT ST. JOHN'S

You may have received a notice about this SAFE (solvents, automotive, flammables, electronics) disposal event. Saturday, April 28, from 10AM-4PM. Location: St John's University. Enter through Gate 4 on Union Turnpike at 175th St. Many items will be accepted, including motor oil, car batteries, pool chemicals, insecticides, and computer components. See nyc.gov/safedisposal for more information.

CIVIC HELD ELECTIONS, INSTALLATION IN MAY

At the March meeting, the Nominating Committee's slate was read and nominations were asked for from the floor. There were no challenges and the secretary cast one vote to ratify the election. There were no changes to the slate from those already serving (see box on page 2). The installation will be held at the May meeting.

SAVE THE DATE - 85th ANNIVERSARY

Write this down: July 21 is the date the Creedmoor Civic Association will celebrate its 85th Anniversary. The event will be held at the Farm Museum. We will release information as the Anniversary Committee releases it. Right now, we know that Trattoria Lucia will be the caterer and that a live keyboard player/singer will be the entertainer. The date is a Saturday, and the event will start at 1 PM. The price for the tickets has not yet been established but will be reasonable. Awards will be given to several civic leaders from our own association.

Those who were present for the 70th, 75th, and 80th anniversaries, all held at the Farm Museum (which the Creedmoor Civic was instrumental in getting founded) will recall the great times we had.

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS TO HOLD LUNCHEON

Every two years, the Queens Civic Congress holds a luncheon at Antun's in Queens Village. Creedmoor Civic will be attending. Tickets are \$55 for QCC members if purchased in advance, and \$60 at the door (which is discouraged.) The date is Sunday, April 29 at 1 PM. Keynote speaker has not yet been announced. If you are interested in attending, please order a ticket through Creedmoor Civic to get the discount. E-mail James Trent at jtrent8830@aol.com for further information or to order tickets.

QUESTIONING THE PAST

The previous owner of the picture below believed it was of 239th Street looking north toward the Creedmoor Spur of the Long Island Rail Road. But the houses at the left are angled to the street. The houses on 239th Street face the street lined up evenly. Therefore, this photo may be of Commonwealth Boulevard where the houses are angled to the street. Does anyone have a hint of where this photo was taken? It was snapped on October 30, 1931.



Trent Archives

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Enclosed herewith are my 2012 dues to the Creedmoor Civic Association. (Dues are \$6.00 per year). Make checks payable to the Creedmoor Civic Ass'n. Membership is open to all residents of the Association's territory, whether a homeowner or renter. Businesses located within our territory are eligible also.

[Civic boundaries: North: both sides of 88th Avenue; East: Cross Island Parkway; South: Braddock Avenue; West: both sides of Moline St.]

Name: _____

Address: _____

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