

Next meeting: Feb. 13 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

February, 2012 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: www.creedmoorcivic.org ★ VOL. 81, NO. 2

EASTERN QUEENS UNITED CONTINUES FIGHT FOR FAIR REDISTRICTING

As we wrote in our January newsletter, the Creedmoor Civic Association is a part of Eastern Queens United (EQU), the coalition representing civic and community groups from Queens Village, Bellerose, Floral Park, Glen Oaks and New Hyde Park.

The goal of EQU is to combine these communities into the same congressional, assembly and senatorial districts. This makes sense because we are connected geographically, and because we have common interests (similar housing, same community board, police precinct, etc). Many of us believe that we would receive better representation as a large group.

To advance this cause, EQU held a rally at Queens High School for Teaching on Jan 12, 2012, attended by about 175 people, including several elected officials. The rally got extensive coverage in local papers and on NY 1.

As you may know, LATFOR (The New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment) has since issued its recommendations for new district boundaries. The results are disappointing, to say the least. While all EQU groups remain in the 11th Senatorial District, we are still divided into three NYS Assembly Districts (the 24th, 26th and 33rd). The Creedmoor Civic area remains in the 33rd Assembly District.

The proposed 24th AD, located to our north, is an example of why we need a new way to draw districts. It is a narrow, winding district that stretches from the Nassau County

border to 107th Ave. and 113th St. in Richmond Hill.

Gov Cuomo has threatened to veto some or all of the districts, but so far has not taken any public action.

There will be public hearings throughout New York State over the next few weeks. The Queens hearing took place on Tuesday, February 7, at Queens Borough Hall. This newsletter went to press before the hearing. Members of our civic and others in our area planned to attend and testify. We will provide updates at our next meeting and via e-mail.

Creedmoor Civic members returned letters with over 80 signatures in support of EQU's efforts. Thanks for your interest and support!

Snow?

Maybe we shouldn't mention the "s" word, since we have had such a mild winter so far. But, at the risk of jinxing ourselves, we thought we would list a few items that you might find of interest:

◆ The Department of Sanitation plows streets in the following order of priority: Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary. The following roads in the Creedmoor Civic Association are designated as Primary Roads: Braddock Ave, Gettysburg St, 88th Ave and the south bound Cross Island Parkway Service Road. The map, *(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)*



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Around the Town

❁ **Condolences** to the family of Elsie Aquilino. Elsie was the wife of Barney Aquilino, the President Emeritus of the Rocky Hill Civic Association.

❁ **Congratulations** to the John and Annie Conry of the 88 block of 239 St, who became grandparents for the first time on New Year's Day.

❁ **Congratulations** to the Preet family of the 89 block of 239 St on the birth of their baby.

❁ **Get well to:** Linda Dixon who is improving. Please keep her in your prayers while she recovers.

2011 DUES & DONATION ADDENDA

88 Lyman Narain (dues and donation)

SNOW *(Continued from Page 1)*

along with other weather information, can be found on the Office of Emergency Management's NYC Severe Weather Website. Here's the link:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem/html/nycsevereweather/weather_home.shtml

◆The Department of Sanitation is taking steps to prevent a recurrence of the of disastrous snow removal operations that took place after the Christmas 2010 Blizzard. In the January 21, 2012 edition of the New York Times, an article was published stating that D of S snow removal equipment will be equipped with GPS devices so that their location can be tracked by supervisors.

◆Local Law 28 of 2011, which became effective on August 5, 2011, requires the D of S to prepare and publish detailed snow

plowing and removal plans for each borough. Here's a link to the Queens plan:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dsny/downloads/pdf/2011_2012_Snowplan/QueensSnow.pdf

◆Senator Tony Avella has announced a program to enlist volunteers to assist senior citizens with snow removal. So far, the Shin Kwang Church in Bayside is providing 14 volunteers. More volunteers are being sought, including students. We will provide sign-up forms at our meeting, on our website and by e-mail. Or, call Senator Avella's office at (718) 357-3094. Completed forms can be faxed to his office at (718) 357-3491.

◆As always, remember to clear snow from all fire hydrants. In the event of a fire, seconds count!

(Thanks to Mike Castellano, 1st VP of the Lost Community Civic Association, for information that appears in this article).

President's Message

Redistricting

As this newsletter goes to the printer, we don't know the outcome of the redistricting process. We joined forces with other civic and community groups in Eastern Queens United primarily because we felt we would all get better representation from elected officials. Whether or not we are successful, I believe it is important to express disapproval for the current, highly politicized redistricting methods.

Property Tax Exemptions

Are you receiving all of the property tax exemptions that you are entitled to? These include STAR (school tax relief), Enhanced STAR (additional school tax relief for senior citizens, based on income), Veterans' Exemption, Disabled Homeowners' Exemption and Clergy Exemption. An Application for Exemption must be filed by March 15 for benefits to begin on July 1 of the same year. Find applications and instructions on the NYC Finance website, or pick one up at our monthly meeting.

Holiday Party

A good time was had by all at our annual holiday party, which followed an abbreviated January meeting. Thanks to the many members who brought food and desserts. The hero from Pickles Deli was a big hit. Special thanks to the owners of Saffron Restaurant on Braddock Ave, who donated a tray of food. Finally, thanks to leaders of other civic associations in our area, both for attending our party and for supporting us throughout the year.

Unclaimed Funds

State Assembly Member Barbara Clark and Comptroller Thomas Di Napoli sponsored a financial workshop recently that included included instructions for obtaining money that belongs to individuals but is being held by New York State. Banks, utilities, insurance companies and other businesses are required by state law to surrender inactive accounts to the Office of the State Comptroller. To find out more, visit the **C o m p t r o l l e r ' s w e b s i t e** <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm>, or call 1-800-221-9900 Monday-Friday from 8AM to 4:30PM.

Your neighbor, *Mike O'Keeffe*