

Next meeting: Jan. 14 at 8 PM

Meetings at the Living Hope Christian Church (basement), Braddock Avenue at 241st Street



Creedmoor Civic News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CREEDMOOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
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LITTLE NECK PARKWAY BUS SERVICE IS BACK!

After a two-year cessation of service, bus service has been restored to Little Neck Parkway. This is a victory for the efforts of an ad hoc group of civic leaders known as Eastern Queens United.

The MTA has announced the restoration of bus service along several Queens routes that were eliminated in 2010 due to budget cuts. Effective Jan 7, 2013, roughly every other Q36 will extend its run north on Little Neck Parkway from Jericho Turnpike to the Little Neck rail station of the Long Island Rail Road. Check online for the actual schedule. This service will be provided from Monday to Friday. The Q79 also operated on Saturdays, but alas, that service has not been restored. It saw less patronage than the weekday service.

The proposal of extending the Q36 north on Little Neck Parkway to replace the discontinued Q79 was developed at a meeting of local civic leaders in the board room of Glen Oaks Village Cooperative. Local elected officials have been working on this issue for two years. Eastern Queens United, a coalition of several civic associations including the Creedmoor Civic Association, has actively advocated this solution.

Unlike the old Q79, the Q36 gives riders boarding the bus on Little Neck Parkway a one-bus trip to the F train at 179th St.

This is an important north-south route, and encouraged as many people as possible to use the bus so we don't lose it again in the future. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who have worked to restore this important service.

NOTES ON SUPER STORM SANDY

◆If your sidewalk was damaged as a result of Sandy, it is

important to specifically mention that fact when you call 311 to report the damage. The city will inspect your property, and repairs should be made at no charge.

◆Many NYC residents whose homes sustained damage from Superstorm Sandy got violation notices from the Department of Buildings. It seems that DOB did this in cases where they deemed it necessary for property owners to obtain building permits to repair serious structural damage. Even if the intent of DOB was good, the wording of the violations included the standard warning "...if this violation is not corrected immediately, the property owner is subject to criminal prosecution." This added stress to people who were already reeling from the effects of the storm. The Queens Civic Congress wrote a letter to DOB Commissioner Robert LiMandri objecting to this practice, and requested that standard violations not be issued to victims of future weather-related events.

◆As reported by the Times-Ledger on December 20, 2012, local civic leaders joined Senator Tony Avella for a news conference in December to complain that many of the city-owned trees that fell as a result of Superstorm Sandy had not been maintained by the city, despite repeated requests by homeowners. Avella proposed the establishment of a tree policy review committee made up of independent arborists. He also voiced opposition to the mayor's Million Tree program, saying that, before planting more trees, "The city needs to do a far better job at maintaining the trees that are already planted.

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Creedmoor Update

According to an article in the December 20, 2012 issue of the Queens Chronicle, the Indian Cultural and Community Center (ICCC) has modified its proposal to build senior housing on 4.5 acres that it owns on the Creedmoor Hospital campus. Under the new plan, the size of the two proposed 9 story towers would remain the same, but 143 apartments would be constructed, instead of 126, as originally proposed.

There are ongoing investigations being conducted by the NYS Inspector General and Attorney General to determine whether there was anything improper about the land sale or the development proposal. In addition, the ICCC has requested a waiver from the Board of Standards and Appeals because the property does not front on any mapped city streets.

The project has been opposed by many community groups, including the Creedmoor Civic Association, because its scale is out of character with the community, and because it would have an adverse impact on the immediate neighborhood. It was voted down by Community Board 13 at its October 2011 meeting.

In other news, local civic leaders met on November 28, 2012 with about 40 representatives of agencies that are active on the Creedmoor campuses. NYS Senator Tony Avella, who had requested the meeting to increase involvement between Creedmoor and the surrounding community, also attended. Deputy Inspector Courtesis and

Detective Cooper from the 105th Precinct were present. Issues discussed included reducing the number of 911 calls to the campus, and dealing with spill-over quality of life and criminal activity in the surrounding neighborhoods. Safety improvements on the Creedmoor grounds, including fence repairs and better lighting, were also discussed. The meetings will continue quarterly.

President's Message

January 14, 2013 Meeting/Holiday Party

Please join us for our annual holiday party. This is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors, and to exchange ideas and information in a very informal setting. In addition to home-made food and desserts, we will serve food provided by Pickles Deli, By-the-Slice Pizzeria and Saffron Restaurant. Please bring non-perishable food donations to support the food pantry at the Living Hope Christian Church.

Valley Printing and Engraving

Speaking of local businesses, the ad on the front page of this newsletter features Valley Printing and Engraving, located 241-23 Braddock Ave (second store from 242 St). Joe and Tony have operated at this location for many years. They print several local civic newsletters, including ours. They do a great job for us at a very reasonable cost. Stop in to say hello, or to inquire about their services.

Winter

We got off easy last year, but let's not forget how much snow we got during the 2010-2011 winter. Be prepared with shovels, salt and sand. Help your neighbors, and please remember to clear hydrants that are obstructed by snow.

Zucker Hillside Hospital

The Zucker Hillside Hospital in Glen Oaks has opened a new 115 bed psychiatric hospital. This should be a positive development for our community. Mental health issues are poorly understood, but they affect many families.

Your neighbor, *Mike O'Keeffe*

SANDY (continued from Page 1, Col. 2)

Going forward, there needs to be a concrete plan in place to address this serious problem."

◆Many people are still suffering because of Sandy. Consider volunteering or making a donation.

VAN BUREN HS REUNION PLANNED

The 1973 Graduating Class of Martin Van Buren High School will have a reunion in August, 2013. Please either join their Facebook group called Martin Van Buren 40 year reunion or send contact info to Kirby Lindell at cubby22610@aol.com.

Happy New Year!