

Zoom meeting January, 10 (see details in box)



Creedmoor Civic News

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

JANUARY, 2022

★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★

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CONCRETE PLAZA TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN

A vast, concrete island in front of Martin Van Buren High School in the center of Hillside Avenue, will be dug up and rebuilt as a beautiful park-like setting. Two smaller areas on Winchester Boulevard will be similarly treated.

This is a project spearheaded by the Rocky Hill Civic Association that encompasses the homes around Martin Van Buren High School, (not including the Bell Park Manor Terrace Co-operative which has its own property owners organization.) The New York City Department of Environmental Protection plans to transform seven large concrete medians along Hillside Ave and Winchester Blvd. into green drainage spaces to better manage stormwater and reduce neighborhood flooding. DEP believes this will absorb a minimum of five million gallons of stormwater annually, reducing the burden on the neighborhood's sewer system.



Civic and political leaders kick-off garden project.

This would reduce local flooding and sewage overflows into Jamaica Bay. The project, estimated to cost \$2.5 million, is expected to begin in late 2022 and take about 12 months.

According to the DEP website, "...replacing concrete with native plantings and trees will also lower summer temperatures, improve air quality and provide a habitat for pollinators and other threatened species."

LIVE CIVIC MEETINGS TEMPORARILY CANCELED JOIN US IN A ZOOM MEETING

Borough President Donovan Richards is confirmed to be our guest speaker at the January 10 meeting.



Join the Zoom Meeting at 7:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84384323117>

Meeting ID: 843 8432 3117

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

"Huge concrete road medians have been a blight on our community for decades," said Council Member Barry S. Grodenchik. "Thanks to the advocacy of the Rocky Hill Civic Association and DEP's commitment to green infrastructure, new green spaces will reduce flooding, improve waterways, and beautify the streetscape. Most importantly, they will create a cleaner, greener, healthier environment for local residents."

LINDA LEE ASSUMES COUNCIL OFFICE

Council Member Linda Lee is officially in office. She will occupy the same office used by outgoing Council Member Barry Grodenchik, at 73-03 Bell Boulevard. Oakland Gardens, NY 11364. Phone: 718-468-0137. Fax: 718-468-0178. E-mail: District23@council.nyc.gov Website: <https://council.nyc.gov/linda-lee/>

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Creedmoor Civic is on Facebook! Check it out at

<http://www.facebook.com/creedmoor.civic>

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President's Message

Thanks to our Block Captains, who deliver our newsletter 10 months a year in all kinds of weather! Together, they deliver over nine hundred newsletters each month.

Cars are still being stolen throughout the 105th Precinct, either with the motors running or with keys or key fobs left in the vehicles. While it may be tempting to warm up our cars on cold winter mornings, it's not a good idea to leave cars running unattended with the keys in the vehicle.

We have noticed that cars are being parked directly at fire hydrants, mostly at night. This is very dangerous, as it may cause delays in Fire Department operations. We have alerted the 105th Precinct. If you see a parked car obstructing a hydrant, please report it to 311. Also, don't forget to clear snow from hydrants on your block.

Your neighbor,

Michael O'Keeffe

BELLEROSE HISTORY, CREEDMOOR CIVIC HISTORY, ONE AND THE SAME

On a date still to be determined (probably a Saturday in early June), Creedmoor Civic Association, Inc., will celebrate the 95th year of its founding. A tiny civic, by Queens standards (some claim to cover three zip codes), Creedmoor Civic covers only 25 square blocks. Our little civic has been punching above its weight for years. It has never been dormant, and has an enviable track record for accomplishment. Some of those achievements are forgotten in history such as the de-electrification of the Creedmoor Branch of the Long Island Rail Road, a dangerous freight spur with an unguarded third rail that comprised the northern boundary of our civic, but a more recent achievement that still is obvious is the creation of the Queens County Farm Museum in 1975, the busiest farm museum in the world. Not everyone knows that the creation of this premier Queens cultural institution started with a white paper prepared by Creedmoor Civic Association.

The party will be celebrated, appropriately enough, at the Queens County Farm Museum where we have been celebrating the every-five-year anniversary for the last 40 years or so.

There will be a hot buffet, live music, and if the past can be repeated, a mini-museum of our Civic's history, some awards, local elected officials arriving with proclamations, and in general, a festive, fun time. Stay tuned in this newsletter for developing details.

Creedmoor Civic News TURNS 90

With last month's issue, this newsletter completed 90 years of publication. Founded in 1931, these pages have chronicled the long history of Bellerose, and the Creedmoor Civic Association, another great achievement!

AROUND THE TOWN

Condolences: The 88 block of 241 Street lost two longtime friends recently. On November 20, Anthony "Tony" Crudele passed away at age 83. Tony and his wife, Doris, were married for over 60 years, with more than 50 of those years spent on 241 Street. On December 22, Jaqueline Fiorillo passed away at age 77. Known as "Miss Jackie" to many, Jackie taught at the pre-school in Breininger Park for many years. She and her husband, Frank, were married for 54 years. May both Tony and Jackie Rest in Peace.

AND THE WINNER IS....This month's winner of our remote raffle is the Jecewiz family on 89th Ave. They win a \$20 gift certificate for The Corner Store, the candy store on Braddock Ave and 237th St. Thanks, as always, to the anonymous donor who funds this raffle!

COVID TESTING

The NYS testing location in Queens is at York College Performing Arts Center, at 94-45 Guy R Brewer Blvd, Jamaica, NY 11451. One of our members was impressed by the efficiency of this facility. Use the following link: <https://appointments.bioreference.com/nystatecovidtesting>

The NYC link includes information on CVS, Rite Aid, Pro Health, Walgreens, Quest Diagnostics and other locations: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/coronavirus/get-tested/covid-19-testing.page>