

# Next meeting: Mar. 8 at 8 PM

**Meetings at the Bellerose Baptist Church (basement), Braddock Avenue at 241<sup>st</sup> Street**



## Creedmoor Civic News

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

March, 2010

*"UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN"*

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### ***CIVICS GEAR UP FOR BIENNIAL LUNCHEON***

**The Queens Civic Congress Foundation will host another Civic Luncheon (formerly called Conventions) at Antun's on April 11.**

These are mammoth gatherings of civic leaders from all across the county. They are only held once every two years. The last one in 2008 hosted 220 people including some 23 politicians. This event is so important that politicians who are not even from Queens want to be there. In 2008 the Borough Presidents of Manhattan and Brooklyn showed up!

Of course, Creedmoor Civic will have a large contingent in attendance as we always do.

This year the civic leader who is being honored is our own community leader Richard Hellebrecht of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, and former head of Community Board 13.

New York City Comptroller John Liu is the keynote speaker. Tickets for the four-course lunch of chicken or fish is \$39 if purchased in advance through a civic association that is a member of the Queens Civic Congress. Tickets purchased at the door are \$49. The event begins at 1 PM at Antun's on Springfield Boulevard in Queens Village. April 11 is a Sunday.

Patricia Dolan of the Kew Gardens Hills Civic Association is the new president of the Queens Civic Congress. Paul Kerzner of the Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association is the president of the Queens Civic Congress Foundation. James Trent of the Creedmoor Civic Association is chairman of the Dinner event. The luncheon is sponsored by the Foundation, the tax-exempt educational arm of the Queens Civic Congress. The luncheon in 2008 was a sold-out event. We even had to evict the reporters from the Press Table because it was needed to seat civic leaders. If you plan to come, buy your tickets early. E-mail Jim Trent at [jtrent8830@aol.com](mailto:jtrent8830@aol.com).

### **LET'S SEE WHO REMEMBERS....**



A LIRR freight train pulled by a steam locomotive makes its way from the Main Line onto the Creedmoor Spur in this undated photo. Picture shows the old trestle built in 1932 which crossed Jericho Turnpike at Little Neck Parkway. The spur brought coal to Creedmoor Hospital and to the Frank R. Smith coal silos at what is now Pontiac Street, among other freight clients. The trestle was torn down in the 1980s. The spur was a remnant of the old Central Railroad of Long Island, parts of which still exist serving the Long Island Rail Road. The LIRR celebrated its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year.

Very little freight is hauled on the LIRR anymore. But to revitalize the freight business the LIRR farmed out the work to a little railroad called the New York and Atlantic Railway. It was thought that this privatization effort might yield more business for the LIRR.

### **SANIT CLEANS UP POSTERS**

The Department of Sanitation has reported to us that they have removed 39 illegal posters from street appurtenances. Notices of violation have been issued. The list of locations was given by Creedmoor Civic.









This is the Creedmoor Civic area as it appeared in 1924. The long thin black line running across the top is the Creedmoor Spur. It can be discerned where it branches off into the north heading to Creedmoor Hospital (look by the date 2008 to see where the tracks branch off) . The dark vertical line at the far right is Clintonville Street (equivalent to 244<sup>th</sup> Street) which was obliterated and replaced by the Cross Island Parkway in time for the World's Fair of 1939-40. Our area was known for its nurseries as well as regular vegetable crops. Cottage Gardens nursery was over to the far right and extended into the area now occupied by Martin Van Buren High School and the Bell Park Manor Terrace garden apartments. South of us was the Hallock Nursery. To the east of us in Floral Park was the famous Childs Nursery, the largest nursery in the country, if not the world. They sold stock from a catalog and were known for their flowers. Although all the Childs nursery buildings are gone, Floral Park's streets are named after trees and flowers in remembrance of this once important industry.

## Creedmoor Civic News

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Hospitality arrangements for March.....Mike O'Keeffe

## Around the Town

❁ **On the mend:** We're happy to hear that Board Member Linda Dixon is back on her feet after a lengthy illness.

❁ **Out of business:** Bellerose Plumbing & Heating on Braddock Avenue is out of business and their double-wide store is up for rent. Ditto for Alarum, the security store on Braddock in the 241<sup>st</sup> Street block - also shut down and store for rent.

❁ **Happy anniversary to:** The Queens Village Republican Club which just celebrated its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a dinner-dance at Antun's. It is the oldest surviving Republican Club in America having been founded when our area was all farmland in 1875.

## ELECTION SLATE PROPOSED

The Nominating Committee has presented a slate for the election of all officers and 1/3 of the board of governors. The slate keeps all the existing office holders but fills the vacancy created by the death of Board member Helen Trent with Michael O'Keeffe of 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

However, the members of the civic are permitted to challenge the slate by nominating members in good standing from the floor. Check the names in the box above to see the existing roster of office-holders. Nominations from the floor will be taken at the March meeting. Betty Baumann and Christine Larkins are the two board members whose terms are being proposed for renewal (for three years.)

## President's Message

### Hello Neighbors:

It's always nice to see new faces at our monthly meetings. Nearly every month, we find a resident who's stopping in for the first time even though they've lived in the neighborhood for ten years or more. That's fantastic.

In this month's edition we have an image that I'm very excited about. It was taken from the official NYC website. I've often wondered what our area looked like before all our homes were built. Now I know. I hope some of you could fill us in with some of the details of the few buildings you see on the 1924 aerial view. Is the Creedmoor Rest visible? Can you see the railroad tracks? Good Humor?

I've started to scan some of our old newsletters and place them on the CCA website. I started with a few from 1949. We hope to have many more in the next few months. If anyone is willing to help scan and convert to pdf files, please let me know at 718 464-3369.

The random acts of kindness during this winter season are wonderful to see. To come home to find your walkway shoveled, your trash cans carried from the curb, that's what neighbors are all about. That's what I love about this place.

*Rick Duskiwicz*

## PAID FOR 2009 - ADDENDA

237 Block of 88 Avenue: Fajardo  
236 Block of Braddock Avenue: Pickles Deli  
89 Block of Gettysburg: State Sen. Frank Padavan  
88 Block of 238<sup>th</sup> Street: Sito, Torchon/Engel, Bivona  
89 Block of 238<sup>th</sup> Street: Amos  
88 Block of 239<sup>th</sup> Street: Johnston  
88 Block of 240<sup>th</sup> Street: Vollaro  
89 Block of 240<sup>th</sup> Street: Ramon

## DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS MONTH

88 block Lyman / Soler  
88 block 238 / Bivona  
237 block 88 Ave / Fajardo

Free will donations help to keep our dues low. We appreciate the support of so many members during the year.