

QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS, INC.

The Queens Civic Congressional  
PO. Box 238, Flushing, NY 11363

David Kulick, Editor

Corey Bearak, President



[www.queensciviccongress.org](http://www.queensciviccongress.org)

MARCH 2008

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

## *The Queens Civic Congress*

### *Upcoming Events:*

**Monday March 31 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Zoning Forum: *Unfinished Business***

(see page 5)

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Biennial Luncheon**

(See page 3)

**Sunday May 18, 2008, 9:30 a.m.**

**"Real Property Tax Reform"**

(See page 3)

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### Articles Inside This *Congressional*:

Landmarking Forum Report (page 4)

Dorms at Queens College? (page 4)

Congestion Pricing (page 6)

## President's Message

If you have already done so, please Make Your Luncheon Reservations. April 6 is fast approaching so -- if you have not already made your reservation -- please do so know by contacting Jim Trent at (718) 343-8830 or email, JTrent8830@aol.com. We honor QCC President Emeritus **Sean M. Walsh, Esq.** (*Queens Civic Award for Outstanding Community Service*), **Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance** (*Queens Civic Achievement Award in Preservation*), and **Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces** (*Queens Civic Environment Improvement Award*).

In February we hosted two forums. At our MTA Capital Plan forum which featured its Executive Director/CEO Lee Sander, we announced our own recommendation to fund the plan through a reform of the non-resident income tax lost some years ago. Unlike the old revenue measure which took all the money for the City, this QCC initiative fairly shares the proceeds so the New York suburbs keep what their resident generate and the funds from out of state residents benefit City transit project. More information may be found on our website.

Thank you to Executive VP Patricia Dolan and VP Kathy Masi for pulling together QCC's February 26 Landmarking workshop. See Pat's article for more details on page 4. If you missed this wonderful event, find its informative program posted on our website. We certainly have some "Unfinished Business" when it comes to zoning in Queens. Our March 31 forum will provide helpful information and kicks off a re-doubling of our efforts to move our City fathers to protect our communities. Thank you to Pat for this forum. Pat (Auburndale) and I (Dutch Kills) also visited two of our many civics waiting for long delayed zoning reforms. We need everyone – even those already downzoned – to come out and support those of us "on hold."

On our website, you can view pictures from the first of its kind *Going Green in Queens*. QCC organized this wonderful program its our parks partner, Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces, Partnership for Park and the Parks Department. More people attended this program that parks events in the other boroughs combined.

At our March 31 Executive Committee meeting, we expect to consider a number of items: A rally to support the needed downzonings note above; How to implement a non-partisan rating of candidates for public office based on their responses to our core platform issues ("Five Unispheres"); Working with our friends at Historic Districts Council to develop a questionnaire for candidates on Preservation and related issues (including a "dry run" in the city council special election in western Queens).

QCC recently commented on the City plans to restructure services to our seniors, attended a rally to save the Klein Farm and continues to fight the congestion tax. For more information on these and other items, please visit our website regularly and make sure QCC has your email address to receive timely and useful updates.

Sincerely,

*Corey*

Corey B. Bearak (718-343-6779; Bearak@aol.com)

# QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS FOUNDATION, INC.



*presents its biennial*

## CIVIC CONVENTION AND LUNCHEON

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 at 1 P.M.**

**Guest Speaker: Queens BP Helen Marshall**

*At Antun's Caterers*

*96-43 Springfield Boulevard, Queens Village, L. I.*

*Transportation:* Auto: Cross Island Parkway to Jamaica Avenue Exit (27W), then 1 mile west to Springfield Boulevard. Bus: Q1/Queens Village, Q27, Q36, Q88. Rail: Long Island R.R. to Queens Village Station. Antun's is just steps from bus stops and LIRR Queens Village station. Plenty of free parking next to Antun's.

A convening of all the civic associations in Queens with invitations to all the elected officials in Queens and beyond. Tickets for members of the Civic Congress are \$36.00 if purchased in advance. Member tickets at the door: \$40.00. Non-members in advance are \$40.00, and \$45.00 at the door. Lunch includes a four-course meal of chicken or salmon with beverages. For ticket information and reservations please call James Trent, 718-343-8830 (jtrent8830@aol.com). Special Award Honoree: Sean Walsh, organizer and immediate past president of the Queens Civic Congress. Awards also to Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces, Fred Kress, President; and Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance, Herb Reynolds, Director.

Please note the catering hall will only take a few persons at the door without reservations, therefore it is imperative that you reserve in advance to assure admission.

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Order Form

Civic or Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ [Make checks payable to Queens Civic Congress Foundation.]

Mail to: James Trent, 242-33 90th Avenue, Bellerose Manor, NY 11426-1115  
[We are not mailing out tickets. Your cancelled check is your receipt.]

## Landmark Queens

An all star panel of Queens preservationists and leaders of the NYC landmarking establishment shared their expertise with QCC members at a special QCC workshop in Glendale on January 26. Council Member Jessica Lappin who chairs the Committee on Landmarks, Historic Districts Council executive director Simeon Bankoff and Municipal Arts Society VP Frank Sanchis cautioned that acquiring landmark protection for local neighborhoods is a long slog requiring hard work and community organizing.

Herb Reynolds of the Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance recalled the decade long effort his group mounted that included writing postcards, going door to door to collect neighbors' support and convincing local elected officials to publicly support preservation. Kevin Wolfe, a Douglaston based architect recalled similar efforts on behalf of the Douglaston landmarking.

The panelists agreed that meeting the tremendous challenges involved in preserving neighborhoods is worth the effort.

-Patricia Dolan

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## DORMS AT CUNY?

CUNY has always had the special mission of providing a quality college education for those otherwise unable to afford it. In a time of growing population in New York and an uncertain financial future, this is not the time that Queens College and other CUNY institutions should be building dormitories to compete with top tier schools. Many of us are happy to help support CUNY, but not by supplementing tuition so that money can be spent to place kids in dorms.

Many neighborhoods are struggling with the building of dormitories that are out of character with the neighborhood zoning. The hours that students keep, and the fact that they are away from home for the first time, places a huge burden on working families and that needs to be recognized.

CUNY is a special case. It was never intended to compete with Harvard or Princeton or to compete for out of state students. The economics of dorms means that students willing to pay for a dorm room will always be accepted over one who cannot afford dorms. Since space at these institutions is limited, and Queens College is at capacity, this means that deserving poor students will lose the very education that CUNY was created to provide. If the mission of Queens College is still to provide an education for underserved students, then it doesn't need dorms. If that mission has changed, then perhaps we don't need to subsidize tuition anymore.

-Dave Kulick



# Queens Civic Congress

*Presents*

## *A Special Forum on Zoning & Land Use*

### *Unfinished Business*

*Neighborhoods waiting for re-zoning ♦ New zones to protect the R1 zone (“RIA”) ♦ One-family row houses and single-family occupancy houses on narrow lots ♦ Queens Civic Congress responds to the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) zoning proposals ♦ Neighborhoods that don't get the zoning plan they need ♦ Getting ready for the City Planning Commission ♦ More.*

**Monday, March 31, 2008, 7:30 p.m**

**The Queens Community House/ Kew Gardens Community Center  
80-02 Kew Gardens Road, Suite 202  
at Union Turnpike & Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens, NY 11415**

### *The Panel:*

***Hon. Tony Avella, Chair, City Council Zoning & Franchises Committee***  
***Christopher Collins, Esq., Vice Chair, NYC Board of Standards & Appeals***  
***John Young, Queens Director, Department of City Planning***  
***Sandra Atwell, President, Hollis 11423 Block Association***  
***Paul DiBenedetto, President, Bayside Civic Database;***  
***Henry Euler, Zoning & Housing Chair, Auburndale Improvement Association***  
***Paul Graziano, Independent Urban Planner & President, Historic Districts Council***

### *Moderated by*

***Sean M. Walsh, Esq., QCC Founder/ President Emeritus; Douglaston Civic Association***

### *Chaired by*

***Patricia Dolan, QCC Executive Vice President & President, Kew Gardens Hills Civic Assoc.***

**Doors open at 7:15 p.m.**

To reserve and for info call (718) 343-6779 or (718) 263-1760 or e-mail [bearak@aol.com](mailto:bearak@aol.com)

Photo I.D. required to access building ♦ free parking available on the street & behind Borough Hall ♦ paid parking available in building garage (enter on 80th Road)

[www.queensciviccongress.org](http://www.queensciviccongress.org)

Read the Queens Civic Congress Land Use and Zoning recommendations in our CIVIC 2030 [platform](http://queensciviccongress.org/platform/CIVIC2030.pdf).  
(<http://queensciviccongress.org/platform/CIVIC2030.pdf>) See pages 5 through 8.

Queens Civic Congress gratefully acknowledges the support of the Queens Civic Congress Foundation

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### Queens Civic Congress Calendar

All meetings, excluding Legislative Reception, unless otherwise noted take place at:  
Union Plaza Nursing Home, 33-23 Union Street [five blocks north of Northern Boulevard]

Meetings of the Executive Committee are open to all QCC members and take place at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) If you wish to add an agenda item, please call Corey Bearak (343-6779) or email [Bearak@aol.com](mailto: Bearak@aol.com) at least 24 hours in advance.

*Monday, March 31, 2008, 7:00 p.m.*

#### **Queens Civic Congress Executive Committee**

Queens Community House/ 80-02 Kew Gardens Lane (before zoning forum)

*Monday, May 19, 2008, 6:30 p.m.*

#### **Queens Civic Congress Executive Committee**

Location to be announced

*Monday, June 16, 2008, 8:00 p.m.*

#### **Queens Civic Congress Executive Committee**

Guest Speaker: Council Member Peter F. Vallone, Jr, chair, Committee on Public Safety. Topics: "The lack of Police Officers in our Precincts and its affect on Queens" and "An Update on the Graffiti Wars".

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## Congestion Tax

From Our Transportation Chair Jim Trent:

One more time please contact your Council Member, Assembly Member and State Senator and tell them to stand firm against the Congestion Pricing Tax Scheme. Tell your elected officials: The Straphangers call it "a raw deal," and so should they. Tell your State Senators, State Assembly Members and your Council Members: You do not trust the MTA.

While you are at it, tell the elected officials who represent you that when the MTA keeps one promise – builds a major project on time, as planned and within budget – then maybe you will trust the MTA.

And just how are all the tens of thousands of commuters going to fit on already overcrowded subways, buses, trains, and Staten Island ferries while we wait decades (if not more) for new subway, bus and train lines.

[A possible City Council vote is expected Monday, March 31, the deadline to act according to the governing state law. You can certainly expected the special interest well funded tax pushers to direct a barrage of mail and phones to impose this unfair tax; and by the way the latest outrage, it is only \$8 if you use an E-ZPass; no E-ZPass, pay \$9.00.



# Queens Civic Congress

Presents

## **"Real Property Tax Reform"**

**Sunday May 18, 2008, 9:30 a.m.**

**Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway**

Speakers:

*State Senator **Frank Padavan** (author S.7000A)*

*Assembly Member **Mark Weprin** ("prospects for legislative reform")*

*City Council Finance Chair **David Weprin** ("assessment reform")*

*City Council Environmental Protection Chair **James Gennaro** ("water taxes")*

*President **David Moog**, City Assessors and Appraisers Local 1757, DC37  
("fairness in City Assessment Policies")*

*(in formation)*

Moderator: **Corey B. Bearak, Esq.**, President, Queens Civic Congress

Legislative Forum 2008 Sponsors:

*Queens Civic Congress*

*Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council*

*Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty*

*Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New York*

*Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care & Rehabilitation,*

*Queens Region-Hadassah*

*The Samuel Field Y*

**[In Formation]**

For background on the issue, please look at

[www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2007/2007-03-02 City Council Finance Hearing R-E Assess.pdf](http://www.queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2007/2007-03-02%20City%20Council%20Finance%20Hearing%20R-E%20Assess.pdf)

Program Chairs:

William Rapfogel ("Met Council") & Jack Friedman (NEQJCC)

\*\*\*\*A light FREE breakfast courtesy of Parker Jewish Institute will be served\*\*\*\*

**Admission FREE**

**Advance Reservations Recommended**

**RSVP (718) 225-6750 x247 or email [Bearak@aol.com](mailto: Bearak@aol.com)**

## 2008 Committee Chairs

**Audit** / Phil Ragusa, CPA  
**By Laws** / Albert Greenblatt  
**Aviation & Noise** / Seymour Schwartz  
**City Infrastructure & Capital Program** / Dorothy Woo  
**Community & Civic Outreach** / Robert Harris & Audrey Lucas  
**Community Facilities** / Tyler Cassell  
**Congress Platform** / Richard Hellenbrecht  
**Co-ops & Condos** / Marc Haken  
**Creedmoor Task Force** / Bernard Aquilino  
**Economic Development** / Chris Collett  
**Education** / Edwin Westley  
**Health & Human Services** / Kevin Forrestal  
**Historical Preservation & Landmarking** / Kathy Masi  
**Legislation** / Paul Kerzner  
**Newsletter** / David Kulick  
**Nominations** / Helene Zaro  
**Parks & Cultural Affairs** / Barbara Larkin & Kim Ohanian  
**Planning & Land Use** / Patricia Dolan  
**Public Safety** / Nagassar Ramgarib  
**Tenants & Affordable Housing** / Florence Fisher  
**Transportation** / Jim Trent  
**Zoning & Code Enforcement** / Joseph Amoroso & Harbachan Singh

## Queens Civic Congress Membership

Association of Old Forest Hills ♦ Auburndale Improvement Association ♦ Bayside Civic Database ♦ Bayside Clear-Spring Council ♦ Bayside Hills Civic Association ♦ Bayswater Civic Association ♦ Bay Terrace Community Alliance, Inc. ♦ Bellaire-BellVill Civic Association ♦ Belle Harbor Property Owners Association ♦ Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association ♦ Bellerose Hillside Civic Association ♦ Bell Park Manor Terrace Community Council ♦ Bowne Park Civic Association ♦ Briarwood Community Association ♦ Cambria Heights Civic Association ♦ Civic Association of Utopia Estates ♦ C.O.M.E.T. (Communities of Maspeth-Elmhurst Together) ♦ Concerned Citizens of Laurelton ♦ Cornucopia Society ♦ Creedmoor Civic Association ♦ Deerfield Area Association ♦ Doug-Bay Manor Civic Association ♦ Douglas Manor Association ♦ Douglaston Civic Association ♦ Dutch Kills Civic Association of Long Island City ♦ East Flushing Civic Association ♦ Federated Block Associations of Laurelton ♦ Federation of Civic Associations of Southeast Queens ♦ Floral Park Community Council ♦ Flushing Heights Civic Association ♦ Flushing on the Hill Taxpayers Association ♦ Forest Hills Chamber of Commerce ♦ Forest Hills Crescents Association ♦ Forest Hills-Van Court Association ♦ Fresh Meadows Homeowners Association ♦ Georgetown Mews ♦ Glendale Civic Association of Queens ♦ Glen Oaks Village Owners, Inc. ♦ Greater Astoria Historical Society ♦ Greater Whitestone Taxpayers Civic Association ♦ Harding Heights Civic Association ♦ Hillcrest Estates Civic Association ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #1 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #2 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #3 ♦ Hilltop Village Co-Op #4 ♦ Hollis 11423 Block Association ♦ Hollis Hills Civic Association ♦ Holliswood Civic Association ♦ Hollis Park Gardens Association ♦ Holly Civic Association ♦ Hyde Park Gardens Cooperative ♦ Jackson Heights Beautification Group ♦ Jamaica Estates Association ♦ Jamaica Hill Community Association ♦ Juniper Park Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Civic Association ♦ Kew Gardens Hills Homeowners Association ♦ Kew Gardens Improvement Association ♦ Kissena Park Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Bay Civic Association ♦ Little Neck Pines ♦ Long Island City Alliance ♦ Malba Civic Association ♦ Meadowlark Gardens Owners ♦ Middle Village Property Owners Association ♦ Mitchell Linden Civic Association ♦ Neponsit Property Owners Association ♦ Newtown Civic Association ♦ North Bellerose Civic Association ♦ North Flushing Civic Association ♦ North Hills Estates Civic Association ♦ Northwest Clearview Homeowners Association ♦ Norwood Neighborhood Association ♦ Oakland Terrace/ Gardens Community Council ♦ Off Broadway Homeowners Association ♦ Our Neighborhood Improvement Association ♦ Our Neighbors Civic Association of Ozone Park, Inc. ♦ Parkway Village Historical Society ♦ Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association ♦ Queens Colony Civic Association ♦ Queens Community Civic Corp. ♦ Queens Village Civic Association ♦ Ramblersville-Hawtree Civic Association ♦ Richmond Hill Historical Society ♦ Ridgewood Property Owners and Civic Association ♦ Rockaway Park Homeowners/Residents ♦ Rocky Hill Civic Association ♦ Rosedale Civic Association ♦ Royal Ranch Association. ♦ Southeast Queens Concerned Neighbors ♦ South Ozone Park West Association Civic ♦ Springfield/Rosedale Community Action Association ♦ Station Road Civic Assoc. of Auburndale ♦ Sunnyside Gardens/Harrison Place Homeowners ♦ Surrey Estates Civic Association ♦ Union Turnpike Merchants Association ♦ United Forties Civic Association ♦ United Mutual Veterans Housing, Inc. ♦ Waldheim Neighborhood Association ♦ Wayanda Civic Association ♦ West Cunningham Park Civic Association ♦ Westmoreland Association ♦ Woodside Community Council