

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)

MARCG 2009



VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2

*Queens Civic Congress Open Executive Committee Meeting:*

**Monday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

**DOB Rules \* Parks2009 \* Tolls/Fares/MTA \***

**Union Plaza Nursing Home, 33-23 Union Street [five blocks north of Northern Blvd.]**

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

*Land Use Forum 2009*

*See page 3 for details*

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## President's Message

Dear Members,

Queens Civic Congress continues to advocate for our borough's needs for for intelligent policies and outcomes. From advocating sound alternatives to Fare Hikes and tolls on our free bridges to pushing City Hall to address zoning needs of Queens neighborhoods instead of special interest zoning, Queens Civic Congress speaks out, testifies, forges partnerships and uses state-of-the-art technology to advance our CIVIC2030 agenda. We welcome a new R1-2A zone that we expect should provide similar protections where R2A replaced R2 zones. Our March 30 Forum will help call attention to the zoning and landmarking reforms needed in our neighborhoods. With the Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Queens Civic Congress continues to reach out and make presentations to community boards on our plan to reduce our skyrocketing water and sewer rates. We expect to visit boards in the other boroughs soon. We plan to present to Borough Boards starting in April. Visit [www.queensciviccongress.org/Media](http://www.queensciviccongress.org/Media) for the powerpoint presentation and our 16 point resolution.

### **HEALTH CARE MATTERS – FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT RAISE THEIR VOICES – WE RAISE OURS**

No matter where you might go for hospital care, the closings of St. Johns and Mary Immaculate Hospitals affect you. Queens Civic Congress through its Health and Human Services Committee has been actively engaged with the announced closing of Caritas' St. John's Hospital, Mary Immaculate Hospital and other associated facilities. Real issues that need to addressed include (but are not limited to) replacing the hospital beds, replacing trauma and ER capacity and maintaining 911 service from any lost ambulance runs associated with either hospital. All Queens residents need to be engaged in this cause. The impacts do not stay in the affected communities but extend throughout the borough. Queens Civic Congress appreciates the leadership of our Health and Human Services Chair Kevin Forrestal who represented our coalition throughout this crisis as we continue to monitor the accessibility of quality health care for ALL Queens residents in Queens.

### **USE QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS ON LINE RESOURCES**

Visit [www.queensciviccongress.org](http://www.queensciviccongress.org). Our “meetings” link include events of interest sponsored by member civics and our civic partners. In our “Media” link, we post our statements, letters and testimonies and links and comments on news and issues of concern, and relevant testimonies from others, including our electeds, who support our positions. Please share your information, testimonies and letters so your fellow civic leaders, elected officials and their staff, and members of the media, who follow our website can also view your information.

I hope to see everyone at our March 16 executive committee meeting and March 30 Zoning and Landmarking Forum.

Sincerely,

*Corey*

Corey B. Bearak (718-343-6779; [Bearak@aol.com](mailto:Bearak@aol.com))

# Queens Civic Congress Foundation presents...



## *Land Use Forum 2009*

*Monday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.*

*Kew Gardens Community Center, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road*

*\* New R1-2A Text \**

*\* Getting More Nabes Re-Zoned and/ or Landmarked \**

Last year<sup>1</sup> almost 100 Queens civic leaders met for QCC's inaugural land use forum. The 2008 forum addressed landmarking and historic preservation in Queens.

This year QCC is broadening our scope to underscore the role of zoning in neighborhood preservation--and stabilization. We plan a review of 2008's neighborhood rezonings and a discussion on zoning priorities for 2009. The 2009 forum will include a presentation of the new R1-2A zone, which the Department of City Planning certified on January 20. The rezoning of North Flushing, which is now in ULURP includes areas to be zoned R1-2A.

We will take up the Mayor's promise--in his State of the City address--that Ridgewood will be calendared for landmarking in 2009 and that other Queens neighborhoods will be examined in 2009. We will also hear from neighborhoods that are clamoring for landmarking--including Richmond Hill, parts of Southeast Queens, Jackson Heights (extension), East Elmhurst and Broadway Flushing.

This year's QCC land use event will be held at the Kew Gardens Community Center, 80-02 Kew Gardens Road--just steps from the Union Turnpike E and F subway station. There is parking on the street and nearby in the Borough Hall.

For more information, contact Patricia Dolan, Executive Vice President and Planning and Land Use Chair, Queens Civic Congress (Kew Garden Hills Civic Association), at (718) 263-1760—home; (718) 268-5960x222—work; email: qvhca@nvbb.net.

### **QCC Posts at [www.QueensCivicCongress.org](http://www.QueensCivicCongress.org) on last year's forum:**

2008-03-31 Photos from QCC SPECIAL ZONING & LAND USE FORUM<sup>2</sup>

2008-03-31 QCC SPECIAL ZONING & LAND USE FORUM: Program<sup>3</sup>

2008-03-31 QCC SPECIAL ZONING & LAND USE FORUM<sup>4</sup>

2008-04-03 Civic Leaders Impatient For Zoning Resolution (Queens Chronicle)<sup>5</sup>

1 See: [http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31\\_Zoning\\_Program.pdf](http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31_Zoning_Program.pdf)

2 See: [http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31\\_Zoning\\_Forum-Pics.pdf](http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31_Zoning_Forum-Pics.pdf)

3 See: [http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31\\_Zoning\\_Program.pdf](http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31_Zoning_Program.pdf)

4 See: [http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31\\_Zoning\\_Forum-PR.pdf](http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31_Zoning_Forum-PR.pdf)

5 See: [http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31\\_Zoning\\_Forum-PR.pdf](http://queensciviccongress.org/Media/files/2008/2008-03-31_Zoning_Forum-PR.pdf)

The Going Green in Queens 2009 Planning Committee  
The Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces  
In partnership with [Queens Civic Congress](#)

Announces the

# **GOING GREEN IN QUEENS 2009**

## **Greening, Educational and Networking Conference**

### **Saturday, March 28, 2009**

**11:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
at the**

**Al Oerter Recreational Center  
131-40 Fowler Avenue  
Flushing NY 11355  
(right off College Point Blvd)**

**Easily accessible by:**

**The #7 Train—Shea Stadium /Willets Point Station  
The Q58 Bus - Corner of College Pt. Blvd and And Fowler Avenue  
And by Car - with free ample parking near venue**

Free admission

**Free workshops, free giveaways, free food, fun!**

Please pre-register:

**(718) 343-6779**

or

**[Herr281761@aol.com](mailto:Herr281761@aol.com)**

**Over 50 tablers/exhibits and 10 workshops  
Tours of the new pool building**

**Going Green in Queens 2009 will be great!**

Sponsored by

Citizens Committee for NYC

Partnerships for Parks

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Queens Chapter 31028

With our media partner - The TimesLedger Papers

## Going Green In Queens 2009

by Fred Kress, President, Queens Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces (Queens Civic Congress' Parks Partner)

The largest greening, educational and networking event in Queens is being held on Saturday, March 28, 2009. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a half day of workshops and exhibits at the Al Oerter Recreational Center at 131-40 Fowler Avenue in Flushing. The recreation center is right off College Point Blvd and about one block away from the Home Depot.

Join us for our Green Note Speaker, Susan LaCerte from the Queens Botanical Gardens and over 50 groups including Urban Park Rangers, Citizens Committee for NYC, New York League of Conservation Voters, New Yorkers for Parks, LIC Boathouse, GreenShores NYC, Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy, Friends of Gantry Parks, Queens Civic Congress, The Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces, Recycle Queens, NYC Department of Environmental Conservation, Trees NY, Alley Pond Environmental Center, and over 40 other groups as we exchange ideas and network in a beautiful venue packed with displays, exhibits and lots of fun.

We only ask that you pre-register at either (718) 343-6779 or at [Herr281761@aol.com](mailto:Herr281761@aol.com) so we can have enough resources on hand for everyone. We are also requesting that you wear sneakers or other footwear that does not leave scuff marks and we are using this brand new facility and we want to leave it better than we found it. So make your plans and join us for a most exciting day. No need for money as everything is free and all you need to bring are your ideas, thoughts and an open mind.

We will be collecting used cell phones for our 911 only cell phone recycling program, old eyeglasses and used ink and toner cartridges. Please bring them to help reduce your carbon footprint on the environment. This is an event not to be missed!

## Mayoral Control of NYC Schools: Extend it? End it? Change it?

Monday, February 2, 2009...Shortly after 8:00 p.m. Queens Civic Congress Vice President and Education chair Ed Westley introduced our forum on school governance: a panel moderated by Elizabeth Green, GothamSchools, featuring: Dina Paul Parks, Senior Policy Advisor to Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development; Carmen Alvarez, UFT Vice-President for Special Education & Co-chair, UFT Governance Task Force; Phyliss Bullion, Council of Supervisors & Administrators; Leonie Haimson, Executive Director, Class Size Matters; April Humphrey, Campaign for Better Schools; Rob Caloras, Pres., Dist. 26 Community Education Council. Each panelists briefly introduced themselves and answered questioned posed by the moderator. Questions from the audience including Council Member Bill deBlasio and Member of Congress Anthony Weiner followed. The audience include civic leaders and education advocates, as well as representatives of several electeds: Ann Krzyzanowski for Assembly Education Chair Cathy Nolan, Chief of Staff Ruth Wimpfheimer for Assembly Member Mark Weprin who serves on the Education Committee, Martha Ayon and Martha Taylor for Comptroller Bill Thompson, Marie Ternes and Max Pomeranc of Representative Anthony Wiener's staff, and Jennifer Manley of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit. Thank you to David Bellel who took video<sup>1</sup> of our forum. The first hour covers the panel discussion.<sup>2</sup> The second part includes the Q&A.<sup>3</sup> Both are posted on the "parent blog" of Class Size Matters.<sup>4</sup> Also visit Gotham Schools<sup>5</sup> for more on our forum. Thank you Ed Westley for pulling this together - **Corey**

1 <http://nycpublicschoolparents.blogspot.com/2009/02/debate-on-mayoral-control-check-it-out.html>

2 <http://nycpublicschoolparents.blogspot.com/2009/02/debate-on-mayoral-control-check-it-out.html>

3 <http://nycpublicschoolparents.blogspot.com/2009/02/mayoral-control-forum-part-2.html>

4 <http://www.classsizematters.org/>

5 <http://gothamschools.org/2009/02/03/a-few-updates-on-mayoral-control-debate-video-plus-a-paper/>

## Broadway-Flushing Landmarking Rally, Sunday, March 8, 2009

by Joe Amoroso, QCC Zoning & Code Enforcement co-chair (Kissena Park Civic Association)

At least 200 people showed up early Sunday morning, March 8, many of whom came from neighborhoods far from Broadway-Flushing and Bowne Park to support this very important issue.

Both Councilman Tony Avella and Senator Frank Padavan provided strong statements and promised to continue their fight to get this historic neighborhood landmarked. QCC Landmarks Chair Paul Graziano, a neighborhood resident, President of Historic Districts Council and professional planning consultant, provided all of the documentation and testimony needed for Broadway-Flushing to obtain their Federal and State Historic District status about two years ago.

It seems that the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission finds it difficult to see the value in residential communities in the Boroughs other than Manhattan.

This is not the end for Broadway-Flushing but the beginning of their fight for landmarked status.

*Thanks for helping to promote Broadway-Flushing's landmark rally yesterday at Bowne Park. Given the time, 10 AM on a Sunday, with daylight savings too, it was a great success.....Thanks for all you help.*

*- Sandi Viviani, President, Broadway-Flushing Homeowners*

See also overage in Queens Crap, including a video taken by Christina Wilkinson (Juniper Park Civic Association & Newtown Historical Society):

<http://queenscrap.blogspot.com/2009/03/huge-turnout-at-broadway-flushing-rally.html>

## QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS WELCOMES DOB DELAY IN RULES CUTTING PUBLIC REVIEW OF PROJECTS & DEVELOPMENT

Queens Civic Congress welcomes the NYC Department of Buildings (DOB) delay in proceeding with changes to its system for the public to make building complaints. Following the issues raised by Queens Civic Congress, elected officials including Queens Council Member Tony Avella, Brooklyn Council Member Bill deBlasio and Comptroller William Thompson, and civic advocates from throughout the city, including our partners at the Historic Districts Council, the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and the Municipal Arts Society, the DOB announced that "the launch date for the new process will be moved to mid-April." As the umbrella group of 110 and growing civic organizations, with a membership that represents every community in the borough, Queens Civic Congress welcomes this additional period to allow the Department of Buildings (DOB) to address clear flaws in the process.

In a letter commending Commissioner Robert LiMandri for putting the rules off, Queens Civic Congress noted that the DOB lacks any authority to limit the reporting of illegal activity. In fact, the proposal, if adopted unchanged, clearly creates an immunity for the building community when civics, community members and others with standing challenge in court any dismissal of their examining a complaint. Queens Civic Congress strongly recommends the DOB reform the propose changes to avoid what must be an unintended consequence – that would perpetuate illegal and often hazardous development.

Why risk effectively development activity that fail to follow plans that may be legitimate but the illegality gets exposed after the passage of thirty days? [continued bottom, page 7]

## 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 at least 24 hours in advance.

\*\*\*\*\*Updated 2009 Meeting Schedule\*\*\*\*\*

*Monday, April 20, 2009, 7:30 p.m.*

**Queens Civic Congress Regular meeting featuring Buildings Commissioner LiMandri**

*Sunday, May 17, 2009, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m*

**Legislative Forum 2009: The Race for Mayor** in conjunction with the *New York Post* and Community Newspaper Group (CNG) sponsored by Queens Civic Congress, Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council (in formation) at the Samuel Field Y, 58-20 Little Neck Parkway, Little Neck, NY 11362. Includes Free light breakfast courtesy of Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care & Rehabilitation. RSVP to Gail at (718) 225-6750x247 or email bearak@aol.com)

*Tuesday, May 19, 2009, 8:30 p.m.*

**Queens Civic Congress Regular Meeting and Parks Forum**

co-sponsored by Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces and the Belle Harbor Property Owners Association at PS 114 – the Belle Harbor School, Cronston Avenue and Beach 134 Street in The Rockaways [NOTE: The Belle Harbor Property Owners Association meets at 7:15 p.m. and the QCC Parks Forum follows at 8:30 p.m. ]

*Monday, June 15, 2009, 7:30 p.m.*

**Queens Civic Congress Regular Meeting: City Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan**

\*\*\*Additional special issue meetings and workshops will be announced as they get added to the schedule\*\*\*

### **DOB DELAY IN RULES CUTTING PUBLIC REVIEW** (continued from page 6)

Many illegal condition may not be visible even subsequent to the substantial completion, again after the 30 days are tolled. In addition, concerns remain about the general inability of the DOB to respond timely to inquiries or make files available. A short complaint period thereby delays any reasonable attempt to conduct a due diligence prior to filing a complaint.

As stated in its testimony, Queens Civic Congress generally opposes any statute of limitation type prohibition on complaints beyond the 30 day process outlined in the proposed rules.

Queens Civic Congress looks forward to continuing its dialogue with the DOB and looks forward to Commissioner LiMandri's participation in the April 20 Queens Civic Congress membership meeting as a good opportunity to further explore areas for attention and reform.

## 2009 Committee Chairs

Audit / Phil Ragusa, CPA  
By Laws / Albert Greenblatt  
Aviation & Noise / Richard Hellenbrecht  
City Infrastructure & Capital Program / Dorothy Woo  
Community & Civic Outreach / Robert Harris & Audrey Lucas  
Community Facilities / Tyler Cassell  
Congress Platform / Seymour Schwartz  
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 / Paul Graziano  
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 & Kathy Masi  
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 Elmhurst Corona Civic Association ♦ 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