

# Next meeting: Apr. 11 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

April, 2011

“UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN”

VOL. 80, NO. 4

## NEW P.S.33 SCHOOL YARD TO BE DEDICATED

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 25th at 10 AM for the New PS 33 Playground.




Kiosk showing vintage photos and historical timeline.



View of new school yard behind P.S. 33Q

The new playground, however is already open to the public daily until dusk. It is asked that word be spread about that it is a community effort to keep it clean. The area has seen many changes. In the early decades the back half of the open space behind the school was earth and each class was given a plot to plant flowers.

(See historical pictures on page 4)



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## Creedmoor Civic News

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Hospitality arrangements for April.....Mike O'Keefe

## President's Message

**It's a tough decision to make, but it's time. After serving as your president for nearly 12 years, I've decided to step down and hopefully serve on the board in another capacity. You'll see elsewhere in this newsletter a slate from the nominating committee. This is certainly a board that the community's residents can be proud to have serve them.**

**I'd like to thank the current board for all their assistance these past few years, as well as the block captains who have delivered our newsletter and getting our information out to our members.**

**Please remember to send in your dues for 2011. Your association depends on it for the operating expenses.**

**Hope to see you at the meeting on Monday.**

**Your neighbor,  
Rick Duskwicz**

**DONATIONS RECEIVED - THANK YOU!!**

88<sup>th</sup> Drive: Soldatos  
Braddock Ave, 236 Block: Saffron Cuisine

### **NO 105<sup>th</sup> PRECINCT SPEAKER IN APRIL**

In February, we mentioned that we had Crime Prevention Officer Brian Wimpelberg of the 105th Precinct tentatively scheduled to give a crime prevention presentation at our April meeting. Unfortunately, Monday is his day off, so he will not be coming.

### **NEW LAW GOES INTO EFFECT**

Effective February 16, texting or using a non-hands-free electronic device or phone while driving in NY State will cost you two points on your license, plus the fine.

### **BEWARE OF SCAMMERS**

There have been reports of scammers posing as Con Edison workers to gain access to homes in the Bellerose area. The scammer identifies himself as an inspector and tells the homeowner that he needs to check the boiler or gas main. As the homeowner accompanies the scammer down to the basement, an accomplice enters the home and steals money and jewelry. A former Con Ed inspector said that they work solo, so you should beware of any other person hanging around.

## Around the Town

❁ Last month, CCA mentioned that St. John's student and CCA/Bellerose resident Eugenia Soldatos was competing as a finalist for a Student-in-Service Award.

*"Dear Creedmoor Civic:  
Thank you so much for sharing with the community my scholarship nomination...Your extraordinary support was essential to my top 15 finalists placement...Please share my thanks!  
-Eugenia Soldatos"*

### **Proposed 2011-12 CCA Slate**

Please note that the slate proposed below has not been approved by the membership as the official slate. That will take place at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor can be accepted to challenge the official slate.

President.....Michael O'Keefe  
President Emeritus.....Rose Daddario  
First Vice President/Board Chair.....Rick Duskwicz  
Second Vice President.....Thomas Holt  
Treasurer.....James Trent  
Recording Secretary.....Ann Marie Duskwicz  
Financial Secretary.....Maureen Morris  
Sgt.-at-Arms.....Brian Murphy  
Board of Directors: Class of 2014: Linda Dixon, Janet Murphy

## Bedbug Saga

*(Below is Part II of this two-part story submitted by a member of our Association and printed anonymously...*



...The work from the exterminator was going to take all day with five workers and it was going to cost - GASP - three thousand dollars. That included one return trip, but there was no guarantee. We thanked him and told him we'd think about it.

We didn't have three thousand dollars. What were we going to do?

We really didn't have a choice. We were going to vacuum A LOT and spray the stuff we got at the home center store. In the course of the next several weeks, we incessantly vacuumed the couches and the beds and the carpets and the mouldings and double-checked ourselves before getting into bed. I found one kitchen chair that had two live bugs under the cushion, so my husband unscrewed the cushion and took it apart to clean it out. I wanted him to just throw it out. That was where I must've picked up the bites on my leg.

All this time, we still had no idea of how we got these bedbugs in the first place. Was it at the movie theater? Work? School?

The chair that my daughter brought home from college turned out to be the most likely culprit. So many of her fellow students had sat in it in the last several months that it seemed inevitable that someone would bring one in.

I've seen many pictures and videos of horrible infestations on the internet, so to some, my reaction to the total number of less than a dozen insects may seem extreme. The fact that there really is no chemical that a homeowner could use herself that works all that well, and these creatures can really burrow and hide in some of the tiniest places, made this a very harrowing experience.

My husband and three kids have gotten bit over 120 times. That's not counting the 30 times I've been bitten. Since last August, I found a total of about 12 live bugs, and the parts of maybe another 15. It's hard

to say, this whole part of my life has been a bit of a blur. Last month, after being bite-free for nearly six weeks, my husband got bit four times on his leg and foot. Luckily, he woke up to feel that burning sensation and searched the bed and found the culprit. We've had nothing since.

So, how do we live our lives now? How has this affected us? We won't drop our towels on the floor anymore. I use the hair dryer on my body every night before I go to bed, just in case. We wash and dry our clothes on high for almost every article of clothing. We're constantly shaking our jackets out. I panic as soon as I think I get itchy and feel the need to scratch.

We constantly live in fear of getting bit and starting this whole nightmare all over again. I'm just not sure if we'll ever be totally comfortable in our home again. ■

## Bellerose Business District Changes Alarm Civic Leaders

Leaders of local civics and the Joint Bellerose Business District Development Corporation view with alarm some recent changes in the make-up of the retail businesses in the Jericho Turnpike/Braddock Avenue catchment. In recent months four pawn shops have opened along Jericho Turnpike from 245<sup>th</sup> Street to Little Neck Parkway. Pawn shops only appeal to people whose economic status is so bad they cannot qualify for credit cards.

In addition, the Bellerose Hardware & Paints hardware store located at 247-39 is going out of business, citing a particularly bad winter. He hopes to be out by this June and currently is featuring a major sale of up to 50% off. This is an especially bad loss as this was a well-run store; clean, well ordered, and always seemed to have whatever the customers needed. They also cut glass, and window shades to exact dimensions. There are other stores that are closing as well.



If that weren't all bad enough, the current fiscal crisis of the State has made securing funds for the operation of the Bellerose Business District very problematic. Funding sources from the legislature have almost all dried up. It seems as though much of the work the community has invested in improving the downtown district for the last 15 years is coming undone in the space of one year.

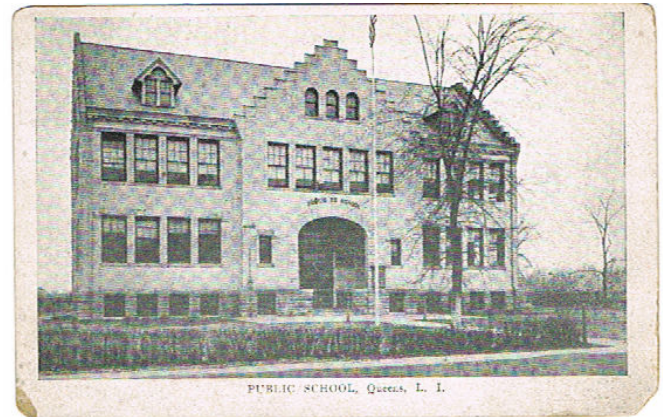


## Old Timey Pictures of Queens Village

While the City is posting old pictures of Queens Village in the revamped playground behind P.S. 33, we thought we'd add our two cents and reproduce some historic photos from the Trent Archives. James Trent is the official historian for Community Board 13, appointed by Borough President Helen Marshall.



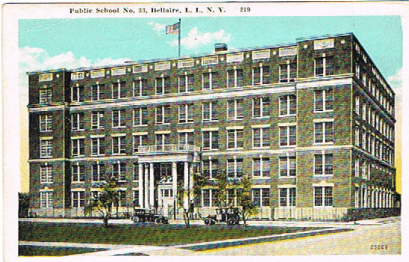
This is presently the rented office of Assembly Member Barbara Clark at 97-01 Springfield Boulevard. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century it was Kissam Insurance. This picture dates from about 1919 when it was used as a branch of the Queens Borough Public Library. The building is currently owned by the King Family, owners of Antun's Caterers.



This is the original P.S. 33, built around 1905. It later became the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct Stationhouse after the new P.S. 33 was built in 1924. The City decided to use the same site for the present 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct Stationhouse built in the 1970s so unfortunately this historic building was demolished. The 105 Precinct was known as the only stationhouse in the City with a birdbath on its front lawn. What a hick town we once were. James Trent was working for the Department of Public Works at the time of the building of the new stationhouse and insisted that the two copper beeches on the front lawn be preserved when the new stationhouse was built.

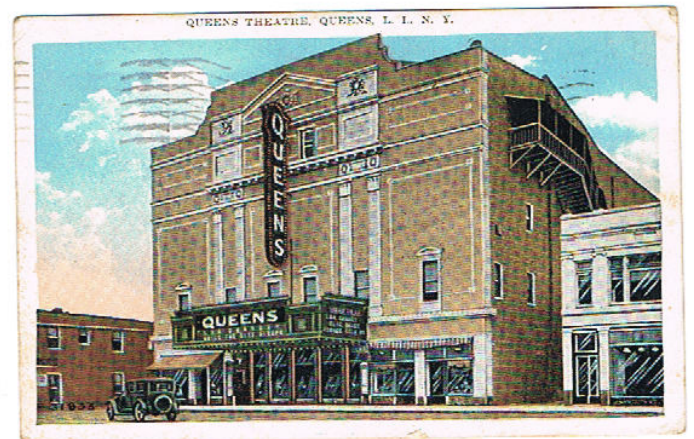


This is the Queens Village Station of the Long Island Rail Road before the right-of-way was elevated. This view is from about 1913. It was taken from 97<sup>th</sup> Avenue looking north (towards Jamaica Avenue, which at that time was called Jericho Turnpike.)



I.S. 109 in Queens Village was built to the same plans but still has most of its colonial balustrade-style parapets.

This is P.S. 33 as it appeared shortly after construction in 1924. In recent years it suffered the loss of the terra cotta ornamented parapets.



The Queens Theatre shown here is from about 1937. This building has suffered a lot over the years. First the parapet was replaced, then the vertical marquee caught fire in the 1960s and was never replaced. Over the years some of the terra cotta ornament fell off and in the last year the facade was covered over with stucco because of the unsafe condition of the terra cotta work. Huntington, L. I. has an identical theater built by the Century chain and is in a better state of preservation.