

# Next meeting: Mar. 13 at 8:00 PM

**This Meeting is held at the Living Hope Christian Church on Braddock Avenue at 241<sup>st</sup> Street**

## Creedmoor Civic News

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

MARCH, 2017 ★ "UNITED EFFORT REAPS UNITED GAIN" ★ Website: [www.creedmoorcivic.org](http://www.creedmoorcivic.org) ★ VOL. 86, NO. 3

### BELLEROSE RESCUE WORKING TO IMPROVE SERVICE

Bellerose Rescue is seeking new members in order to expand the service it provides.

Also, it is now offering a 24/7 emergency dispatch service to any community member who needs emergency ambulance transportation to the hospital. Their number is (718) 464-2424. Bellerose Rescue Vice President Dan Malley explained that a crew from Bellerose Rescue will be dispatched, if available. If there is no crew available, or if the call is for a high priority illness or injury, EMS will be notified.

“There are many benefits to calling Bellerose Rescue for an ambulance,” Malley said, “the most important of which is that they will always try to bring you to the hospital of your choice, provided it is safe to do so. This is perfect for those of you whose doctors are at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn or Winthrop Hospital in Mineola.”



Bellerose Rescue is the current name of Queens Village-Hollis-Bellerose Volunteer Ambulance Corps. They have been serving the neighborhoods of Bellerose, Queens Village and Hollis for nearly 45 years. They offer free sponsorship for EMT training to community members interested in volunteering a minimum of one six (6) hour shift per

week. This is a great opportunity for those interested in going into the healthcare or public safety fields. If you have any questions about their ambulance service or are interested in volunteering, send them an email at [BelleroseRescue@aol.com](mailto:BelleroseRescue@aol.com) or visit their website at [www.BelleroseRescue.com](http://www.BelleroseRescue.com). Dan will speak at our March meeting and answer questions at that time.

*Note: The Creedmoor Civic Association is not advising its members to call Bellerose Rescue instead of calling 911. We present this information as an additional resource.*

**SAVE THE DATE: CREEDMOOR CIVIC  
90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY - MAY 6,**

**1 PM at the Queens County Farm  
Museum. Fun for the whole family.**

**(DETAILS TO FOLLOW NEXT MONTH)**

#### Watch your Con Ed Bill!

By Mike O'Keeffe

My failure to pay attention to my Con Ed bill has cost me quite a bit over the past year or so. Since the electric utilities were deregulated around 2000, we have had the option to buy electricity from Con Edison or from an independent energy services company (ESCO). Most of

(Continued on Page 3)

### BRADDOCK PHARMACY

236-01 BRADDOCK AVE.  
347-1516

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SAT 10:00 - 5:00 PM  
SUN 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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## Creedmoor Civic News

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

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### *Around the Town*

**Our Condolences** to the family of long time resident Frank Williamson who lived in the home of his parents on 242<sup>nd</sup> Street. He died January 26. He was 92. Sadly, he was predeceased by his sister Ruth Fuchs, who died five weeks before on December 10 who formerly lived across the street from him on 242<sup>nd</sup> Street, but moved with her husband to Little Neck decades ago. She was 94.

**Our Condolences to:** the family of Helene Zaro who died February 22 at age 99 at Bell Park Manor Terrace co-op. She was a longtime Queens Village-Bellerose civic leader who was president of School Board 26, a member of Community Board 13, active in the Northeast Queens Jewish Community Council, and a board member of the Queens County Farm Museum. Her daughter, Stephanie Zaro, is a NYC Criminal Courts judge.

**Our Condolences to:** the family of Father William Dulaney, parochial vicar at St. Gregory the Great Church. He was 68. He died February 10 at a local hospital while recuperating from surgery.

**Our Condolences to:** the family of Helen Marshall, former Queens Borough President for 12 years starting in 2002, who died in California at age 87 after a long illness.

### CONSTRUCTION COMING TO P.S. 33

The NYC School Construction Authority (SCA) has notified elected officials and community groups of a construction project at P.S. 33. The work is expected to continue until Spring of 2018, and includes masonry repair,

and replacement of the roof. Some asbestos abatement is also scheduled, which the SCA says will be done by a licensed contractor, under the supervision of DEP and an environmental consulting firm. Work may go on as late as midnight, and will be done on some weekends and holidays.

### *President’s Message*

**We join the parishioners of St Gregory the Great Church in mourning the untimely passing of Fr. Bill Dulaney, who served here as a parish priest since 2007.**

**Along with this newsletter, you should have received a dues envelope addressed to our civic Post Office box. Please send your 2017 dues of \$10.00, along with the coupon printed in this newsletter. Include your current email address if you would like to receive newsletters and other notifications by email.**

**Please note that we have published a slate of officers for the Creedmoor Civic Assn. My thanks go out to those who are so willing to volunteer their services to make this a better community.**

**As the weather improves, let’s take the opportunity to clean up our blocks a bit.**

**Mark your calendars for a couple of May events: On Saturday, May 6, we will celebrate the civic’s 90th Anniversary with a party at the Queens Farm Museum, which was founded by our Treasurer, Jim Trent. On Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 pm, we will have a joint meeting with other local civics at PS-33. We will provide more details on both events over the next few weeks.**

*Your neighbor, Michael O’Keeffe*

### CIVIC READIES FOR NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

As per our Constitution, we hold elections every year for officer positions and two board member positions (board terms three years and are staggered). The slate of candidates is as follows:

President.....Michael O’Keeffe  
 President Emeritus.....Richard Duskwicz  
 First Vice President.....Rosemary Parker  
 Second Vice President.....Thomas Holt  
 Treasurer.....James A. Trent  
 Recording Secretary.....open  
 Financial Secretary.....Maureen Morris  
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Paul Bellisario  
 Board Member Class of 2020.....Amanda Mulcahy  
 Board Member Class of 2020.....John Christy

At this time, there is no candidate for Recording Secretary. At the March 13 meeting, the floor will be opened to nominations for any member in good standing who would like to be considered for any of the above positions. Nominations will be closed at the March meeting and elections will be held at the April meeting.



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## DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS INFORMATION

As spring approaches, homeowners may be considering projects to upgrade their homes. According to NYC laws, a permit from the Department of Buildings (DOB) is required for major alterations. Obtaining a permit now might prevent headaches later.

If you are not sure if your work requires a permit, or if you have any other questions, consider attending Homeowner's Night, an informal session held every Tuesday from 4 pm to 7 pm at the DOB office, located at Queens Borough Hall, at 120-55 Queens Blvd, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Kew Gardens, NY 11424. No appointment is needed. As per the DOB website, topics include:

1. Advice on home construction plans, including the permitting process;
2. Information on how to check a contractor's license status;
3. Guidance on reducing energy costs by weatherizing residences;
4. Instructions on how to resolve Department-issued violations;
5. Recommendations on steps to take before purchasing a home or signing a lease;
6. Direction on how to secure or amend a property's Certificate of Occupancy;
7. Permit guidelines for common home improvements, such as kitchen renovations and backyard shed installation;
8. Guidance on using the Buildings Information System (BIS) to search property history and permit information.

DOB publications state that above ground pools do not require a permit, but NYC Building Code standards apply. See Rule 44 and Section 27-488 through 493. Pools must be 5 feet from the lot line. If property is 25 feet wide or less, a pool must be at least 3 feet from the lot line. A pool must be surrounded by a continuous fence at least 4 feet high, with childproof, self-closing gates. If a fence is metal, it must be grounded to prevent it from becoming electrically charged. Also, no overhead electrical conductors are allowed within 15 feet of the pool.

According to the DOB, a permit is required for a deck. A homeowner may build a deck, but DOB says it must be designed by an engineer or architect. Decks must be 3 feet from the property line, and have railings that are at least 42" high. Spaces between railing components must be less than 5 inches.

The DOB has announced that, effective January 17, 2017, several fee reductions have been made for alterations to one, two and three family dwellings, as required by Local Law 56 of 2016. People who filed applications between June 9, 2016 and January 16, 2017 may be entitled to refunds. For more information, call

212-393-2253 or send an email to [cashreceipts@buildings.nyc.gov](mailto:cashreceipts@buildings.nyc.gov).

CON ED (continued from Page 1)

us have received many mailings and phone calls from ESCO's. Wherever we purchase our power, Con Ed delivers it. The delivery charge can be as much as the cost of the power itself.

Several years ago, I switched to buying electricity and gas from an ESCO. I signed up for a fixed rate that seemed, at the time, to be cheaper than Con Ed's supply charges. At some point over the last several months, my contract with the ESCO expired. They continued to supply my electric power and gas, but charged me a much higher rate for both. I noticed a jump in my monthly utility bills, but I attributed it to increased use. I didn't check the billing details until recently. Con Ed sells energy at a variable rate. From 1/11/17 to 2/10/17, the Con Ed electric cost was 4.88 cents per kilowatt hour (pKh). From 7/12/16 through 8/10/16, the rate was 8.08 cents pKh. My most recent electric rate from the ESCO was 12.89 cents pKh.


I'm not saying that Con Ed will always have the better deal. What I am saying is that people shouldn't switch to a ESCO to save money and then just forget about it. We have to do our homework. If you currently buy electricity or gas from an ESCO, you can compare the cost vs Con Ed's present rates by visiting the Con Ed website. After logging in, visit "ESCO bill comparison tool." According to the chart, my inattention cost me from \$26 to \$50 per month on electricity alone. I also spent too much on gas, but that was not as significant for me since I have oil heat.

If you decide to terminate an ESCO, you must contact them directly. They will inform Con ED. If no other ESCO is chosen, Con ED will take over supplying gas and electricity within one or two billing cycles. If you are currently under contract with an ESCO, there may be penalties for early termination.

For more information, visit [coned.com](http://coned.com), or call 1-800-75-CONED.

### COLLECTION BOX FOR CLOTHES

This Salvation Army clothing collection box is located in the parking lot of the Living Hope Christian Church, on 240 St, across from Braddock Park. The proceeds from Salvation Army boxes go to charitable causes. Many other collection boxes are for profit. Please consider making donations gently used clothing here.

 <b>CROSS COUNTY MEDICAL CARE</b> A Modern Comprehensive Health Care Facility <b>Marie A. Belotte, M.D.</b> Board Certified, Internal Medicine 238-11 Braddock Ave, Bellerose, NY 11426 718.354.8300 fax: 718.347.9100 doctors@ccmconline.net      www.ccmconline.net	Where your health matters	<b>Complete Physical Examination</b>	<b>Imbalance</b>	<b>Pulmonary Function Test</b>
	<b>Heart Diseases</b>	<b>Women's Health</b>	<b>In-house Laboratory</b>	
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<b>Diabetes</b>	<b>Depression</b>	<b>Vaccination</b>		
<b>High Cholesterol</b>	<b>Medical Forms</b>	<b>Tuberculosis Test</b>		
<b>Headaches</b>	<b>Heart Monitor (Holter)</b>	<b>Sleep Apnea</b>		
<b>Dizziness</b>	<b>EKG</b>	<b>E-prescriptions</b>		

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM COMMUNITY BOARD 13 MEETING

The last Community Board 13 meeting took place on February 27. Civic Activist Helene Zaro was remembered, and Inspector Schiff gave a report from the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct (both topics covered elsewhere in this newsletter). Other items of interest:

**Notify NYC:** You can sign up through the Office of Emergency Management to receive emergency alerts by text or phone call, including severe weather, transportation disruptions, missing persons, Public School closing/delay announcements and public health advisories. You can enter up to 5 zip codes in order to get local information for your home, your child's school, a relative's home or a work location. Visit [www.nyc.gov/notifynyc](http://www.nyc.gov/notifynyc).

**CERT:** OEM, Deputy Commissioner Christine O'Farrell discussed New York City Community Emergency Response Teams (NYC CERT). CERT members are dedicated volunteers who help their communities during emergencies. CERT training consists of a 10 week, 30 hour course taught by representatives from the NYPD, FDNY, EMS and the Office of Emergency Management. The next class will be held at LaGuardia Community College. There will be a class closer to our area next fall. OEM can run an additional class if they have 20 or more students signed up.

**Foreclosures:** A representative from Brooklyn Legal Services explained that there is still a foreclosure crisis in Southeast Queens. Springfield Gardens, Rosedale, Laurelton and St. Albans have been particularly hard hit. There is a Foreclosure Prevention clinic at the Queens Civil Court, located at 89-17 Sutphin Blvd, Room 160. Hours of operation are Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 7 pm, and Fridays from 9:30 am to 3:15 pm (first come first served). A citywide Legal Assistance Hotline is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 4pm. Call 917-661-4500.

**Congressman Tom Suozzi** will have a Queens office soon, according to Justin Connor, a Suozzi staff member. In the meantime, call his main office in Huntington at 631-923-4100 for help with veterans' issues or anything else. Or send an email to [suozzi@house.gov](mailto:suozzi@house.gov)

### NEWS FROM THE 105<sup>TH</sup> POLICE PRECINCT

Inspector Schiff reported that total crime in the 105<sup>th</sup> Pct. for the last month was down 7% from last year. Overall crime is down 12% year-to-date, compared to last year.

Assaults were up 36%, mostly due to domestic violence. There

were 14 arrests made in 16 incidents.

Robberies have been a problem, with 16 in the past month. Five of these involved cell phones. Six of these incidents were street crimes, many committed by teens, some as young as 14.

After receiving a report of a woman being dragged outside of 80-15 Langdale St., cops found the location to be a crack house. Large quantities of drugs, guns and ammunition were discovered. Police arrested David Breen and Peter DiFresco at the scene.

There were two shooting incidents, four days apart. Both occurred late at night, on the street, following disputes in two separate bars: The first shooting took place on 2/15 near After Dark, located at 244-01 Merrick Blvd. The second incident happened on 2/19 in front of the Belmont Hotel, across from the Pour House, at 223-01 Hempstead Ave. Inspector Schiff felt that both of these incidents could have been prevented if police were called when the original disputes started. A meeting will take place at the precinct in the near future, involving operators of bars and night clubs.

Inspector Schiff discussed a recent article in the NY Post that said the 105<sup>th</sup> Precinct leads the city in summonses issued for marijuana use. He said that over 1,800 marijuana summonses were issues last year. To put this in perspective, the 105<sup>th</sup> is one of the largest precincts in the city. Also, about 3,000 summonses were issued last year for public consumption of alcohol.

He said that the summonses were appropriate for a few reasons. Public use of marijuana is unlawful, and is often associated with other criminal activity. A summons does not cause an individual to have a permanent criminal record unless the person fails to answer the summons by appearing in court on the appointed date. Failure to appear results in the issuance of a warrant, which makes the offense a misdemeanor. During the same year, marijuana arrests were down 10%, which Insp. Schiff said is consistent with the Mayor's and City Council's intention to decriminalize marijuana use.



✂-----

**Yes, I want to  join  renew my membership in the Creedmoor Civic Association for 2017. Here is my check for \$10.00 made payable to Creedmoor Civic Association, Inc. I am also enclosing an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_**

**Include email if you want timely news as it happens (you will not be flooded with e-mails)**

**Email: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail to Creedmoor Civic Association, P. O. Box 260143, Bellerose Manor, NY 11426. Thanks for your support.**