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Asylum seekers to be housed at Floyd Bennett Field Tent Shelter.

Story on page 12











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Canarsie Courier

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The Recent Floods Should be a Wake-Up Call

By Jibreel Jalloh

Late September brought yet another storm to New York City, and its impact on the neighborhood of Canarsie served as a harsh reminder of the city's vulnerability to extreme weather events. As the waters rose and the streets flooded, it became evident that not enough has been done since Superstorm Sandy to address the city's infrastructure needs. Time is running out, and we must act urgently to protect our communities.

Canarsie, like many other parts of the city, found itself under siege from torrential rains and rising waters. While we can be grateful that no lives were lost this time, it was sheer luck that prevented tragedy. The lessons from Hurricanes Ida and Sandy should have prepared us better, but it's clear that we remain unprepared to manage sudden deluges and protect vulnerable residents, particularly those in illegal basement apartments.

The lack of preparedness was glaringly evident when city emergency officials issued only a travel advisory less than 12 hours before the storm hit. This lack of timely information left many residents unprepared and exposed to the elements. The aftermath of the storm has prompted City Comptroller Brad Lander to investigate New York's ability to manage extreme rainfall, raising crucial questions about our readiness.

The storm exposed a failure to reach vulnerable communities in times of emergency. This failure highlights the urgent need for our city and government at all levels to adapt to extreme weather events and prioritize the safety of all residents. The city must reevaluate its communication strategies to ensure that warnings reach the right people at the right time, especially those with language barriers and limited access to technology.

Furthermore, the storm exposed a failure to address the risks associated with basement apartments, which are often the only affordable housing option for many immigrants and low-income families. Legalizing and regulating these dwellings is essential to flood preparedness, as it would allow for safety measures to be put in place. We cannot continue to ignore this issue and leave these residents vulnerable.

As climate change continues to intensify, New York City will face more frequent and severe weather events. It is crucial that we prepare for the storms of tomorrow, not just those of the past. The recent floods should serve as a wake-up call to our leaders at all levels of government. We need a comprehensive approach to address our infrastructure needs, improve stormwater systems and protect our communities.

We cannot afford to be complacent



any longer. Superstorm Sandy was a warning, and the recent floods are a reminder that we must act swiftly to safeguard our city and its residents. Let's invest in resilient infrastructure, prioritize the safety of all New Yorkers and work together to confront the climate emergency we face. Time is running out, and we must act now to ensure a safer and more secure future for our city.

Jibreel Jalloh created a Canarsie-based advocacy organization that has fought for a range of Investments, including ferry service and anti-gun violence programs. Jibreel graduated from Baruch College (CUNY) and is currently pursuing a master's degree at New York University. He's worked in the office of multiple elected officials including Public Advocate Jumaane Williams and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries. Jibreel is a member of Community Board 18. Learn more at theflossy.org or send him an email at team@theflossy.org.

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

By Bristol Hendrix

Rain did not deter a group of ambitious runners and walkers from participating in the 9th Annual East Brooklyn Walk/Run in Spring Creek Park at Gateway Mall on Saturday, October 7th. The annual event hosted by The East New York Restoration Organization connects members of the East Brooklyn community.

East New York Restoration Organization Executive Director Collette Pean said the event is one of many yearly programs the 11-year-old nonprofit organizes for the community. This run/walk has inspired residents to cultivate their health and wellbeing. Over 600 people registered for the event, including various nonprofits, some registering over 60 individuals.

In the pouring rain, dedicated participants crossed the finish line and received their medals. Keron Alleyne of Black Men Run New York City, an organization founded 10 years ago, told the *Canarsie Courier* that the group's goal is to encourage black men to lead more active lives and improve their health statistics. The group is passionate about ensuring that black men are no longer disproportionately affected by health risks such as heart disease, diabetes and other illnesses.

Councilman Charles Barron was cel-

ebrating his 73rd birthday and completed the race despite the rain. Last year, it took him an hour to complete the 5k; this year, it only took him 45 minutes and 44 seconds. Barron told the *Canarsie Courier* that the mission of this event is to foster community and unity and to demonstrate that East New York is on the rise. He believes this is one way to reinvest resources in the community.

So far, East New York has experienced a revitalization with seven newly renovated parks costing \$70 million, three new \$88 million schools and two libraries, with one more under construction. The \$1.2 billion mixeduse project, Alafia City, to be located on Fountain Avenue and Betts Creek, will span 27 acres, with 2,400 affordable apartments, a 15,000 square foot medical clinic, retail space and green living spaces.

Dionne Grayman and Sheila Gordon, the founders of We Run Brownsville, brought 18 women who trained all year for this race. The group's coach, a triathlete, has been coaching the women since the group's inception in 2015. We Run Brownsville is addressing the inequitable grant process in Brooklyn. With only \$2,200 and 22 women, they initiated a much-needed health and wellness organization using running

as a gateway to help black women improve their overall well-being. Their running clinics operate from spring to fall, with the 5k walk/run as the highlight of the year.

Those who want to start running can participate in any of the groups featured here or you can join the NYRR Open Run every Saturday starting at 9 a.m. in Canarsie Park, at East 88th Street and Seaview Avenue. Visit nyrr.org for more information.





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Marine Park

Street Co-named for Firefighter Who Died on Belt Parkway



Community members and firefighters attending the ceremony.



Family members pulling the sleeve off the new street sign.



The newly co-named street sign in honor of fallen Firefighter Steven Pollard.

By Amanda Salazar

Hundreds of community members, firefighters and family gathered at the corner of East 35th Street and Avenue S on Sunday, October 22nd, to honor fallen Firefighter Steven Pollard, who died on January 6, 2019, at the age of 30 after just a year and a half on the job.

Pollard was a member of the Canarsie firehouse — Ladder 170. He died while rushing to save people involved in a car accident on the Mill Basin Bridge. The fire trucks were on the side of the highway opposite the crash, and Pollard fell 52 feet through the newly-constructed three-foot gap between the east and west lanes of the Belt Parkway while trying to jump to the other side.

Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse sponsored the bill to co-name the street where Pollard grew up in Marine Park.

"Today, we gather here not only to unveil the street

co-naming but to pay tribute to the memory of a true hero," she said at the ceremony. "It is an honor and a privilege to stand before you today, representing our community and our collective gratitude to a man who embodied the very best of us."

A second street sign, this one in FDNY red, proudly declares the corner "Firefighter Steven Pollard Way." Friends and coworkers of the deceased called him a "silent hero" and a "guardian angel" who was dedicated, kind and eager to please but who would never brag about his achievements.

"Four years ago, we lost an outstanding firefighter and a great man," FDNY Chief of Department John Hodgens said. "I did not have the privilege to know Steven, but I have heard of his good spirit, his quiet but determined demeanor, his outstanding work ethic and his lifelong dream of joining the FDNY. He had a true calling and wanted to make a difference in the lives of New Yorkers."



Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse poses with firefighters and family members of Steven Pollard.

Shooting in Playground During School Hours

By Lloyd Mitchell and Linda Steinmuller

An 18-year-old male was shot in the playground of P.S. 173, located at 755 East 100th Street in Canarsie, last week

Officers from the 69th Precinct responded to a 911 call around 10:35 a.m. on Wednesday, October 18th, where they found the victim with a gunshot wound to his back. Police said the young man was with friends at 100% Playground when two individuals approached him. Words were exchanged, and one of the individuals pulled out a firearm, firing off one round. The school was placed on lockdown following the incident

EMS took the 18-year-old, who was conscious and alert, to Kings County Hospital in stable condition, police said.

There are no arrests, and an investigation remains ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this shooting is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers Website at crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/, or on Twitter @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Photo by Lloyd Mitchell











Second Annual Harvest Festival and Apple Orchard

Canarsie Merchants Association hosted its 2nd annual Harvest Festival and Apple Orchard, a celebration of autumn in all its glory that brought together our community for a day filled with fun and seasonal joy.

The first part of the event, the Harvest Festival, ran from 12 to 2 p.m. We partnered with The Campaign Against Hunger to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to the community. Individuals received a \$15 voucher to go shopping at the farm stand. Our merchant member, Steph's Cake Shop, provided bread for sampling pumpkin and apple butter. Our initiative brought the farm stand directly to the heart of Canarsie, creating a convenient and accessible experience for the local community. The farm stand found its temporary home right beside Capital One on Rockaway Parkway and Glenwood Road, which

On Wednesday, October 11th, the allowed Canarsie residents to enjoy a taste of fresh, locally sourced produce without having to travel far.

The second part of the event was the Apple Orchard, which lasted from 4 to 6 p.m. It was a great opportunity for the community to pick from a variety of apples and take them home. Community members personally selected the apples of their choice and enjoyed fall snacks and drinks, including options such as apple cider, donuts, apple pie and apple juice. Fruiggie provided arts and crafts activities for the children. Our partner, Lower East Side Ecology, partnered with us to share composting information with the community. Thank you to Humana for their continued support of our Wellness Wednesdays programming. Overall, this event had something for everyone to enjoy.

Courtesy of the Canarsie Merchants Association







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Kings Plaza

Mall Hosts Job Fair Ahead of Busy Holiday Season

By Brenda Cox

With the holidays fast approaching, retailers at Kings Plaza Mall held an onsite job fair on Thursday, October 19th, hoping to scoop up extra help during the upcoming busy season. The fair attracted a steady stream of candidates, mainly young adults including high school and college students looking for after-school or seasonal employment.

A plethora of recruiters representing Macy's, Burlington, The Cookie House, Pandora, Adidas, Finish Line, Ashley Furniture, Kay Jewelers, Aldo, Windsor, Snipes, Guess, Zales, American Eagle, Forever 21, Hollister Co. + Abercrombie, Cue Beauty, Lovisa, Journeys Kidz, Express, Michael Kors, Victoria's Secret, Champs, Banter and Primark were on hand, prepared to interview and hire candidates who were encouraged to bring their resumes. The openings were in customer service and retail, some at management level.

The event was not limited to retailers at the mall. Outside agencies included FDNY, which advertised positions for Fire Alarm Dispatcher, Fire Protection Inspector, as well as EMT and EMS Trainee, the US Marine Corps, New York National Guard and Community Counseling and Mediation (CCM), which provides assistance mainly to poor, minority and disadvantaged children. "We're a private agency that the City contracted and we provide the youth with employment," explained Caslyn Daniels, a supervisor with CCM. She told the Canarsie Courier that the agency has "sites" at Kings Plaza as well as other areas and that a vast number of their recruits are placed in the Work, Learn and Grow (WLG) and Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

Dawn Simon, Senior Marketing Manager for Kings Plaza Mall, stated, "We hold this job fair annually before the holidays to help retailers find employees."





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Marine Park

Spooky Fun at Marine Park Community Association's Halloween Fall Festival

By Amanda Salazar

Toddlers in dragon costumes, hand-decorated masks, purple origami bats and long rows of small pumpkins. That was the spooky, fun scene at the Hendrick I. Lott House, at 1940 East 36th Street, on Saturday, October 21st, where the Marine Park Community Association (MPCA) and Friends of the Lott House held the 37th annual Halloween Fall Festival.

"We do this to give back to the community and to bring neighbors to meet neighbors," MPCA President Rob Mazzuchin said in an interview. "This brings out all our families."

The festival was a small event held in the spacious yard of the historic house, with creepy decorations hanging from trees and adorning the house's front porch. As Halloween and Disney



music played through speakers, kids could trick-or-treat, go pumpkin picking, decorate Halloween coloring pages and wooden masks, and make origami ghosts, bats and pumpkins.

Members of the NYPD, FDNY, Community Emergency Response Team and the New York Road Runners helped set up and run the event. There was also a raffle, where participants could win \$50 gift certificates to Marine Park Coffee, Dolce Vita and Third & Seven.

"I think it's always important to meet the people in your area," Kimberly, a local mother who came to the event with her toddler, said of the importance of community events. "It's familiar; it's safe and it's clean. It's beautiful in here; they take very good care of it."





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Sheepshead Bay

New IHOP on Avenue U, An American Success Story

By Loretta Chin

Patriotic red, white and blue banners, flags and a grand opening sign outside of IHOP, 2951 Avenue U, signaled the eagerly awaited arrival of Brooklyn's latest addition to the popular franchise restaurant chain as doors opened on July 18th.

"We would like the people of this community to feel that this is a safe, comfortable place to gather together with family and friends," owners Victor and Elizabeth Artieda told the Canarsie Courier.

Victor, 58, came to the United States from Bolivia at the age of 15. He started as a busboy in IHOP's Jackson Heights location and worked his way up to management at the IHOP Ralph Avenue location over 30 years ago.

That is where he met his future wife, Elizabeth, who was born and raised in Marine Park. They eventually purchased their first IHOP in Manhasset, Long Island, followed by another one in Mays Landing, NJ.

Years later, they felt it was time to expand to a third location in Brooklyn. "You have to keep moving," Elizabeth said with a smile.

"My wife grew up in this neighborhood," Victor said. "She attended elementary school two blocks from here, so when a spot was found right here, we could not ask for anything better."

Together with son Dan and daughter Annie, who help manage all three stores with their Brooklyn store managers and other longtime team members, they got the current location up and running quickly.

With over 70 employees, including local youth, staff members speak multiple languages for the diverse clientele.

The restaurant is large and spacious with plenty of free parking. The wraparound windows afford an appealing

view, and there is plenty of bright lighting to highlight Artiedas said. They sponsor ball teams and donate food the cleanliness of the restaurant.

With colorful wall panels and signage throughout, one message reads, "Smiles Guaranteed." Victor prides himself on the training his staff undergoes to garner those smiles.

Pleasing to the senses, soft, upbeat jazz music plays softly in the background. Large, colorful balloons adorn the ceiling and tantalizing aromas permeate the air to create a pleasant and homey atmosphere for customers.

"It's very family oriented and you feel so welcome here," Elle Abramson said. She likes the quality of the takeout, and her coworkers from a nearby dental office love to have breakfast there before they go to work on Sundays.

Customers agree, with many returning for family celebrations of up to 45 people. The menu offers so many choices for breakfast, lunch or dinner that there is something for everyone at great value.

Besides a 55+ menu, seniors get a 50% discount on Wednesdays, 4 to 9 p.m., and a 10% discount on any full-priced item.

In addition to a kid's menu, kids under 12 eat free on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 9 p.m. with the purchase of a full-priced adult entrée.

There is an IHOPPY hour and a rewards program with details on their website at IHOP.com.

For Halloween week, kids can get a free Scary Face Pancake from October 24th to 31st, from 4 to 10 p.m. with adult entrée. The Halloween Costume Contest is on October 29th where customers will vote on the employee with the best costume.

"We would like to get to know our customers by name and make them feel a part of our IHOP family," the

to schools at their other locations and would like to do the same thing here.

The restaurant is easily reached by car or the B3, B44 or B36 bus.



Tatiana Argueta, Anne Marie Artieda, Victor Artieda, Elizabeth Artieda, Lavo D'sa and Daniel Sechiano



IHOP is open, warm and inviting with plenty of lighting and seating.



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Currans ground beef, swiss,

mozzarella, caramelized onions, fried onions, french

FISH SANDWICH 15

coleslaw, chipotle mayo,

thinly sliced filet mignon, melted

swiss, housemade gravy, chips

panko-crusted cod,

brioche bun, chips

FRENCH DIP 16

Currans ground beef,

Currans ground beef,

brioche bun, fries

brioche bun, fries

FRENCH ONION

onion aioli, fries

SOUP BURGER 18

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CRAB CAKES 15

two cakes, smashed avocado, apple and fennel slaw

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buffalo, thai, bbq, or jerk sauce

SHRIMP TACOS 12 III

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TUNA POKE 16

sushi grade tuna, avocado mousse, macadamia nuts

FRIED CALAMARI 16

marinara, buffalo, thai, or jerk sauce

STEAMED MUSSELS 14

marinara, white wine, or fra diavolo

JERK CHICKEN EMPANADAS 13

chicken, pepper jack, Nigel's famous jerk sauce

BUFFALO CHICKEN DIP 16

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HUMMUS 12

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NACHOS 12

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SPINACH & ARTICHOKE DIP 16 grilled pita

PRETZEL STICKS 11

housemade cheese sauce

MAC & CHEESE BALLS 14

marinara

SOUPS

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NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER 8 FRENCH ONION 8

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roasted broccoli, cauliflower puree, grilled corn, balsamic glaze, gremolata sauce

PAN SEARED SCALLOPS 32

over a pea and bacon risotto

white meat chicken, peas.

white meat chicken, peas, carrots, mushrooms, puff pastry

HALF BRICK CHICKEN 26

mashed potatoes, sautéed garlic spinach, white wine butter sauce, hot cherry peppers

FISH & CHIPS 20

beer battered cod, coleslaw, remoulade, fries

FRIED CHICKEN SANDWICH 15

boneless chicken thigh, vinegar slaw, pickles, hot honey, brioche bun, chips

VEGGIE BURGER 15

chickpea patty, tahini sauce, hummus, tomatoes, cucumbers, whole wheat roll, fries

GRILLED CHICKEN WRAP 15

grilled chicken breast, roasted red peppers, fresh mozzarella, pesto aioli, chips

BANH MI CHICKEN BURGER 15

fresh chopped chicken patty, pickled carrots, jalapenos, cilantro, lemongrass & sriracha aioli, fries

MAINS

CHICKEN 6 - SALMONT

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CHICKEN 6 • SALMON 10 SHRIMP 10 • STEAK 10

AVOCADO QUINOA BOWL 16 III

roasted corn & cauliflower, zucchini, tomato, scallions, avocado vinaigrette

CAESAR SALAD 12

housemade croutons, shaved parmesan, tossed in housemade dressing

GREEN GODDESS SALAD 16 65

spinach, cabbage, avocado, broccoli, crispy garbanzo beans, scallions, carrots, corn, tossed in green goddess dressing

TUNA POKE BOWL 20

sushi grade tuna, rice, cucumbers, avocado, pickled onions, carrots, soy vinaigrette, spicy mayo, sriracha, sesame seeds

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filet mignon tips, mixed greens, toasted pita, gorgonzola, tomatoes, red onions, balsamic vinaigrette

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PENNE ALA VODKA 15

SPICY CALABRIAN 22

burrata, calabrian chili oil, basil, pink sauce, balsamic drizzle

HEARTS OF PALM 19 15

pesto cream sauce, asparagus, yellow peppers

VEGETARIAN

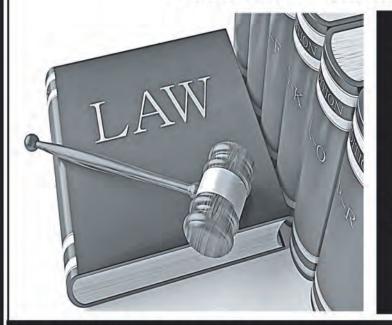
Construction for Migrant Camp Begins While Residents Continue to Fight



Councilwoman Joann Ariola (speaking) with Assemblywoman Jaime Williams, protesting the building of a tent city on federal parkland.

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By Linda Steinmuller with Loretta Chin

Construction of a tent shelter for asylum seekers at Floyd Bennett Field, part of Gateway National Recreation Area, began last week despite public outcry and the fact that federal parkland is not zoned for residential purposes

A spokesperson for the National Parks Service (NPS) confirmed that "NPS and officials from New York state and city governments have finalized a lease for portions of Floyd Bennett Field."

Mayor Eric Adams announced on October 16th that Floyd Bennett Field will open in the coming weeks. Originally planned to house 2,000 single men, the mayor said the site will provide 500 families with children seeking asylum a place to stay in a semi-congregate setting. Privacy dividers with locks will be installed for safety.

Assemblywoman Jaime Williams (D59), Councilwoman Joann Ariola (D32) and Assemblywoman Stacey Pheffer Amato (D23) formed a bipartisan coalition to halt the placement of the migrant shelter on a federal site. Court papers were filed with Richmond County Court on September 18th, but the lawsuit was moved to federal court when lawyers said the case related to federal law. On October 13th, a federal judge sent the case back to state court. On Tuesday night, the assemblywoman learned that the legal team for the city served papers to bring the case before the Appellate Division in Brooklyn.

Floyd Bennett Field is located in a flood zone, and recent heavy rainfall dumped over six inches of rain at the site. In addition, an environmental study was never conducted, and proper infrastructure is not in place at the former aviation field. Asylum seekers could arrive as early as this Sunday.

Assemblywoman Jaime Williams told the *Canarsie Courier*, "There is much confusion regarding what is currently happening in Floyd Bennett Field. Originally, we were told there would be 2,500 single men. Then we were told that number might increase to 7,500 single men. Now some news outlets are reporting that 500 families will be placed there instead! My position has not changed – THIS IS AN UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ANY ADULT, AND IT'S ESPECIALLY UNSAFE FOR CHILDREN!"

In spite of the plea from elected officials and several protests by residents of southeast Brooklyn and the Rockaways, construction is underway. Crews have already erected four large structures within a fenced-in area at the rear of Runway 19. National Water Main Cleaning Co. has been hired to "flush out the manholes, concrete reinforce them and fix the channels down below so it [water] flows nicely," a health and safety specialist for the company told the *Canarsie Courier*.

When asked about the future of Floyd Bennett Field as a recreation site, the NPS spokesperson said that "Floyd Bennett Field will remain accessible to the public while the lease is in place and the Floyd Bennett Field Reveal Initiative is still moving forward."

Assemblywoman Williams remains confident that her court case will be won, and the lease will be revoked. She is calling on her constituents to peacefully protest at the site 24/7 to make their voices loud and clear that a migrant shelter does not belong on our beloved parkland. Demonstrations kicked off on Monday, October 23rd, starting at 4 p.m. To register, visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSebjVJFLYhm5550s1z 4fv-gqBmMh8f946dwyKsINdRK2XSjHg/viewform

Photos by Charles Jones and Loretta Chin



National Water Main Cleaning Co. was hired to flush out manholes at the site (taken 10/18/23)

Jamaica Bay Library Receives \$4 Million in Capital Funding for Improvements

By Brenda Cox

On Tuesday, October 17th, New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse and Brooklyn Deputy Borough President Kim Council held a joint press conference at the Brooklyn Public Library's Jamaica Bay Branch to announce \$4 million in capital funding to improve the library. Speaker Adams and Councilwoman Narcisse allocated \$3 million of the funds while Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso provided the additional \$1 million.

The funds were bestowed to make much-needed improvements to infrastructure and other critical upgrades, such as heating, air conditioning and a roof, at the branch, located at 9727 Seaview Avenue. Adams stated, "Our city's neighborhood libraries serve New Yorkers of all ages and provide critical programs that support our communities. Supporting our libraries remains a priority, and we will continue working with Borough President Reynoso, Brooklyn Public Library, and all stakeholders to champion these beloved community institutions."

The timing of the funding was crucial in avoiding further delays in improvements as well as hours of lost library service, as was experienced in the councilwoman's district. Narcisse, a Canarsie resident whose children frequented Jamaica Bay Library when they were young, stated, "This investment reflects the City Council's dedication to providing our community with a modern, welcoming space for learning and growth. Libraries are at the heart of our neighborhoods, and this project will ensure that residents of all ages have access to valuable resources and opportunities."

Those sentiments were echoed by Borough President Reynoso who announced in a statement, "Public libraries provide essential services that go beyond free access to literature, and we have to nurture them so that they are welcoming, modern and comfortable for everyone. I am proud to have allocated \$1 million in capital funding for infrastructure improvements to the Brooklyn Public Library's Jamaica Bay Branch, and I look forward to continuing to work with Brooklyn Public Library, City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams and Council Member Mercedes Narcisse on supporting these essential community institutions."

BPL President Linda Johnson thanked the benefactors for their generosity. "We extend our sincere thanks to

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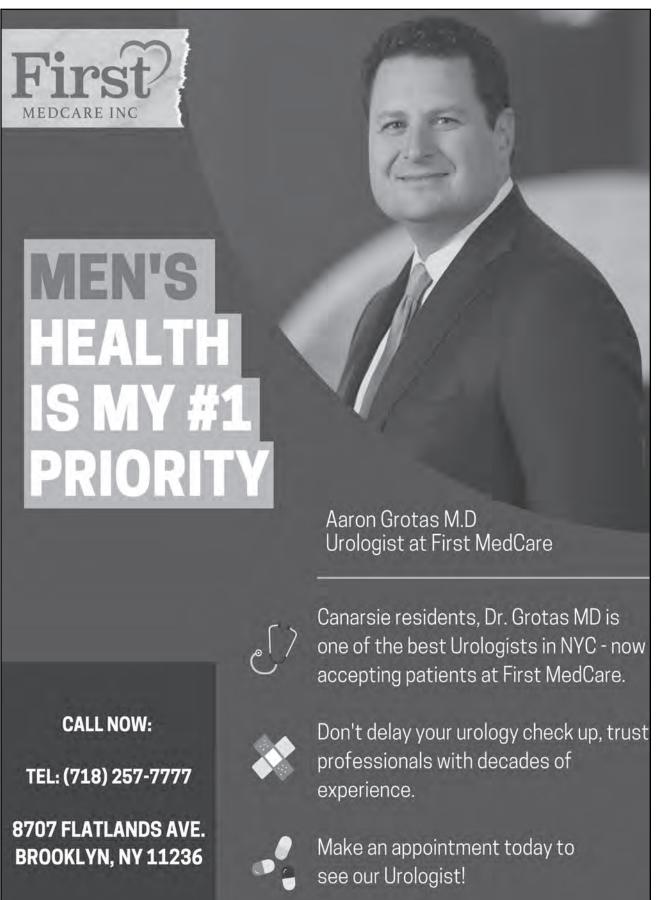


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Council Speaker Adrienne Adams for her leadership and tireless advocacy for this branch and for public libraries all across New York City. We also extend our gratitude to Council Member Narcisse and Borough President Reynoso. Their funding for improvements to the branch will ensure that we continue to provide a safe, welcoming space for generations to come."







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By Amanda Salazar

Assemblywoman Jaime Williams held her third annual Family Fall Festival at the Carmine Carro Community Center in Marine Park to offer local families an afternoon of Halloween fun on Sunday, October 22nd.

"It's creating a safe space for families to come with their children to enjoy," Williams told the *Canarsie Courier*.

Costumed children ran through a makeshift pumpkin patch, while parents snapped photos. A long line for face painting snaked around the event, intersecting with the line for made-to-order balloon animals and swords. Various tables from partnering community organizations gave out candy, hot cocoa, iced tea, coloring books, pencils, rulers and pretzels.

"It's fun for the kids," Marckandy, a father who came with his 4-year-old, said. "The kids love it, so I love it too. When I was a kid, I didn't have the opportunity to come here and enjoy it, so I have to provide it to my daughter, and she loves it."

There were also stands set up with all kinds of games for kids to play, including a miniature fishing game, flip the bottle, cup pong and jumbo Connect 4. Another table had stickers to decorate the pumpkins. Millennium Development led Double Dutch and archery, while the Marine Park Alliance oversaw leaf rubbings.

"I don't think kids get to play outside too much anymore with everyone," Mary, a mother who came with her daughter, said. "It kind of feels very old school and it's nice that they get to meet friends from school and new friends out here that they might see in the playground later, so it's nice."

The event was held in coordination with State Senator Simcha Felder and Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein







Flatbush Pot Shop to Open on Flatbush Avenue

By Linda Steinmuller

Persistent flooding and the first cannabis dispensary in the area were discussed at the October 18th meeting of Community Board 18 (CB18), held virtually and in person, at 1097 Bergen Avenue.

Heavy rains flooded many of the homes in Bergen Beach and the surrounding area on April 28th. Members of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Field Operations personally visited some of the affected homes to investigate damages, and a subsequent Town Hall meeting was held on May 10th. A DEP representative gave a presentation at last week's board meeting as a follow-up to the agency's investigation of problematic flooding in the area.

The rep said that we are experiencing more powerful rain storms. NYC sewers are built to handle 1.5 inches of rain per hour, and storms this year have exceeded that amount. A residential survey revealed that 50% of homeowners have sloped driveways, a factor that contributes to flooding.

The area was inspected using drones on July 19th, and it was determined that there was no major structural damage contributing to the April flooding, caused by a combination of heavy rain and a high tide.

The DEP will conduct an analysis of the existing sewer system in Bergen Beach and will look at engineering alternatives to eliminate flooding in the area. The estimated completion date of the project is August 2024 at a cost of \$430,000.

Residents are advised to take certain precautions to prevent future flooding. They include cleaning debris out of catch basins before a storm, using rain barrels to collect stormwater, disconnecting rain gutters from the sewer and redirecting downspouts away from your home, elevating belongings and using flood sensors.

For intense storms, residents are encouraged to place flood barriers near doors, garages, and basement windows, and to install sump pumps in their homes.

Each year, community members, civic and block associations submit budget requests for review by CB18 for inclusion in the Capital and Expense Budget. The board voted to accept the submissions for Fiscal Year 2025. Requests typically include items such as upgrades to parks, reconstruction of local roadways, etc.

Naomi Hopkins of the Planning and Zoning Committee gave a presentation on the BDD (Business Development District) program at the Ralph Avenue Branch of Ponce Bank. The BDD program encourages the establishment of banking branches where there is a demonstrated need for banking services. It also promotes community development and individual wealth. A grant for the minority-owned community bank would increase the number of "banked residents" in CB18 and increase financial awareness and mastery. The board approved a letter of resolution in support of Ponce Bank's grant application.

Recreational marijuana was legalized in New York in March 2021, but licenses granted by the New York State Office of Cannabis Management have been held up due to lawsuits and bureaucracy.

A new application for an "adult-use retail dispensary premises license" was approved for the Flatbush Pot Shop, located at 2129 Flatbush Avenue (between Avenue N and East 45th Street), the first one ever approved by the board, and a new subcommittee will be created to handle forthcoming applications.

One of the part owners spoke about the dispensary, stating that all cannabis products will be tested and approved by the state. You must be 21 to purchase cannabis, and she assured attendees that her products will not be visible from the street. Security will be provided as well.

Nineteen board members voted in approval of the dispensary, while 11 voted no, with two abstentions.

Not everyone was happy that a marijuana shop will be opening in our community. One board member, who works in a school, said that teenagers are smoking pot in the bathrooms on a daily basis. She said the availability of cannabis is really impacting our schools and questioned how regulations are going to be enforced to keep marijuana out of the hands of minors.

CB18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow gave her monthly report, stating that the 63rd Precinct will be increasing manpower due to the war in Middle East. "Crime is down, mostly shoplifting incidents at Kings Plaza," she said.

Construction on the B82 bus route was set to begin on October 16th, and the construction at Brookdale Hospital is due for completion in fall 2024.

es" on pedestrian ramps have been completed in south



A recently installed detectable warning surface on East 91st Street and Avenue J.

Canarsie. Partnow said that the Department of Design and Construction will begin work on corners in Mill Island in 2024. She also advised that the DOT installed a new traffic signal on Williams Avenue by P.S. 325.

CB18 will be holding its annual Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree on Sunday, October 29th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the board office, 1097 Bergen Avenue.



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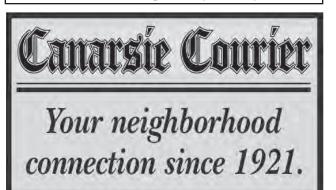


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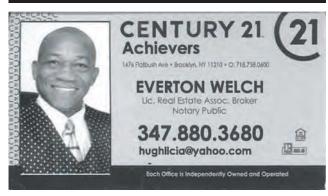
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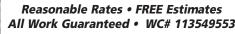


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ESQUINA AVELINO LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/05/2023. Office loc: Kings County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 4404 6th Ave Apt 4B, Brooklyn, NY 11220. Purpose: Any Lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY **COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of E & M Events Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-08-14. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to E & M Events Services LLC: 554 4th Ave APT 4C Brooklyn NY 11215. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Qualification of JM5-BEDFORD LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/09/23. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 05/11/21. Princ. office of LLC: 353 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11211. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Corporation Service Co., 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State of DE, PO Box 898, Dover, DE 19903. Purpose: Hotel management.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY **COMPANY**

Notice of Formation of Star Sitara LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-06-25. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Aankhi Asopa: 786 Macon St Apt 3 Brooklyn NY 11233. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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Notice of Formation of Maria Ross Photography, LLC Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-08-25. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. STATE STREET STE 804 Albany NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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Notice of Formation of VPSBKLYN, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/28/23. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Patrick Sheil, 250 E. Lake Dr., Montauk, NY 11954. Purpose: Any lawful

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY **COMPANY**

A Notice of Formation of 5901 Investor LLC, Art. of Org. filed Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/16/2023. Office location: Kings County. SSNY Designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: The LLC, 878 60th St, 1st Fl, Brooklyn, NY 11220. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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Notice of Formation of Space Audity Productions, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-08-18. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Northwest Registered Agent LLC: 522 W Riverside Ave. Suite N Spokane WA 99201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice of Formation of 72 AVENUE U LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-08-17 Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to David H. Perlman: 72 AVENUE U, Brooklyn, NY 11223 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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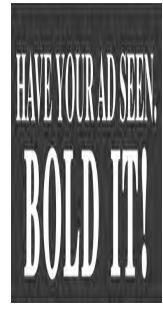
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Flatlands Area: Spacious 1 BR, separate entrance, utilities included, \$1,550. (718) 421-0190 (917) 690-3444

E Flatbush: 1 BR, all utilities included, near transportation, \$1,550. Broker (347) 393-9403

Canarsie: Cozy 1 BR, requires good credit & good income.\$1,500. Broker (917) 326-1471

Old Mill Basin: Renovated 1 BR, rent stabilized, gas included, \$1,800. Patti New World Realty Group (917) 826-7466

Crown Heights: Newly renovated 1 BR, excellent condition, HWFs, \$1,600. Broker (347) 351-4090

Watkins/Livonia: Completely renovated 1 BR, large living room, new appliances, hardwood floors, elevated building, near #3 train, \$1,500. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (631) 994-6006

E Flatbush: 1 BR, 1 bath, close to transportation, Please text (347) 721-6873

Linden Blvd/near Downstate Hospital: Spacious 2 BRs, 2 baths, HWFs, washer/dryer, parking, storage, terrace, new appliances. Broker (917) 312-7775

UNFURNISHED APT

Canarsie: Spacious 2 BR, 2 baths, HWFS, washer/dryer, parking, storage, terrace, New appliances, Broker (917) 312-7775

Canarsie: 2 BRs, newly renovated, Working Section 8 Welcome, \$2,400. Century 21 Achievers (718) 251-6551

Mill Basin/E 53: Newly renovated 2 BRs, HWFS, excellent condition, Broker (347) 351-4090

Canarsie/E 87: Newly renovated 2 BRs, near transportation/shopping, no pets/washing machine. Must be qualified, \$2,200. (347) 645-4486

Canarsie: 2 BRs, 2nd floor, living room, dining room, new kitchen,new bath, porch, no smoking/pets, \$2,700 gas included. NO BROKERS! Text only (646) 894-4780

Crown Heights: 2 BRs, near transportation, tenants pay cooking gas & electricity, \$2,200. (718) 344-4292

Brownsville: 2 BRs, 2nd floor, two blocks from Brookdale Hospital, requires pay stubs, tenants pay all utilities. \$2,500.00. Call Evenings only, No Sundays. (718) 791-4343

E40/Snyder: Spacious 2 BRs, large eat in kitchen, close to transportation, \$1,800. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (631) 994-6006

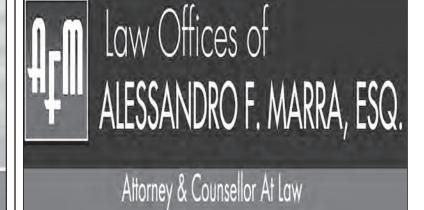
E37/Ave K: Newly renovated 2 1/2 BRs, near transportation/shopping, no smoking/dogs. Call Owner (718) 859-3301

Canarsie: 3 BRs, 1 1/2 bath, 3rd floor, no smoking/pets/washer/dryer, near transportation/shopping, background check & credit required. (347) 632-7685

Canarsie: Newly renovated 3 BRs, 1 1/2 bath, near transportation, \$2,800. M Prints Realty (Leonard) (646) 474-6640

Canarsie/E95/M: Completely renovated 3 BRs, hardwood floors, 2 baths, new appliances, new kitchen, lots of closets, mint condition, near transportation, \$2,950, FHEPS & SECTION 8 ACCEPTED. CurtisChance Realty (718) 859-7300 (631) 994-6006

Williams/Riverdale Ave: Renovated large 3 BRs, hardwood floors, new appliances, lots of closets, \$2,500, FHEPS & SECTION 8 ACCEPTED. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (631) 994-6006



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