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Vol. 104 No. 17 **Thursday, April 25, 2024** **24 Pages \$1**

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Photo by Linda Steinmuller

Story on page 12



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Canarsie Courier

An Independent Newspaper Since 1921

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*Established by Walter S. Patrick and Lester J. Stillwell on April 22, 1921
Reorganized by Walter S. Patrick in 1923*

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Canarsie Courier Publications Inc.
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Canarsie's Housing Woes and the State Budget

By Jibreel Jalloh

Alvin Henry's Canarsie home suffered a collapse due to "subsidence"—the gradual caving in of land. His story, tragically, is not unique in this neighborhood built on filled-in salt marshes. It underscores a crisis not adequately addressed by the state's recently passed \$237 billion budget.

While the budget heralds money for new affordable homes and funding for NYCHA, Canarsie, where the ground beneath is giving way, receives no targeted response. The funds doled out for broader housing initiatives, such as the \$40 million in the Homeowner Protection Program, though necessary, don't speak directly to the needs of those watching their homes crumble due to natural phenomena worsened by human action.

The inadequacy is also stark against the estimated \$80 billion needed to repair NYCHA's capital needs. The budget's \$500 million for new homes on state land is a mere plaster over the cracks of a crisis. As a neighborhood not only facing the immediate physical collapse of homes but also the slow submersion due to rising sea levels, Canarsie requires urgent, targeted intervention that the budget fails to deliver.

The state must look beyond the fiscal year and see the people whose



daily lives are a gamble against a sinking foundation. We need a housing strategy that doesn't just build homes but also ensures they stand on solid ground—literally and figuratively. A strategy that doesn't just protect homeowners from deed theft but from the theft of security, safety and stability.

Where is the state funding that specifically addresses Canarsie's subsidence? Where is the investment in the research and remediation that this crisis necessitates?

In failing to provide for these unique and pressing needs, the budget reveals its shortfalls. We must demand more than a nominal nod to progress. We must call for concrete actions that

affirm every New Yorker's right not just to a house, but to a safe, stable and sustainable home.

Jibreel Jalloh founded 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.

NYPD and Clergy Educate Community on How to Handle an Active Shooting

By Brenda Cox

On Monday, April 15th, the NYPD Community Affairs Bureau, Community Outreach Clergy Unit and Crime Prevention Division hosted a House of Worship Active Shooter and Crime Prevention Presentation at the 69th Precinct, located at 9720 Foster Avenue.

Reverend Cecil Moonsam, president of the 69th Precinct Clergy Council, gave welcoming remarks and stated that the meeting was held in response to "recent shootings." On March 19th, a 19-year-old was shot and killed in front of his home on East 104th Street, in a case of mistaken identity. Moonsam stated, "It's time to stop the shooting. Time to put away the guns. Time to stop the gun violence."

Brief remarks were also made by Community Affairs Deputy Chief Richie Taylor; Captain Dion Hinds, commanding officer of the 69th Precinct; Community Affairs Bureau Inspector Victoria Perry; and Lt. Joseph from the Crime Prevention Division.

The officers spoke about scams, particularly those targeting the elderly, and shared some tips on how to avoid being victims. They explained that scammers could manipulate caller ID's, causing calls to falsely appear as if coming from police, government agencies or utility companies.

They warned that if you receive calls from anyone who instructs you to purchase



Members of the NYPD and 69th Precinct Clergy Council at Active Shooter Presentation on April 15th.

a prepaid gift card, or to make a bank wire transfer to law enforcement for bail, the IRS for owed taxes or to pay your utility company to avoid your services being shut off, you should simply hang up the phone. Gift cards are for gifts, not for payments, they stressed.

Another area on which they focused was Active Shooter and shared tips on how to protect yourself if you are caught in such a situation. They advised to always be aware of where the exits are in any building you're in. Also, when calling 911, be sure to identify yourself and always give as much information as possible—for instance, ethnicity or color of clothing.

Use the ABC—Avoid, Barricade and Confront—method, otherwise called Run, Hide and Fight. At the sound of gunshots, you should immediately run from the area if that can be done safely. Do not worry about

grabbing personal belongings and, if possible, avoid using elevators and escalators.

If you're in a building and the shooter is below you, you should seek refuge above by climbing to as many floors as necessary. Similarly, if the shooter is above you, you should walk down and out of the building with your hands empty and up.

If those options aren't feasible, you should "Barricade" or hide in a secure area, making sure to take cover behind any available large objects. If you're in another room, close the door and block it with large, heavy objects such as furniture, making entry as difficult as possible. Remain low and keep quiet (including phones) so as not to alert the shooter to your location.

If discovered and no other options are available, "Confront" the shooter with all necessary force. If you're with a group, attack as a group.



The Canarsie Courier (USPS 088-040) is published weekly by the Canarsie Courier Publications Inc., 1142 E. 92nd Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11236. Subscriptions are \$20 per year in Brooklyn (\$40 everywhere else). U.S. periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, New York. Postmaster: Send address changes to Canarsie Courier, 1142 E. 92nd Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11236. Subscriptions are nonrefundable and payable in advance. The Canarsie Courier reserves the right to edit, classify, index, or reject any and all material (copy, ads, photos, letters, etc.) not consistent with the policies of this publication. All articles, letters, pictures, advertisements and other materials herein are the exclusive property of Canarsie Courier Publications Inc. and may not be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. All materials contained herein are copyrighted ©2011 by Canarsie Courier Publications Inc. Views of columnists contained herein are their own, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or principles of the owners of the Canarsie Courier. The advertisements in the Canarsie Courier are, to the best of our knowledge, accurate representations of the products and services offered. However, no endorsement by the Canarsie Courier is intended or implied. All ads are read back to the advertiser, who is responsible for checking the published ad after the first insertion. Credit will only be given for the space occupied by the error for the first week. Credit will not be given after first insertion for any reason. Only original contest and sweepstakes coupons will be accepted. Prizes must be claimed in person by the winner no later than 14 days from the date of publication.

Teen Shot in Foot at Bildersee Playground

By Lloyd Mitchell

A teen was shot inside a Canarsie playground over the weekend.

Officers from the 69th Precinct responded to a 911 call where they found the 14-year-old male suffering from a gunshot wound to his left foot around 5:10 p.m. on Sunday, April 21st, inside Bildersee Playground, at East 81st Street and Flatlands Avenue, according to police.

A NYPD spokesperson said the Evidence Collection Unit recovered multiple shell casings at the scene.

EMS rushed the victim to Maimonides Hospital in stable condition.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation is 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.



East Flatbush

Man Gunned Down Outside Apartment Building

By Lloyd Mitchell

Homicide detectives from Brooklyn South are investigating the slaying of a man outside an East Flatbush apartment building on Saturday, April 20th.

Officers from the 67th Precinct responded to a 911 call of shots fired in the vicinity of East 52nd Street

and Clarkson Avenue around 2:10 a.m., where they found Anthony Lancaster, 40, of East Flatbush, with two gunshot wounds to the back and one to the head, police said.

EMS pronounced the victim dead at the scene.

There are no arrests, and an investigation is 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.



Motorcycle Hits Parked Car with Person Inside

By Bristol Hendrix

A motorcyclist lost control of his new bike and hit a parked BMW on Sunday, April 14th, around 8 p.m.

According to neighbors at the crash scene, on East 99th Street, between Avenues L and M, the driver slammed into the parked car, then was thrown off his bike and fell onto the sidewalk.

The owner of the parked car, whose son was in the vehicle at the time of the incident, told the *Canarsie Courier* all he heard was a loud noise, and when he looked up, he saw the motorcycle on the opposite side of the street.

Officers from the 69th Precinct said that the bike wasn't registered and would be towed by a local tow truck company.

The motorcycle driver was taken to Brookdale Hospital. His condition is unknown as of press time.

Police said no charges were being pursued at this time. Neighbors said the driver seemed coherent and was able to speak clearly to the police and to explain how the collision occurred.



East Flatbush

Firefighters Deploy Two Hoses to Knock Down House Fire



Firefighters quickly contained a house fire at 276 East 95th Street on Tuesday, April 16th.

Units received the call around 2:40 p.m. About 60 firefighters arrived at the home, located between Clarkson Avenue and Kings Highway, where they found smoke in the rear of the second floor apartment. Fire Department personnel quickly deployed two hose lines to knock down the main body of fire. There were no injuries, and the fire was placed under control at 3:20 p.m.

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Flatlands

Help Wanted to Keep Serenity Community Garden Growing

By Loretta Chin

Serenity Community Garden (SCG) members gathered together for their first spring meeting on a chilly and blustery Saturday afternoon on April 13th before a wood-burning fire at 4402 Avenue L, rekindling friendships and making plans for the future.

"The highlight of last year was winning first prize in a competition sponsored by Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Borough President and Brooklyn Community Foundation for the greenest block in Brooklyn," SCG co-founder Nebert Jackson said. "This is our pride and joy because we beat out a lot of veteran gardens."

She said that they were at a ceremony at Borough Hall and were given a plaque, which is displayed inside the garden. The garden won first prize for the Best



Serenity Community Garden members gather by the fire for their first meeting of the season.

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Community Garden Streetscape. In addition, SCG was featured on a number of different TV stations, including *Verizon*, *Optimum*, *Spectrum* and *RCN*.

Headed by Paul and Nebert Jackson, SCG has flourished since its founding in 2017. Many of the garden members live nearby and belong to local block and civic associations, churches and schools, but some also travel from other neighborhoods like Marine Park, Midwood and other areas, which makes for interesting conversations about what is happening in their neighborhoods.

Nebert gave an overview of the past year's activities, which included a Brooklyn Queens Land Trust meeting of representatives of other gardens, a successful and well-attended barbecue event, and other social events. There is also a Learning Gardens program for local schoolchildren who come by two days a week in May.

Changing weather patterns made it a challenge last year because it was still too cool in June and some of the plants died and had to be replaced. This year, planting will be done in stages, with more cold-tolerant plants put in the ground first.

Additions to the garden last year included a new pathway and a shed. "We try to keep the garden up as much as possible," Nebert said.

She explained how the garden operated through fundraising efforts, donations and member dues, which also need to be maintained. Members are invited to use the garden and have used it for baby showers, birthday parties, family barbecues or to just read a book and spend time in a peaceful setting.

The garden is strong because of its members and supporters, but it still needs help from more volunteers, increased membership and sustainable funding. For more information, to help out or become a member, visit serenitycommunitygarden.weebly.com/ or email serenitygarden17@yahoo.com.



Nebert and Paul Jackson are the driving force behind the success of the garden.



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Lenox Academy Alumni Launch STEM Essay Contest

By Brenda Cox

Three talented and aspiring teenagers, graduates of M.S. 961 Lenox Academy, located at 100-01 Flatlands Avenue, returned to their alma mater on Tuesday, April 16th, to give back to the school's STEM program. While there, the trio, twin sisters Tarqiya and Raana Forghah, and Mikaela Phillip, spoke to students about STEM literacy and launched an essay contest to inspire students to explore scientific mysteries through writing.

In June 2023, the Forghah sisters and another Lenox alumna, Tamera Simon, co-founded an organization called Genesis.ttr, which is aimed at inciting scientific curiosity in minority, and low-income, youths. Speaking on behalf of the group, Tarqiya told the *Canarsie Courier*, "We chose to develop an organization that specifically helps minority youth uncover the wonder

of science because when we were in middle school, we were the minority youth who didn't have that."

The group, all devout Christians, decided on the intriguing name Genesis.ttr because Genesis "spoke to the beauty and wonder of the creation of God, which we believe the field of science explores," Tarqiya said. The letters "ttr" are the initials of each co-founder's first name.

Tarqiya also stated, "Our vision for Genesis.ttr is to increase representation in STEM. Through this essay contest, we hope to replicate our own transformative experiences with scientific literacy that started in 8th grade and continued through high school."

The essay competition is open to 8th-graders. Winners will receive a week of Ivy League mentorship and an Amazon gift card. "We want to ignite a passion for STEM in young students, increasing their representation in the field and showing other minorities that they, too, can achieve in these areas," she added.

In front of a classroom of 7th- and 8th-graders, the Forghah sisters and Phillip, who is now Genesis.ttr's Vice President, created a lava lamp out of water, oil, an Alka-Seltzer tablet and food coloring – a simple experiment which demonstrated that oil and water do not mix.

As Tarqiya explained, "Well, oil has molecules that are considered nonpolar. Nonpolar molecules have negatively charged electrons that are evenly distributed throughout that molecule, contributing to its hydrophobic or water-fearing nature. Now water is a polar molecule, meaning that electrons are unevenly distributed within H₂O, which allows water molecules to be attracted to each other and other polar substances. Nonpolar molecules are only attracted to other nonpolar molecules, and polar is only attracted to polar."

To further clarify the process, she added, "In the lava lamp experiment when the oil was poured in the water, the polar-polar and nonpolar-nonpolar relationships were displayed as the oil and water maintained their attraction to each other. The Alka-Seltzer tablet, as many of the Lenox Academy students pointed out, acted "as a catalyst" as it distributed the water molecules (the spherical blobs) throughout the oil."

Raana added, "Access is crucial because you can't be passionate about what you don't know. With Genesis.ttr, we're striving to provide the necessary resources and access to STEM fields, allowing middle schoolers to discover and potentially pursue these areas in the future."

As added encouragement, the group had the students participate in a contest where the winner won a STEM kit.

The Forghah sisters are seniors at Leon M. Goldstein High School for the Sciences. Phillip, also a senior, attends Baruch College Campus High School while Simon, who lives in Georgia, is a senior at Mundy's Mill High School.



Contest winner, 8th-grader, Malia Goddard, holding prize, surrounded by Genesis.ttr members Mikaela Phillip and Tarqiya and Raana Forghah.

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Genesis.ttr members Tarqiya Forghah, Raana Forghah and Mikaela Phillip address students at the launching of STEM Essay Contest.

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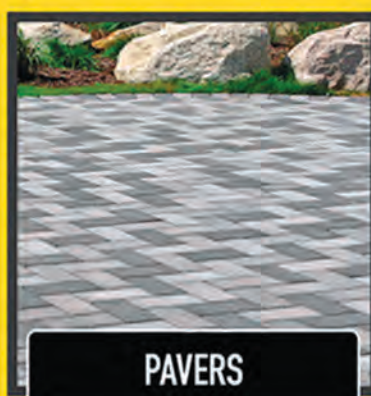
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Flatlands

Final Fix Needed for Basketball Nets at Fox Playground

By Loretta Chin

Maybe, as the saying goes, the third time is the charm to finally fix those tattered basketball nets that appear to last a few months each time they are replaced at Fox Playground, located at Avenue H and East 54th Street.

A ribbon-cutting event took place last October to celebrate the renovation of the basketball court with \$1.4 million from the Joe and Clara Tsai Foundation's Social Justice Fund's racial justice initiative.

In addition to improved playing surfaces covered in vibrant murals, and Brooklyn Basketball banners along the fence line, new rims, nets and backboards were installed to complete the effect of a much-improved court space for the community.

Local children relished playing on the new courts, so much so that the nets became frayed and had to be replaced only three months later in January, showing commitment by the Parks Department to maintain the space, which is only one of 1,800 basketball courts they are responsible for citywide (see "Flatlands – Fox Playground Redux – Oh, Those Nets!", *Canarsie Courier*, February 8, 2024).

But once again, three out of four torn and dangling nets were seen during a recent trip to Fox Playground in late March.

A lone teenager, who lived down the block and asked to go by his nickname,

Tah, was playing on the one basketball hoop that had an intact net. He told the *Canarsie Courier* that a kid had climbed up there and replaced the net himself with a sturdier one.

He said that before the renovation, there were double-rimmed hoops and the nets were perfectly fine, but the courts were horrible.

"The courts needed to be fixed; there were cracks everywhere," he said. "They added triple rims and I don't know if the nets just fell off – I don't know."

He said he was thinking about asking the Parks Department if he could get chain nets and put them on himself because then they wouldn't come off. He also thought they should not continue to use the thin nylon nets that they have been using and should use a more durable replacement.

"It's a nice court," Tah said. "I just wish they would focus more on fixing it because [otherwise,] it's perfect the way it is."



This replacement net, installed in January, is broken once again.

Community Board Approves Redesign of Canarsie Library

By Linda Steinmuller

Details on the redesign of Canarsie Library, an outpatient addiction treatment clinic and two cannabis dispensaries were discussed at the April 17th meeting of Community Board 18 (CB18).

Sallie Bennett, chairperson of the Libraries and Education Committee, gave an update on the redesign of Canarsie Library, which has been at its present location, 1580 Rockaway Parkway, since 1960.

The new state-of-the-art building will double the public square to almost 8,000 square feet, adding a second floor. The redesign of the outdated building will include a children's reading room (complete with stroller parking), a large meeting room, a recording studio and an outdoor terrace on the second floor.

Harold Jones, president of CCDI and an engineer, was instrumental in the planning stages of the library. When Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Committee Tomas Hernandez, Jr. expressed concerns about zoning requirements, Jones said he initially shared the same concerns but was informed that "because the footprint of the new design is the same" (meaning the building is expanding upward), zoning is not an issue and the building is "as of right."

The board voted unanimously to approve the proposal.

A vacant building that once housed Canarsie Aware, Inc. will be the site for a new outpatient addiction treatment clinic. Megan Kleinman, a clinical social worker and one of the directors at Interborough Developmental and Consultation Center (IDCC), gave a presentation on plans for IDCC to offer Integrated Outpatient Services at 1285 Rockaway Parkway.

IDCC was established over 20 years ago and is one of the largest Brooklyn-based mental health providers. "Interborough wants to expand services into the Canarsie community," Kleinman said. With five clinics in NYC, they provide mental health services, care coordination, primary care, trauma services, geriatric services, veterans services and more. She said they also have 40 school-based programs, which provide both individual and group therapy.

They currently have a location in the St. Jude Medical Center, at 9413 Flatlands Avenue, but want to bring all their services under one roof, Kleinman said. The agency is in the process of securing grants to renovate the interior of the building and are planning to get up and running as soon as possible.

In her monthly report, CB18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow advised attendees that there will be lane closures along Kings Highway while new medians are added as part of the construction of the B82 route, and DDC is working to avoid water shutdowns.

Sanitation requested cameras at Hendrickson Street, between Avenues U and V, and by Hendrickson Place, due to garbage and boat trailer dumping.

Additional traffic signals will be installed at the intersection of Avenue D and East 89th Street.

DOT engineers conducted a study of severely curved streets in Mill Island, following a request for street signs identifying the curves, but concluded that the streets did not "meet the warrant for curve warning signs."

Two applications for an adult-use retail dispensary premises license were reviewed by the SLA and Cannabis Committee and voted on at last week's meeting.

The board approved Fireleaf, LLC, located at 2102 Ralph Avenue (across from IHOP) and Nycecity Corp., d/b/a Society House, located at 2441 Flatbush Avenue (near FedEx). Both establishments will be located in business districts and will operate seven days per week, closing at 10 p.m.

Chairperson Paul Curiale emphasized that the owners of both businesses, who were in attendance, have already been approved for retail licenses. "We are voting on the premises that they have chosen for their license, not the license."

The next meeting of CB18 will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15th, at 1097 Bergen Avenue, as well as virtually.



This vacant building at 1285 Rockaway Parkway will be the future home of an outpatient addiction treatment clinic.

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The Journey from Hate to Humanity: Insights from a Former Neo-Nazi Leader

By Robert Pearl

In the midst of escalating antisemitic sentiments and hate-fueled demonstrations on college campuses, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's presentation on April 15th, hosted by the Hebrew Educational Society (H.E.S.), at 9502 Seaview Avenue, provided a beacon of hope and resilience against the dark specter of intolerance.

The Community Forum served as a vital platform for examining the pervasive impact of hate on our communities and fostering proactive measures for hate crimes prevention. With a focus on the digital landscape's role in propagating terrorism and intolerance, the forum featured insights from the Center's experts on combating online hate, particularly among young people.

Michael Cohen, Director of the Wiesenthal Center's Eastern Region, underscored the urgent need to address the rampant dissemination of hate speech on social media platforms. "With the rise of social media, hate and intolerance find easy breeding grounds, providing disgruntled individuals with a platform for their venomous ideologies," he emphasized.



Jeff Schoep, former neo-Nazi leader, shares his transition from hate to humanity.

A highlight of the event was a poignant presentation by Jeff Schoep, a former leader of a neo-Nazi group, whose remarkable journey from hate to redemption captivated attendees. Schoep shared his transformative experience, describing his departure from the extremist movement as a profound awakening. "I could no longer be part of something I no longer believed in," he recounted. His narrative, once steeped in bigotry, now serves as a powerful testament to the possibility of change and renewal.

Transitioning from a life entrenched in hate to becoming a fervent advocate for deradicalization, Schoep emphasized the importance of reconnecting with humanity. "For every extremist I help exit, there are potentially thousands who won't become their victims," he affirmed, highlighting the ripple effect of his efforts in dismantling hate networks.

Schoep's exit from the hate group, after 25 years, came through a most remarkable meeting with an African-American jazz musician, who played with the likes of Little Richard, Chuck Berry and Elvis Presley. Daryl Davis, now a prominent advocate for racial reconciliation, helped over 200 Klansmen leave these radical associations. Working together now, both Schoep and Davis exemplify the transformative power of dialogue in dismantling extremist ideologies. Through respectful engagement and empathy, they have facilitated the departure of numerous individuals from hate groups, underscoring the profound impact of human connection in fostering understanding and tolerance.

Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, who helped sponsor the forum, echoed the sentiment of unity and resilience, emphasizing the imperative of confronting hate in all its forms. "We cannot afford to harbor spaces for hate. Hate is not acceptable anywhere," she declared, emphasizing the need for candid conversations in fostering more love than hate in our diverse society.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance project, aimed at empowering youth to recognize and reject online hate, stands as a testament to the organization's commitment to fostering a more tolerant society. Through dynamic workshops and educational initiatives, the Center has reached over 30,000 students, equipping them with the tools to combat bigotry and prejudice.

Schoep has since founded Beyond Barriers, a nonprofit organization, dedicated to countering and preventing extremism, that collaborates with the Simon Wiesenthal Center on these initiatives to change hate through humanization.

As hate continues to proliferate in the digital sphere and beyond, voices of reconciliation and understanding, such as Jeff Schoep's, serve as powerful antidotes to the rising tide of intolerance. In the face of mounting challenges, the mission of the Simon Wiesenthal Center remains steadfast: to combat hate through education, empowerment, dialogue and human connection.

To explore more about the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance project, and learn more about their programs, exhibits, events and education, visit museu-moftolerance.com/



Michael Cohen, Director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Eastern region.

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Empire State Local News Coalition Celebrates Inclusion of \$90 Million Local Media Tax Credit in Final FY 2025 New York State Budget

First-in-the-nation bill incentivizes the retention and hiring of local journalists

On April 20th, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature unveiled the final state budget, including a payroll tax credit for local news outlets, modeled on the Local Journalism Sustainability Act, in the sweeping package. With the passage of this bill, New York is now the first state in the nation to incentivize hiring and retaining local journalists. This game changer for the local news industry comes just months after the launch of the Empire State Local News Coalition, an unprecedented, grassroots campaign powered by more than 200 community newspapers across the state.

Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, the Senate bill sponsor, said: “I’m elated that our first-in-the-nation Local Journalism Sustainability Act is passing in the state budget. A thriving local news industry is vital to the health of our democracy and it’s our responsibility to help ensure New Yorkers have access to independent and community-focused journalism. Thank you to Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Governor Hochul, our Assembly Sponsor Woerner and the over 200 local publications of the Empire State Local News Coalition who helped pass our bill. Our efforts will help ensure that our democracy will not die in darkness.”

The program—\$30 million per year for three years—allows each eligible newspaper and broadcast business to receive a 50% refundable tax credit against the first \$50,000 of an employee’s salary, up to a total of \$300,000 per business. Four million dollars will be allocated to incentivize print and broadcast businesses to hire new journalists. The remaining \$26 million will be split evenly between businesses with fewer than 100 employees and those with more than 100 employees, ensuring that hyperlocal, independent news organizations have a fair shot at access to these funds.

After stalling for years, the Local Journalism Sustainability Act catapulted into a top legislative priority this session following the early-2024 founding of the Empire State Local News Coalition and the coalition’s mobilization of support from hundreds of New York hometown papers as well as a broad range of stakeholders from around the country, including the Rebuild Local News Coalition, Microsoft and El Diario. Organized labor including NYS AFL-CIO, CWA District 1 and national and local news guilds also played a critical role in mobilizing support for this historic bill.

“The Empire State Local News Coalition is thrilled by the state budget’s inclusion of a payroll tax credit for local news outlets modeled on the Local Journalism Sustainability Act. New York is now the first state in the nation to incentivize hiring and retaining local journalists—a critical investment given that hundreds of New York’s newspapers have closed since 2004, leaving too many New York communities without access to vital local information. The objectivity of this credit shows that there is a fair way for public policy to support local news without jeopardizing journalistic integrity. This program is a model for other states across the U.S. to follow as communities across the country raise their voices to save local news,” said **Zachary Richner, founder of the Empire State Local News Coalition.**

“We’re incredibly proud of the 200 newspapers in our coalition, which built an unprecedented grassroots movement in support of saving New York’s local news industry in a few short months. We’re especially grateful to Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, whose tireless advocacy for this tax credit was instrumental in moving it through the legislative process. The coalition thanks Governor Hochul, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, Assembly Sponsor Carrie Woerner

and the entire legislature for supporting this industry-saving policy, and we look forward to continuing our advocacy for local news in the years to come,” Richner continued. “Other states and stakeholders interested in replicating this playbook and hearing about lessons learned should reach out to us at info@savenylocalnews.com.”

Since launching in February, the coalition has quickly mobilized stakeholders across the state to rally behind the bill. In addition to rallying with grassroots advocates in Westchester and Albany, members led petition drives, letter-writing campaigns, editorials and advertisements sounding the alarm on the decline of local journalism.

New York’s leadership on this issue could change

the course of local journalism in the U.S. The budget’s inclusion of this tax credit comes at a watershed moment for the journalism industry: New York State has experienced hundreds of newspaper closures in the past few decades.

About the Empire State Local News Coalition

Comprising more than 200 print and online newspapers, the Empire State Local News Coalition launched in 2024 to advocate for sound public policy that ensures the important work of local news organizations can continue across New York state. Through our independent journalism, we aim to serve, inform, uplift and protect New Yorkers. We care deeply about our local communities as well as the future of New York’s free press. For more information, visit SaveNYLocalNews.com.

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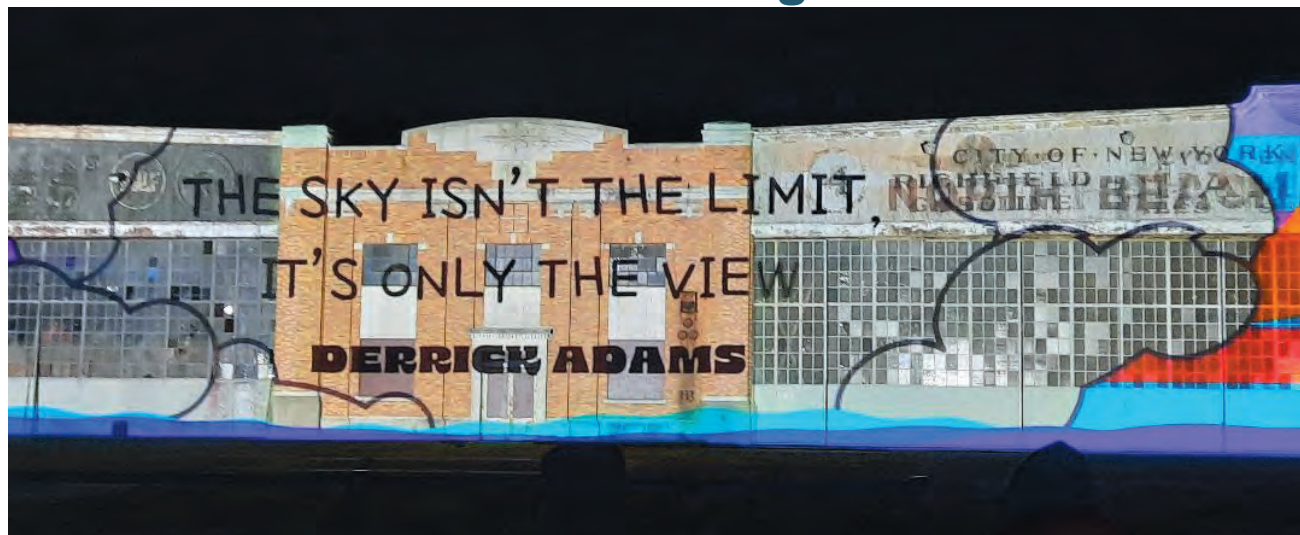
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Floyd Bennett Field! Public Arts Festival – Looking to the Future

By Linda Steinmuller

The Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy (JBRPC) hosted its inaugural Floyd Bennett Field! Public Arts Festival on April 19-21, 2024. The family-friendly event had something for everyone, including live music, silent disco, ranger-led activities, lawn games, a makers market, food trucks and access to historic buildings, but the main feature was an amazing artwork display, projection mapped onto the façade of two of its historic buildings – Hangars 3 and 4.

After sunset, guests sat on lawn chairs, some wrapped in blankets, to view the almost hour-long digital artwork display created by local artists, including students from Brooklyn College and the Fashion Institute of Technology. For those not familiar with projection mapping, it's a technique used to turn objects, often irregularly shaped, into display surfaces for video projection. Each original



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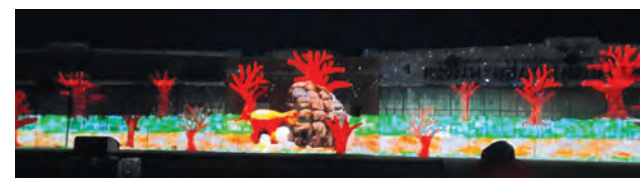
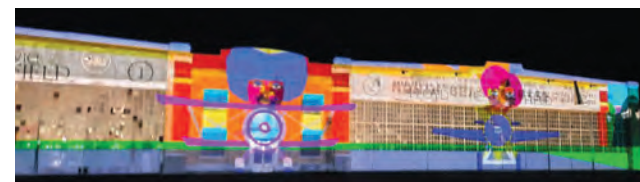
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artwork, some focusing on the magic of summer in the Rockaways, highlighted the architectural features on the historic hangars, while the entire program was set to music.

Floyd Bennett Field, part of Gateway National Recreation Area, has a rich history. Established in 1931 as NYC's first municipal airport, it served as a launch pad for famous pilots like Amelia Earhart and Howard Hughes.

Gateway Superintendent Jen Nersesian welcomed visitors to the weekend-long event, which marked the beginning of National Park Week. The 50th anniversary of Gateway, the first urban national park, was celebrated in 2022, and Nersesian said they are looking forward to the future. "We are moving forward with major efforts and plans for the activation and revitalization of Floyd Bennett Field, including the renovation of Hangars 3 and 4," she said.

"The National Park Service (NPS) and Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy will transform the facility into a space for green job development, cultural and arts events, and visitor amenities, including food and beverage," she told visitors.

Terri Carta, executive director of JBRPC, said they were proud to partner with the NPS, stating that the Parks Service has nearly \$26 million allocated for the rehabilitation of the exterior of the buildings. Once complete, JBRPC will fund and manage an interior retrofit of the hangars.

The event also included performances by the Sesame Flyers Steel Pan Ensemble; Batala, a women's percussion ensemble; and Wild Yaks.

On Sunday, tours were given of Hangar B, which houses historic aircraft, and the control tower and tunnels in the Ryan Visitor Center.

Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, a public-private partnership established in 2013, is dedicated to improving 10,000 acres of public parklands throughout Jamaica Bay and the Rockaway peninsula.



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Combatting Climate Change — Green Infrastructure Projects in Local Parks Revealed

By Loretta Chin

An overhaul of New York City parks to address unprecedented amounts of rain and flooding has been sweeping southeast Brooklyn recently with Green Infrastructure projects that intercept stormwater before it can reach the sewer system and contribute to flooding or sewer backups.

Large swaths of area parks and their surroundings have been fenced off and festooned with orange construction netting as general construction activity is performed. This had many residents and community leaders baffled about how to explain what was going on other than to say that “drainage issues” were being worked on in these parks.

Signage at these sites indicated that it was a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) project that involved the offices of the NYC Mayor, DEP, Parks,



Andries Playground work is nearly complete.

Comptroller, Public Advocate, Borough President and City Councilwoman. But few offices, including Community Board 18, had specific information about what was being done or why, and the signage provided few details. *Canarsie Courier* reached out to DEP to find out more.

“All New Yorkers know the challenges we face from climate change. Nowhere is it more apparent than with the increased rain and flooding we have seen this past year alone,” DEP Director of Communications Edward Timbers said. “DEP is taking climate change very seriously, and that means we are using all the tools in our toolbox to increase drainage capacity across the city.”

DEP’s website indicated that Green Infrastructure projects were initiated by the City to reduce the amount of stormwater that flows into the sewer system to prevent mixed sewer and stormwater overflows that can back up into homes and outflow pipes, which can pollute our waterways.

According to Timbers, over 13,000 installations have been completed in projects that began about a decade ago but have ramped up in numbers in recent years.

The DEP site provides an interactive map of Green Infrastructure projects, which are now spreading across southeast Brooklyn in city schoolyards, playgrounds, parks and NYCHA properties. They are



Paerdegat Playground under construction.

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currently under design or construction in places like Amersfort Park, Andries Playground, Fox Playground, Paerdegat Park, Remsen Playground, South Shore Educational Campus and Wilson Playground, with many more to come.

Timbers confirmed that a subsurface detention system, which has an open-bottom, perforated pipe and/or stormwater chamber with a gravel or broken stone bed, is being used to store water that lands in these parks until it can seep into the ground.

"Once built, these installations capture all of the stormwater that falls on them, whether it be a schoolyard, tennis court or parking lot," Timbers said. "This adds up to millions of gallons of stormwater that are kept out of the sewer system, which reduces the likelihood that the sewer will reach capacity and therefore avoid flooding and sewer backups."

One resident, who lives across the street from Paerdegat Park, said that he witnessed large amounts of soil being removed for placement of large pipes and a concrete container with holes on its sides that resembled a giant Lego playset piece being lowered into the ground.

Timbers said that major construction for Andries Playground, located at Nostrand Avenue and Avenue K, and Paerdegat Park, located at Albany Avenue and East 40th Street, is complete; remaining work should be completed by summer.

Once the weather warms up, Andries Playground will be resurfaced and a color seal will be applied, and Paerdegat Park will be resurfaced and new plantings will be added.

The construction for both locations included excavation of the playground surfaces to about five feet deep. Subsurface detention systems were installed. When complete, each location will absorb and manage more than 500,000 gallons of stormwater or, together, over a million gallons of stormwater from entering the sewer system each year.

There is no project tracker for these parks under the Parks Department, so the DEP interactive map and website are the main sources of information for the public. To learn more about these and other types of Green Infrastructure projects, see nyc.gov/site/dep/water/green-infrastructure.page.



Amersfort Park under construction.



Amersfort Park signage has construction jargon, but little information.




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St. Edmund Prep High School Presents Inaugural Steven H. Pollard Memorial Scholarship

By Brian Moreno

On Thursday, April 18th, family members, faculty, classmates and firefighters gathered at St. Edmund Preparatory High School, at 2474 Ocean Avenue, to honor the student recipients of the Steven H. Pollard '06 Memorial Scholarship.

The Steven H. Pollard '06 Memorial Scholarship is a half-tuition scholarship with a gift of \$150,000 that will be presented annually to two junior students, one male and one female.

Growing up in Marine Park, Pollard attended St. Edmund, graduating in 2006. Years later, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a firefighter, joining Ladder 170 in Canarsie. In January 2019, while responding to a two-car accident on the Mill Basin

Bridge, Pollard fell to his death while crossing over a gap on the bridge.

To ensure that his legacy is carried on, the Steven H. Pollard Memorial Foundation was created, and the Steven H. Pollard Memorial Scholarship was established to help future generations.

"It's an incredible honor that our students have been given this opportunity to share the joy and life of Steven H. Pollard," said Allison McGinnis, principal of St. Edmund Prep. "I was here when he was a student. Great kid, great man, great firefighter. It is a blessing that our students are able to help celebrate his life and his achievements."

Students of good character who demonstrated academic effort and community service, as well as sharing the same qualities of Pollard – quiet leaders who



Ziaire Hope and Sienna James with Ladder 170 firefighters.



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give of themselves with no expectation – were considered during the selection process.

The two recipients were Ziaire Hope of Canarsie and Sienna James of Broad Channel, Queens.

“I feel amazing, but yet nervous, because this is the first time this happened to me, so it’s a combination of two, but I’m glad that I got this award,” said Hope, a graduate of Our Lady of Trust Academy. “Living in Canarsie shaped who I am, being quiet, staying out of the mix. So I think taking that into high school showed me that I could get recognized.”

Hope plans to attend Syracuse University and, after graduation, aspires to become a system engineer.

“I am so honored to have gotten a scholarship in his [Steven Pollard’s] memory and to see that all the hard work that I do doesn’t go unnoticed every day,” said James. “When I graduate next year, I plan on going into nursing and to help save lives just like he risked his life to save someone else.”

Families were beaming with pride and joy, seeing their children’s hard work recognized and their aspiration to go higher.

“I feel very honored that Ziaire is my

son,” said Akilah Bryant. “He’s a wonderful kid. He’s a leader; he’s a great big brother. He’s amazing. I feel totally honored and appreciated that he was elected, nominated for this scholarship award.”

Ladder 170 and the Pollard family, who attended the ceremony, also received plaques to commemorate the event.

Janet Pollard, Steven’s mother, said, “It’s just wonderful that he’s going to be remembered in this way. Ziaire and Sienna are like him in their quiet ways, and it’s just great that Zaire is from Canarsie and Sienna’s father is from the FDNY. I think they’re perfect.”

The ceremony was the merging of two families – the St. Edmund Prep family and Ladder 170 – coming together to honor the Pollard family and continue the legacy of a fallen hero.

“It couldn’t be a more special night when these three families have come together to celebrate the life of a fallen firefighter and the lives of the students who will benefit from this most generous donation from the Pollard Foundation,” said McGinnis. “It is a beautiful night, and we’re excited to see what happens with our recipients as they move forward with their lives.”



Ziaire Hope, the first male recipient of the Steven H. Pollard '06 Memorial Scholarship.



The Pollard family receives a plaque of gratitude commemorating the ceremony for the first Steven H. Pollard '06 Memorial Scholarship.



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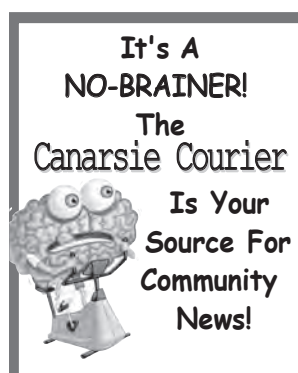
Pilgrim Village Ventures LLC filed w/ SSNY 2/1/24. Off. in Kings Co. Process served to SSNY - desig. as agt. of LLC & mailed to the LLC, 150 Myrtle Ave, Ste 2, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Kaifuyem LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/27/2023. 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 Daniel Michael Kalinin: 1740 Ocean Avenue APT 10C, Brooklyn NY 11230. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of HOMERY LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/25/24. Office location: Kings County. 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, regd. agent upon whom and at which process may be served. Purpose: Any lawful activity.



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Notice of Formation of FJORDIC, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/27/24. Office location: Kings County. 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. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

KINGS COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

Rule 220 Public Notice
THIS IS ACTUAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE NOTICE that I, Ebony Keri-Cargle, am the beneficial owner of certificate of title for the legal person EBONY KERI CARGLE, was born the month of August 1986 to Lee Esther Cargle and Morris John Foli at Kings County, New York. I, Ebony Keri-Cargle, am familiar with the facts recited in Rule 220 and have attained the age of the majority at a date 18 years after the date of birth shown by said certificate of title.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given a license, NYS Application ID: NA-0340-24-112691 for beer, wine, cider and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine, cider and liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 242 Himrod Street, Brooklyn, NY 11237 for on-premises consumption.
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Notice is hereby given a license, number 1364901 for beer and wine, has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 853 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11222 for on-premises consumption.
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849 53rd street CF7, Brooklyn NY11220 NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Reaching Success LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/19/2023. 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 Josephine Wong: 136-20 38th Avenue, Suite 8A, Flushing NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF SALE

REFEREE'S NOTICE OF SALE IN FORECLOSURE SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff - against - PHILLIPS MARTIN, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on March 11, 2019. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on the 9th day of May, 2024 at 2:30 PM. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York. Premises known as 1158 East 82nd Street, Brooklyn, New York 11236. (Block: 8047, Lot: 72) Approximate amount of lien \$444,365.80 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 501502/2016. Gregory T. Cerchione, Esq., Referee. McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 420 Lexington Avenue, Suite 840 New York, NY 10170 Tel. 347/286-7409 Dated: March 19, 2024
During the COVID-19 health emergency, bidders are required to comply with all governmental health requirements in effect at the time of sale including but not limited to, wearing face coverings and maintaining social distancing (at least 6-feet apart) during the auction, while tendering deposit and at any subsequent closing. Bidders are also required to comply with the Foreclosure Auction Rules and COVID-19 Health Emergency Rules issued by the Supreme Court of this County in addition to the conditions set forth in the Terms of Sale.

Kelly Lum
March 19, 2023

Brooklyn — NOTICE TO CREDITORS: Estate of Kelly Lum, deceased. Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of October 2023, letters of administration in respect of the estate of Kelly Lum, who passed away March 19th 2023 were issued by the Surrogate's Court of The State New York, County of Kings, under the case docket of 2023-2940.

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KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

PROBATE SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL CITATION File No. 2023-3423
SURROGATE'S COURT - KINGS COUNTY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: Scott Wiener, or if dead, his legal representatives, his husbands or wives, if any, distributees and successors in interest whose names or parts of whose names, and/or their place or places of residence, are unknown and cannot, after diligent inquiry, be ascertained A second amended petition having been duly filed by Gloria Taras who is domiciled at 3171 Whitney Avenue, #3B, Brooklyn, New York 11229 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on May 9, 2024, at 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of David Wiener a/k/a David C. Wiener, lately domiciled at 35 Seacoast Terrace, #12K, Brooklyn, New York 11235, United States admitting to probate a Will dated August 4, 1997, a copy of which is attached, as the Will of David Wiener a/k/a David C. Wiener, deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that:

- ☒ Letters Testamentary issue to: Gloria Taras
- ☐ Letters of Trusteeship issue to:
- ☐ Letters of Administration c.t.a. issue to:
- ☐ Further relief requested (if any):

Dated, Attested and Sealed, March 28, 2024 HON.Surrogate Bernard J. Graham
Seal Chief Clerk Lisa Mathis Ira M. Kopito, Esq. Print Name of Attorney Ira M. Kopito, Esq.
Telephone: (718) 834-9200 Address: 61 Broadway, Suite 2820, New York, New York 10006
Email (optional) Ira.Kopito@verizon.net

NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear or respond. However, if you fail to respond to this citation in writing, by mail, or electronic filing, it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear or respond for you.

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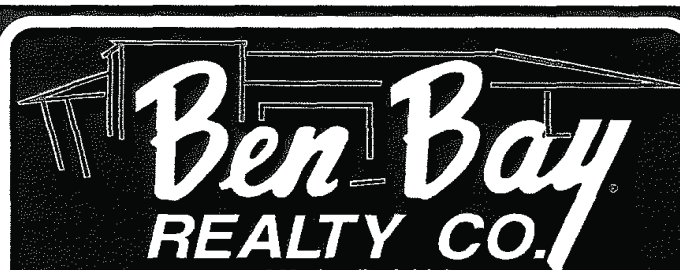
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UNFURNISHED APT

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UNFURNISHED APT

E Flatbush: 3 BRS, 1 1/2 bath, completely renovated, lots of closets, 1st floor, HWFs, new kitchen, \$3,100. MMC Realty (718) 473-6558

Avenue J/E103: LARGE 3 BRs, eat in kitchen, NEW APPLIANCES, close to transportation, \$2,700. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Old Mill Basin/E52: Newly renovated 3 BRs, 2 baths, large living room, dining area, central AC, hardwood floors, lots of closets, use of back porch/backyard, \$3,000 neg. Close to transportation/shopping, near buses, B46, B82, B6. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

OMB: 3 BRs, very good condition, nice kitchen/bath, HWFs, throughout, w/balcony, \$3,200. Broker (347) 339-8714

Canarsie: 3 BR, 2 bathrooms, eat in kitchen, living room, dining room, appliances, hardwood floors, Available at once. \$2,950. Call or Text (347) 355-5795

Canarsie: 5 BRs, 2 1/2 baths, all utilities included, \$4,680. James (347) 553-9003

Exercise Your Brain.



Read The Canarsie Courier
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Don Roberto's Classic
Italian | 616 Forest Ave,
Staten Island, NY 10310

Friday April 26th, 2024
11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Adria Hotel & Conference
Center | 221-17 Northern
Blvd, Bayside, NY 11361

Monday April 29th, 2024
3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Greenhouse Café | 7717 3rd
Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209

Tuesday April 30th, 2024
11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Buckley's Restaurant & Caterers | 2926
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If you cannot attend, please call us for a **FREE** initial consultation!

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