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FASTEST KID IN THE WORLD



Photo courtesy of the Nelson family

Story on page 6



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Standing United Against Hate in Canarsie

By Jibreel Jalloh

In recent years, we have witnessed a disturbing rise in hate crimes across New York City, targeting communities based on race, religion, gender identity and other protected characteristics. Canarsie, a vibrant and diverse neighborhood, is not immune to this trend. We must confront this reality with unwavering commitment to solidarity, education and action.

Hate crimes are not merely individual acts of prejudice; they are attacks on the fabric of our community. They seek to instill fear, divide neighbors and undermine the inclusive society we strive to build. According to the NYC Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes, incidents of bias-based violence have been rising, particularly against Black, Jewish and immigrant communities. These acts cannot be ignored.

The good news is that we are not powerless. There are concrete steps we can take as a community to prevent hate and respond effectively when it occurs. First, education is critical. Schools and local organizations must prioritize anti-bias training and civic engagement programs that teach youth about the

dangers of discrimination. The NYC Department of Education's "Respect for All" initiative is a great resource for educators and families looking to foster understanding and inclusion.

Second, we must encourage reporting. Many hate crimes go unreported due to fear, distrust or uncertainty about the legal process. The NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force and the NYC Commission on Human Rights provide avenues for reporting and investigating these incidents. Community members who witness acts of hate should not remain silent. Reporting helps law enforcement track patterns, prevent escalation and hold perpetrators accountable.

Third, we must challenge hate whenever and wherever we see it. Whether it is a slur shouted on the street, a discriminatory policy or an act of violence, it is our collective responsibility to stand up and say, "Not in our neighborhood." This means calling out prejudice, supporting victims and working toward policies that foster equity and justice for all.

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a hate crime, report it immediately by calling 911 or reaching



out to NYC's Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes at 311. Together, we can build a safer and more inclusive Canarsie.

Jibreel Jalloh is an award-winning organizer with experience working at the highest levels of government. He is the Founder and Executive Director of The Flossy Organization, a nonprofit dedicated to closing the advocacy gap through education and activism. Over the past few years, they have worked to end gun violence, increase transit options and secure investments in local green spaces. Jibreel recently won the prestigious Obama Foundation Scholar award at Columbia University. You can learn more at theflossy.org and follow @theflossyorg.

Suspect Wanted in Public Lewdness Incident on "L" Train

By Linda Steinmuller

The NYPD is asking for the public's assistance in identifying an individual wanted in connection to a public lewdness incident that occurred within the confines of the 69th Precinct/Transit District 33 on Tuesday, February 11th, around 4:15 p.m.

A 15-year-old female victim told police that she was on a Brooklyn bound "L" train, approaching the East 105 Street station when she observed an unidentified individual performing a lewd act.

The NYPD has released a photo of the man wanted in connection to this

incident. The suspect has a medium complexion and was last seen wearing a gray hat, black jacket, gray sweater, black sweatpants and green Nike sneakers.

There were no reported injuries by the young woman.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 1-888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at https://crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/, on X @NYPDTips.



Winter Trivia

- How many months can bears hibernate?
 - 1-2 months
 - 5-6 months
 - 7-8 months
- How many sides does a snowflake have?
 - 6
 - 8
 - 10
- What ancient monument is aligned with the winter solstice sunset?
 - Machu Picchu
 - The Egyptian pyramids
 - Stonehenge
- At what temperature can you begin to see your breath?
 - 30 degrees
 - 50 degrees
 - 45 degrees
- What is mushing?
 - A type of breakfast food
 - The sport of racing sled dogs
 - How animals prepare for hibernation

Answers:
1: C, 2: A, 3: C, 4: C, 5: B



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East New York

Man Slashed and Shot While Sleeping

By Linda Steinmuller

A man was slashed multiple times and then shot in the leg while he was asleep in the Penn-Wortman Houses, at 875 Pennsylvania Avenue, around 1:10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 18th.

Official police sources said the victim, a 27-year-old male, was slashed multiple times in the face and body by an unknown individual, who then shot the victim in the upper right thigh.

The victim was taken to Brookdale Hospital and is expected to survive.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this incident 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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad



East New York

Albany Man Fatally Stabbed In Brooklyn

By Lloyd Mitchell

An Albany man was fatally stabbed inside an East New York home shortly after midnight on Monday, February 17th.

Officers from the 75th Precinct responded to a 911 call around 12:45 a.m., where they found Jermaine Morant, 44, suffering from a stab wound to the chest inside of 406 Van Sicten Avenue, between Blake and Sutter Avenues.

EMS rushed the victim to Brookdale Hospital where he was pronounced dead, according to police.

No arrests have been made, and an investigation is ongoing.

Anyone with information regarding this stabbing 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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.



East Flatbush

New Jersey Man Fatally Shot on Beverley Road



By Baqir Ahmad and Linda Steinmuller

Officers from the 67th Precinct responded to a 911 call of a male shot at 5724 Beverley Road around 1:15 a.m. on Thursday, February 13th.

Police found the victim, Brandon Sylvester, 38, of Englewood, New Jersey, with a gunshot wound to his chest. EMS took the victim to Kings County Hospital where he was pronounced dead, police said.

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 X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Photos by Baqir Ahmad

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Elvis Returns to the Floridian Plaza Diner for Valentine's Day Show

By Angela G. Nannetti

Elvis fans broke out their umbrellas and braved the stormy weather on Saturday evening, February 15th, to see Don Anthony perform the King of Rock and Roll's greatest hits at the Floridian Plaza Diner, located at 2301 Flatbush Avenue.

The Chandelier Room Supper Club was bursting with eager diners, who came to enjoy the special Valentine's Day show and were more than ready to join in on the fun. Elvis fans of all ages got on the dance floor to show off their moves and to learn new ones, as Anthony belted out hits like "Blue Suede Shoes," "Viva Las Vegas," "It's Now or Never" and "The Wonder of You." Together with his biggest fan and devotee – his lovely wife – who he affectionately dubbed the "Polish Princess," Anthony distributed boxes of chocolates to all the ladies in attendance in honor of the romantic occasion.

Don Anthony will return to the Floridian Plaza Diner as Elvis for a special Mother's Day show on Saturday evening, May 10th, so make your reservations early by calling (718) 377-7733. Diners seated in the Chandelier Room Supper Club for the performance order from a prix fixe menu at \$35 per person, which includes a garden salad, choice of entrée and dessert.



Don Anthony serenading diners.



Little fan wore her favorite Elvis socks to the show.

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Canarsie's Fastest Kid Wins Gold in Millrose Games

By Amanda Salazar

It's official: the fastest kid in Canarsie, 3rd-grader Benjamin Jerome Mack Cartwright, Jr., also known as BJ, can now also be called the fastest kid in the world, having won first place in the Millrose Games' "Youth Boys' (U-8) Fastest Kid in the World" 55-meter race.

The 8-year-old who is a student at Canarsie Ascend Lower School, located at 9719 Flatlands Avenue, is a junior Olympian who has been running since September 2023, amassing around 60 gold and silver medals (see "Canarsie's Junior Olympian Qualifies for 'Fastest Kid in the World' Race," *Canarsie Courier*, February 6, 2025).

Cartwright participated in the Millrose Games, a large annual indoor track and field competition held at The Armory in Manhattan, on Saturday, February 8th. He ran the youth boy's 55-meter race and came in first place, winning gold and earning him the title of the fastest kid in the world.

"On Saturday, when we get to the game, he was very jovial and [confident]," Cartwright's grandfather, Donohue Nelson, said in a written statement. "Normally, he would be nervous and nauseous before a big race — most times he would throw up before the start of the race but not this one. To be honest, BJ had more confidence of winning the race than I [did]."

After Cartwright's practice prior to the race, he told his grandfather that he had hit

a new personal best and that only one of his 15-year-old teammates from the Dashing Dons and Divas running club was able to match his time.

For the Millrose race in particular, his coach, Tabatha Gibbs, told Cartwright he'd have to run under eight seconds to win. His winning time was 7.95 seconds, a new personal best.

"I must have [watched] this race about 50 times; I'm so proud of this kid," Nelson said. "I'm willing to do whatever I can to help him achieve his goals in life."

Photos courtesy of the Nelson family



Canarsie's very own Benjamin Jerome Mack Cartwright, Jr. wins first place in the Millrose Games.



Cartwright won gold in the youth boys' indoor 55-meter race.



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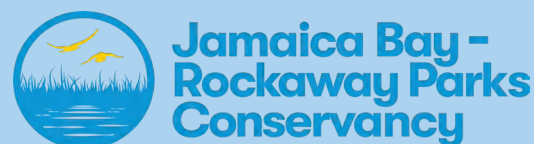
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Bergen Beach Civic Meeting Addresses Community Concerns

By Robert Pearl

The Bergen Beach Civic Association (BBCA) held its monthly meeting at the Hudson River Yacht Club, 2101 Bergen Avenue, on Tuesday, February 11th, where residents and local officials gathered to discuss pressing community issues. BBCA President Michael Trotta presided over the meeting. Among the attendees were Frieda Menos from Congressman Hakeem Jeffries' Office, Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, two representatives from Assemblywoman Jaime Williams' office (Donald Cranston and Eileen O'Brien), and Community Board 18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow.

One of the most heated discussions of the evening revolved around the controversial plan to construct a battery storage facility in the neighborhood. Community members expressed strong opposition, citing

potential health hazards, fire risks and environmental concerns. Local representatives assured residents they would push for further scrutiny and scheduled a special meeting to bring together relevant agencies, including the Department of Buildings (DOB), the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to address community concerns.

Traffic safety emerged as another major concern, with reports of reckless driving, speeding and the increasing presence of electric scooters in the area. Residents raised the need for additional speed bumps, stop signs and stronger police presence to deter dangerous driving behavior.

An ongoing issue with illegal parking and bus idling on Bergen Avenue was also discussed. Residents were encouraged to report violations directly to the Depart-



Community Board 18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow addresses the Bergen Beach Civic Association

ment of Transportation (DOT) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), with officials pledging to follow up on enforcement efforts.

Attendees asked many questions and also received updates on local construction projects, including a long-term trailer installation near Avenue T and Veterans Avenue. Residents expressed frustration over the lack of prior notice and concerns about the project's duration, which could span several years.

Additionally, there was discussion surrounding the sale of MatchPoint, a well-known local gym, and the possibility of new developments in the area, specifically along East 69th Street. While some feared the construction of high-rise condos, the civic reassured attendees that the property is zoned for light manufacturing and not residential use. In fact, according to Trotta, they will be putting an Amazon delivery truck depot there.

The next meeting, on Tuesday, March 11th at 7 p.m. at the Hudson River Yacht Club, will be a tri-civic meeting of the Bergen Beach, Mill Island and Mill Basin Civic associations. All civic groups in Brooklyn are invited to discuss important issues affecting the city and explore solutions as one group with one voice. Additionally, there will be a guest speaker, mayoral candidate Curtis Sliwa, who will address the civic groups and answer questions from attendees.

For more updates and meeting schedules, residents are encouraged to follow BBCA on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/BBCivicAssn>, as well as participate in upcoming discussions.

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District 22: Carol Pino Learning Farm Set to Open this Spring

Aerial Views of the Carol Pino Learning Farm



By Angela G. Nannetti, MS. Ed.

Members of Community District Education Council 22 (CEC 22) met at the District Office, located at 5619 Flatlands Avenue, on Tuesday evening, February 11th, for their monthly meeting.

While a variety of topics were discussed, the highlight came in the form of exciting news, direct from District 22 Superintendent Julia Bove herself, as she announced the upcoming debut of the highly anticipated Carol Pino Learning Farm.

Located at the corner of Avenue N and East 71st Street, the farm is closest to P.S. 312 (7103 Avenue T) and JHS 78 (1420 East 68th Street) but will serve 35 schools in District 22. Thanks to \$500,000 in funding

from Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse and other generous donations from local elected officials, the 2.2 acre farm features a 100' x 30' state-of-the-art greenhouse and weather station, an outdoor kitchen and picnic area, a variety of raised garden beds with rich new soil, a pollinator garden, a sizeable fruit orchard, a compost area, hydroponics and irrigation systems, and so much more.

The farm will have a soft opening sometime in April or May, at which time families can take a tour and see for themselves all that is on offer to students this fall. The superintendent explained that the farm is the only one of its kind in the City and will likely serve as a model to other districts who may wish to begin similar programs. She assured the group that the learning farm is in the capable hands of the former assistant principal of JHS 234 Arthur W. Cunningham and now on-site director, Jennifer Camillieri, who shares her passion for hands-on educational opportunities.

Bove explained that students will learn to investigate the efficiency of various water systems and discover that different irrigation systems, such as drip irrigation, sprinkler systems, rain barrels and surface irrigation, each have their advantages and applications. They will study hydroponics as an alternative to traditional soil farming, take part in planting, mulching, harvesting, watering and building compost. Students will become familiar with the sequential aspects of plant growing, from seed to harvest, and the caring and patience required, as well as the structure and function of roots, stems, leaves, flowers and fruits. After students harvest fruits, herbs and vegetables, they will participate in producing multicultural meals with them in the learning kitchen, gaining valuable life skills.

The next meeting of CEC 22 will be held at 5619 Flatlands Avenue on Tuesday, March 11th, at 6:30 p.m.

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Matthew McConaughey *Stand Up To Cancer Ambassador*
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Mill Basin Civic Tackles Community News at February Meeting

By Amanda Salazar

The Tuesday, February 11th meeting of the Mill Basin Civic Association (MCBA) provided attendees with a rundown of community news, events and issues, featuring a number of speakers from political offices and local businesses.

The meeting, held at Mary Queen of Heaven Church, 1395 East 56th Street, kicked off with a talk from the 63rd Precinct's Crime Prevention Officer Ainsley Carter and Detective Tricia Navarro-Caraballo.

Carter discussed his work in the community as the precinct's elderly liaison, plus the dangers of leaving valuables in cars parked on the street. There have been many car break-ins where belongings left in plain view were stolen. A related issue is people not locking their car doors, which has also led to car and property thefts.

"As funny as it may sound as me saying it out loud,

it's actually a real life-or-death hazard," he said. "It's something that can be avoided."

The officer also reminded audience members to look out for scams, particularly phone calls in which unknown callers claim to have kidnapped loved ones and are demanding money. These sorts of scams increase in frequency during this time of year, Carter said.

Regarding crime, MBCA board member Christina Caputo noted the importance of not blocking fire hydrants. This appears to be an issue along Avenue N. Not only is it illegal to do so, but the time it adds to firefighters' work can be fatal. She gave the example of a recent fire in Bay Ridge in which the seconds added by having to deal with a blocked hydrant did indeed lead to the death of a person inside the building.

"We always say that something is going to happen and seconds count," Caputo said. "This is like a warning."

The next segment of the meeting featured announcements from representatives of local elected officials.

Saye Joseph, chief of staff for Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, announced that their office, located at 5827 Flatlands Avenue, will be hosting small job fairs every three to four months, as opposed to larger career fairs that are held less frequently. She noted that people sometimes get to schedule interviews or even get hired on the spot at these fairs. The next hiring fair will be held on Wednesday, February 26th. Anyone interested can learn more on the councilwoman's website.

Two representatives from Assemblywoman Jaime Williams' office attended: Chief of Staff Sharon Long and District Office Liaison Christina Phillips. They discussed Williams' work in Albany on issues important to the district, such as the City of Yes legislation, the former Floyd Bennett Field migrant shelter, congestion pricing and the illicit massage parlor in Marine Park.

"She loves representing her community, as you know — and I know a lot of you know her personally and know what an aggressive fighter she is for our community," Long said. "So, when any issues, big or small, affect you, she's there on the ground fighting for you."

They also touched on some of the assemblywoman's upcoming events, a full list of which can be found on her website.

Constituent Services Director Frieda Menos for U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries made a surprise visit to the meeting. She discussed services provided by the congressman's office, which can be viewed on his website.

Mill Basin Library Branch Manager Christina Armieri also discussed some upcoming events and also admitted that it is unclear if the solar panels on the library's roof are actually in use.

Two Mill Basin businesses promoted their services, as well.

New Horizon Counseling Center has a two-year-old location across from Kings Plaza Shopping Center, at 2460 Flatbush Avenue. The center offers a range of counseling services for adults and kids 5 and up, such as psychotherapy, psychiatry, evaluations, bereavement services and prevention. New Horizon accepts most insurances. More information can be found online.

Laugh N Play Kids Party Place, at 4210 Avenue U, is a new, family-owned indoor play and event place for children. It hosts kids' parties and craft events but also events for adults, such as paint-and-sip events. The owners are Mill Basin residents and parents to three P.S. 236 Mill Basin School students. Bookings can be made online.

During the association's board member updates, the topic of mail fishing came up, as glue traps have been recently found in many mailboxes throughout the community. The best way to ensure your mail is safely delivered, according to the board members, is to drop it off directly at the post office or post depot, or hand the mail directly to your mail carrier.

The next meeting of the MBCA will be held on Tuesday, March 11th, at 6 p.m. at Mary Queen of Heaven.

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Mill Basin Civic Association President Paul Curiale leads the meeting.

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This prestigious event will take place this Friday at 6 pm, at the Bogart House in Brooklyn. Tickets include an elegant dinner, an exclusive art exhibit, live entertainment, a blue carpet experience, and opportunities for networking with civic leaders, nonprofit executives, and key influencers in social causes. Guests will enjoy an inspiring evening filled with celebration, culture, and community-driven impact. Tickets are available now for \$75 at www.ShootForTheStars.org.



Marine Park

Community Uproar Over NineDot Energy's Lithium Battery Storage Plants

By Robert Pearl



One of the two sites of the lithium-ion plant to be built at 2118 Flatbush Avenue.

News that NineDot Energy has already started the construction of two lithium-ion battery storage facilities along Flatbush Avenue has sparked controversy among Marine Park residents. The facilities, located at the site of the former Lighting Palace (2138-2148 Flatbush Avenue), next to Frank's Pizzeria, and 2118 Flatbush Avenue, near the Oasis Diner, are being built in the middle of a dense residential and commercial area, raising serious safety and economic concerns among locals.

The revelation came as a shock to many, as NineDot organized a meet-and-greet event at the Oasis Diner on Tuesday, February 11th, only after permits were granted, ground was broken, and construction was well underway. What the company seemingly anticipated as a friendly Q&A session turned into a heated and contentious meeting, with standing-room-only attendance and angry residents demanding answers.

Residents voiced strong opposition, citing incidents involving lithium-ion battery fires in New York City. The FDNY has warned about the dangers of these batteries, as malfunctions can lead to uncontrollable fires and toxic gas emissions. While NineDot insists that their facility is safe and follows stringent regulations, locals remain skeptical, especially given past incidents of battery-related fires – which NineDot states is being improperly compared to their FDNY-approved project.

Donald Cranston from Assemblywoman Jaime Williams' office, Community Board 18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow, several civic leaders from local and surrounding associations, and members from the New Yorkers First committee were in attendance. Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, also present, later issued a statement condemning the lack of transparency and community engagement, emphasizing the need for safety and public trust. Longtime residents, Claudia Greco and Edward Rohrlich, whose home is literally feet away from the plant, raised objections over the project, with worried concern.

As brought up by Cranston and other attendees, NineDot already had an energy storage project site underway at 15-21 Tillman Street in Staten Island, where they attempted to sell it to the community as a way to "support a more resilient grid in your community." However, that facility faced strong opposition, leading elected officials to place a moratorium on the site. Residents there also reported noise complaints from miles away, and Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella expressed serious safety concerns, stating, "And it's not just the fires; it's the toxic fumes. How in good conscience can we build these facilities directly next to people's homes?"

During discussions about the Staten Island facility, NineDot representatives gave murky answers, even going as far as to say, "That's not us."

Another notable well-documented incident was mentioned, where a fire erupted at the Gateway Energy Storage facility in Otay Mesa, San Diego, California, highlighting the hazards associated with lithium-ion battery energy storage.

The absence of advance notice only deepened local skepticism, and many demanded to know why they weren't approached and the community informed before NineDot acquired the

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site, if the company was interested in building consensus.

Marine Park residents have also raised concerns about a lack of transparency from NineDot Energy, saying they were blindsided by the proposal and that crucial details about the project's risks were not adequately disclosed.

Williams initiated a petition to stop the Marine Park facility, which residents are encouraged to sign: <https://tinyurl.com/StopLithium-PlantAD59>.

Emphasizing that the safety of residents must come first, the assemblywoman recently wrote a letter to NineDot, in which she received a reply stating, "We are committed to being good neighbors." In sync with the State's 2030 goal of energy storage, a portion of the letter also stated, "the city has encouraged growth of energy storage development – including by amending the Zoning Resolution to allow our development as-of-right basis in these and other similar locations."

This appears to be a direct result of the "City of Yes for Carbon Neutrality" component, which was passed into law, by the NYC Council and Mayor Eric Adams, and aims to facilitate the development of distributed energy across the city. The Marine Park facility is part of that broader push.

Proponents argue that such facilities are crucial for transitioning to renewable energy, reducing strain on the grid and preventing blackouts. However, opponents argue that these projects should not be placed in densely populated residential areas, where risks to public health and safety are greater.

Community activists have called for alternative locations, such as industrial zones, to be considered instead of residential neighborhoods.

The debate over the facility continues, with a key Community Board 18 meeting at 1097 Bergen Avenue, scheduled for Thursday, March 6th, at 7 p.m., expected to draw significant turnout.

Residents and elected officials remain firm in their demand for a halt to the project, urging decision-makers to prioritize community safety over corporate interests.



Site of one of the lithium-ion plants along Flatbush Avenue, next to Frank's Pizzeria.



Marine Park resident Claudia Greco, whose home is feet away from the site.

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Marine Park

Older Adults Celebrate Valentine's Day with Fun, Food and Dance



Millennium Development staff in front: Penny Caquias, Arelis Muniz, Laudz Narcisse, Dolores Pozzuoli, Raymonde Limbaugh, Jonathan Turovets and Matthew Buchanan.

By Loretta Chin

Seniors at the Marine Park Older Adult Center (MP OAC) were in for a special treat on Valentine's Day with a lineup of fun activities, a special guest, and gifts and prizes to make the day extra special at the festively decorated Carmine Carro Community Center, 3000 Fillmore Avenue, on February 14th.

"Valentine's has to be every day and life can be so short and can be so long; it all depends on you," Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse said in her greeting message to everyone. "So for everyone in this room, I challenge you as a nurse, not elected official, as a nurse — your heart is the most important organ in your body, so you need to take care of it."

She advised the seniors to not let others stress them out, have love in their hearts and to be happy. She then spread some love and happiness by handing out bags of heart-shaped pasta as a small token of gratitude to show her appreciation to the seniors for keeping Marine Park and the surrounding neighborhood thriving, according to a Facebook post she made that day.

The seniors are better known as "active adults" because they truly are. A full schedule of activities was planned to keep them on the move as they took part in line dancing, tap, chair ballet and table games before lunch and then ended the celebrations with a special game of Valentine's Day Radio Bingo, which included gift bags for the winners filled with fun prizes like little stuffed animals or small boxes of candy.

"Radio Bingo is like regular bingo but with music instead," explained Program Director Jonathan Turovets. "It's kind of like trivia mixed with bingo, so you have to know the name of the song to cross it off your bingo card."

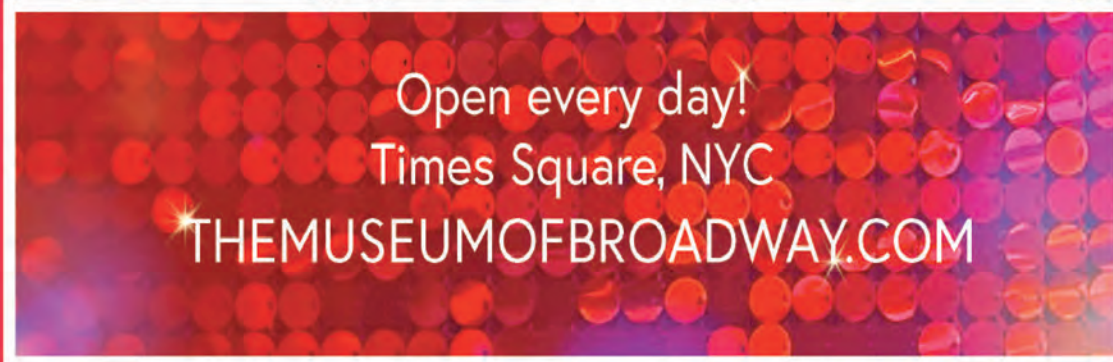
According to MP OAC President Raymonde Limbaugh, the Valentine's Day celebrations have been going on since the Carro Center opened about 12 years ago.



Dance instructor Gail Kroog leads members in chair ballet.



Lunch is served in the middle of the scheduled activities.



Millennium Development Supervisor of Older Adult Services Patricia Lynch said that they work with the NYC Department for the Aging and get discretionary funding from councilmanic program funds in Narcisse's budget.

"She's a really big supporter of all our older adults," Lynch said, giving credit to Narcisse's background as a nurse, which she said makes her compassionate. "She cares about all the older adults in our district and it really shows in how much she cares about all of us."

Millennium Development Deputy Director Penny Caquias agreed, adding praises about how the councilwoman goes around to every table to greet everyone and is also fun because she will join in on the activities.

Caquias also praised 63rd Precinct Community Affairs Officer Tom Podd who also supports them by providing his presence at such events.

About 90 to 100 active adults attended the Valentine event. According to Turovets, there are about 3,500 current members at the MP OAC who show up for about 1,000 classes and different activities throughout the year. There are plenty of indoor and outdoor activities, as well as trips, concerts and special events that go on yearlong. Approximately 30,000 to 40,000 members are served annually if you count attendance at all the activities.

Four out of nine of Millennium Development's OAC centers were celebrating Valentine's Day that week and the Carro Center, which is one of the largest centers, was an example of just one of those celebrations.

The Millennium Development Older Adult Center programs staff, in partnership with Narcisse and support from the 63rd Precinct, made it a special day filled with love for the seniors at the Carro Center.

To learn more about Millennium Development's programs for seniors, visit their website at <https://www.milldev.org/active-adult-centers>.



Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse with Patricia Lynch and Penny Caquias, Millennium Development staff, Community Affairs Officer Tom Podd and members.

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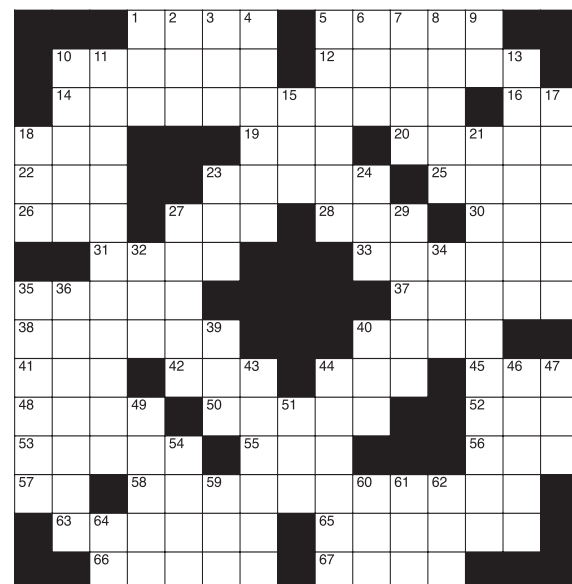
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- ABERROMETER
- ALLERGY
- ANISOCORIA
- ASTIGMATISM
- BENIGN
- BIFOCAL
- BLEPHARITIS
- BRIDGE
- CATARACT
- CHAMBER
- COATING
- CONE
- CORNEA
- DIOPTER
- DISORDER
- GLAUCOMA
- LENS
- MACULA
- OPTICAL
- REDNESS
- REFRACTIVE
- RETINA
- SWELLING
- TEARS



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Shed tears
- 5. Luxury jewelry designer
- 10. Goddess of wisdom
- 12. Convert into a particular form
- 14. Working-class people
- 16. It borders Canada (abbr.)
- 18. A princess can detect its presence
- 19. Red-brown sea bream
- 20. Defunct retail empire
- 22. Vase
- 23. Demeter's equivalent
- 25. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 26. French and Belgian river
- 27. Small amount
- 28. High schoolers' test
- 30. Animal's foot
- 31. Some is red
- 33. Per ___; each
- 35. Swedish jazz pop duo
- 37. Plate for Eucharist
- 38. Train line
- 40. Russian pop duo
- 41. Stake
- 42. Plant by scattering
- 44. Female sibling
- 45. City of Angels hoopsters (abbr.)
- 48. Popular cookie brand
- 50. Group of Niger-Congo languages
- 52. A team's best pitcher
- 53. Vomits
- 55. 19th letter of Greek alphabet
- 56. Men's fashion accessory
- 57. Its capital is Pierre (abbr.)
- 58. Expensive cut of steak
- 63. Popular James Cameron film
- 65. A ___; relating to knowledge gleaned from deduction
- 66. Kids' snow toys
- 67. Flip side to yin

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Global public health agency
- 2. Snake-like fish
- 3. Midway between northeast and east
- 4. Dabbed
- 5. TV show
- 6. Folk singer DiFranco
- 7. Canadian flyers
- 8. Of the dowry
- 9. Commercial
- 10. The act of imitating
- 11. Equipment used to broadcast radio or TV signals
- 13. Lands of an emir
- 15. Swiss river
- 17. Island
- 18. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 21. One who surrenders under agreed conditions
- 23. Garfield is one
- 24. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 27. Small boats used in the Black Sea
- 29. Small savory Spanish dishes
- 32. Body part
- 34. Touch lightly
- 35. Popular grilled foods on a stick
- 36. ___ Hess: oil company
- 39. Antelope with a reddish coat
- 40. Pharaoh of Lower Egypt
- 43. Pink Floyd's Roger
- 44. Short and thick
- 46. Small, sac-like cavities
- 47. Performer ___-Lo
- 49. Entrails of animal used as food
- 51. ___ King Cole, musician
- 54. Where construction is done
- 59. Chap
- 60. Investment vehicle
- 61. Often mixed with tonic
- 62. Holiday beverage egg ___
- 64. Against

SUDOKU

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							3	8
7			3	1		2		
8				9				
	5							6

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	9	8	7	2	7	6	3	5
8	2	7	4	6	2	1	6	8
7	4	6	3	1	8	1	8	2
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	2	9
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	2	9
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	2	9
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	2	9
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	2	9
8	4	6	5	1	9	2	2	9

ANSWER:

F W I H T B A S R A S D V L E G D I R B
 U U W O C V V D E I N C E D W N U S G H
 L F N U S E A A T R E F R A C T I V E R
 A C E F S S N L E M G T C A R A T A C C
 C Y Y Y L O I L M B F S S N H P O Y O P
 O Y S M V C S E O M E A N Y D V V R D S
 F B R L R Y O R R A A N D E B D N E I T
 I A P U N B C G R C P H I W L E T T R H
 B G A W B G O Y E U D Y U G A I I L E G
 R G T M M G R R B L N C N A N R L R T N
 E R D E D B I U A A T A S U A B E M P I
 D O Y N D V A E G V G T N H V N D C O T
 R O C R E D N E S S I N P I O I E H I A
 O W P H D Y S U F G O E I C T P G A D O
 S R Y T G T R F M H L M G L A E T M A C
 I A G B I I B A I B D M A E L E R B H P
 D L A I Y C T O H F T N H T A E E E E F
 I V Y U S I A U U Y T M F R P R W R G H
 L Y A B S B C L B D L M S I A N G S D U
 T N E M U A V S A M O C U A L G I E H B

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to low vision.
 Each number corresponds to a letter.
 (Hint: 15 = S)

- A. 24 2 24 15
Clue: Sight organs
- B. 24 8 11 12
Clue: Test
- C. 6 16 15 16 3 13
Clue: Ability to see
- D. 7 17 11 15 15 24 15
Clue: Aids vision

Answers: A. eyes B. exam C. vision D. glasses

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to vision.

SPUILP

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Answer: Pupils

Guess Who?

I am an actress born on February 3, 1976 in Oman. I published two teen novels when I was younger. I went on to a successful movie career, and had a recurring role in the fourth season of the "Arrested Development" series. I am married to a comedic actor.

Answer: Isla Fisher



PUZZLE SOLUTION

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