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SPRNG CLENNIG AT CANARSIE PIER



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Canarsie Courier

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By Jibreel Jalloh

On March 19, 2024, our community lost a promising and bright young man, Christian Josiah Montrose, to senseless violence just steps from his home in Canarsie. Christian was only 19 years old — a vibrant young person whose life was full of potential, kindness and compassion. Known for his infectious smile and unwavering willingness to help others, Christian had dreams of becoming a firefighter, a career that reflected his deep commitment to serving others and bettering his community.

This Wednesday marks one year since Christian's life was tragically cut short. Despite the time passed, Christian's family and our community still await justice. His death is a devastating reminder of the countless unsolved cases throughout our city, cases that leave families perpetually grieving and communities scarred by violence.

Christian's family, like too many others, has endured immense trauma, exacerbated by inadequate responses from institutions tasked with protecting our neighborhoods. The pain of losing a child is unimaginable — a grief no parent should ever have to endure. Yet, Christian's family not only bears this loss but also the unbearable burden of living without justice. No family should

By Audrey Jackson

The 18th century Scottish poet Robert Burns said, "The best laid plans of mice and men go awry." It was my plan to submit this article for the month of love. I set it up by pulling it from the first article ("New Year, New You," January 30, 2025) where the first thing I said to you was, please remember and never forget that we are meant to live in community. In that article, I also shared with you that God lives in community. I told you that he is a triune God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), who created humans, so that he would have company during his walks in the garden. As I was trying to manage my time to get back in sync, and write my next submission. Obasi sent me a clip from TikTok University. It was a clip about the Passion of Christ. It was an extremely graphic medical description of what happened to Jesus' body as he endured the Roman punishment for someone who committed treason.

Question is, "What does this have to

Justice for Josiah

have to navigate such devastation in silence, without answers, without accountability. Unresolved violence not only prolongs families' grief but also erodes trust within communities, deepening feelings of isolation and injustice.

We, as a community, must come together to demand accountability from city officials, law enforcement agencies and community leaders. It is essential to prioritize resolving these unsolved cases and allocate meaningful resources toward evidence-based violence prevention initiatives. Programs that have proven effective in reducing gun violence and strengthening community resilience and that deserve our unwavering support and investment.

Additionally, we call upon the Mayor and City Council to honor Christian's memory by co-naming his home street after him. Such recognition would stand as a testament to his life and legacy — a profound statement affirming that every life holds value, every victim deserves justice and every family deserves closure and dignity.

Please join us this Wednesday at 6 p.m. alongside Christian's family on East 104th Street and Avenue K. Together, we will honor Christian's memory, advocate for systemic change and amplify our united call for



justice. Let us collectively ensure that no other family endures the profound pain and injustice of losing a loved one — especially without answers.

For Christian, for his family, and for every unsolved case — our demand for justice will remain unwavering until meaningful action is taken. Stand with us; stand for justice.

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.

Please Remember

do with living in community?" That clip said that when Jesus said, "Eli, Eli lama sabachthani," meaning, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me,?" he did not say it because he was in physical pain; he said it because God had to step back from him, so that he could complete his assignment, and for the first time he was not in community. What you talkin' 'bout Mah? Get this, in the midst of realizing that he was on his own, he was in conversation (prayer) about us with God, because he said, "Forgive them because they don't get it." He was out of community like our young sisters who have convinced themselves that they do not need the father of their children to help them parent. Out of community like children who will tell you, "You ain't my mother, shut the @#\$% up!" Out of community like the young brother who picks up a gun because the brother who walked the path he is about to travel is so broken from his lack of community he cannot



lend a hand, and there is no one having a conversation about them.

Again, I am not encouraging you to, in the words of Aunty Tabitha, be in "people bizness," but we are meant to support each other. Somebody has to be in the repairing business. We cannot always stop it from happening, but we can help to repair the tear; both of them, the rip and the water.

Check us out at shootforthestars.org or shootforthestarsfdn and stay tuned for Forever Womanhood. Sisters, we are coming.

NYC H20 Cleans up Canarsie Pier

By Baqir Ahmad

Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse, along with environmental organization NYC H20, teamed up to do a quarterly cleanup at the Canarsie Pier, on Saturday, March 8th.

Volunteers and H2O team members picked up trash and bottles along the water-front. The participants collected garbage,

using grabbers and gloves, over a two-hour period starting at 10 a.m.

"It's an amazing way to give back to your neighborhood by cleaning up," H2O Director David Chuchuca said. "The best feeling is to clean up the pier and make it clean for the kids to come by and have a nice time."



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Flatlands

Police Shoot Suspect Armed with Box Cutter

By Lloyd Mitchell and Linda Steinmuller

Police critically wounded a man who was involved in a dispute on Wednesday, March 12th, at Utica Avenue and Avenue K.

Plainclothes detectives from the 63rd Precinct were traveling in an unmarked car along Utica Avenue when they discovered two men involved in a verbal dispute at the location around 1:30 p.m., according to NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny, who held a press conference later that day.

As the officers approached the two men and identified themselves, they noticed one of them was hold-

ing a box cutter. They attempted to break up the fight, ordering the man to drop the box cutter, but he would not comply. One of the detectives discharged his weapon, striking the man with the box cutter in the torso.

Kenny said that the detective was acting in self-defense and that the man with the box cutter was "an immediate threat."

Paramedics rushed the victim to Kings County Hospital.

An investigation is ongoing.

Photo by Lloyd Mitchell



East Flatbush

Boyfriend Charged with Assault of Woman's 3-Year-Old Son Who Later Died

By Linda Steinmuller

A 3-year-old boy who was dropped off at SUNY Downstate Medical Center by two unidentified individuals was pronounced dead at the hospital on the same day, and now the mother's boyfriend is a suspect in the child's assault.

Police arrested Robert White, 38, on Tuesday, March 18th, and charged him with assault and acting in a manner injurious to a child. He has not been charged with the child's death.

Police from the 67th Precinct responded to a call of an unconscious child, later identified as Kyng Davis, at Downstate, 470 Clarkson Avenue, around 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 9th. Hospital staff said an unidentified woman brought the child in and quickly fled the scene in a vehicle driven by an unidentified man.

The 3-year-old, who was unresponsive and

had bruising all over his body, was pronounced dead at the hospital. A source said that White allegedly slapped Davis in the face several times, weeks earlier, on February 22nd. It's believed the child may have already been

dead when the duo left him at the hospital.

An investigation is ongoing, and the Medical Examiner's Office will determine the official cause of death.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad



Marine Park

Brush Fire on a Windy, Gusty Day

By Baqir Ahmad and Linda Steinmuller

Multiple units, including the FDNY, NYPD and the Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department, responded to a call of a brush fire in Marine Park on Saturday, March 8th.

The brush fire began near the waterfront around 1:15 p.m. Firefighters battled the two alarm blaze, with the help of an FDNY firefighting boat. Strong winds and very dry conditions made the fire hard to contain, but the blaze was placed under control by around 4 p.m.

There were no injuries reported, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad











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District 22 Celebrates Math in March

By Angela G. Nannetti, MS. Ed

Members of Community District Education Council 22 (CEC 22) gathered at the District Office, located at 5619 Flatlands Avenue, on Tuesday evening, March 11th, for their monthly meeting, which was also streamed live to the public via Zoom.

The group invited Christopher Barfield, school leader of Urban Dove I Brooklyn Campus, to share a presentation on "The Science Behind the Urban Dove Model," which is rooted in aspects of both neurology and sociology.

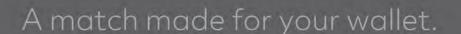
During his presentation, Barfield gave an overview of brain development and discussed the regulatory neural networks of the adolescent brain and how it responds to intense, prolonged, repeated and unaddressed stress with trauma when dysregulated.

Barfield explored positive, tolerable and toxic stressors and the positive impact of social-emotional buffering, parental resilience and early intervention. He even discussed the importance of crisis intervention, which includes skill-based instruction, counseling, community circles, social work intake, meditation and sports-based youth development.

District 22 Superintendent Julia Bove was also present for the meeting and came prepared with a variety of pies in honor of Pi Day: the annual celebration of the mathematical constant Pi (the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, which is approximately 3.14159), observed around the world on March 14th. As a lifelong math enthusiast and former math educator, Bove took the opportunity to discuss some of the exciting events taking place in schools around the District during the month of March, which they have aptly dubbed "March Mathness."

She also took some time to address the apprehension some families have expressed over what they perceive to be the new math curriculum. She assured the group that the math itself will never change, only the delivery of it will, and only when all of the teachers in her District are fully trained and prepared to present the new model to students, not a minute sooner. As the pedagogy rapidly moves away from rote learning and memorization, it is making a major shift toward critical thinking and problem-solving in an effort to better meet the needs of individual students with a range of learning styles and modalities. Indeed, the new model is intended to increase knowledge retention and help students foster a deeper, more complex understanding of math concepts at every level.

The next meeting of CEC 22 will be held at the District Office, 5619 Flatlands Avenue, on Tuesday, April 8th, at 6:30 p.m.





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Marine Park

Learning About Parks Department Restoration Projects at the Salt Marsh



Parks Department Director of Natural Resources Area Management Kip Stein introduces himself.



Salt Marsh Alliance board member Debra Sturm discusses the organization's mission.

By Amanda Salazar

The Salt Marsh Alliance, a nonprofit that hosts events and programming in the Marine Park Salt Marsh, hosted the Parks Department's Director of Natural Areas Management Kip Stein, who spoke about restoration projects all over the salt marsh.

The "Maintaining Marine Park's Forever Wild Natural Areas" talk was held at the Salt Marsh Nature Center, located at 3302 Avenue U, on Saturday, March 8th.

Stein discussed six projects, some of which had already been completed, others still in progress and one that was being proposed. All of the projects are tied to different areas in the salt marsh and focus on removing invasive plant species, before supplementing and replacing them with native plantings.

"We are going for a more diverse habitat that supports a broader array of plants and insects and wildlife, and has a more safe and inclusive and accessible park experience for the public," he said.

The goal of these projects is to diversify the plant populations in the marsh, an attempt to mirror what the wetlands looked like prior to human-caused degradation. More diverse, native plants will create a stronger barrier between the marsh and surrounding communities, beautify the park, revitalize the soil and create a better habitat for local animal species.

On top of that, native plants, like spartina grass, are more fire-resistant and thus less likely to catch and spread flames. After a heavy brush and wildfire season, particularly bad at the salt marsh, this seems to be an especially strong motivator.

"There's a lot of ways that you can help, or at least realize how important it is and why places like this need to be maintained," Salt Marsh Alliance board member Debra Sturm said.

The earliest project Stein discussed was restoration of 23 acres of tidal wetland and coastal grassland by the Gerritsen Meadow south of the Nature Center. This project, designed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, was completed in 2010.

For years, the natural wetlands of this area were lost and became dry due to dumping and development. Invasive phragmite plants — tall, dry grasses that ignite easily and were involved in many of the recent brush fires — were the only thing that could grow in the degraded coastal soil for a long time, until the restoration project brought back a growing population of native grass.

The Capital Forest Restoration project covered 10 acres of coastal forest and shrubland south of the marsh and was completed in 2021. It saw the planting of 800 trees and 500 shrubs. Then, ending in 2023, the In-House Forest Restoration along Avenue U and Burnett Street focused primarily on shrubs.

Gerritsen Avenue is also receiving a Capital Forest Restoration. This project began in 2023 and will be ongoing until 2026 and addresses 26 acres of coastal forest and shrubland. The plan is to plant 1,200 trees and 1,400 shrubs.

Lastly, the Parks Department is proposing one more forest restoration project by Burnett Street that would work on two acres of land to plant 1,250 trees and 250 shrubs by 2028. If the grant is awarded, it would likely begin next year.

"Restoration is just the first step," Stein said. "All these big, dramatic capital projects where we spent a million dollars in three years and we have a big public tree planting with community volunteers, that's just the first step. Aftercare and continued management and upkeep is really the most important thing — and that's where we depend on community volunteers to keep that going forever, really."



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Senator Hosts Powerful International Women's Day Webinar

By Angela G. Nannetti

In honor of International Women's Day, State Senator Roxanne Persaud hosted a special webinar on Thursday evening, March 6th, via Zoom, to celebrate and explore the ways women in the community have managed to break the barriers of gender bias and stereotypes to achieve success in their industries.

A trailblazer in politics and a champion of women's rights, Persaud serves on the Women's Caucus: an all-female, bicameral, bipartisan organization of elected officials, dedicated to advancing legislation that benefits women and families. No stranger to the various challenges women face in the workplace and beyond, she invited three female panelists to discuss their journeys and share some of the wisdom they have picked up along the way.

The panelists included: mother, pastor and Deputy Brooklyn Borough President Kimberly Council, former democratic assemblywoman and founder of her own boutique government relations firm, Joni Yoswein, and mother, writer and reporter for the *Canarsie Courier*, Angela Nannetti. Although their career paths and the personal experiences they shared were incredibly diverse, the overall

message that resonated throughout their conversations was that of unity, of the importance of women helping women and the power of mentorship for future generations.

Together, they examined a wide range of topics, including equality and respect, as they identified some of the differences in the way men and women are perceived and characterized in leadership roles. They acknowledged that employees tend to take criticism differently when it comes from a male superior and how employees are more likely to take advantage of or expect more leniency and understanding from a female superior.

The group explored the cultural and societal constructs that make it acceptable for superiors to ask women how they will balance their work and family lives, that lay the foundation for mom guilt, and cause women to overextend themselves and prioritize others over themselves. While all of the panelists agreed that great strides have been made in breaking stereotypes and forging women's equality, they recognized that there is still a great deal of work that needs to be done and that all women have a part to play in seeing that that important work gets done.

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Brooklyn Civic Groups Unite to Defend Communities Against War on Homeowners

By Robert Pearl Residents packed the Hudson River Yacht Club on

Tuesday, March 11th, for a Tri-Civic Special Meeting hosted by the Bergen Beach Civic Association and joined by the Mill Island and Mill Basin Civic associations. The event, which brought together civic leaders and residents from multiple neighborhoods, hosting well over 200 people, served as a rallying cry against what organizers called a war on homeowners and residential communities.

Paul Graziano, a longtime urban planner, and activist Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels and 2025 Republican candidate for NYC mayor, headlined the meeting, addressing a growing wave of local frustration. The focus of the discussion was

Opportunity," which critics argue paves the way for unchecked development at the expense of residential neighborhoods.

"This is the battle to save your neighborhood, to save your equity," Sliwa declared, drawing applause from the audience. "They want to destroy the residential areas. The mayor has upzoned the entire city, allowing corporate developers to dictate the future of our communities."

Graziano, who has spent years studying land use policies, emphasized the sweeping impact of the changes. He detailed how the City of Yes initiative reduces zoning restrictions, increases density in traditionally low-rise neighborhoods and enables developers to bypass community input.

"We fought to maintain these zoning protections for decades, and now they're being erased overnight," Graziano said. "This isn't about housing affordability. It's about making it easier for largescale developers to profit while homeowners bear the consequences."

One of the most pressing concerns discussed was the planned construction of lithium-ion battery warehouses in residential areas, including along Flatbush Avenue. Sliwa, who recently attended a civic meeting on the issue, expressed deep concerns about the potential dangers these facilities pose.

"The FDNY wasn't even given a heads-up about these warehouses," he said. "And if one of these facilities catches fire - which they commonly do — the entire community could be devastated. The company NineDot and the landlord must be held accountable."

Residents raised alarms over the environmental and safety risks associated with lithium-ion battery storage, including the risk of uncontrollable fires and toxic air contamination. Graziano and Sliwa both called for immediate action to halt their construction.

The meeting also touched on broader frustrations with the city's handling of real estate development, housing policies and migrant shelters. Sliwa, a vocal opponent of the now-closed Floyd Bennett Field migrant shelter, reiterated his stance that the city has failed to consider the impact of these policies on local communities.

"This is systemic in our city," he said. "Developers are being given free rein while the voices of homeowners and residents are ignored."

The event ended with a call to action, urging civic groups across Brooklyn and beyond to unite against these sweeping changes. Graziano highlighted a lawsuit already in progress challenging the legality of the City of Yes, with backing from civic organizations citywide. With this pending legal action, Graziano indicated residents like Claudia Greco and others whose homes are directly adjacent to the lithium battery warehouse sites will be added to the suit.

"This isn't just about one neighborhood," he stressed. "This is about the future of our city. If we don't fight back now, we'll wake up to a New York we no longer recognize."

Ron Canterino, president of the New Yorkers First Coalition for Better Communities, who helped organize the Tri-Civic meeting, voiced strong opposition against city plans and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). "This is not just a local issue and is not about politics - it's a fight for the safety and well-being of our families," he stated, emphasizing that residents must unite to push back against developments that endanger their neighborhoods.

With an engaged audience and growing support for legal action, the Tri-Civic meeting underscored a mounting resistance to policies that residents fear will irreversibly alter the fabric of their communities.



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Representative Hakeem Jeffries Hosts Town Halls Addressing National Concerns and Local Issues

By Bristol Hendrix

In a series of recent telephone town halls, Representative Hakeem Jeffries (NY-8) engaged with constituents across Brooklyn, tackling pressing national and local issues, including healthcare, social security, housing and judicial overreach. The discussions underscored the 8th District House Democratic Leader's commitment to fighting for working-class Americans and safeguarding key social programs against proposed cuts. The town halls were held via phone, on February 23rd and March 6th.

At the March 6th town hall, Jeffries addressed ongoing legal battles and policy debates in Washington, D.C., emphasizing victories in court against President Donald Trump's executive orders, particularly regarding the Department of Education and federal property sales. He pointed out that while what he calls extreme actions often make headlines, the successful pushback against them frequently goes unnoticed.

Healthcare and Social Security Under Threat

A central theme of the discussion on the February 23rd town hall was the Republican-proposed budget, which Jeffries described as the largest threat to Medicaid in American history. He warned that the proposed cuts could devastate seniors, families and people with disabilities, potentially leading to hospital closures and reduced access to vital medical care.

Brooklyn residents like Mr. Chambers from Central Brooklyn and Ms. Pauline from Sheepshead Bay voiced their concerns about the future of Medicaid and Social Security. Jeffries assured them that House Democrats are united against these cuts and are actively working to protect these essential programs. "Social Security is an earned benefit, not a giveaway," he emphasized, criticizing Republican efforts to undermine the program.

Local Issues: Housing and Deed Fraud

The congressman also fielded questions from constituents struggling with housing insecurity. Rachel from Canarsie raised the alarm on the rising incidents of deed theft, particularly affecting black homeowners in Brooklyn. NYS Attorney General Letitia James, who joined Jeffries for the March 6th call, pledged her office's commitment to prosecuting fraudulent real estate schemes and supporting vulnerable homeowners



Immigration and Executive Overreach

Addressing concerns from Imran of Brighton Beach, Jeffries reaffirmed his support for immigrant communities and the need to protect citizenship pathways. He also tackled questions about the overreach of executive orders, particularly those that impact federal agencies and civil rights protections. Pastor Preston from East New York challenged the legality of certain presidential actions, to which Jeffries and James responded with a firm commitment to challenging unconstitutional moves in court.

A Call to Action

At the conclusion of each town hall, Jeffries urged residents to remain engaged and proactive in the fight for democracy. He encouraged constituents to share their

stories through his website (Jeffries.house. gov) to help amplify the real-life impact of proposed policy changes.

"Now is the time not to be silent," Jeffries said. "We must stand together, fight back and ensure that our democracy works for everyone."

The town halls reinforced Jeffries' role as a staunch advocate for his Brooklyn constituents, promising continued efforts to protect healthcare, housing and civil liberties in the face of mounting political challenges.

The 8th Congressional District covers Canarsie, East Flatbush, Spring Creek, East New York, Brownsville, Flatlands, Mill Basin, Bergen Beach, Marine Park, Gerritsen Beach and Sheepshead Bay.

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WITH THIS AD

Sheepshead Bay

IHOP Hosts Fundraiser for P.S. 312

By Amanda Salazar

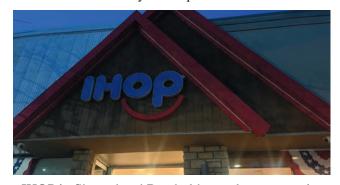
The IHOP in Sheepshead Bay, located at 2951 Avenue U, is known for its comforting food and inviting atmosphere — but also for its community events.

The restaurant hosted its most recent event, a fund-raiser for P.S. 312 Bergen Beach, on Monday, March 10th. Between the hours of 3 and 10 p.m., 20% of all checks paid at the pancake joint were donated to the public school.

"It's a way to help," manager Zulema Jimenez said. "It's a way, also, to get customers for the company, but at the same point, it's a way that the schools can help their students."

Jimenez, who is not the manager that arranges the fundraisers, said she's never worked in another IHOP that has held community events like this one. She said she believes it is the only one in the area that does this.

While the turnout wasn't as strong as some of the business's previous events, typically these fundraisers do draw a larger crowd, explained server Kailyn Perez, who has worked many of the prior fundraisers.



IHOP in Sheepshead Bay holds regular community events.

"They're pretty good," she said. "They get a lot of people in, and it also raises money for the PTAs and the kids' schools and the kids' events. So, it's nice."

Usually, the team separates the restaurant into two halves: one half is seated with people who came specifically for the fundraiser, typically families or staff from the school, and the other is seated with regular customers. The seating separation allows the staff to determine how many people show up for the event.

The 20% donation applies regardless of whether a customer comes specifically for the fundraiser, but it is not applicable to any special offers or menus. It also applies to take-out orders.

"I think it brings the community together," Perez said. "You see a lot of families interact with each other and meet each other here, so they create little relationships, and they'll come back to support other schools, not just their own. They're very selfless here."

The next Sheepshead Bay IHOP fundraiser will be held on Monday, March 24th, from 3 to 10 p.m. for P.S./I.S. 109 in Flatlands.



Families eat in booths by the front windows.



Server Kailyn Perez takes orders.



The school donation also applied to take-out orders.

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Sheepshead Bay

Residents Oppose Homeless Shelter

By Angela G. Nannetti

Residents of Sheepshead Bay and the neighboring community of Marine Park are up in arms, since learning of the City's plans to erect a homeless shelter at 2134 Coyle Street, without their consent. A protest was held on Saturday, March 15th, with Assemblywoman Jaime Williams and activist Curtis Sliwa in attendance.

In 2022, City Council voted to approve the erection of a mixed-use building at the site, located between Avenues U and V, that would consist of dwelling units and ground floor commercial units, which was later vetted and approved by Community Board 15. Local residents were blindsided then, when they learned that the property would be used as a homeless shelter rather than the affordable housing complex they had expected.

Both Republican Councilwoman Inna Vernikov (District 48) and Democratic Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse (District 46) say they are in opposition to the homeless shelter and have called upon the Department of Social Services and Mayor Eric Adams to immediately terminate the contract. "At no time was a shelter proposed or presented to the Community Board or the City Council prior to the vote on approval for this project," wrote Vernikov, in her official statement.

The building, which is currently vacant, is situated beside a Dollar Tree, across the street from a liquor warehouse and is in close proximity to a number of daycare centers and schools. While local residents acknowledge that homelessness has reached crisis levels in the City, they are in staunch opposition to a large-scale shelter in what they describe as an otherwise safe, clean, quiet community.



Activist and Guardian Angels Founder Curtis Sliwa at a protest opposing a shelter on Coyle Street.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad

"Why don't these shelters ever get put into expensive areas where the rich reside?" Chris T. asked. "It only happens to the middle class. Having shelters in the area usually increases crime and safety concerns. I used to work in homeless shelters, and I'm telling you right now, it's not the good, beautiful family-loving people you probably think it is."

"Homeless people don't want to stay at shelters because they steal from each other," Bernice S. added.

A number of residents debated how simply building a shelter will address the root causes of homelessness, namely mental health issues, addiction and substance abuse. "They have no help," said Elissa M. "No services, just a bed at night. That will change nothing,"

"The homeless will be lingering about the shelters," John A. agreed. "Just visit any shelter and you see them



Protesters have set up a tent and signage to make their opposition known.

in there begging, drinking, doing drugs and defecating. The word homeless is a misnomer. Lack of shelter is often the least of their problems. Psychological services and addiction counseling are often lacking."

"They offer no services and kick the residents out during the day to wander the streets, to panhandle or worse," another local resident, Richard F., explained.

The battle over this homeless shelter has only just begun, as those interested in voicing their opinion are invited to attend the next Community Board 15 meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25th, at Kingsborough Community College, 2001 Oriental Boulevard, Faculty Dining Room U112.

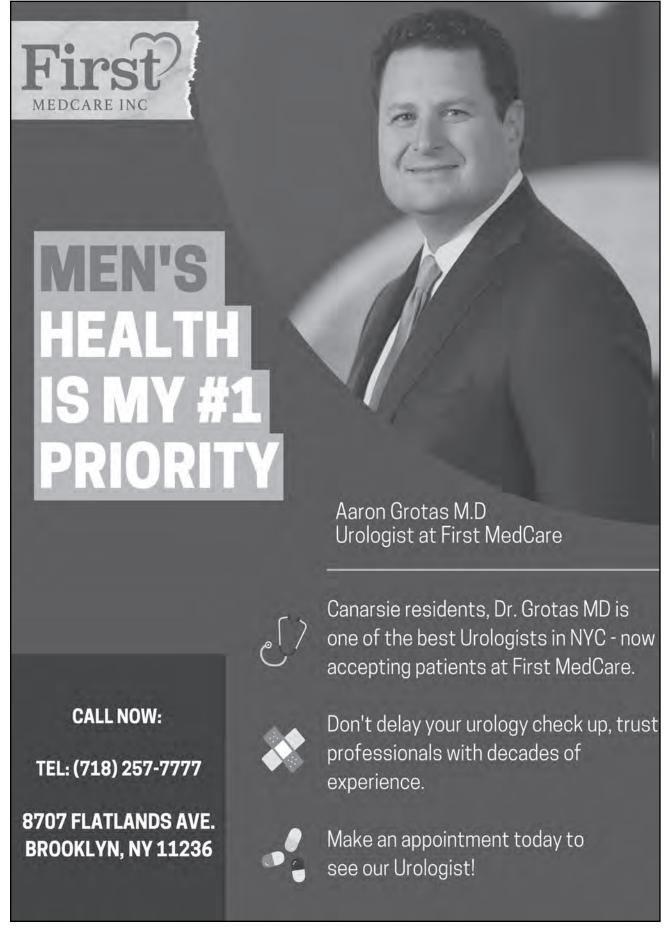
There is also a petition circulating in opposition to the shelter: https://www.change.org/p/stop-the-construction-of-a-homeless-shelter-at-2134-coyle-street-brooklyn-ny-11229



Police Officers Warn Mill Basin Residents to Stay Alert for Theft



Police Officers Podd and Gamba, Lawrence Paduano, Josephine Politi, Lydia Kirchner, Paul Curiale, Fred Greenberg and Police Officer Carter.



By Kari LLeras

The monthly meeting of the Mill Basin Civic Association (MBCA) was held on Tuesday, March 11th, in the basement of Mary Queen of Heaven Church, at 1395 East 56th Street, where residents connected to address common concerns.

A small number of people were expected to attend due to a change in the meeting time, one hour earlier, at 6 p.m., as a result of a 7 p.m. Tri-Civic Special Meeting scheduled at the Hudson River Yacht Club. The "faithfuls," as MBCA President Paul Curiale called them, showed up early, but before long, the room was packed with Mill Basin community members and guests.

Three 63rd Precinct police officers (Tom Podd, John Gamba and Ainsley Carter) spoke about safety and precaution in the neighborhood. Community Affairs Officer Podd reminded everyone that rims and tires are still being stolen and that thieves will leave a car jacked up on crates or blocks. Residents should call 311 if they see something suspicious. He also suggested that everybody check their address bar on their dwellings. It should be clear, so all emergency personnel can find the correct residence, quickly, as "minutes matter."

Crime Prevention Officer Carter reiterated Podd's warning about staying alert for rim and tire theft. He mentioned that there are specialized lug nuts with keys that can be purchased that will deter thieves from stealing them. He reminded everyone to lock their vehicle doors and remove all valuable items (within sight) and lock them in the trunk.

Longtime neighborhood businesses, new businesses and businesses that are trying to branch out were represented at the meeting. MBCA Treasurer Josephine Politi brought her amazing treats from Palermo Bakery, on Avenue N, to snack on during the meeting. Jesse Brownfeld, of Brooklyn Beef N' Cheese on Avenue T, and Azad, from Azad's Car Wash on Flatbush Avenue, joined the meeting as newer business owners trying to branch out to neighboring communities. Brownfeld encouraged people to reach out to his establishment to be included in charitable events or catering needs.

Daniel from Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse's office stopped by to remind community members that her office can help with legal appointments, SNAP benefits, senior citizen issues, benefits and perks, as well as obtaining free trash bins or reimbursement for already purchased bins.

Kaitlyn Mendez spoke about the Summer Rising Program, which runs for six weeks throughout the summer and caters to all NYC students, K-8. Students will receive academic instruction, breakfast and a hot lunch. STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) and literacy activities will also be available, and students will take trips to places such as the Bronx Zoo, Brooklyn Children's Museum, etc. The deadline to register is March 28th. If you would like more information, visit schools.nyc.gov/Summer Rising or message kmendez@BergenBeachYouth. org with questions.

The MBCA acknowledged two community members for their cancer-free years, and Curiale thanked the new visitors for coming and encouraged them to return (even if they're not Mill Basin citizens).

MBCA meetings are typically held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. The next meeting will take place on April 8th at Mary Queen of Heaven. There's convenient parking in the lot on East 56th Street (the gate will be unlocked before the meeting).

Marine Park

Marine Park Alliance Receives Grant Funding for Wildfire Recovery

By Loretta Chin

After daily brush fires ravaged nearly six acres of Marine Park during some of the driest months last fall amid drought conditions and wildfires citywide, help came in an announcement from the nonprofit City Parks Foundation on March 11th, announcing grant funding to help with wildfire recovery.

Marine Park Alliance (MPA) was one of five park groups selected to share in the foundation's \$140,000 NYC Green Fund Wildfire Rapid Response Grant.

The funds are awarded to parkland organizations that manage natural areas and experienced significant damage last fall to support their response efforts. And they come none too soon as a large brush fire recently broke out in Marine Park just days before the announcement and more are expected to continue into spring (see "Brush Fire on a Windy, Gusty Day," page 3).

MPA Executive Director Scott Middleton attended New York City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee and Fire and Emergency Management Committee public hearing to give testimony about what happened in Marine Park in the fall (see "Marine Park Alliance Executive Director Testifies at City Council Hearing," Canarsie Courier, February 13, 2025).

In an announcement of the award in MPA's newsletter, the funds will be used to plan for the "restoration of burned areas east of Gerritsen Creek along the shoreline and loop trail, within the park's coastal meadow and behind the golf course." The plan "includes both native planting and removal of invasive seeds and fruits in order to favor native seedling recruitment.'

MPA stated that they will also curb future fires and vandalism through community stewardship with the help of volunteers and will be working closely with the Gerritsen Beach Volunteer Fire Department who will provide guidance in curbing future fires. They ask that anyone interested in helping out with these efforts to contact them at reachus@marineparkalliance.org.



Bare branches and scorched ground are all that's left. Photo Credit: Eric Peterson



Burnt out forests. Photo Credit: Marine Park Alliance



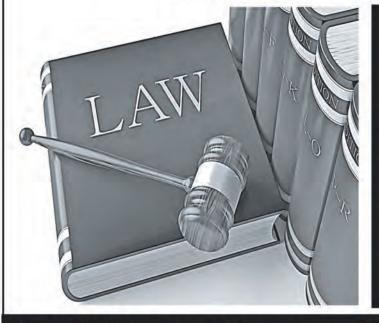
Trees burnt to the ground in Marine Park. Photo Credit: Eric Peterson



Grassy areas reduced to stubble. Photo Credit: Eric Peterson

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LEGAL NOTICES



KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of Anemoia Parfums, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/08/2025. 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 Anemoia Parfums, LLC: 390 Wythe Avenue, 6G, Brooklyn, NY 11249. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of absolute chaos LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 02/23/2025. 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 Andrew Gayda: 97 Cambridge Pl Apt3 Brooklyn NY 11238. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY Notice of Formation

Notice of Formation of 1Slope Ventures LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/04/2024. 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 1Slope Ventures LLC: 328 Macon Street Unit 3 Brooklyn, NY 11233. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation of ZODA ENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 03/12/2025. 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 ZODA ENT: 500 8th Ave, New York, NY 10018, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Probate Citation File No. 2017-4372/B SURROGATE'S COURT - KINGS COUNTY CITATION THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, By the Grace of God Free and Independent TO: JORGE RIOS a/k/a GEORGE L. RIOS, LUIS RIOS, MARCOS RIOS; whose whereabouts and addresses are unknown and cannot be ascertained with due diligence, being persons interested in the estate of MARCOS R. SALGADO, a/k/a MARCOS RIOS SALGADO, MARCOS A. SALGADO, deceased, as distributees or otherwise AND, the unknown heirs at law, next kin, and distributees of MARCOS R. SALGADO, a/k/a MARCOS RIOS SALGADO, MARCOS A. SALGADO, deceased, if any of them are living, and if any of them are deceased, to their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, legatees, executors, administrators, assignees and successors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence. A petition having been duly filed by MARIA R. ROCA, who is domiciled at 521 41st Street, Apt C1, Brooklyn, NY 11232 YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, located at 2 Johnson Street, Rm 319, Brooklyn New York, on April 3, 2025, at 10:00 in the forenoon of that day, why a Decree should not be made in the estate of MARCOS R. SALGADO, a/k/a MARCOS RIOS SALGADO, MARCOS A. SALGADO lately domiciled at 4404 6th Avenue, Apt 4A, Brooklyn, NY 11220, admitting to probate a Will dated January 4, 2012 (a Codicil dated n/a, n/a) as the Will of MARCOS R. SALGADO, a/k/a MARCOS RÍOS SALGADO, MARCOS A. SALGADO deceased, relating to real and personal property and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: MARIA R. ROCA February 18, 2025 Dated, Attested, and Sealed, Hon. Bernard J. Graham Surrogate Lisa Mathis Chief Clerk Connors and Sullivan, Attorneys-At-Law, PLLC Firm Name (718) 238-6500 Telephone 7408 Fifth Avenue, Suite #2, Brooklyn, New York 11209 Address harris.papas@connorsandsullivan.com Email [NOTE: This citation is served upon you are required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.]

KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

File No. 2015-2358/A - SURROGATE'S COURT- KINGS COUNTY - CITATION

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK BY THE GRACE OF GOD FREE AND INDEPENDENT,

TO: NYS Department of Taxation & Finance; Olga Nikishin, Esq.; Cartiga Consumer Funding, successor in interest of Law Cash Tracy Jean Paul by and through her guardian Erlande Jean Paul Roodson Brutus, whereabout unknown; and Marvens Brutus, whereabout unknown.

To Roodson Brutus and Marven Brutus if living and if dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if they died subsequent to the decedent herein, to their executors, administrators, legatees, devisees, assignees and successors in interest whose names and places of residence are unknown and to all other heirs at law, next of kin and distributees of Roodson Brutus and Marven Brutus, the decedents herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained.

Being persons interested as creditors, legatees, devisees, beneficiaries, distributes or otherwise of the estate of the MILFORT BRUTUS, deceased, who at the time of death resided at 1323 Sutter Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11208.

A Petition having been duly filed by ERLANDE JEAN PAUL, who is domiciled at 1280 East 84th Street, 2nd Fl., Brooklyn, New York 11236.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street, Room 319, Brooklyn, New York 11201, on April 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.,

WHY the account of the proceedings of ErlandeJean Paul as administratrix of the estate of MILFORT BRUTUS, deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and

WHY the administratrix should not be empowered to compromise and settle a certain claim for the personal injury matter of the decedent, against defendants Joan Wilkinson, Ayanna Kashad, Carisma Marseille-Macker, ELRAC, Inc., ELRAC, Inc. a/k/a Enterprise Rent-A Car and Enterprise Rent-A-Car a/k/a Enterprise Holdings, Inc. and/or EAN Holdings, LLC, for the sum of \$125,000.00 and to discontinue any claim for conscious pain and suffering, and

WHY the entire recovery of \$125,000.000 should not be allocated to the cause of action for decedent's past pain and suffering, and

WHY the provisions in the limited Letters of Administration issued to the petitioner on December 15, 2015, restraining the compromise or collecting upon the aforesaid claim and cause of action, should not be modified to permit said compromise, and

WHY the filing of a bond should not be dispensed with, and

WHY Empire Fire and Marine Insurance Company and TriState-Consumer Insurance should not pay to Avanzino & Moreno, P.C. and Olga Nikishin, Esq. out of the proceeds of the settlement for the claim of personal injury, the sum of \$3,925.13 as and for legal disbursements, and

WHY the balance of the settlement, to wit the sum of \$121,074.87, should not be distributed as follows: a) Avanzino & Moreno, P.C. - Legal Fee \$20,179.15; b) Olga Nikishin, Esq. - Legal Fee \$20,179.14; c) Cartiga Consumer Funding - Funding; creditor \$22,575.00; d) NYS Dep't of Taxation & Finance \$0; e) Erlande Jean Paul-Petitioner \$54,070.79; f) Tracy Jean Paul - infant daughter \$1,356.93; g) Roodson Brutus - son \$1,356.93; h) Marvens Brutus - son \$1,356.93;

WHY the lien to Cartiga Consumer Funding of \$22,575.00 should not be satisfied, and

WHY the balance of the settlement, to wit the sum of \$58,141.58, should not be distributed pursuant to NYS EPTL § 4-1.1 as follows: \$54,070.79 (\$50,000 + \$4,070.79) to Erlande Jean Paul, widow of the decedent and administratrix of the estate, and \$1,356.93 equally to each of decedent's three surviving issues: Tracy Jean Paul, Roodson Brutus and Marvens Brutus, and

WHY upon payments as hereinbefore mentioned, the said administratrix should not be permitted to execute and deliver general releases and all other necessary papers to said defendants, or the defendants' insurance companies Empire Fire and Marine Insurance Company and TriState-Consumer Insurance, releasing them from all claims arising out of the aforesaid action for past pain and suffering, together with any other papers necessary to effectuate the said compromise.

DATED, ATTESTED AND SEALED February 26, 2025 HON. BERNARD J. GRAHAM, Kings County Surrogate, LISA FRATHIS, Chief Clerk

IVAN HMELEV, ESQ., Attorney for Petitioner, 26 Court Street, Suite 2015, Brooklyn, New York 11242 Telephone No. (718) 802-1616, Fax No. (718) 802-0189

(NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obligated to appear in person. You have the right to have an attorney appear for you. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you).

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KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Qualification of UZ AUTO TRANS LLC. Certificate of Authority filed with Secretary of State of (SSNY)01/22/2025 Office location: Kings County. Limited Liability Company (LLC) formed in on 09/19/2014. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to UZ AUTO TRANS LLC: 415 Allen Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11229, USA Articles of Organization originally filed with Secretary of State (SOS). 5146 Hartwell Ln, Brunswick, OH 44212, USA. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



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18 Canarsie Courier March 20, 2025

NYC Finalizes New Rules to Crack Down on Obscured License Plates to Protect Public Safety



Rules Take Effect 30 Days After Adoption

On Monday, March 17th, NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and NYPD Commissioner Jessica Tisch announced the adoption of new rules to protect public safety by strengthening enforcement against drivers who obscure their license plates to evade traffic laws and tolls. These rules were announced in January and will take effect on April 16, 2025.

"Drivers who obscure their license plates are not just breaking the law — they are putting everyone at risk," Rodriguez said. "Clear and visible plates are more important than ever to ensure public safety, fairness and improve traffic flow. Automated camera enforcement has been proven to reduce speeding and lower pedestrian fatalities, but it can only work if plates are visible, which is why these strengthened rules are critical to holding violators accountable and protecting all New Yorkers."

"Ghost plates only exist to evade the law, and they pose a threat to both public safety and traffic safety. Over the past year, the NYPD has taken thousands of illegal ghost plates off the streets, which are often connected to larger crimes. These new rules will strengthen our ability to crack down

on this problem and make our street safer for all," Tisch said.

Drivers who intentionally obscure their plates not only break the law but also attempt to cheat the system — shifting the financial burden onto law-abiding New Yorkers while undermining efforts to make the city's streets safer and more efficient.

New Rules to Strengthen License Plate Visibility

The newly adopted rules clarify that any obstruction to a license plate — whether dirt, rust, plastic coverings or any other material that makes a plate unreadable — is strictly prohibited. Parking with an obscured plate will result in a \$50 fine.

The key rule changes include:

- License Plate Visibility: Plates must be securely fastened, properly displayed, readable, positioned between 12 to 48 inches from the ground when possible, and kept clean and unobstructed. No glass or plastic covers are allowed.
- **Distorted Plates:** No person shall stand or park a vehicle having a license plate that is covered, coated or altered in a way that obscures its readability. License plates must remain fully legible to both the human eye and automated enforcement cameras. Any material, including clear coatings or substances, that distorts or reflects light in a way that prevents cameras from capturing plate numbers in photographs or video recordings is strictly prohibited.
- Ban on Vehicle Covers: No vehicle may be parked with a cover that conceals its license plates, registration stickers, VIN or other identifying information. Covers that restrict access to the vehicle are also prohibited when the vehicle is in violation of posted parking rules.
- **Prohibition of Altered or Fake Plates:** Any material that conceals or mimics a legitimate plate is strictly prohibited. License plates must not be obstructed by any part of the vehicle or by items carried on it, except for officially

issued tolling transponders installed according to mounting instructions.

Protecting NYC's Automated Enforcement Programs

The Adams administration ramped up enforcement against "ghost cars" — vehicles with fake, obscured or altered plates used to evade law enforcement, tolls, speed cameras and parking rules. Since the start of the administration, over 73,000 ghost cars and unregistered motorized vehicles have been removed from city streets. Automated enforcement programs, including speed cameras and redlight cameras, are proven to save lives.

A recent <u>NYC DOT report</u> highlighted the overwhelming success of the city's speed camera program:

- Major Decline in Speeding at Camera Locations: The average number of daily violations issued has dropped by 94% at locations with speed cameras.
- Significant Reductions in Injuries and Fatalities: Locations with speed cameras installed in 2022 saw 14% fewer traffic injuries and deaths than locations without cameras.
- Behavioral Change Among Drivers: 74% of vehicles that receive violations receive no more than one or two per year, showing that the program effectively deters reckless driving.
- Repeat Offenders Pose Major Safety Risks: While most drivers adjust their behavior, more than 12,000 drivers received more than 20 speed camera violations in 2023. These drivers are five times more likely to be in a crash that results in death or critical injury than the average driver.

Automated enforcement works only when cameras can accurately capture license plates, ensuring that reckless drivers face consequences. By preventing license plate obstruction and distortion, NYC is reinforcing its commitment to Vision Zero and making streets safer for all New Yorkers

Courtesy of the NYC Department of Transportation



Author's Note: How many of you fellow Brooklynites went to the Borscht Belt during those hot summer months in the '50s and '60s? In my new book, I wrote this poem describing our trip to the mountains. I remember cars overheated and hoods opened trying to get a battery boost, people fixing flat tires. Halfway there, traveling more than two hours, we stopped off at Red Apple Rest on Route 17. It was more than a five-hour trek before the Quickway was built.

I hope this poem brings back memories. There are 56 poems/stories of my childhood experiences in my new book called Brooklyn: The Borough of Dreams.

The Catskill Mountains By Martin Blumberg

My dad at the wheel of our '53 Chevrolet, Heading for the Catskills, What a beautiful day. Packing up the car, a family's sensation, Off to the Borscht Belt,

WHATS **HAPPENING**

COMMUNITY **EVENTS** CALENDAR -VOL. 105, NO. 12

SAT, MARCH 22ND

New York Road Runners: Open Run Canarsie Park House Seaview Avenue & East 88th Street 9 a.m.

TUES. MARCH 25TH

69th Precinct Community Council Meeting Hebrew Educational Society 9502 Seaview Avenue 8 p.m.

SAT, MARCH 22ND

Regina Opera: Free Library Concert Kings Highway Library 2115 Ocean Avenue 1:30 p.m.

Nature's Workshop: Crafting the Night Sky Salt Marsh Nature Center 3302 Avenue U 7:30 p.m.

SAT, MARCH 22ND

SUN, MARCH 23RD

New York Road Runners: Open Run Behind Carmine Carro Community Center 3000 Fillmore Avenue 9 a.m.

WED. MARCH 26TH

63rd Precinct Community Council Meeting John Malone Community Center 2335 Bergen Avenue 7 p.m.

SAT, MARCH 29TH

Birding: Early Spring Migrants Salt Marsh Nature Center 3302 Avenue U 11 a.m.

The Catskills

Our cherished vacation. Dad's hands on the wheel, a grin on his face, With each mile we traveled, Our hearts picked up pace. Cows mooing beside us, munching on hay, Escaping Brooklyn's heat, We were on our way. Spotting the "Red Apple Rest," halfway, we'd say, On Route 17, cars overheated in disarray. But in our sweltering car, no AC to turn on, We would breathe the cool mountain air; Brooklyn's scorching heat was gone. Off to a bungalow colony,

A unique place, lakeside swims, a tranquil space. Collecting salamanders in the gentle rain, Childhood's joy, without a hint of pain. Blueberries picked, a delightful bite,

No TV for a week, Nature's pure flight. Midnight sky gazing, searching for a mate, A desire always in sight, Finding my first crush, oh! What a sweet delight. Appreciating it all, what an enjoyable week, Ready to return to Brooklyn, a place also unique. But I'll always cherish our Catskill vacation, These are great memories, A Brooklyn kid's sensation. A chapter forever held so dear, From those hills and valleys, Back to our Brooklyn's asphalt frontier. In nature's beauty, we found our connection, A family's bond, a cherished recollection. Going back to Brooklyn often caused us to tear, But the remembrance of the Catskill Mountains



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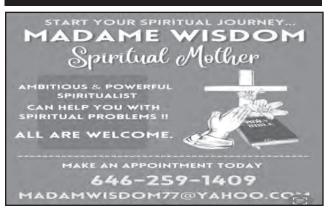


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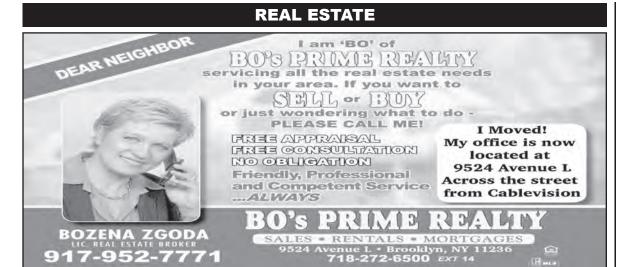
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