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## Canarsie Honors



Photo by Bristol Hendrix

Story on page 18



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Canarsie Courier

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Don't Balance the Budget on the Backs of Homeowners

By Jibreel Jalloh

My parents came to New York chasing the American Dream. By many measures, they achieved it. They worked long hours, saved diligently and eventually bought a modest home in Canarsie. In that house, they raised three children who learned the values of hard work, sacrifice and community. Homeownership wasn't just a financial milestone — it was security, dignity and a foothold toward the middle class.

Last year, I got married. My wife and I are now facing the same hopes — and the same realities — as many young couples across this city. We want to buy a home in the neighborhood we grew up in. We want to plant roots near family and lifelong friends. But like so many others, we simply cannot afford it. Prices have soared, inventory is tight and the math just doesn't work.

Now comes a proposal that could make the climb even steeper.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani's preliminary budget includes a 9.5% property tax hike if Albany does not raise income taxes on the ultra-wealthy. City Hall calls it a "last resort." But for seniors on fixed incomes, working families and first-time buyers already stretched thin, it feels like yet another blow in a growing affordability crisis.

More than three million homeowners would be affected. Property taxes

already account for over 27% of homeownership costs in New York City — higher than the national average. The median home price here reached \$800,000 last year. Even without a rate increase, the burden is staggering.

For seniors who bought decades ago, rising property taxes are not abstract policy debates. They are monthly bills competing with groceries, prescriptions and utilities. A nearly 10% hike could force longtime residents out of neighborhoods they helped build.

The broader picture is sobering. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the national homeownership rate stood at 65.7% in the fourth quarter of 2025. Over the past half-century, that rate has fluctuated but never dramatically expanded. After peaking in the mid-2000s, it fell during the Great Recession and has only partially recovered. In high-cost cities like New York, ownership remains out of reach for many.

To be clear, New York's property tax system is widely acknowledged as broken. Decades-old state laws created inequities that favor some neighborhoods and property types over others. Assessment caps, differing ratios and valuation quirks have produced glaring disparities. Reform is overdue.

But increasing taxes across a structurally flawed system risks compounding the problem rather than correcting it.

It makes it harder for seniors to age in place and harder for young couples like my wife and me to ever get in the door.

If the American Dream is slipping away in the very city that symbolizes opportunity, we should pause before making it even more unattainable.

Jibreel Jalloh is an award-winning organizer and 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, he has helped lead efforts to end gun violence, expand public transit and secure investments in local green spaces. Jibreel is a 2024-2025 Obama Foundation Scholar at Columbia University. Learn more at theflossy.org and follow @theflossyorg.



WHAT'S HAPPENING

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR - VOL. 106, NO. 9

THU. FEBRUARY 26TH

Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings Visit State Senator Roxanne Persaud's Office
1222 East 96th Street
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SAT. FEBRUARY 28TH

Marine Park Super Steward: Pathkeeper Training
Seba Playground
Seba Avenue and Gerritsen Avenue
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
More information at https://www.marineparkalliance.org/event/marine-park-super-steward-pathkeeper-training/.

THU. FEBRUARY 26TH

Canarsie Merchants Association: Youth Entrepreneurship & Mentor Match Experience
The Xperience
1454 Rockaway Parkway
6 to 8 p.m.

SAT. FEBRUARY 28TH

Penn Shoreline Cleanup
Shirley Chisholm State Park - Penn Water Access Area
1750 Granville Payne Avenue
1 to 3 p.m.

THU. FEBRUARY 26TH

State Senator Roxanne Persaud: Scam Prevention for Older Adults
Virtual Event
6 to 7 p.m. Join at https://bit.ly/47Ypdmv.

SUN. MARCH 1ST

Nature's Workshop: Natural Cordage Crafting
Salt Marsh Nature Center
3301 Avenue U
12 to 1:30 p.m.

FRI. FEBRUARY 27TH

Canarsie Library: Free Laminating Sylk Cove
Cocktail Lounge 1370
Rockaway Parkway
5 to 6 p.m.



NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS: OPEN RUNS

Saturdays at 9 a.m.: Canarsie Park - Field House, Seaview Avenue & East 88th Street
Sundays at 9 a.m.: Marine Park - Behind Carmine Carro Community Center, 3000 Fillmore Avenue

NEW YORK STATE SENATE'S YOUTH LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION AWARD

The program honors outstanding students who will become future leaders. Eligible students include current sophomores, juniors and seniors who excel academically and through leadership in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Recipients will receive a personalized certificate from Senator Roxanne Persaud. Nominations due February 28th. https://www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/youth-leadership-recognition-awards-program

DEPARTMENT OF SANITATION HIRING EMERGENCY SNOW SHOVELERS

Emergency Snow Shovelers are called on after heavy snowfalls to remove snow and ice citywide from public areas like bus stops, crosswalks and fire hydrants and stop streets. Pay starts at \$19.14 per hour and increases to \$28.71 per hour after the first 40 hours worked in a week. Must be at least 18 years old, eligible to work in the United States and capable of physical labor. Sign up at https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsn/careers/civilians/emergency-snow-shovelers.page

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**Brownsville**

**Teen Arrested in Shooting of 13-Year-Old**



By Linda Steinmuller

A 13-year-old male was arrested and charged in connection to the shooting of another 13-year-old male on Friday, February 20th, in the Seth Low Houses, a NYCHA housing development in Brownsville.

The suspect was charged with criminal possession of a weapon and reckless endangerment on the same day.

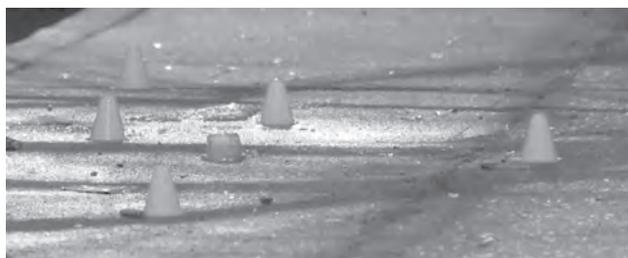
The shooting took place around 2:40 p.m. at 131 Belmont Avenue, between Christopher Avenue and Powell Street. Police from the 73rd Precinct/PSA2 arrived at the scene and found the victim with gunshot wounds to his right thigh, both hands and a graze wound to his left knee.

He was taken by EMS to Brookdale Hospital in stable condition, according to police.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad

**East Flatbush**

**Teen Shot in Stomach**



By Linda Steinmuller

A 16-year-old male is in stable condition after he was shot in his abdomen on Friday, February 20th.

Police from the 67th Precinct responded to a ShotSpotter activation in the vicinity of 1336 Brooklyn Avenue around 8 p.m. Upon arrival, they received a 911 call for a male shot in front of 1351 New York Avenue, off Newkirk Avenue, police said. They responded to that location where they found the 16-year-old victim. He was taken to Kings County Hospital by EMS in stable condition.

There are no arrests, and an investigation is ongoing.

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

Photos by Baqir Ahmad

**Pennsylvania Man Arrested in Canarsie Home Invasion**



By Linda Steinmuller

One month after a scary home invasion on East 92nd Street near Avenue J, a Pennsylvania man has been slapped with a slew of charges.

Eric Butler, 23, of Lebanon, PA, was arrested on Wednesday, February 18th, and charged with attempted robbery, assault, burglary and criminal possession of a weapon.

Butler is being accused of posing as a delivery driver and invading a Canarsie home around 8:25 a.m. on Sunday, January 18th (see "Home Invasion in Canarsie by Imposter Delivery Driver," *Canarsie Courier*, January 22, 2026). Butler allegedly knocked on the door of the home, occupied by a 36-year-old female and a 29-year-old male, entered the residence and demanded money. The 29-year-old male sustained a minor laceration and bruising during the encounter but refused medical attention.

The suspect fled the location empty-handed. Police caught up with him exactly one month later and made the arrest.

**Valentine's Day Shooting Now Deemed a Homicide**



By Linda Steinmuller

The victim of a shooting in an East Flatbush lounge did not survive his injuries.

Sheriff Shittu, 30, of Far Rockaway, Queens, was pronounced dead at Brookdale Hospital, according to police sources.

An argument at a birthday party that was underway at Quilox, 9508 Church Avenue, escalated into a shooting around 4:25 a.m. on Saturday, February 14th (see "Valentine's Day Shooting," *Canarsie Courier*, February 19, 2026). Shittu was shot in the head and taken to the hospital in critical condition, where he succumbed to his injuries.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad

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## Mill Basin Civic Meets for First Time Since Big Snow

By Amanda Salazar

The Mill Basin Civic Association (MBCA) met for the first time since January's big snow on Tuesday, February 10th, at the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club office, located at 5809 Avenue T, where the board and guests discussed a number of community issues.

The snow itself got some airtime, though at this point it was partially melted away, as Community Board 18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow discussed the city's response to the storm.

Partnow lauded the Department of Sanitation's performance, noting that it's not common for Sanitation workers to be sent out to do both trash pickup and snow removal concurrently, as they were in this instance. She also gave a shout-out to Assemblywoman Jaime Williams for her addi-

tional efforts to help with snow removal, having distributed free shovels to constituents who visited her district office and shoveled some streets herself.

However, with all the leftover snow blocking many parking spots and driveways, Partnow reminded meeting attendees that residents cannot use orange traffic cones to hold their parking spots. When instances of this are reported to the community board, the NYPD has to drive by and clear out all the cones.

Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse's constituent services coordinator, Tanisha Faroul, also spoke about the snow. She noted that the DSNY is actively trying to break down snow mounds to clear streets, adding that constituents can report particularly bad locations to Narcisse's office.

"DSNY is super tasked right now, but they are trying their best," Faroul said.

Moving on from the storm topic, Partnow discussed a new proposal applicant for the Aviator Sports and Events Center, at 3159 Flatbush Avenue, which is closing. The center used to offer a multitude of sports programs for youths and adults and is located within Floyd Bennett Field.

This new applicant would retain much of the facilities as they are but add an indoor waterpark, events space and restaurants.

"Their vision is a very exciting vision, and I think it'd be great for the community and communities surrounding us," Partnow said.

Donald Cranston, chief of staff for Williams, discussed a bill that she introduced in the State Assembly, which is currently in committee. Assembly Bill A6955, bipartisanly co-signed by 40 members, would create a setback rule for Battery Energy Storage System facilities, like the ones under protest in Marine Park.

If passed, the bill would prohibit the facilities from being built within 350 feet of a residential or church property in cities with a population of more than a million and 750 feet of a farm property or a residential or church property in municipalities with a population of less than a million.

"We're confident that that will be taken up by committee this year," Cranston said.

MBCA co-President Paul Curiale said that the civic is against the idea of putting a new high school on Avenue U and East 71st Street in Bergen Beach, which the School Construction Authority (SCA) is reportedly considering. It would take over a vacant lot and serve fewer than 700 students, if established.

Curiale said the civic — along with Narcisse and District Leader Frank Seddio — suggested an alternative location, Flatlands Avenue and East 56th Street, as a better spot for a new school, if one is needed. It's up to the SCA to reach out to Curiale to discuss the idea further.

He also said he even thinks the closed Rite Aid location at Avenue U and Mill Avenue could be a better spot but isn't totally sure due to how busy the intersection is.

"We really don't want to see a high school over here, only because it really doesn't fit and it's really hard to get to," Curiale said. "It's just really not fair for high school kids to be in that little tight corner that used to be the Golden Ox."

The meeting was kicked off by a singing performance from 4th- and 5th-graders in the Millennium Development after-school program at P.S. 222 Katherine R. Snyder in Marine Park.

The next meeting of the MBCA will be held on Tuesday, March 10th, at 6:30 p.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club.



Students pose with MBCA members and guest speakers.

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Flatlands

# Illustrative Watercolor Art Classes Yield Impressive Results

By Loretta Chin



Students with art instructor Nigel Morgan.

The Flatlands Library meeting room transformed into an art gallery where the end results of a watercolor class designed for older adults yielded beautiful watercolor illustrations on exhibit for the art class finale on Friday, February 6th.

The colorful watercolors lined the corner of the room's walls where artists were invited to talk about their artwork at 2065 Flatbush Avenue. Some participants were prone to self-evaluation with high personal standards

"You as the artist, you are very critical of yourself, but for us who are viewing it for the first time, it looks perfect," art instructor Nigel Morgan said. Everyone agreed.

"I had a great time doing it," the artist said. "I said to Nigel [Morgan], 'I didn't think I could ever, ever do anything like this and so I really thank you.'"

Marie Malluk illustrated a children's story about Johnny Appleseed based on her favorite song. "I looked at it and I thought, 'Oh, I could have done it this way or that way, but actually, I'm happy with the way it turned out,'" she said. At the special request of the class, she sang the cheery song, which added to the event.

The "Creative Aging: Illustrate a Colorful Story" class had about 15 aspiring artists of all skill levels. Morgan taught them how to use watercolor techniques to illustrate a short story or book in the free nine-week course.

The free art classes were a part of the Brooklyn Public Library's (BPL) services for older adults. It is one of the many offerings in their Creative Aging programs, which are funded through foundation, corporate and donor support.

BPL representatives of Older Adults Outreach Services, Judith Vigo and Lyman Clayborn, provide outreach and coordination at all 62 BPL branches.

"We have many different art forms such as jewelry making, dancing, different types of painting and drawings, soap carving at Gerritsen Beach and more," Vigo said.

Clayborn said that it's the creative aging model that came from lifetime arts where the first class is basic and the instructor helps older adults build on their skills. "The library is hiring professional level teaching artists and it's free," he said, emphasizing the importance of donations and support to allow these programs to continue.

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A sample of the many works on display.

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A graduate of NYC public schools, he's spent his career in community organizing and government working to ensure our neighborhoods have a voice.

From being selected as an Obama Scholar to running a small business, Jibreel is ready and committed to Assembly District 59.

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SCAN TO LEARN MORE

## Midwood Older Adults Celebrate Black History Month with Braata

By Brenda Cox

As part of its Black History Month Jubilee, the Midwood Older Adult Center (OAC), located at 2164 Ralph Avenue, hosted a cultural performance on Friday, February 13th, that featured Braata Folk Singers. The event was the second of a series of performances that the center scheduled for the month-long observation and also showcased the Midwood Older Adults Dance Group, which performed the opening for Braata.

"We've been waiting to collaborate with Braata productions for three years, and this is the first time that Midwood Older Adults Center or any center is actually opening up for them," Marianna Hernandez, program director at Midwood OAC, gushed to the *Canarsie Courier*. She said that the group created their own special dance just to open for

Braata and that their ultimate goal is to be on Broadway.

Braata's appearance at Midwood OAC was sponsored by Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman. Their performance clearly resonated with the audience, many of whom sang along with the group. First there was a medley of gospel tunes, then the performers transitioned to reggae, followed by R&B and finally calypso. By this time, everyone was on their feet. Some danced alone, others with a partner. A huge conga line emerged at the end as everyone sang and danced to "Tiney Winey."

Jennifer Richardson-Herbert, a representative from Chandler-Waterman's office, gave brief remarks and distributed resource materials. Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse's office was also represented at the event.



Marianna Hernandez (left), program director at Midwood Older Adult Center, and Patricia Lynch (right), supervisor of Older Adult Services, with Midwood dancers.

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# Assemblywomen Jaime Williams and Monique Chandler-Waterman Headline Major Events at Caucus Weekend in Albany



Assemblywomen Monique Chandler-Waterman and Jaime Williams (bottom row, left) with community leaders at the Sustainability and Support for Caribbean Islands Impacted by Climate Change panel discussion during Caucus Weekend in Albany.

By Assemblywoman Jaime Williams

As part of Black History Month, the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus held its 55th Annual Legislative Conference Weekend in Albany. "Caucus Weekend," as it is commonly known, is one of the largest and most influential legislative gatherings in Albany each year, focused on advancing policies that impact communities of color across New York State.

The conference, held from Friday, February 13th through Sunday, February 15th, featured workshops, panel discussions, networking events and policy forums addressing a wide range of issues affecting black, brown and Asian-American communities throughout New York State. Key topics included housing affordability and insecurity, access to healthcare, criminal justice reform, education and economic opportunity.

Jaime Williams, who represents the 59th Assembly District in southern Brooklyn, was proud to help organize several events during Caucus Weekend and participated in important policy panels focused on sustainability and support for Caribbean nations impacted by climate change and natural disasters, as well as addressing public safety and gun violence in New York through victim-centered, community-driven approaches.

The first of the two events Assemblywoman Williams headlined was the "Sustainability and Support for Caribbean Islands Impacted by Climate Change" panel discussion, held in the Governor's Room at the Albany Hilton. The panel brought together community leaders and stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences, including fellow Caribbean-American Assemblywoman Monique Chandler-Waterman, Camille Hastick of the Hastick Foundation, Dr. Jean Joseph of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Eugene M. Pursoo of the Caribbean Research Center, Michelle Mathison of Sesame Flyers International and Drew Gabriel of CAMBA.

The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration between government officials, nonprofit organizations and community leaders to strengthen disaster preparedness, support hurricane relief efforts and expand economic opportunity across the Caribbean. Panelists, including Assemblywoman Williams, shared firsthand

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accounts of their work assisting in relief efforts and described the logistical challenges involved in delivering critical supplies to communities in need.

The overall message of the discussion was one of unity and commitment. Leaders and advocates emphasized the importance of continued partnership and collective action, grounded in the shared vision of advancing opportunity, resilience and long-term stability across the Caribbean under the guiding principle of "One Caribbean."

The following day, Assemblywoman Williams joined Assemblywoman Chandler-Waterman, along with community leaders and advocates, for an important discussion on gun violence in our communities, the toll it takes on victims and families across New York, and the ways in which government and community partners can work together to address this ongoing crisis.

The "Reimagining Public Safety: Centering Survivors of Gun Violence and Investing in Community-Led Solutions" panel was moderated by Rev. Dr. Charles Galbreath and featured advocates and public safety leaders from a range of organizations, including Nicole Robinson-Etienne of LinkNYC, Calliana Thomas of the New York State Office of Gun Violence Prevention, Bea Hanson of the New York State Office of Victim Services, Deputy Commissioner Joe Popcun of the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, Kira Shepherd of Common Justice, Natasha Christopher of Survivor Strong and Patrick T. Gordon of the NYPD Guardians Association.

Gun violence and its devastating impact on families and communities remain one of the most urgent public safety challenges facing New York. Both members have worked for years to advance policies that support victims and prevent violence before it occurs. In recent years, New York has made meaningful progress through measures such as increasing the burial benefit for victims of gun violence from the longstanding \$6,000 amount to \$12,000, expanding the LinkNYC communications network to provide emergency access across more than 2,000 kiosks citywide and achieving the lowest recorded gun violence levels in over a decade in 2025.

While this progress is encouraging, panelists emphasized that more work remains to fully support survivors and their families. Much of the discussion focused on strengthening survivor-centered policies and expanding access to services and resources. Advocates highlighted the need for reforms to policies such as contributory conduct provisions and restrictions on public fundraising, which can create barriers for victims seeking assistance. Legislators are also advancing legislation in the New York State Assembly, including bill A.5443A, which would require the Office of Victim Services to publish and improve access to available resources, helping ensure that survivors and families receive the support they need during their recovery.

Together, the panel underscored the importance of continued collaboration between lawmakers, service providers, advocates and community members to build safer communities and ensure that survivors remain at the center of public safety policy.

The 55th Annual Legislative Conference Weekend was a resounding success, bringing together lawmakers, advocates and community leaders committed to advancing meaningful solutions to the challenges facing our communities. The conversations and partnerships strengthened over the weekend will help inform policies that promote safety, equity and opportunity for families across New York.

Assemblywoman Williams was honored to take part in these important discussions and remains committed to turning dialogue into action. She looks forward to continuing her work in Albany and in the District to advance legislation and support initiatives that uplift communities, protect families and ensure that every New Yorker has the opportunity to thrive.

*Photo Credit: Randolph Waterman*



Volunteers and staff from E.N.O.U.G.H. organized a bus trip for youth from Canarsie and East Flatbush.





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# Chess Returns to Broadway in a Slimmed Down and Sleek Revival

By S.A. King

When *Chess* first premiered on Broadway in 1988, it was not a musical fit for a king. It closed only a few short months into its run but has since been revised multiple times into more palatable versions of itself. The current Broadway revival, directed by Michael Mayer and starring Aaron Tveit, Lea Michele and Nicholas Christopher, is currently experiencing a successful run due to its stellar and star-filled cast.

Set during the Cold War, *Chess* features one of Broadway's most infamous love triangles involving American chess champion Freddie (Tveit), Russian rival Anatoly (Christopher) and chess strategist Florence (Michele). There is also a convoluted subplot running parallel to the main story focusing on the CIA and KGB using chess for political purposes, but *Chess*' narrative was never its strongest attribute.

The current production is worth seeing for the powerhouse vocals, as well as music by ABBA legends Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus. As a side note, ABBA has had quite the season on Broadway with "dancing queens" rejoicing as *Mamma Mia* took up at the Winter Garden Theatre in 2025 for a limited run.

The new revival of *Chess* features a sleek set design by David Rockwell complete with an 18-member orchestra on the stage. The design team knows that vocals are at the forefront of this production, so they created a concert-like atmosphere to perfectly pair to the play's strengths. At nearly three hours, this production can feel monotonous, but the neon lighting by

Kevin Adams works hard to keep the audience awake.

One of my favorite set design details, which can be easy to miss, are the nuclear warheads tucked in between giant chess pieces that progress vertically up the stage. In a beautiful moment of lighting design, the warheads get their moment to shine both literally and figuratively reminding the audience about the musical's high political stakes. Freddie, Florence and Anatoly aren't just playing chess for their lives, but for all of humanity, as the U.S. and Soviets inch closer and closer to nuclear war with the fate of the world on the line.

The debate over whether *Chess* works as a musical has been debated since the Cold War itself, and while it still hasn't been decided, there are enough gems in this show to make the visit the perfect "knight" out on the town.

*Chess* is currently running at the Imperial Theatre, 249 West 45th Street.

Show runs 2:45 with one intermission

Photo Credit: Chess Production Photos - By Matthew Murphy



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# Brooklyn Buried by Blizzard



Canarsie residents digging out after the snow finally stops.

**By Linda Steinmuller**

Yes, it was an official blizzard, the first one in over a decade, and a real “Snow Day” for NYC schools!

It took almost a month for much of the snow from the January 25th storm to melt. Just when you thought the snow *might* have been over, the city was hit with more of the white stuff on Sunday, February 22nd. By Monday afternoon, Canarsie saw over 19 inches of snow, but Sheepshead Bay was the winner in our coverage area, clocking in at 22.5 inches.

The official snow count in Central Park was 19.7 inches, making it the ninth largest snowstorm in the city.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani declared Monday an official, old-fashioned snow day – no remote learning -- giving students an extra day off following the Presidents’ Week holiday.

The mayor also declared a state of emergency, and a travel ban was in effect until Monday at 12 p.m. Although it was lifted, Mamdani urged residents to stay off the roads as travel was still icy and hazardous.

Most subway lines, including the Canarsie “L” train, were delayed, and alternate side parking was suspended until Sunday, March 1st.

Residents got to work, digging out and clearing snow from their cars and homes, but the snow was wet and heavy. The Nor’easter was characterized by heavy winds – with gusts up to 55 mph -- which caused large snowdrifts and whiteout conditions.

On Wednesday, Canarsie received another two inches of snow.

*Photos by Baqir Ahmad, Linda Steinmuller and Lloyd Mitchell*



A quiet scene in Canarsie on Monday, February 23rd, before snowplows cleared the streets.



A man walks through blizzard conditions near Pennsylvania and Vandalia Avenues.

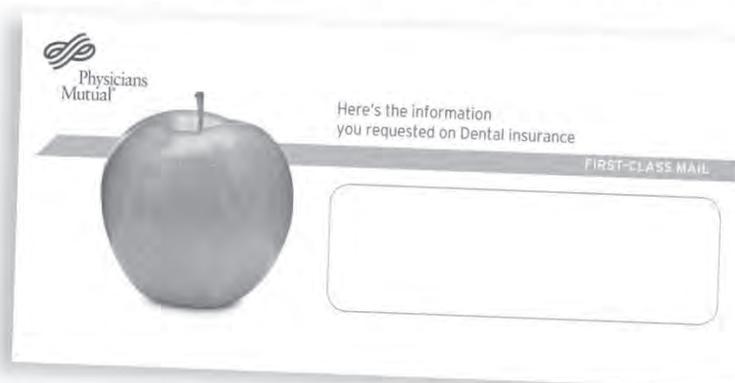
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# TAX TIME

## IRS Phone Traffic: Skip the Wait by Visiting IRS.gov

With the 2026 filing season underway and increased call-center demand, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) encourages taxpayers to visit "Let Us Help You" on IRS.gov and use online tools to get fast, convenient help without waiting on hold.

Many common tax questions and tasks can be handled online before, during and after filing through IRS self-service tools available 24/7.

The IRS offers step-by-step tax filing guidance and self-service assistance to help taxpayers before, during and after filing their returns.

### Skip the Wait: Get Tax Info With an IRS Individual Online Account

Taxpayers can use an IRS Individual Online Account to:

- Get tax records, including wage and income transcripts and adjusted gross income from the most recently filed tax return.
- View, approve and sign authorizations from tax professionals.
- Request and view an identity protection PIN (IP PIN).
- Make a payment and schedule or cancel future payments.

### Skip the Mail: File Electronically and Choose Direct Deposit

Filing electronically and selecting direct deposit is the fastest and safest way to receive a refund. Electronic refunds reduce the risk of payments being lost, stolen, altered or delayed.

In accordance with Executive Order 14247, Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account, the IRS has begun transitioning to fully electronic federal payments.

Eligible taxpayers can file electronically at no cost through the IRS Free File program. Taxpayers who are comfortable preparing their own taxes can use Free File Fillable Forms regardless of their income.

### Get Answers to Tax and Eligibility Questions

The Interactive Tax Assistant provides answers to common tax questions, including filing status, taxable income and credit eligibility. Taxpayers can also visit One, Big, Beautiful Bill Provisions for guidance on recent tax law changes affecting credits and deductions.

Qualified taxpayers needing additional help can find no-cost basic tax return preparation from IRS-certified volunteers through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and Tax Counseling for the Elderly programs. IRS.gov also offers tips for choosing a tax preparer and how to avoid unethical "ghost" return preparers.

### Check Refund Status Online

Taxpayers can track refunds using Where's My Refund?, which provides refund status information within 24 hours after the IRS accepts an electronically filed, current-year return. The data is updated once a day, overnight.

Most early Earned Income Tax Credit and Additional Child Tax Credit filers will see an updated refund status in Where's My Refund? by February 21st.

### IRS.gov is the First Stop for Help

IRS.gov remains the quickest and easiest way to get help anytime, without waiting on hold.

### For more information, see:

- Publication 5136, IRS Services Guide
- Publication 5895, Who Do You Trust to Prepare Your Return?

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## A Night for the Village: Canarsie Honors 2026



Shoot for the Stars Foundation board members and award winner Jory Dreher.

By Bristol Hendrix

On Saturday, February 21st, the Bogart House in Brooklyn was buzzing with a specific kind of energy, the kind you only feel when a neighborhood shows up to celebrate its own. The Shoot for the Stars Foundation, founded by Audrey Jackson to carry on her son Pop Smoke's legacy of giving back, hosted its 3rd Annual Canarsie Honors gala.

Between the live DJ set and performance, art on the walls and the pop-up boutique, the night felt less like a stiff ceremony and more like a powerful family gathering. As one observer put it, the event "was more than just a celebration – it was a powerful testament to the strength, resilience and dedication" of the people who keep Canarsie's heart beating.

Canarsie has always been a place defined by its "village" mentality. Once a quiet suburb, it's evolved into a vibrant, diverse community of 90,000 residents with deep Caribbean and African-American roots. That heritage was front and center at the gala, where the awards weren't just for prestige; they were a "thank you" to the mentors, educators and activists who pour their lives into the local youth. This year's honorees were A.T. Mitchell-Mann of Man Up! Inc, a local nonprofit organization; Jamel Gaines, Dance Architect; Amira-Dior Traynham-Artis, Arts Designer; Shneaqua Coco Stanley, Community Activist; and Laval Bryant-Quigley of The Brooklyn Museum; Jory Dreher, small business owner; and Dr. Maria C. Willis, creator of the Panamanian Day Parade in New York.

One of the most moving moments of the night was the tribute to Gaines. As the founder of the Creative Outlet Dance Theater, Gaines has been using dance to change kids' lives since the mid-90s. But for him, this wasn't just professional; it was personal.

Reflecting on his roots, Gaines shared how local programs saved him. "I started in the arts in third grade through [the NYC] Board of Education ... I did summer youth employment until I aged out," he told the crowd, remembering how those early free programs and a scholarship to Purchase University set his path.

He seemed genuinely touched by the recognition, admitting, "It feels weird to be honored with something that you really love doing." His colleagues weren't surprised, though. Jackson, standing next to him on stage, noted that Gaines has always been there for the neighborhood's families: "Jamel is family ... he was there for us when the boys were younger and needed a place to be. To be able to show him some honor at this stage of the game is fitting. We thank you, sir, for making a space available for our young people."

The gala also proved that you're never too young to lead. Amira-Dior Traynham-Artis, a 17-year-old sneaker designer, took the stage to a round of heavy applause. Traynham-Artis started her fashion brand, *Lane 1*, when she was just 14, and her designs have already made it all the way to Oscar-weekend gift suites.

"I started my business when I was 14 ... I started designing when I was 12, and I am now 17," she said, beaming at the crowd. While she thanked the committee, she spent most of her time looking forward. She dedicated the honor to her late brother, Pop Smoke (who she called "Pops"), saying, "He definitely had a really big impact in the community and my generation ... the love that he gave will forever live on."

Her most powerful words, however, were directed at the adults in the room. She challenged them to keep believing in the next generation: "This is what our young people can do. If we give them the support that they need and allow them to run -- maybe don't squash them down. We have to become that village again."

The evening wasn't just about trophies; it was about the "movement" of a community taking care of itself. As the lights dimmed, the takeaway was clear: leadership in Canarsie isn't about a title. It's about the lives you touch. By celebrating both the legends and the rising stars, the night renewed "the promise of a brighter future" for everyone who calls this corner of Brooklyn home.

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## Red Berets Mark 47 Years: Guardian Angels Celebrate Legacy of Service in South Brooklyn

By Robert Pearl

The red berets of the Guardian Angels filled Coney Island Gospel Assembly on Friday, February 13th, as members, community leaders and elected officials gathered to celebrate the organization's 47th anniversary — nearly five decades of organized citizen patrols of the streets and subways, homeless outreach and partnership with law enforcement to help keep New Yorkers safe.

Founded on February 13, 1979, by Curtis Sliwa, the Guardian Angels emerged from a commitment to protect neighborhoods facing significant challenges. What began as a subway patrol in the Bronx has grown into an internationally recognized volunteer safety organization dedicated to nonviolence, prevention and service, with chapters operating not only across New York City but in cities around the world.

This year's celebration placed special emphasis on south Brooklyn, including Canarsie — where Sliwa was raised and where he still maintains Guardian Angels headquarters in the very home where he grew up with his family — as well as Coney Island, Broadway Junction, Bensonhurst, Sunset Park and Chinatown. Proudly referring to himself as a "son of the soil," Sliwa reflected on lessons instilled in him as a young boy about compassion for the homeless and emotionally disturbed, stressing that those living on the streets "are human beings like us" who deserve dignity and help.

Speakers recounted the group's intensified efforts in recent years: assisting the homeless during the pandemic lockdowns, responding to conditions in subway stations, and braving extended winter freezes to distribute food, clothing and support to those most vulnerable. Members described rescuing individuals from parks during sub-zero wind chills and stepping into situations when others hesitated.

Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny presented Sliwa with an official New York State Assembly Citation honoring the 47th anniversary of the Guardian Angels, recognizing the organization's "steadfast dedication to public safety, civic engagement and community empowerment." In his remarks, Brook-Krasny praised the group's decades of volunteer service and its role in deterring crime and building trust in neighborhoods across the five boroughs. "It was a privilege to present Founder Curtis Sliwa with a citation recognizing decades of dedication to public safety and community service." He further thanked the Guardian Angels for their "unwavering commitment to protecting and uplifting our city."

Individual members were also recognized by leadership for outstanding volunteerism and dedication, including patrol leaders who continue to organize chapters throughout Brooklyn and beyond. Tribute was paid to longtime members who have endured personal hardship yet remain committed to service, as well as to supporters who have stood by the organization during legal and political challenges. "For 47 years, we've proven that ordinary citizens — when organized, trained and committed — can make an extraordinary difference. We don't walk past problems in our city. We walk toward them. And as long as New Yorkers need us, the Guardian Angels will be there," Sliwa said.

Founding member Arnaldo Salinas, aka "13," addressed the group, adding, "This isn't about recognition — it's about responsibility. Every

Angel who puts on that red beret understands that we serve with heart, discipline and faith."

The Guardian Angels have exemplified courage and selflessness through volunteer patrols, youth outreach initiatives and strong community partnerships. Their continued presence reflects an enduring belief that engaged citizens can make a meaningful difference in the safety and well-being of their neighborhoods.

As the Assembly citation stated: "As the Guardian Angels commemorate this milestone anniversary, we extend our sincere appreciation to Curtis Sliwa and to all past and present members whose dedication, resilience and commitment to service continue to strengthen communities throughout New York and beyond. EXCELSIOR."



Guardian Angels group picture for their 47th anniversary.

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# LEGAL NOTICES



## KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF KINGS

U.S. BANK NA,

-against-

RONAN BAILEY,, ET AL.

### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings on September 4, 2019, wherein U.S. BANK NA is the Plaintiff and RONAN BAILEY, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the KINGS COUNTY COURTHOUSE 360 ADAMS STREET, ROOM 224, BROOKLYN, NY 11201, on 03/19/2026 at 2:30PM, premises known as 774 NEW JERSEY AVE, BROOKLYN, New York 11207; and the following tax map identification, -4299-40.

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Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 24884/2009. Jeffrey Schwartz, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

## KINGS COUNTY SUMMONS

### S U P P L E M E N T A L SUMMONS IN TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE –

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF QUEENS – NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST, and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON as Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 1998-2 Trust, Plaintiffs, TANA MEADOWS AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF BOB MEADOWS, et. al., Defendants. Index No. 511262/24. To the above named Defendants –YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty days after service is completed if the summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. Plaintiffs designate Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the county in which the property a lien upon which is being foreclosed is situated. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to the Order of the Hon. Derefim B. Neckles, J.S.C., entered on February 3, 2026. The object of this action is to foreclose a tax lien covering the premises located at Block 4415 Lot 1190 on the Tax Map of Kings County and also known as 122-05 Flatlands Avenue, Unit 7, Apt. 3B, Brooklyn, NY 11207.

Dated: February 6, 2026

BRONSTER, LLP,  
Attorney for Plaintiffs  
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## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Caribbean Artisan Decorations LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/25/2025. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to N/A: serviceswh@outlook.com. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## KINGS COUNTY (BROOKLYN) NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of New Day Electronic Recycling LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/16/2025. Office location: Kings County (Brooklyn). SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Omaj Elie: 1237 E.48th Street Brooklyn, N.Y 11234. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of McNeil Tours, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/03/2024. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Secretary of State: 68 Livingston St 2C, Brooklyn NY, 11201. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## KINGS COUNTY PUBLIC NOTICE

### NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, STATE RECORDS AND UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE FILING RECEIPT

ENTITY NAME: SHAWSHOUSE LLC  
DOCUMENT TYPE : ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION  
ENTITY TYPE : DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY  
COMPANY

DOS ID: 7808525

FILE DATE: 01/15/2026

FILE NUMBER: 260115004521

TRANSACTION NUMBER: 202601150004399-5392513

EXISTENCE DATE: 01/15/2026

DURATION/DISSOLUTION: PERPETUAL

COUNTY: KINGS

SERVICE OF PROCESS ADDRESS :

CRAIG SHAW

2222 FLATBUSH AVE., P.O. BOX 340282

BROOKLYN, NY, 11234, USA

ELECTRONIC SERVICE OF PROCESS EMAIL  
ADDRESS : N/A

FILER:

CRAIG ALEX SHAW

5211 AVE M,

BROOKLYN, NY, 11234, USA

You may verify this document online at: <http://ecorp.dos.ny.gov>

AUTHENTICATION NUMBER: 100009511338

## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of LaPalio Pictures LLC . Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/06/2025. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Adam: 565 Putnam Ave Brooklyn, NY 11221. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of TK PRO SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/09/2026. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to TK PRO SERVICES LLC: 7901 BAY PKWY APT 2C, BROOKLYN, NY, 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

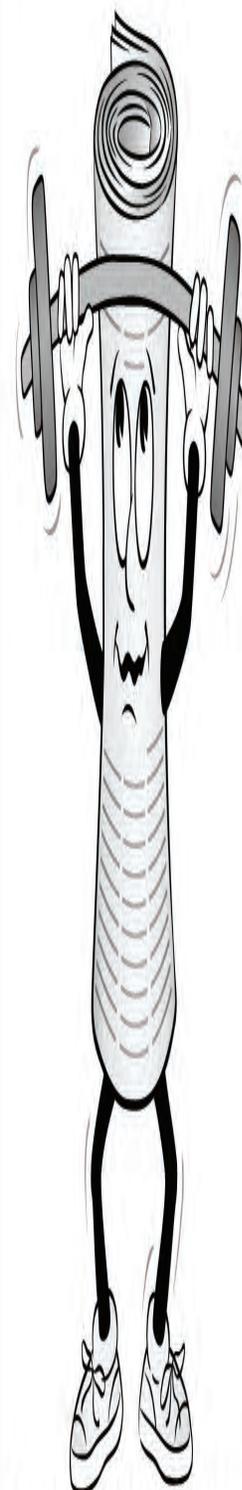
SEPAR GROUP LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/21/2026. Office loc: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 124 Lee Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11211. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.

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A nonprofit organization in Kings County, NY is seeking sealed bids for the sale and installation of security related enhancements. This project includes the installation of Perimeter Fencing, access control, door hardening, cybersecurity enhancements and consulting, cybersecurity assessments and updated computer servers. Selection criteria will be based on price, reputation/experience, and the quality of the proposed materials. Specifications and bid requirements can be obtained by contacting us at cdg.cdgross@gmail.com. All interested firms will be required to sign for the proposal documents and provide primary contact, telephone, fax and email address. Bids will be accepted until March 13, 2026. Work is to commence by March 31, 2026 and completed by August 31, 2026. Minority and Women Owned Businesses are Encouraged to Apply.

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Large 1 BR, beautiful hardwood floors throughout, Ready To Go!! asking \$205K negotiable.

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(917) 294-0612**

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## ROOMS FOR RENT

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Canarsie/Avenue K: Beautiful Newly renovated Furnished, share kitchen/bath, \$1,000. (646) 515-4794

Canarsie/E Flatbush: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no smoking/pets, \$1,000 monthly. Broker (646) 474-6640

Mill Basin: Unfurnished, private bathroom, \$1,000 monthly, near transportation, utilities included. Broker (347) 393-9403

GLENWOOD RD/E84: EXTRA LARGE UNFURNISHED ROOM, share bath w/1 other person, LAUNDRY ON PREMISE, close to transportation, B103, B6, \$1,200. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Gateway Mall/Flatlands: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, all utilities included, plus WiFi & cable, Quiet block. (347) 339-3881

Spring Creek: Unfurnished, share bathroom/kitchen, no pets/smoking, \$950 monthly. (929) 530-4524

OMB: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no smoking/pets, 2 weeks rent/security, \$275. Owner (347) 742-9828; (347) 453-7962

Canarsie: Nice, furnished, share kitchen/bath, no smoking/pets, near transportation/shopping, \$1,000 negotiable. (917) 385-9514

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, near transportation/shopping, \$250 weekly. (347)861-1612

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, parquet floor. (917) 831-9360; (631) 449-4087

Canarsie: Unfurnished, share kitchen, own bathroom, no smoking/pets, \$1,200. Broker (646) 721-2921 (347) 969-2310

Brownsville: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, brand new furniture, \$1,300. (347) 743-7667

Canarsie: Large, unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, excellent condition, \$1,000. Broker (347) 471-5034

Crown Heights: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no smoking/pets, \$240 weekly. (917) 674-7475

Canarsie: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking. (347) 465-5868

## ROOMS FOR RENT

Mill Basin: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, near transportation/shopping. (646) 610-0823

Canarsie: Large clean furnished, share kitchen/bath, \$230 weekly, (917) 528-7678

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen, no smoking/pets, dining and bathroom, with two people, second floor, quiet, all utilities included, W9 required, \$1,200. (347) 578-4130

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, \$900, includes, utilities, no pets. Owner (718) 360-6592

E Flatbush: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, \$250 weekly. Broker (718) 451-1000 (917) 690-2338

E Flatbush/Ave D/Utica: Unfurnished, share kitchen/bath, 2nd floor, no smoking/pets, \$250 weekly. Broker (917) 578-9727

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bathroom, near transportation, no smoking/pets, (347) 254-4089

Canarsie: Furnished, share kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, \$1,000. (347) 381-9772

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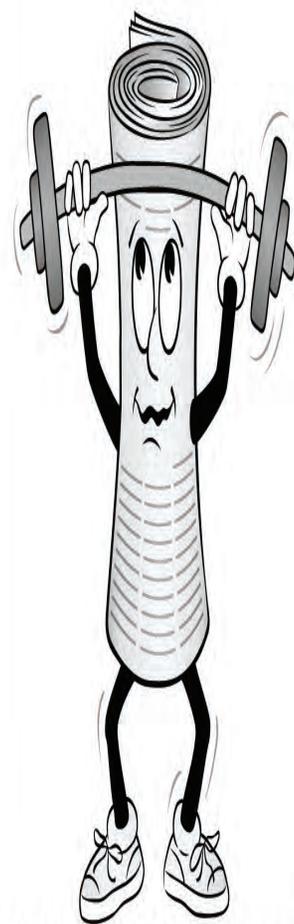
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ENY: Large, 2 BRs, 2nd floor, good condition, close to transportation, \$2,200. Broker (347) 471-5034

Canarsie: Newly renovated gorgeous exceptional 2 BR, all new appliances, near transportation. (917) 309-3144

Canarsie: 2 BRs, tenant pays cooking gas, electricity, \$2,500 monthly. (347) 743-4342

Georgetown: Newly renovated 3 BRs, 1 1/2 bath, Yves Exit All Seasons RE (646) 286-7580

Bed Stuy/Putnam/Louis: Beautiful 3 BR, parquet floors, \$2,800. (646) 515-4794

Canarsie: Newly renovated 3 BRs, close to transportation. Fine Choice Realty Inc. (718) 363-2200

Georgetown: 3 BRs, split level, very good condition, new kitchen, Large LR, DR, HWFS throughout, \$3,200. Broker (347) 471-5034

Georgetown: 3 BRs, kitchen, near shopping/transportation, tenant pays utilities, \$3,300. (917) 999-5138

E Flatbush: 3 BRs, excellent condition, HWF's, recessed lighting, new kitchen, 3 bathrooms, new appliances, \$3,300. Broker (347) 471-5034

Brownsville: 3 BRs, 2 full baths, brand new appliances, 3rd floor, near transportation and park. Asking \$3,000, pay own electric and gas. (646) 436-1543

ENY: 3 BRs, 2 baths, newly renovated, 2nd floor, near transportation/shopping/school, Section 8 customers. Broker (917) 578-9727

ENY/Ashford: 4 BRs, 2 bathrooms, everything new, no pets, Available Immediately. Beverly Broker (929) 855-7576

Canarsie: Studio, all utilities included, kitchen/bath, no pets/smoking, near transportation/shopping, \$2,000. (917) 816-8177

ENY: Beautiful kitchenette, near transportation/shopping, \$1,200. Broker (347) 880-3680; (718) 419-9199

Rockaway/Sutter: LARGE RENOVATED STUDIO, close to shopping/transportation, near B15 & B35, \$1,250. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

Queens Village: Studio, newly renovated, private bath, private entrance, \$1,250 monthly. Exit All Seasons RE (347) 782-8571

OMB: 1 BR, utilities included, near transportation, \$1,300. Broker (347) 393-9403

Sterling Place/Utica Avenue: LARGE 1 BR in Building, Hardwood Floors, Eat in Kitchen, NEW APPLIANCES, near 3 & 4 Trains, B46, B15 buses, \$1,500. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300; (917) 679-3017

ENY: 1 BR, 3rd floor, walk-up, excellent condition, HWFS throughout, \$1,400. Broker (347) 471-5034

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Thomas Boyland/Fulton: COMPLETELY RENOVATED 1BR, LARGE bedroom and living room, EIK, new appliances, HWF's, near transportation, A & C trains & buses, \$1,700. Curtis Chance Realty (718) 859-7300 (917) 679-3017

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Canarsie: 2 BRs, near transportation, newly renovated, \$2,500. Broker (646) 721-2921 (347) 969-2310

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