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Christmas In July!



Photo by Kari Lleras
Story on page 10



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Canarsie Courier

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Serving Canarsie, Marine Park, Mill Basin, Georgetown, Bergen Beach, Kings Plaza, East New York, Flatlands, Flatbush, Gerritsen Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Spring Creek & Brownsville

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Healthy Eating Starts With Access

By Jibreel Jalloh

New Yorkers are being told to avoid certain leafy greens as health officials investigate a Cyclospora outbreak that has sickened hundreds of city residents and thousands more nationwide. The parasite, which can cause severe diarrhea, stomach cramps and fatigue, has many people thinking twice before buying fresh produce. Federal investigators initially linked the outbreak to shredded lettuce before later determining that one key test result was a false positive, highlighting how difficult these outbreaks can be to trace.

For many families, avoiding salad for a few weeks is an inconvenience. But for families already struggling to put healthy food on the table, it exposes a much bigger problem.

Food insecurity is not just about having enough to eat. It is about having reliable access to safe, healthy and affordable food.

In New York City, one in four children experiences food insecurity. At the same time, many neighborhoods still lack affordable grocery stores, forcing residents to rely on corner stores where fresh fruits and vegetables are limited or expensive. Rising

food prices, changes to SNAP eligibility and growing demand at food pantries have made healthy eating even harder for working families.

Even when help is available, too many families miss out. Last year, New York families left \$62 million in Summer EBT food benefits unspent — money that could have helped feed more than half a million children while school was out. These are not separate issues. They are all symptoms of the same problem.

We cannot continue telling people to “eat healthier” while making healthy food harder to access. A family worried about paying down their debts, replacing groceries after a recall or finding the nearest supermarket is not often choosing between a salad and a cheeseburger. They are choosing between what they can afford and what is available.

If we want healthier communities, we need to invest in them. That means expanding affordable grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods, supporting farmers markets that accept SNAP and WIC, strengthening nutrition programs like Summer EBT, protecting SNAP benefits and investing in local food systems and pantries that make fresh

food more accessible and reliable.

Food safety also matters. People deserve confidence that the food they buy is safe. But safety alone is not enough if healthy food remains out of reach.

The Cyclospora outbreak will eventually end in due time. Food insecurity will not.

New York has the resources to ensure that every family has access to nutritious food. What we need now is the commitment to treat food insecurity not as an individual problem, but as a public health priority.

Healthy food should never depend on your zip code, your income or whether you can afford to take a chance at the grocery store.

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. 30

THU. JULY 23RD
Councilwoman Mercedes Narcisse: Hiring Fair
Community Office
5827 Flatlands Avenue
4:30 to 7 p.m. Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/5acrseca>

THU. JULY 23RD
NHS Brooklyn: Credit Improvement
Virtual Meeting
6 to 7:30 p.m. Register at
bit.ly/finance072326

THU. JULY 23RD
The Flossy Organization:
Fitness Thursdays: Zumba
Canarsie Park House
Seaview Avenue & East 88th Street 6:30 p.m. Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/wk8juftb>

FRI. JULY 24TH
Fishing Frenzy Fridays
Shirley Chisholm State Park - Penn Pier
1750 Pennsylvania Avenue
Multiple sessions starting at 2 p.m. Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/yfvv5hnf>

SATURDAY, JULY 25 - CITY OF WATER DAY

Waterbird Walk
Salt Marsh Nature Center
3301 Avenue U
9 to 10:30 a.m. Register at
<https://tinyurl.com/wcssrdu8>

Gerritsen Creek Shoreline
Clean-up and Paddle 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Register at
<https://www.marineparkalliance.org/event/volunteer-day-12/>

Kayaking for Beginners
Floyd Bennett Field - Seaplane Ramp
50 Aviation Road
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Hangar B Open House
Floyd Bennett Field - Hangar B 50 Aviation Road
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free Community Open House
Seabago Canoe Club
1400 Poerdegat Avenue
North 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Register at:
<https://seabagocanoeclub.org/open-house/>

Jamaica Bay Sketch & Stroll
Floyd Bennett Field - The Nest 135 Aviation Road
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/kf5ps3yt>

Celebrate Marine Park's History
Salt Marsh Nature Center
3301 Avenue U
1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

SAT. JULY 25TH
The Flossy Organization:
Canarsie Park Clean-Up & Outdoor Yoga
Canarsie Park House
East 88th Street
10 to 11:30 a.m. — Clean-up
12 to 1 p.m. — Yoga
Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/3e43c3xe>

TUES. JULY 28TH
Tot Time Tuesdays (weekly, recommended ages 2 to 6)
Shirley Chisholm State Park - Hendrix Creek Patio
1750 Granville Payne Avenue
10 to 11:30 a.m.

TUES. JULY 28TH
NHS Brooklyn: First-Time Home Buyers
Virtual Meeting
12 to 2 p.m. Register at:
bit.ly/homebuying072826

TUES. JULY 28TH
The Flossy Organization:
Canarsie Summer Clean-Ups
Fresh Creek Nature Preserve
East 108th Street & Avenue M 3 to 6 p.m. Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/zkove4tr3>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH
Assemblywoman Jaime Williams: Summer Concert Series: Sound Affair
Marine Park
Lawn Near Boice Court
6:30 p.m.

SUN. JULY 26TH
Marine Park Alliance: Just For Kids: Clowning Around with Looney Louie
Marine Park Playground
Fillmore Avenue & Madison Place
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

MON. JULY 27TH
The Flossy Organization:
Garden & Grow Series
Canarsie Neighborhood Farm and Garden
9289 Schenck Street
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Register at:
<https://tinyurl.com/3mwbwv68>

MON. JULY 27TH
Assemblywoman Jaime Williams: Yoga in the Park
Side of Carmine Canro Community Center
3000 Fillmore Avenue
8:30 to 9:30 p.m.

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Sundays at 9 a.m.: Marine Park - Behind Carmine Canro Community Center, 3000 Fillmore Avenue

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The Canarsie Historical Society is offering a \$1,000 reward for the first issue of the Canarsie Courier dated April 1921. Call the Courier office at 718-257-0800 for more information.

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Double Shooting at 'Peace and Love Deli'

By Lloyd Mitchell

A double shooting left a woman and man injured on Friday, July 17th, at the corner of Glenwood Road and East 96th Street.

Officers from the 69th Precinct responded to calls of a crime in progress at Peace and Love Deli, 9602 Glenwood Road, around 2:40 p.m.

A 25-year-old man was shot once in the back, and a 30-year-old woman was shot in the hand, according to police.

EMS took both victims to Brookdale Hospital in stable

condition.

Detectives are looking for two suspects who entered the store wearing ski masks and dark clothing; they fled in an unknown direction.

There are no arrests, and an investigation is ongoing.

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



East New York

Man Struck and Killed by Two Trucks in Tragic Hit-and-Run

By Lloyd Mitchell

Police are looking for the driver of a commercial truck that struck and killed a pedestrian at 946 Pennsylvania Avenue on Friday, July 17th.

Officers from the 75th Precinct responded to the location, between Wortman and Cozine Avenues, around 7:45 a.m., where they located a 34-year-old man with serious injuries. After the NYPD's Collision Investigation Unit reviewed the DOT camera at the location, it was determined that the man was struck by a commercial truck traveling southbound. The footage shows the man getting up, but he

is then struck by another commercial truck. The first truck did not remain at the scene.

Paramedics took the victim to Brookdale Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

There are no arrests, and an investigation is ongoing.

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



East Flatbush

Two Shot at Raleigh Place

By Linda Steinmuller

Two victims are in stable condition after they were shot in front of 25 Raleigh Place on Wednesday, July 15th.

Police from the 67th Precinct responded to the scene, located between Martense Street and Church Avenue, around 11 p.m. where they found a 25-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the right arm and a 21-year-old male with a gunshot wound to the left leg.

The victims were taken by EMS to Kings County

Hospital.

There are no arrests, and an investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this shooting is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS (8477) or for Spanish, 888-57-PISTA (74782). The public can also submit their tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at crimestoppers.nypdonline.org/ or on X @NYPDTips. All calls are strictly confidential.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad



Car Flips on Flatlands



By Baqir Ahmad and Linda Steinmuller

Two people were injured when a speeding Lexus overturned on Flatlands Avenue, near East 92nd Street, around 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 16th.

The impact of the collision caused the vehicle, which was traveling westbound, to land near Pure Gym, at Flatlands Avenue and East 91st Street, and collide into a Mazda.

First responders, including NYPD, FDNY and EMS, responded to the scene. FDNY members removed two injured occupants – the trapped driver and a passenger – from the overturned Lexus. They were taken to an area hospital for treatment.

Fortunately, there were no pedestrians injured in the process on the busy avenue, which is too often the site of motor vehicle accidents and reckless driving.

Photo by Baqir Ahmad

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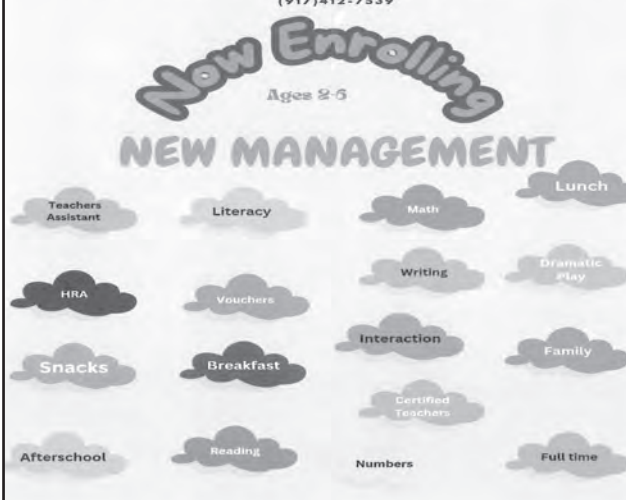
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Under New Management, Aviator Sports and Events Center is Renamed Floyd Bennett Sports Complex

By Loretta Chin

In a company announcement on July 13th, Gateway Hospitality LLC has assumed operations of the former Aviator Sports and Events Center and has renamed it Floyd Bennett Sports Complex.

Gateway is a subsidiary of ExplorUS, a family-owned national hospitality and recreation management company with almost 30 years of experience operating national, state and local park concessions.

"We understand how important this facility has been to the community and the role it has played for families across Brooklyn and beyond," ExplorUS CEO Frank Pikus said.

Pikus said the company's priority is to restore trust in the facility and to support programs that reflect the values, wants and needs of the community.

According to the announcement, their initial focus is to support existing programming, assess facility needs, strengthen community partnerships and identify opportunities to expand access and activity throughout the 175,000 square foot complex located within historic Floyd Bennett Field, which would relieve many anxious parents who were uncertain about its future.

Hundreds of community members and elected officials rallied at Aviator Sports Complex in March of last year to urge the National Park Service (NPS) to expedite the selection process to find a new operator for the facility, whose lease was set to expire at the of April, to ensure a smooth transition and avoid disruption of services that families rely on (see "Families Rally to Save Aviator Sports Complex," *Canarsie Courier*, March 27, 2025).

Although the facility was closed the following month, NPS reached an agreement with Aviator to keep the indoor hockey and figure skating rink open, as well as the outdoor facilities for another year.

To alleviate community concerns, Gateway/ExplorUS said they are actively working with sports, recreation and educational partners, including FC Copa, Aviator Hockey & Figure Skating LLC, Green Meadow Farms, Xavier High School and Xavierian High School, while continuing discussions with additional organizations interested in utilizing the facility. Existing partnerships and scheduled activities will continue to be supported, in coordination with the NPS, wherever possible throughout the transition process.

Families with questions about specific leagues, schedules or programming are advised to look for updates from their respective organizations and league operators, and to visit <https://floydbennett.com/> for updates and information. Community and neighborhood stakeholders can share ideas, concerns and suggestions by email to community@floydbennett.com.

Organizations interested in booking space, hosting activities or exploring partnership opportunities are encouraged to contact events@floydbennett.com.

The announcement originated from an EIN Presswire via Halcon Marketing Solutions. The *Canarsie Courier* reached out to Chris Werstine who operates Aviator Hockey & Figure Skating, LLC. He was able to obtain an extension on his lease from NPS so has been in continuous operation.

He said that NPS reached out to him in February to inform him that a new building tenant would be coming in to run the building. Gateway/ExplorUS arrived at the beginning of June, and they have good communications, further stating that the transition has been very smooth and going according to plan.

"We're very excited about ExplorUS and the opportunities ahead," Werstine said. "They've brought a great deal of positive energy, and we're looking forward to seeing what the future holds under their leadership."

The *Canarsie Courier* has reached out to the NPS and has not received a reply as of press time.



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- CANARSIE FAMILY PICTURE DAY
- MAS IN CANARSIE
- DISTRICT 18 3RD ANNUAL BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIVEAWAY
- CANARSIE FAMILY WATER PARK BUS TRIP
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CEC 18 Focuses on the Budget and Smaller Class Size at July Meeting

By Kari Lleras

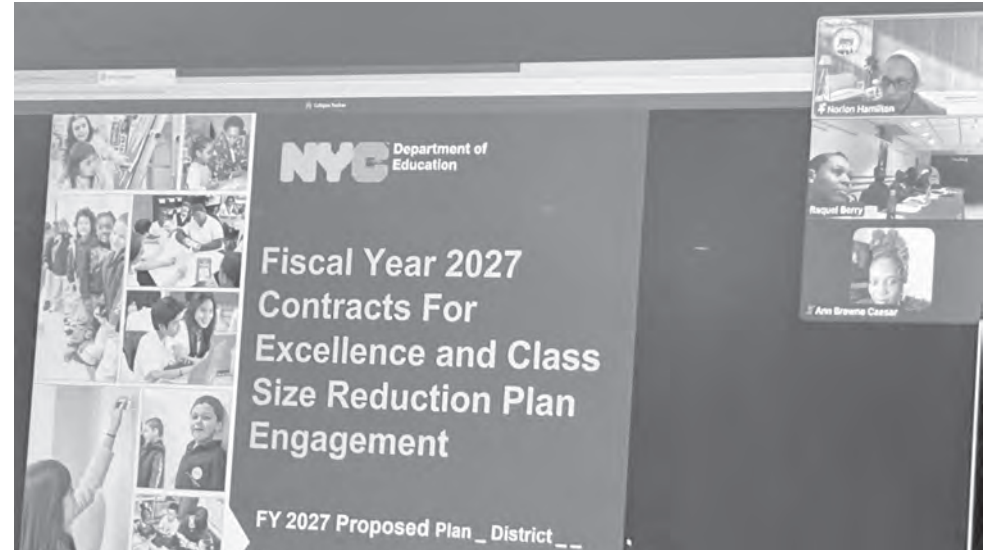
The budget and smaller class size initiative were the topics of discussion at the monthly Community Education Council District 18 (CEC 18) meeting held at the District Office, located at 1106 East 95th Street, on Monday, July 6th.

Norlon Hamilton, South Brooklyn's senior grants officer, joined the meeting virtually to discuss how the Contracts For Excellence funding will be allocated during the 2026-2027 school year. Hamilton and Superintendent Celeste Terry explained that resources will be directed toward specific programs that elevate academic outcomes for students with

the highest level of educational need, including students with limited English, in poverty, students with disabilities and requirements related to class size limits.

Fifty-two percent of the proposed \$20,439,946 would be allocated to the class size reduction mandates for District 18. The class size reduction plan mandates a cap of 20 students in K-3rd grade, 23 students in 4th-8th grade and 25 students in high school classes. The city reached a 64% compliance rate during the 2025-2026 school year, exceeding the state's 60% requirement.

CEC 18 will hold its next meeting on Monday, August 3rd, at the Community School District 18 Office at 7 p.m.



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District 22 Superintendent to Host Roundtable on Screen Time

By Angela G. Nannetti, MS. Ed.

Community District Education Council 22 (CEC 22) held their monthly calendar meeting on Tuesday, July 7th, at the District Office, located at 5619 Flatlands Avenue, where the discussion centered around Artificial Intelligence ("AI") and screen time. The meeting was also streamed live to the public via Zoom.

During the meeting, District 22 Superintendent Julia Bove explained that Central has placed a pause on AI in the classroom and has put development of their AI Playbook on hold as well.

Also on the subject of technology, Bove said that she is very interested in hosting a roundtable discussion on screen time in the fall, which will inform a new official policy. In addition to examining the most current research on grade appropriate screen time, she hopes to hear directly from elementary and middle school students about their classroom usage.

She reported that end of year iReady data indicates that students' overall progress is on the upswing in both ELA and math. Bove also said that the Summer Rising program has been very well attended, that District 22 schools have been open as cooling stations and that they will continue to feed all children breakfast and lunch throughout the sum-

mer, no questions asked.

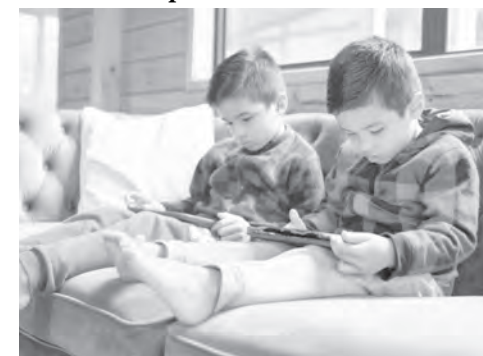
When asked if any new school sites had been identified within the District, Bove had no new information to share but discussed that the District's efforts are often thwarted by wealthy developers who have tremendous budgets and are able to outbid them on new properties as they become available.

Bove explained that the School Construction Authority is still working to secure what was once a hotel on Coney Island Avenue and Avenue I as the new site of M.S. 890, which is currently co-located with P.S. 889, at 21 Hinckley Place. Any further updates will be announced as they become available.

The next meeting of CEC 22 will be held at the District Office, located at 5619 Flatlands Avenue, on Tuesday, August 4th, at 6:30 p.m.

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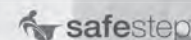


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LEGAL NOTICES



KINGS COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE



NYSBA New York State Surrogate's Court

New York State Bar Association Official OCA Forms
Form JA-6
Accounting Citation
File No.2023-995/A

CITATION
SURROGATE'S COURT, KINGS COUNTY
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TO:
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New York State Department of Taxation and Finance
Attorney General New York State
Helga Hautsch
Birgit Wagner
Elke Lydia Winkler
Michael J Franklin

The spouse, if any, S.C. STERLING and any and all unknown distributees and creditors of BARBARA REDMOND, deceased, whose whereabouts are unknown and if any of the aforesaid persons be dead, to their heirs at law, next of kin and distributees whose names and places of residence are unknown and if the persons 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 BARBARA REDMOND, the decedent herein, whose names and places of residence are unknown and cannot after due diligence be ascertained,

An amended petition and an amended account having been duly filed by Public Administrator Kings County, who is located at 360 Adams Street Room 144, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Kings County, at 2 Johnson Street Room 319, Brooklyn, New York, on September 3, 2026, at 09:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why the account of Public Administrator Kings County, a summary of which has been served herewith, as temporary Administrator of the estate of BARBARA REDMOND, should not be judicially settled.

[X] Further relief sought (if any):

(a) Why the Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid his commissions in the amount of \$10,691.12 as set forth in Schedule I of the Account, or such other amount as the Court may fix and determine;

(b) Why the Public Administrator of Kings County should not be paid his administrative expenses in the amount of \$2,422.78 as set forth in Schedule J of the Account, or such other amount as the Court may fix and determine;

(c) Why the Court should not fix, determine and approve the legal fees of Charles G. Fiore, P.C. counsel to Petitioner, in the amount of \$14,536.69 as shown in Schedule J of the Account, or such other amount as the Court may fix and determine;

(d) Why the claim of the New York State Department of Taxation, if any, should not be fixed and determined or if not so fixed and determined, deemed rejected;

(e) Why the claim of the New York City Human Resources Administration, if any, should not be fixed and determined, or if not so fixed and determined, deemed rejected;

(f) Why the Petitioner should not be permitted to distribute the net estate to the decedent's distributee(s), as now known or hereafter determined, as their interests may appear, and to deposit any amount not so distributed with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York to be held for the benefit of decedent's unknown distributees or for the benefit of any distributees of the decedent who are under disability for whom no guardian of the property has been appointed;

(g) Why Process should not be issued to all necessary parties who have not appeared to show cause why the relief requested should not be granted; and that an order be granted directing the service of process pursuant to the provisions of SCPA Article 3 upon such persons named in Paragraph (6) whose names or whereabouts are unknown and cannot be ascertained or who may be persons on whom service by personal delivery cannot be made.

(h) Why the Petitioner, upon fully complying with the Decree to be made in this proceeding, should not be released and discharged of and from any and all liability, responsibility and accountability with respect to the Petitioner's acts and proceedings as Administrator as set forth and embraced in said account and the Court grant such other and further relief as it deems just and proper.

(i) Why the Petitioner should not be authorized to reserve, such amount as counsel recommends for the preparation of Federal and/or state fiduciary income tax returns and for the payment of any tax that may be due.

(j) Why Permanent Letters of Administration should not be issue to the Public Administrator and the temporary Letters of Administration previously issued to the Public Administrator be revoked.

Dated, Attested, and Sealed,
June 29th

Seal
HON. Hon. Bernard J. Graham
Bernard J. Graham, Surrogate
Lisa Mathis

Chief Clerk
Charles G. Fiore
Attorney Name
Charles G. Fiore, P.C.
Firm
225 Broadway, Suite 3020, New York,
New York 10007
Address
(212) 285-2290
Telephone

NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. 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 appear for you, and you or your attorney may request a copy of the full account from the petitioner or petitioner's attorney.

SUMMARY PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CHARGES

Schedule A Principal Received 241,819.80
Schedule A-1 Realized Increases in Principal 0.00
Schedule A-2 Income Collected 458.32
Total Charges \$242,278.12 \$242,278.12

CREDITS:
Schedule B Realized Decreases in Principal 0.00
Schedule C Funeral and Administration Expenses 16,010.47
Schedule D Creditor's Claims Actually Paid 0.00
Schedule E Distributions of Principal 0.00
Total Credits \$16,010.47 \$16,010.47
Charges Minus Credits \$226,267.65
PRINCIPAL BALANCE ON HAND:
Schedule G Principal balance on hand **\$226,267.65**

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of 8618 AVENUE J LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/03/2026. 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 Keron South-Creary: 20 Vandalia Avenue #20F, Brooklyn NY 11239. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Cathys Finest, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/10/2026. 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 CATHERINE MARINELLO: 1745 77th Street. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of JJ CARE MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/02/2026. 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 JJ CARE MANAGEMENT LLC: 1842 80TH ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11214. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of formation of Xiang Studio LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/14/2026. 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 Yuqi Xie: 343 Gold St Apt 1501. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of Formation: Khot Phet LLC, Art. Of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/04/2026. Office Location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 2068 70th St, Brooklyn, NY 11204. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

KINGS COUNTY NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Made by Viv LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/25/2026. 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 Legal Zoom: 150 Eagle Street, Apt 3P. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Marine Park

Amid Inclement Weather, Christmas in July Children's Concert Was a Hit



Elizabeth Dance Image owner and dancers pose with Assemblywoman Jaime Williams and Marine Park Alliance.

By Kari Lleras

It wouldn't be Christmas without some kind of precipitation and last minute magical ingenuity – and the Children's Concert, Christmas in July, was no different. Held on Wednesday, July 15th, this was the fifth concert in a series of Marine Park summer concerts sponsored by Assemblywoman Jaime Williams.

This wasn't a live concert, and attendees didn't gather in their normal quiet, weekly concert fashion. Thunder, a downpour followed by a pesky drizzle, and poor air quality jeopardized the fate of the kids' favorite summer event, down to the last minute. Millennium Development graciously allowed the concert to move inside the Carmine Carro Community Center, at 3000 Fillmore Avenue.

Marine Park Alliance, Williams and her representatives went live and shared posts on social media platforms clarifying that Christmas in July was on. Like the rain, families trickled into the holiday spectacular.

Frowning faces turned into smiling faces when they saw the array of toys that awaited. Their minds started racing, thinking of the perfect present that they were going to pick out.

Before the crowd of anticipatory children picked their own gift, Elizabeth's Dance Image on Avenue N performed for and delighted the festive crowd. The girls' upbeat and rhythmic dances made everyone forget about the dreary weather.

Scott Yahney, the DJ, made the announcement that made it impossible for children to wait any longer – all children could pick two toys, anything they wanted from the tables! Williams, Kings Plaza and other sponsors helped to provide the kids with so many choices like Power Rangers, Hot Wheels, Little People, My Little Pony, Barbies, paint sets and games.

These concerts are free, and everyone is welcome to attend. Williams along with sponsors Marine Park Alliance, Kings Plaza, Bical Auto Mall, Michaels of Brooklyn, Tracey Real Estate and others in partnership with NYC Parks, Millennium Development and the Marine Park Community Association make these favorite summer concerts possible.

Sound Affair will be performing on Wednesday, July 29th, at 6:30 p.m.

The concerts are held in Marine Park every Wednesday night (with a rain date of Thursday) at 6:30 p.m. on the lawn near the bocce court. Bring your friends, family, a chair, blanket and a camera to record the memories! For more information, call 718-252-2124.



Assemblywoman Jaime Williams poses with a child who was happy with the present she selected.

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Bringing Back Brooklyn: Former Canarsie Resident Goes Viral With Nostalgia Platform

By Melissa Billie Clark

Social media can feel overwhelming, but Chrissy Porcelli stands out by building a platform on nostalgia, positivity and authentic connections.

Originally from Canarsie, Porcelli shares stories of growing up on East 102nd Street and Seaview Avenue. Through nostalgic videos highlighting life in the 1980s and 1990s, she sparks conversations and helps locals reconnect. She told the *Canarsie Courier*, "What's better than spreading positivity, happiness and memories?" This outlook has shaped both her personal journey and her online presence.

Porcelli attended P.S. 272, I.S. 211 and Canarsie High School and says her upbringing in Canarsie helped shape both her personality and the content she creates today. She remembers a neighborhood filled with diversity, strong friendships and a sense of freedom that many people feel has disappeared over time. She recalls spending time out-

doors, playing handball, dancing with friends and visiting local favorites like Original Pizza on Avenue L and Seaview Diner on Rockaway Parkway. "I have the best memories of Canarsie," she said. "The friendships, the culture and having friends from different nationalities and religions."

One of the strongest themes throughout Porcelli's memories is simplicity. "We didn't have a lot of money, but everything was so magical and wonderful."

For the past 19 years, Porcelli has lived in Nashville, Tennessee, and her Brooklyn roots remain central to her online presence. This connection bridges her past and present as she reconnects with her community through her videos. She would love to divide her time between New York and Nashville to experience the best of both worlds.

Many of her followers, particularly Gen Xers and Millennials, connect deeply with her reflections on growing

up before smartphones and social media dominated daily life. On Instagram, she grew her following to 16,000 in two months by sharing videos about Brooklyn experiences, such as trips to Kings Plaza and old-school Spring Break vacations.

Her content has generated more than four million views across platforms. While her rapid rise online started over the past two months, Porcelli says content creation has always been part of her life. Years ago, well before influencer culture became mainstream, she and her sister filmed comedy videos during the early days of YouTube.

Porcelli's nostalgic focus came after disappointment with television career opportunities. After setbacks, she decided to create the content she wanted to see online. "I said to myself, people need to watch positive, happy things," she said. "I want to reminisce about the 80s and 90s. It was the best time of my life." That decision ultimately shaped the tone of her platform, one intentionally focused on positivity, humor and helping followers escape everyday stress through happy memories.

Although social media influencing may appear glamorous, Porcelli says building a successful platform requires consistency, passion, emotional resilience and far more work than many people realize. "I would say when you're first starting, begin with something that you're super passionate about," she said. "Something that will resonate with someone else." Porcelli also believes audiences are increasingly searching for authenticity in a digital culture often dominated by unrealistic lifestyles and heavily edited content.

Porcelli explained that one of the biggest misconceptions about influencing is the belief that success happens overnight. When she first began posting, she knew very little about algorithms, hashtags or audience analytics. Instead of obsessing over follower counts, she focused on creating content she genuinely enjoyed. "I didn't worry about the followers," she explained. "They will come. You have to be consistent and passionate and knowledgeable about what you're doing." While many online videos may last only a minute or two, Porcelli says the production process can take hours. Creating content often involves planning, filming, editing, selecting music, writing captions and engaging with audiences afterward.

In addition to the technical work, Porcelli says influencers must develop emotional strength. Despite running a positive nostalgia page, she still receives negative comments about her appearance, age and opinions. "But thankfully, I don't care," she said. "I'm trying to put out positive, loving things." Rather than engaging with negativity, Porcelli says she either responds calmly or blocks users who repeatedly spread hate. "This is not the page for politics," she explained. "I did this so people could forget about everything that's going on that's negative."

The impact of content goes beyond entertainment, and Porcelli believes influencers have a responsibility to create content that positively impacts mental health and emotional well-being. This philosophy guides her: she intentionally designs her videos to help viewers reconnect with happy memories and escape life's pressures for a moment.

Her authenticity has also resonated with followers on a more personal level. During the interview, Porcelli openly discussed infertility and the emotional challenges of not being able to have children. After sharing her story online, she received an overwhelming number of supportive messages from women facing similar experiences. "I could not believe the amount of DMs that I got from women my age," she said. "It was the most comforting thing ever."

As her audience continues to grow, Porcelli says she is currently developing a dramedy series inspired by her own life experiences and her unexpected journey into social media success. "Just be real," Porcelli said. "I think there's a lot of that missing in the world."

Follow Chrissy Porcelli on Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and YouTube @Chrissythrowbacks.

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Gerritsen Beach**LL Cool J on Set as CBS Films Scenes for New NCIS Spin-off**

By Angela G. Nannetti

Gerritsen Avenue was lined with trailers as far as the eye could see, on Monday, July 13th, as CBS filmed scenes on location for the new and highly anticipated TV crime drama, *NCIS: New York*, the eighth show in the long-running franchise.

A full production crew, consisting of at least 50 members was present on set, at Beacon Court, between Lois Avenue and The Point, filming a scene around noon, with actor and executive producer, LL Cool J, who plays Special Agent Sam Hanna.

The team was very receptive to a number of curious local residents who had gathered to observe the long shoot despite the extreme heat.

After a number of takes, the team was satisfied with the scene, where LL Cool J enters the passenger side of a black Ford sedan and drives down the narrow, dead-end street, navigating around a few children riding their bikes in the opposite direction.

Although there is no official release date, the show is set to air this fall.



LL Cool J between takes.



LL Cool J pauses before entering a Ford sedan.

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Tony Danza Joins Cast of *Gravesend* Season 3



By Arthur De Gaeta

The streets of Little Italy became a movie set as *Gravesend Season 3* was filmed outside Da Nico Ristorante, located at 164 Mulberry Street, on July 9th. Small, round café tables were set with cappuccino cups, creating the perfect Italian sidewalk scene. At the center of it all was legendary actor Tony Danza, the newest addition to the cast.

Created by William DeMeo, *Gravesend* is a crime drama inspired by classic New York mob stories, with dialogue and themes reminiscent of *The Sopranos*. Alongside Danza, the series features DeMeo and a talented ensemble cast, bringing the streets of Brooklyn and Little Italy to life in this highly anticipated season.

Excited fans had the opportunity to watch the first two episodes of *Gravesend Season 3* at a special screening held on Long Island and Staten Island (see “Fans Get a Sneak Peek of *Gravesend Season 3* at Special Premiere Event, *Canarsie Courier*, July 9, 2026).

Concertgoer Thankful for ‘Christmas in July’



An unexpected thank-you note from a thoughtful young lady warmed Assemblywoman Jaime Williams’ heart like “Christmas in July.”

The assemblywoman had several minutes of doubt on July 15th about whether the Christmas in July Children’s Concert, part of the Marine Park Summer Concert Series, should be canceled or postponed, especially since this concert is widely adored by kids and families alike. Ultimately, the concert was moved indoors (see story on page 10).

The rain and the poor air quality couldn’t keep children, and their parents, away. It might have been dreary outside, but there were smiles, excitement and joy inside the Carmine Carro Community Center.

Gianna Zanca’s heartfelt thank-you deeply moved Williams, and it reminds everyone how powerful a simple thank-you can be in any season! Below is a copy of Zanca’s letter.

Dear Jaime Williams,

Thank you so much for hosting the Christmas in July concert! I’ll always remember this day and thank you for hosting it even though it is raining. I especially loved the Christmas in July presents. It was such a thoughtful surprise, and it made the event feel extra special. Thank you for your kindness, generosity and all the hard work you put into making this event happen. I really appreciate everything you did to bring everyone together and spread so much joy. Thank you for making such happy memories for me and everyone who attended.

Wishing you all the best, and I hope to come to another one of your events in the future!

Gianna Zanca

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Flatlands

Residents Rally Against Planned Men's Shelter Conversion

By Robert Pearl

Community leaders, elected officials and residents gathered outside the former Holiday Inn Express on Kings Highway on Thursday, July 9th, to protest New York City's plan to convert the existing family shelter into a single adult men's shelter, arguing the decision was made without public input and broke promises of transparency.

The rally outside 5244 Kings Highway brought together Councilwoman Farah Louis, Assemblyman Kalman Yeger, representatives from Brooklyn Community Boards 17 and 18, civic organizations, clergy and neighborhood advocates, all urging Mayor Zohran Mamdani and the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) to reverse the proposal.

"This is about transparency, accountability and respect," Louis said. "Our community has long been overlooked, overburdened and shut out of the process. That ends now. We are not backing down. This fight is far from over."

According to organizers, DHS Commissioner Erin Dalton recently informed local officials that the Families with Children shelter would be converted into a single adult men's shelter before the end of July. Protesters said the announcement came with little notice and without meaningful consultation.

Speakers emphasized that their opposition was not directed at homeless individuals, but at what they described as another major decision imposed on East Flatbush and Flatlands without community input. Community Board 18 District Manager Sue Ann Partnow also made a statement against converting the existing facility into an all-men's shelter.

"It's not that we don't want shelters," one civic leader said. "We already have shelters in this community and have supported them. But we don't have the infrastructure for more, and no one bothered to ask the people who live here."

Residents also argued that police, emergency services, schools and neighborhood resources are already stretched by the concentration of social service facilities in the area.

Another community advocate called the city's approach "the most galling part," adding, "They don't tell us anything until it's almost too late. We keep reacting instead of being part of the planning process."

The Kings Highway property has been a source of neighborhood controversy for years. Originally built as a Holiday Inn Express, it closed in 2022 and was converted into emergency housing for families with children — a use many speakers said the community ultimately accepted and supported.

Yeger said those families have become part of the neighborhood through local schools, churches, doctors and community organizations.

"We welcomed those families," Yeger said. "People raised money, donated food and helped because that's what this community does. Now the city wants to uproot them and scatter them across New York as if they're boxes instead of human beings."

He also criticized DHS for moving families "without explaining why" while refusing to answer basic questions from residents.

Longtime community leaders said they have spent more than a decade responding to changing plans for the Kings Highway property.

"We've been fighting over this location for more than a decade," one speaker said. "Every few years, it's another surprise. Proper planning prevents poor performance."

Protesters also questioned who would operate the proposed men's shelter, how many residents it would house and what security measures would be in place, saying few details have been shared.

The crowd repeatedly chanted, "The people united will never be defeated," while signs reading "Enough Is Enough" and "Not Here, Not Now" lined the sidewalk.

"We have done our part to help address the city's homelessness crisis," Louis said. "But we will not accept backroom decisions that disregard our voices and

disrespect our neighborhoods."

As of the rally, city officials have not announced any reversal of the planned conversion. Residents said they will continue organizing, collecting petition signatures and pressing City Hall to reconsider the proposal before the scheduled transition later this month.

The *Canarsie Courier* reached out to Commissioner Dalton's office for comment and was referred to Neha Sharma, the assistant deputy commissioner of Press Relations and Communications for the NYC Department of Social Services (DSS), which oversees the city's homeless and social service programs. Sharma said the shelter conversion is part of the city's legal obligation under New York's "right to shelter" law and is intended to better match shelter capacity with current needs. She said families at the Kings Highway site will

be relocated to traditional shelters with more space, in-unit kitchens and services better suited for children, while creating additional capacity for single adult men.

Sharma rejected the notion that a men's shelter should automatically raise public safety concerns, saying many residents are simply individuals facing hardship who deserve an opportunity to rebuild their lives. She said the facility will have 24-hour security, staff supervision, "Good Neighbor" policies and a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to maintain communication with elected officials and neighborhood representatives. Sharma acknowledged the transition brings challenges, saying the Mamdani administration is working to reform an overburdened shelter system inherited from the previous one, likening the effort to "fixing the airplane while flying it."



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