



The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Carter



The Brooklyn Paper / Jeff Beiser

Penance & joy

LEFT: Catholics visibly demonstrated their faith this week, beginning the penitential Lenten season — which leads to Easter on March 23 — by receiving on their foreheads ashes of burned palms in the shape of a

cross. Above, Dorothy Connor prays at St. Thomas Aquinas church on Ninth Street and Fourth Avenue in Park Slope. RIGHT: In advance of the Chinese new year celebration, which began on Thursday, members of the

Korean Traditional Music & Dance Institute of NY performed Sunday at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This is the 4706th year on the Chinese calendar; it's the Year of the Rat, the first year in the 12-year lunar cycle.

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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Newspaper of the Year • Editor of the Year

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DUMBO Battling panhandlers between the bridges

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A grocer in DUMBO has posted signs urging customers not to give money to the panhandlers who congregate near the entrance — the latest salvo in an ongoing war against beggars in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood.

"We've heard from more than half our customers that they've been harassed by panhandlers in front of the store," said Mark Farow, the manager of Peas & Pickles, the neighborhood's largest supermarket. "We've actually had loyal customers who stopped coming here because of it."

The signs encourage patrons to report "harassment" to the store's management and reminds customers that it's better to donate to legitimate charities than to individuals on the street.

The anti-panhandling notices are the latest example of DUMBO's ongoing struggle with begging. At a DUMBO Improvement District meeting in October, neighborhood residents implored the police to crack down.

But John Kenny, a crime prevention officer from the 84th Precinct, told the audience that begging is a First Amendment right — though there are limits against aggressive cadging. Kenny's advice for curtailing the problem was the same as that on the signs in Peas & Pickles — stop giving handouts.

"People who understand panhandling have come to the neighborhood to explain that the only thing you can do if you want these people to go away is stop giving them money," said Tucker Reed, executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District.

Around the same time, a new Web site, DUMBOwatch, made vague promises that it would take pictures of all panhandlers.

Given the anti-panhandling attitude in DUMBO, it's no surprise that at least one of the merchants had a strong opinion about the new Peas & Pickles sign.

"That sign can kiss my ass — and so can you," he told a Brooklyn Paper reporter on Friday.

His fellow panhandler said she doesn't think the pair bothers anyone — even after the male half of the team had just been ticketed by a cop from the 84th Precinct for disorderly conduct at the corner of Washington and Front streets.

"I'm just out here trying to get mine like everyone else," she said.

They would not reveal their names.

— with Adam F. Hutton



The Brooklyn Paper

The plan for the Domino Sugar factory site, in view of the Williamsburg Bridge, would include a glass tower atop the landmark factory buildings (near center), as well as a number of other residential towers.

DOMINO EFFECT Plans on the table, advocates spar

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Preservationists and affordable-housing advocates battled this week over a proposal to convert the Domino Sugar site in Williamsburg — including three landmarked buildings — into a development with more than 2,200 units of housing.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, which held a hearing on Tuesday, is being asked to approve the plans for the sugar refinery, which was built in 1884. Proposed renovations include adding five stories of glassed apartments on top of the existing 12 floors of the landmarked factory.

The developer would also demolish several non-landmarked — but, to some, historical — buildings

in the complex to make way for nine residential towers.

The matter is ostensibly about architecture right now, but the developer hopes the 30 percent of apartments at below-market rates and public access to the waterfront will sweeten the \$1.2 billion deal.

"We want to harmonize preservation with affordable housing and creating an open public space," said Mike Lappin, president of CPC Resources.

But for aesthetes, there was a visual cacophony.

"The proposed glass box addition, plunked on top of the landmark, is simply too large and lacks the compositional organization and the arrangements of details that would relate it to the landmark," said Lisa Kersavage, a director at the Municipal Arts Society.

Kersavage was also upset that the iconic, neon Domino sign might not be maintained.

"We'd like to keep it, but it's not a simple thing to figure out where to put it or how to support it," said Lappin.

Supporters of the project say the possible loss of the sign does not outweigh the hundreds of sub-market rate units the development would provide.

"It's very difficult to get a developer to make that kind of commitment," said Monsignor Alfred LoPinto of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. "So we realize there are tradeoffs you have to make."

The Landmarks Preservation Commission did not rule on the proposal, which also requires rezoning the plant from manufacturing to residential.

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

It's official, direct from Forest City Ratner Companies: the Atlantic Yards development is a liar.

Forest City Ratner now admits that its claim of a tax revenue windfall — a justification for the government's support of the \$4 billion project — was actually concocted by Ratner's paid consultant, and was not based on an analysis by state officials as the developer repeatedly claimed.

"The \$4.4 billion figure is in the report of a consultant who had been retained by [Forest City Ratner Companies] and does not appear in the state's [Final Environmental Review Statement]," said Ratner attorney Jeffrey

James, Yassky: Ax Yards funds

The Brooklyn Paper

Two city councilmembers are not giving up on their bid to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in city and state subsidies from the Atlantic Yards mega-development, despite an initial rejection by the council.

Councilmembers David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) asked the council's Finance Committee to take up the matter of those Atlantic Yards subsidies while considering a resolution calling for the state to end property-tax exemptions for Madison Square Garden.

See YARDS SUBSIDIES on page 13

Pols must hit Ratner in wallet

EDITORIAL / PAGE 12

Braun in a legal document that surfaced this week.

Braun himself previously stated in court that the \$4.4 billion number came from the state.

"[My statement in my prior affirmation that the 'environmental impact statement for the project estimates that the project will create ... \$4.4 billion in net tax revenues for the city and the state over 30 years'] is mistaken, because [there is simply no projection at all regarding the net tax revenues contained in the EIS]."

The revelation appeared in a footnote to a filing in a lawsuit challenging the validity of the state's environmental review. It was first reported on Wednesday by Atlantic Yards Report.

Prior to this latest admission, the developer had said that the 16-sky-scraper-and-arena development, the largest in Brooklyn's history, would generate a total of \$5.6 billion for the city and state and that city and state contributions were factored in, \$4.4 billion in net revenue.

Ratner executives had said the jaw-dropping number came from the state's own Final Environmental Impact Statement, written by the Empire State Development Corporation.

Critics said the news was yet another example of Ratner's untrustworthiness.

"The whole project has been built upon lies," said Daniel Goldstein, spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. "It's hard to imagine that's the only misinformation that they publicized over the past years."

Neither the Empire State Development Corporation nor Forest City Ratner would comment for this article.

Slope baby doc beaten

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

A gun-toting robber broke into a Park Slope doctor's office on Jan. 28, hospitalizing a 67-year-old pediatrician for a handful of cash — but the beloved doctor, practicing on 13th Street for nearly 30 years, isn't letting the beating deter him from his medical mission.

"I'll be back as soon as I can get up and walk," Dr. Vasudev Gabbur told The Brooklyn Paper in an exclusive hospital room interview this week.

Gabbur was doing paperwork in his office when a man with a pistol burst through the front door. Gabbur gave the man all of the money in the office — about \$100. Not satisfied, the bandit demanded that Gabbur open the office's safe.

"I told him I didn't know the combination or how to open it," Gabbur said. "He said, 'You're lying, I'll kill you.' Then he started hitting me with his gun."

After pistol-whipping Gabbur, the robber made a call on his cellphone,



The Brooklyn Paper / Ben Muessig

Veteran Park Slope pediatrician Dr. Vasudev Gabbur was beaten bloody while doing paperwork in his 13th Street office.

at which point Gabbur attempted to escape, but the thief beat him to the ground and eventually fled.

Bloody and dazed, Gabbur stumbled onto 13th Street. Two passersby whose children were former patients of Gabbur's — spotted the doctor and called police.

The attack left Gabbur with fractured ring and pinky fingers on his right hand, a fractured left leg, lacerations to his head and internal bleeding. Gabbur lost so much blood during the assault that he needed a transfusion. He remains hospitalized at Lutheran Medical Center, though he is expected to be released next week.

See BEATEN on page 6

PAY-TO-PARK PLAN CHEERED

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A new facet of the city's congestion-pricing plan would add a fee for Brooklyn drivers looking to park their cars on their own blocks — and if Monday night's meeting on the proposal is any indication, many residents would line up to pay it.

A commission studying Mayor Bloomberg's plan — which would charge drivers \$8 to enter Manhattan below 60th Street during business hours — has recommended implementing the neighborhood parking permit system by next March as a proactive strike against the "park-and-ride phenomenon," where commuters park in neighborhoods with ample mass transit and finish their trips to work on the subway, thus avoiding the "congestion" fee.

Residents would be charged between \$75 and \$125 a year for the placard allowing them to park in their neighborhood.

See PAY on page 13

Hil, Bam split B'klyn

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Democrats were far more divided than their counterparts statewide, splitting their votes 50 percent to 48 percent in favor of their own junior senator, Hillary Clinton, over Illinois rival — and former Brooklynite! — Barack Obama on Tuesday.

The statewide vote was 57 percent to 40 percent in favor of Clinton.

Clinton narrowly won the primary in the state's biggest Democratic county, but Obama did take the popular vote in two prized congressional districts — both represented by staunch Clinton supporters.

Fifty-nine percent of Rep. Yvette Clarke's 11th district, which runs through Park Slope, Kensington and Crown Heights, went for Obama, while 44 percent went for Clinton.

See BAM AND HIL on page 13



The Brooklyn Paper / Adam Olszewski

Jo Anne Simon highlights the benefits of parking permits, at Monday night's meeting.

Join us this February for a new 8-week course from Rohr Jewish Learning Institute

FIVE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, FEB 9

OUTDOORS

- EARLY BIRDS:** In Marine Park, 8 a.m. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U, (718) 421-2201. Free.
- ICE SKATING:** at Prospect Park's Wollman Rink, \$5 kids and seniors, \$6 skate rental. Sessions at 10 to 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Skate to 10 p.m. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 965-8999.
- UP CLOSE THE LULLABEE:** Take a winter hike along the Lullabees, 1 p.m. Audubon Center for Field Studies, (718) 355-8999. Free.
- TAKE A HIKE:** Join the Urban Park Rangers for a nature hike through Prospect Park's Lullabees Trail. Enjoy the beautiful winter scenery and learn about the park's flora and fauna. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. 1 p.m., Call 631 for information. Free.

PERFORMANCE

- MUSIC OFF THE SHELVES:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "John Zorn Plays: MC, Tenorophone Man + Soprano Amy Burton and members of the Brooklyn Electronic network, 4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2101. Free.
- BROOKLYN MUSIC WEEK OPEN:** Music and discussion artist series. Today: Daxby Pickett and The Gentle Noise Show and Tomorrow: The Daniel Kalkbrenner Quartet, 7 p.m. Belairhurst Church, 401 Atlantic Ave., (718) 393-9313.
- GALLERY PLAYS:** Children's "Wild Party," a Roaring '20s musical. See review, p. 9, 518, 214 seniors and children 12 and younger: 8 p.m., 199 14th St., (718) 232-3101.
- BUSINESS LIVING ROOM:** Panel discussion of "Lisians" seen in your issue, \$20, \$10 students and seniors, 7 p.m., 140 Prospect Pl., Seating is very limited. Advance reservations recommended, call (718) 252-6444, www.smartarts.com.

OTHER

- DESIGNERS SHOWROOM:** Local designers' collection and preview, 12 to 6 p.m., 4th Ave./City Hall, 157 Montague St., (718) 763-4300. Free.
- RECEPTION:** St. Joseph's College of New York Arts and Sciences, 12 to 6 p.m., 25 Clinton Street Hwy., Nippon to 3 p.m., 245 Clinton Street, (718) 230-2101.
- RECEPTION:** In collaboration with the Caribbean Cultural Center for Performing Arts and Public Library's Business Branch, Nina Talbot presides, 12 to 6 p.m., 100 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd floor, 2nd Madison Place, (718) 623-7000. Free.
- AND HOW:** The Urban Park Rangers explains how Richard and William Howe commanded the British and how they inspired the NY campaign of the Revolution, 1 p.m., 100 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd floor, 2nd Madison Place and Washington Park, (718) 722-3132. Free.
- LEBES AND ARTS:** "Art and Global Survival," 2 p.m. Lebes and Arts Series, presented by the Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, 2 to 6 p.m., 224 48th St., (718) 833-9100. Free.
- CLOSING PARTY:** Galena Janet Kunstowski's new painting installation, 6 to 10 p.m., "Wood And Stone," 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., 205 West End Ave., (718) 232-3101.
- DANCE PARTY:** Cuban-Zydeco Dance Company, 8 to 11 p.m., 100 Avenue of the Americas, adults, \$5 children under 12, 6.30 p.m. to 10 p.m., 100 Avenue of the Americas, \$5 seniors, \$20 kids, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., 55 Oxford St., (718) 625-7515.
- SATURDAY NIGHT TAKEAWAY:** Celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rat, 7 p.m. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U, (718)

SUN, FEB 10

PERFORMANCE

- CHAMBER MUSIC:** Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music presents the music of Jostein Kjellstrand, \$10, \$10 seniors, 3 p.m., Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford St., (718) 625-3442.
- JAZZ JAM:** Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium hosts a Jazz Jam to benefit Pan African Bazaar Brath and his wife Norlene, \$25 to 3 p.m., 7 p.m., Jazz 866, 966 Flatbush Ave., (718) 335-7981.
- GALLERY PLAYS:** presents "Wild Party," 3 p.m. See Sat., Feb. 9.

OTHER


- PLATFORM:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture offers a presentation titled "The Schizophrenic Pipeline," Patricia Mc Kauger is speaker, 11 to 3 p.m., 100 Avenue of the Americas, (718) 763-2797.
- YOUNG SCHOLARS LECTURE:** Congregation Beth Elhim presents Shira Kohn in a talk, "A Gentlemen's Agreement: Jewish Socialism in Postwar America," 11 am to 12:30 p.m., 274 Garfield Pl., (718) 748-3838.
- GLUTTEN FREE COOKING:** The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in maintaining a gluten-free diet. Learn how to make pizza, cookies and bread, at 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., \$70, 110 to 2 p.m., 1402 Conely Island, (718) 625-3442.
- INDE MARKET:** Camp Lounge hosts a holiday gift market, Noon to 7 p.m., 179 Smith St., (718) 852-8006.
- CABIN FEVER CURE:** Get off the couch and explore the secrets of Dr. Home Place, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., 4th Ave./City Hall, 157 Montague St., Washington Park, (718) 722-3132. Free.
- COLLEGE GOLF TUNNEL:** High school students and their families are invited to enjoy a one-day special event that offers help in making college decisions, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., advance applications, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Medgar Evers Community Center, 100 Avenue of the Americas, (718) 284-4700. Free.
- HISTORY CLUB:** Guest lecturer Joseph Greenblatt, engineering historian, and Robert Lobentien, general superintendent of operations for the MTA, discuss beginnings of NYC's electrical power supply, 1 p.m. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U, (718) 421-2201. Free.
- FLAME:** Presents Beth Elhim presents "Tierney Green: The Mother Project," \$5 tickets, 6:30 p.m., 274 Garfield Pl., (718) 748-3838.
- KOSHER COOKING:** The Center for Kosher Culinary Arts offers a class in how to cook kosher, 6:30 p.m., 1402 Conely Island, (718) 625-3442.

CIVIC CALENDAR

- TUESDAY, FEB. 12**
Gowanus Canal Watershed Facility Plan Report, \$5 (30 \$150 child), at: Carroll School, 6:30 p.m., Call (718) 463-6140 for info.
- Community Board 10, Environmental Committee:** CB10 offices (861 86th St., at Fort Hamilton Parkway in Bay Ridge), 7:30 p.m., Call (718) 745-4827.
- 72nd Precinct Community Council:** Monthly meeting, Main Branch Office (4520 Fourth Ave., at 45th Street in Sunset Park), 7:30 p.m., Call (718) 655-6311 for info.
- WEDNESDAY, FEB. 13**
90th Precinct Community Council: Monthly meeting, 30 Moravia Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Ave., 7:30 p.m., Call (718) 965-3397 for info.

- Community Board 1, Full board Senior Center:** (21st Avenue St., corner of Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg), 6:30 p.m., Call (718) 389-0021 for info.
- Community Board 11, Full board:** Holy Family House 1740 84th St., between 17th and 18th avenues, 7:30 p.m., Call (718) 266-8010 for info.
- Economic Development Corporation:** On the agenda: Public comment on the proposed rezoning of Conely Island, Lincoln 155 2800 Conely Island, at West End Avenue in Brooklyn, 6 p.m., Call (212) 312-3178 for info.
- Family Meeting:** 300 Monthly meeting, Edward B. Shawlow School (505 16th Ave. between 16th and 17th Aves.), 7:30 p.m., Call (718) 759-3921 for info.


To see an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@BrooklynPaper.com.



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SOUTHERN AND EASTERN BROOKLYN Brooklyn View (published independently)

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
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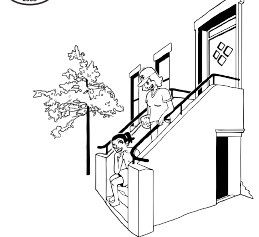
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THE STORM

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

BAY RIDGE



Plans to demolish the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church (background) also call for the demolition of the parsonage (foreground), a church-owned townhouse on 74th Street.

More 'Green' to be torn down

By Joe Jordan
For The Brooklyn Paper

Preparations to tear down the 108-year-old "Green Church" continue to move forward, but The Brooklyn Paper has learned that the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church's plans also include tearing down the church's limestone parsonage next door — and one family is praying for a higher authority to step in.

"We're afraid our walls are going to collapse," said David Kimball, whose 360 Ovington Ave. limestone townhouse shares a wall with the Green Church parsonage.

"It's had enough the church has to go, but they're still planning on taking down the corner limestone, which is next to our house, to make room for their new church building," Kimball added.

The current plan for the site calls for the erection of a new church for the Methodist congregation on land that overlaps a parking lot and the current parsonage at 362 Ovington Ave.

The remainder of the parking lot and the soon-to-be-demolished church will be sold to Abbe Betsch of Abeco Management Corp. and turned into residential units on the corner of Ovington and Fourth avenues.

The crumbling Green Church has been at the center of a sea-saw battle over the past two decades between the congregation — which wants to sell — and preservationists and local elected officials who adore the structure.

There's a lot of confusion about what we're trying to do," said Bay Ridge United Methodist pastor Rev. Robert Emeric. "Someone said we're looking to take the money and run. Not so. We are a part of the community and want to continue serving Bay Ridge."

That not only will the demolition of the parsonage change the character of Ovington because it's the anchor for a row of 12 limestone on the block, he's also worried about the structural stability of his own house once the parsonage comes down.

Emericck demolished the parsonage.

"I'm not a demolition expert," he said, "but our architect says the [Kimball] home will stay intact. Our interior wall will be refurbished as their exterior wall."

Meanwhile, Emericck has begun being far more aggressive about reminding elected officials to stay out of church business.

Twice this month, Emericck has led a group of parishioners in protest in front of the offices of Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) and Assemblywoman Janeé Hyer-Spencer (D-Bay Ridge) — both of whom have sought to block the sale and demolition of the "Green Church."

Gentile asked the Landmarks Preservation Commission to review the matter, though Landmarks has already rejected designating the church as a landmark.

In addition to protesting, Emericck is now pitching the positive side of the demolition of the historic church.

"Not only will the new church be structurally sound unlike the current building, but we are committed to making it environmentally friendly as well," Emericck said, mentioning solar panels, better insulation, and an atrium that will naturally heat the sanctuary.

PARK SLOPE

Gethsemane church mystery solved

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

New details have finally emerged about a condominium project being built on a former churchyard that sparked a debate between a Park Slope reverend and neighbors who fought to preserve a greenspace that didn't belong to them.

The developers who purchased land adjacent to Gethsemane Church in September are making progress on their 10-unit condominium building, designed by a local architectural firm.

John O'Reilly, a managing member of the fund, told The Brooklyn Paper that each of the 10 units in the five-story building would range between 1,250 and 2,500 square feet,



Work at the lot next to the Gethsemane Church has begun.

and most of them would be three-bedroom "family" condos. Two will be "condo townhouses," while another two will be penthouse apartments with "spectacular views of the city and Prospect Park." All of the units will share rooftop space.

"We could build 20 units there, but we felt it was a family part of the neighborhood, so we wanted to build family units there," said O'Reilly. "It will be a lovely project [with] very high-end units equivalent to whatever is the best in the neighborhood."

News that Gethsemane Church, on Eighth Avenue between Ninth and 10th streets, would sell its weed-choked backyard to raise money for the struggling Presbyterian church sparked an outcry last summer, with complaints about the loss of green space — even though the churchyard sits a block from Prospect Park.

At the time, Rev. Liz Alexander said that she could either sell the lot or close the church, or sell the church and the lot, which would, presumably, lead to an ever larger development.

Alexander's church, surrounded by Brooklyn's landed gentry, caters to relatives of the imprisoned, and to former convicts and their families.

DOWNTOWN

Atlantic Avenue lots to go to highest bidder

By Mike McLaughlin

The latest attempt to fill one of the last dead zones in Downtown Brooklyn is coming soon with an auction for Boerum Hill property.

Five contiguous lots — two on Atlantic Avenue and three on Pacific Street — between

Smith Street and Boerum Place are remarkably empty and mostly for being vacant so long amid an array of bustling antique shops to the east and new condos, bars and restaurants to the west on Atlantic Avenue.

The parking lot, warehouse and empty lot — all across the street from the House of Dentation — may look bleak to the average passerby, but for developers, the Feb. 14 auction is a rare chance to acquire land in one of Brooklyn's hottest areas.

"This is a strategic location," said Michael Guerra, executive vice president at Prudential Douglas Elliman. "It's a fulcrum. The area pivots around Smith Street, the courts and Atlantic Avenue."

Not only are these properties blessed with a prime location, they are also zoned for a variety of uses.

The sites are zoned for residential and commercial use, with restrictions for contextual building on Atlantic Avenue. If a developer merges them into one uber-lot, zoning rules would allow bigger buildings than on the individual lots.

"Hopefully, the auction will bring in development that blends in nicely with what's already there and that caters to residents' needs," said Carl Hum, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Initially, there was talk that a hotel would

CGARDENS

Big projects raising CG ire

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Foes of unchecked development in Carroll Gardens claimed a partial victory last week, as the city agreed to consider restricting construction on several blocks in the heart of the neighborhood and reiterated its support for a study that could lead to a rezoning of the entire area.

The coalition led by Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Carroll Gardens) might have nibbled at a taste of success, but they didn't exactly bring the city to its knees.

The Department of City Planning reaffirmed it would evaluate zoning Carroll Gardens to prevent "out-of-scale" construction, a commitment it made to Borough President Markowitz in November, but said it would not immediately launch that process, contrary to a request by DeBlasio.

"We are committed to pursuing it, but we are unable to commit to a precise timeframe," City Planning said in a statement.

On another front, the Department of Buildings halted away the lawmaker's bid for an immediate moratorium on new construction over 50 feet tall, because, under state law, declaring a moratorium requires a lengthy environmental review and an amendment to the zoning code.

But the tangible, bright spot for DeBlasio was City Planning's announcement from that First through Fourth places — blocks where the houses are set far back from the street, creating large lots that theoretically could be developed with taller buildings — could soon be rezoned as "narrow" streets, which would reduce new building heights and densities on those blocks.

That change from the current "wide streets" standard, would trim about two floors off the height allowed.



A sign announces the auction.

KITCHEN SINK

Greenpoint: Our pal Konrad Gan, a resident of Greenpoint, just got promoted to operations manager at Supreme Cuts, a major distributor of pre-cut veggies. Now, Konrad, about that shipment of baby corn we were discussing ... **DUMBO:** Great to see that the city has placed its new recycling can on the corner of Front and Washington streets. But they made the Sink wonder, how come they don't have the name of our local councilman on them? ... **Park Slope:** Run into our new film-making pal Josephine Decker as she made her way home to Park Slope on the B60 bus last week, which was sort of funny because her new documentary on bisexuality, "Bi the Way," has just been selected to be in the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas in March. Check out Decker's work at www.bitheway.com.

Brooklyn Heights: Marlene Pearl, the wife of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was killed by Islamic fundamentalists in Pakistan in 2002, will speak at St. Francis College on March 10. It's free and open to the public. For information, call the Remsen Street-based college at (718) 489-5214.

Boroughwide: Teenage authors, get out your cameras! Brooklyn Independent Television wants two- to three-minute videos of the borough for a contest called "Show Us Your Reel Brooklyn."

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84th Precinct
DOWNTOWN / BOERUM HILL / B'KLYN HEIGHTS
The employee coat rack at the new HOPE on Livingston Street was raided by a large-bodied man on Jan. 28.
The 6-foot-2, 220-pound perp entered the storage area in the back of the eatery—located near Bond Street—at around 1 pm, and proceeded to search through pockets and took some of the more expensive clothing. The stolen items included a digital music player, a hooded coat, and some debit cards.
The thief's actions were recorded by security cameras, but he escaped before anyone noticed the crime.
Willow break-in
A woman's Willow Place apartment was broken into on Jan. 28 while she was at work.
The 34-year-old victim left her apartment—which is between State and Jonathan streets—at around 8 am and returned at 10 pm to discover that her laptop was gone.
Upon further examination,

POLICE BLOTTER
she realized that three pairs of gold earrings and a gold necklace had also been taken.
There was no sign of forced entry. Cops said the burglar may have entered through a kitchen window.
Overnite larceny
Some things just make sense. For instance, in the wee hours of Feb. 3, a man harassed and robbed a 23-year-old and his girlfriend who were walking through the drive-through of a popular fast-food restaurant at the corner of Gold and Tillary streets. The perp, however, was picked up by cops a few minutes later.
The couple was paying for their midnight snack, when the crook approached them, snatched \$40 from the man, and reached down and squeezed the woman's behind. He then ran away, but not far enough. When cops arrived and searched the area, they found a suspect and put him in cuffs. The \$40, however, was not recovered.

Rough customer
A routine transaction at an Atlantic Avenue drug store turned violent when the customer pulled a gun and emptied the register on Jan. 30.
The middle-aged customer entered the store, near Third Avenue, at around 1 pm, and approached the counter to ask for cigarettes. He even gave the clerk some money, but when she started to give him change he said, "Don't close the register." He displayed a silver handgun and threatened, "Scream if you want, but I'll kill you."
The terrified 22-year-old employee allowed him to take \$400 from the open register before the man fled down Third Avenue.
Fake bondsman
A man impersonating a bail bondsman fleeced a woman out of \$5,000 on Jan. 24 in the criminal court on Schermerhorn Street.
The phony bondsman said he could help the 59-year-old victim bail out her grandson from jail. Eager to get the ordeal over with, she gave him the money at 8:30 pm, and he promised to return soon to the court between Smith and Adams streets.
The man never returned, so the woman called the company where the impostor said he worked. An employee told the woman they've received several complaints about this masquerade defrauding people in other courts.
— **Harry Cheddie**

78th Precinct
PARK SLOPE Family feud
A man's 15th Street apartment was sacked on Jan. 30 and he blames his estranged daughter and her boyfriend for the crime.
Someone, possibly the daughter and her mate, used a key to enter the apartment between noon and 3 pm and steal a box of cash and a bag of cash.
When the father returned to the apartment, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, he discovered that his camera equipment, an iPod, a jukebox and hundreds of CDs were stolen.

Baby joey

Christy, a Prospect Park zoo kangaroo, has had a joey, which is a fancy way of saying her pouch has put a new baby in. No kangaroos, c'ya. Christy is seen here with her new son or daughter, who remains unnamed until zoo experts can determine the tot's gender. The zoo's male 'roo, Junior, is the father.

76th Precinct
CARROLL GARDENS/ CORLE HILL / RED HOOK
2 men, 1 arm
Two men, one carrying an automatic gun, robbed another man on West Ninth Street on Jan. 28.
The robbers set up the victim with a ruse, motioning him to come over to them near the corner of Columbia Street and then asking him for the time.
When the 28-year-old victim rolled up his sleeve to look at his watch (which would have told him that it was 6:30 am), one of the perps displayed a firearm and said, "Gimme what you got."
The man relinquished his watch, but when he reached for his wallet, one of the muggers said, "Don't move," and his accomplice took the wallet, which contained \$300.
The dispossessed man was then ordered to walk towards Red Hook and not turn back.
One of the suspects is described as a 23-year-old, 6-foot-3 black man with several scars on his face.
Break and bike
A man burgled a Degraw Street home on Jan. 15 and used a bicycle to pedal to freedom.
He smashed a window near the entrance at 9:10 am, and used the opening to unlock the front door to the home, which is between Smith and Hoyt streets.
Once inside, he grabbed a purse belonging to a 27-year-old woman, who saw him fleeing down the street on two wheels.

GOTCHA! A man's car is stolen, but he catches thief next day
By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper
A man was foolish enough to leave the keys in his Mercedes — but he got his revenge over the thief who drove off with the car the next day.
The 45-year-old Mercedes owner had parked the green, eight-year-old E320 on Meserole Street, between Manhattan and Graham avenues, at around 3:30 am on Feb. 2, leaving the keys in the ignition while he ran inside.
Upon returning 10 minutes later, the vehicle was gone.
But the next day, he was eating at a diner at South Street and Boerum Place at 12:40 pm when he spotted a guy driving the stolen car into a gas station.
The owner ran outside and grabbed the keys from the driver, who proceeded to run away.
Not content to call in a cop, the Mercedes owner flagged down a passing cop, and officers chased the guy into a subway station near Metropolitan and Union avenues where Officer Nicholas Sefokles collared the 21-year-old alleged car-stealer and Staten Island resident.
"I was driving, but my friend stole the car and gave it to me," the perp told the cops, according to the police report.
That excuse wasn't enough to help him avoid charges of, among other things, grand larceny, unauthorized use of a vehicle, resisting arrest, and driving without a valid driver's license.

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62nd Precinct
BENSONHURST Savings gone
A middle-aged man returned to his 77th Street apartment to find his life savings and jewelry stolen by thugs who'd entered through a rear basement on Jan. 24.
The 43-year-old returned to his apartment, which is near 14th Avenue, at around 8 am to find that the thugs had broken through a basement door, swiped cash and jewelry, and fled through the same door, police said.
Rim job
Thugs stole the tires and rims right off a 2008 Infiniti coupe — and left the fancy car sitting on milk crates on Jan. 25.
The 31-year-old victim made the sad discovery when he returned to his vehicle, which had been parked on 64th Street near 24th Avenue, at around 8 pm the following day.
The thieves rolled off with the hot wheels, yet left the car untouched.
An awakening
A woman was awakened by a flashy dressed intruder who swiped a jewelry box from her 77th Street apartment on Jan. 23.
The 34-year-old was sleeping in her apartment, which is near 16th Avenue, at around 1 pm when she was startled by the perp, who was wearing a black suit.
The burglar fled in fright once the victim awoke, grabbing the first thing he could find: a jewelry box that contained \$250 and necklaces, police said.
Pickpocket
An elderly woman had her wallet stolen as she attended a weekly prayer meeting at a Bay Parkway church on Jan. 22.
The 79-year-old was at the church, which is near 61st Street, at around 7:30 pm. She told cops that she had placed her pocketbook in a closet and started making coffee for the group.
When she returned a half hour later, the wallet, which contained \$200 and credit and debit cards, was missing, police said.
Elderly love
An elderly woman was hugged and robbed twice by a complete stranger on West 11th Street on Jan. 22 — and, yes, the events occurred in that order.
The 68-year-old was near Avenue S, at around 9:05 am, when the thief unleashed his inner sensitive side by embracing the victim in a bear hug, then searching through her pocketbook and swiping her wallet.
The thief pocketed the wallet, which contained \$30, credit and debit cards, and fled, knocking the victim to the ground in the process, police said.
See **POLICE** on page 6

68th Precinct
BAY RIDGE / DYKER HTS
Stolen purse
A similar burglary took place the following morning, Jan. 16, two blocks away on Union Street.
Someone broke through a window at 6:30 am, allowing the front door to be opened.
The hoodlunk took the first thing he saw — a woman's pocketbook — and fled from the block between Smith and Hoyt streets.
Luckily for the 37-year-old victim, her bag did not contain anything valuable.
— **Mike McLaughlin**

Violent rob
Three unidentified perps violently beat a 38-year-old man on the corner of Irvington and 12th avenues on Jan. 30.
The victim was walking home from a nearby subway station at 1:30 am when he was jumped by the gang. After repeatedly punching him in the face, the crooks made off with a cellphone.
Tools stolen
A thief broke into a car parked on 85th Street and stole construction tools on Jan. 30.
The 37-year-old victim told cops that he had parked between Fourth and Fifth Avenues at around 7:20 pm. Sometime after that, a thief broke the passenger-side window and took tools valued at \$3,580.
Apt robbed
A thief made off with \$1,700 worth of jewelry, video games and sneakers from a 68th Street apartment on Jan. 31.
Police say the burglar made his way into the empty apartment, which is located between Eighth and Ninth avenues, through the adjoining garage sometime before 8:40 am.
Watch that bag
A thief grabbed the bag of a woman after she left it on the table of an 86th Street fast

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PARENT

When the Hepcat's away...

Hepcat is in California visiting his mom and life is different whenever he's away. How so? Smartmom has to be both good cop

and bad cop. She's not used to being bad cop — but she's learning. Oh, is she learning! The Oh So Feisty One likes

to do her math homework with Hepcat by her side and not having him home caused more than one meltdown. "I don't understand," she

screamed the other evening as Smartmom tried to explain how to find the common denominator for fractions.

Smartmom racked her brain. Ever so slowly, it came back. Smartmom may be a smart mom, but simple math can still flummox her.

Things got so bad that OSFO insisted she call Hepcat in California. When he picked up the phone, he patiently explained how to do it. Still, OSFO was having a tough time. But thanks to Hepcat's cross-country explanation, Smartmom figured out how to explain it to OSFO.

"I know how to explain this," she told OSFO, who finally got the concept.

Teen Spirit hasn't mentioned Hepcat much. That's probably because he feels a little freer without his dad's tough love of parenting (the 16-year-old Teen Spirit needs a lot of tough love).

Just about every morning while Hepcat was away, Teen Spirit feigned a real or imagined malady.

"I think I drank some curdled milk yesterday," he told Smartmom clenching his stomach one morning.

"I am definitely coming down with something," he told Smartmom on Friday morning, lying with his blanket over his head and the rain pouring down outside his window. "Can I stay home from school?"

Ten Spirit would never try such shenanigans if Hepcat were home.

"Don't make me use the ice," he what Hepcat would say if Teen Spirit was refusing to get out of bed in the morning. "Do you want me to get the weasel?"

That usually makes Teen Spirit pop out of bed and head for the shower faster than a speeding slacker.

But Teen Spirit knows that Smartmom is a workaholic pushover. On more than one occasion, she had allowed him to stay home.

But she's learned her lesson. He usually feels better by 3 pm. Much better. And then he has the nerve to ask if he can go out and see his friends. Grr.

Smartmom may be a wuss, but she hates to be duped.

This week, Smartmom struggled against her pushover tendencies. She tried to channel Hepcat 3,000 miles away. "Don't make me get the ice," she whispered to herself. "Should I get the weasel?"

It worked. She felt embold-

SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

ened by the fact that she was alone and she had to set down the law. Consequently, she and Teen Spirit had a huge fight on Friday morning. Smartmom wasn't going to take no for an answer.

"Get up NOW. You're going to be late!" she screamed and she really meant it.

"Two more minutes," he begged.

"No," she said.

"Please," he pleaded.

"NO," she said it so loud the upstairs and the downstairs neighbors probably heard her. Luckily no one complained.

Finally, Teen Spirit got out of bed and grumpily got into his skinny jeans, his father's old leather aviator jacket, his grandfather's wingtips and stormed out of the house.

Smartmom felt a mix of triumph and pain. She hates when Teen Spirit leaves the house that way (it probably reminds her of the door-slaming fights she had when she was an adolescent). No doubt, that's why she lets Hepcat be the bad cop while she gets to be the sympathetic one.

Indeed, Hepcat's absence is forcing Smartmom to have one heck of an insight. When he's not around, she has to exercise the parts of herself that she doesn't bother to face when he's around. Like remembering how to do math problems and giving Teen Spirit a piece of her mind.

Clearly, Hepcat not only comes in handy when Smartmom can't quite remember something mathematical, but at those more-important times when Smartmom doesn't want to face her anger. When Hepcat is around, she need use only a fraction of her power — just the way she likes it, apparently.

After Teen Spirit left for school on Friday morning, Smartmom felt lightheaded. There was a tingling sensation in her body mixed with a true sense of power.

She was a toughie and it felt really, really good.

Ten Spirit might even have gotten to school on time.

Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SATURDAY, FEB. 9

10 am-4:30 pm: Lunar New Year celebration. Prospect Park Zoo (enter park at 450 Flatbush Ave. near Empire Boulevard). \$6, \$2 kids. Call (718) 399-7339 for info.

11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 230-1000 for info.

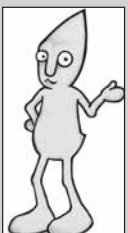
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Cinderella." Puppetworks (338 South Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$8, \$7 kids. Call (718) 965-3391 for info.

3 pm: Dance performance. Kumble Theater (Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, Flatbush and Dekalb avenues). Call (718) 488-1624 for info.

SUNDAY, FEB. 10

2 pm: Concert with Gustaf Yellowgold. Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place in Park Slope). \$10. Call (718) 230-0236 for info.

2 pm: "Flora and Fauna in the Chinese New Year." Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave. at Montgomery Street in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 623-7200 for info.



Gustaf Yellowgold performs at Southpaw on Feb. 10.

3 pm: Dance performance. See Saturday, Feb. 9.
10 am to 4:30 pm: Lunar New Year. See Saturday, Feb. 9.

Want to list your event? Email Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 9.
3 pm: Dance performance. See Saturday, Feb. 9.

MONDAY, FEB. 11

10 am and 11:30 am: Kid's theater. "The African Drum." NYC College of Technology (335 Jay St. at Tillary Street in Downtown Brooklyn). \$7. Call (212) 724-0677 for info.

SATURDAY, FEB. 16

11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, Feb. 9.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 9.

1 pm: Craft workshop. Salt Marsh Nature Center (2302 Ave. U at East 23rd Street in Sheepshead Bay). Free. Call (718) 421-2021 for info.

SUNDAY, FEB. 17

2 pm: "Jumpin' Juniper Show." Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 First Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope). \$10, \$8 kids (2 and young-er). Call (718) 332-2018 for info.

11 am and 2 pm: Kid's art workshop. See Saturday, Feb. 16.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 16.

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¡Ay! My ankle goes on vacation

A KUMAL, MEXICO — So whose brilliant idea was this? Oh, yeah, I forgot. It was mine. It's one thing to be puffing up Eighth Avenue to catch the B69, but it has turned out to be quite another thing to go on a beach vacation — crutches and all — when you have a broken ankle.

On the plus side, just as in Brooklyn, the people of this seaside paradise have opened their hearts to me and my tobiloto (the local argot for "broken ankle"). And unlike in Brooklyn, the love I'm feeling down here is pure. These people love my broken ankle for what it is, not simply because it's attached to the still-functioning leg of the man recently named "Editor of the Year" by the Suburban Newspapers of America (have I been mentioning that award too often?) Tough luck. No one asks Mariusa Tomeo to stop talking about her Oscar for "My Cousin Vinny."

On the negative side, where do I begin? Ever try to walk on a beach in crutches? Getting to the water involves a Herculean (actually Sisyphus is the appropriate mythological metaphor) effort as my crutch poles sink deeper and deeper into the sand. The locals

THE BROOKLYN ANKLE By Derek Kuntzman

point, calling me "El loco gringo." I'd like to think they're impressed by my attempt to make the best of a bad situation, but I fear they are just making fun of me.

Ever the optimist, my wife had told me from the start that my role on the trip would merely be to sit by the pool with a margarita and a book and she would take care of everything.

Loyal readers of this column know that I don't "sit" by anything, margarita or not, and just let other people "take care" of everything (though I am enjoying Park Slope owner Nicole Krauss's "The History of Love").

And the margarita turned out to be a complete lie! The day we landed, all the bars, restaurants and supermarkets had police tape around every single bottle of booze. My Spanish isn't too good, but even I could read the sign: "No alcohol sales permitted until Feb. 4 due to the election."

Turns out, all of Quintana Roo was having its state presidential election and the authorities have banned alcohol sales (my limited Spanish left me unsure whether the two-day prohibition was designed to encourage a sober decision-making process or to discourage a drunken revel when the winner — a choice between Senor Corrupto and Senora Incompetent — was announced).

My 6-year-old was savvy enough to see that something was wrong. "No beer during the election?" she asked. "That's the OPPOSITE of what it should be." (Note to child welfare authorities: I have NO IDEA how she could possibly understand this central truth about al-



Despite an ankle injury that would deter lesser men, our Editor of the Year hits the beach in Mexico this week, cast and crutches be damned.

cohol. She's a smart kid, what can I say?

Anyway, I showed at least six bartenders my American passport — an indication that I was ineligible to vote in their election and should therefore be allowed to waste myself away again in Margaritaville — but it was all for naught. As a result, I watched the Super Bowl

— broadcast in Spanish on Fox Sports Mexico — for the first time since I was 15 without so much as a beer. It's a good thing, though, because if I had been drunk, I would have run naked down the street when Los Gigantes won.

That wouldn't have been very good for my tobiloto roto.

*** In a related story, a bidding war has broken out over my first cast, the one signed by Borough President Markowitz.

To raise money for Markowitz's "Camp Brooklyn" charity, I put this priceless collectible — a journalistic, medical and political heirloom — on eBay with a starting price of \$2.

As I write this, the bidding, which closes on Saturday at midnight, has topped \$100, a frenzy of activity fueled, no doubt, by the rivalry between Councilmembers Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) and Simcha Felder (D-Borough Park).

Both poles aspire to higher office — DeBlasio to the borough presidency, Felder to city comptroller — so it's clear that both men think that winning my cast is a springboard.

Indeed, nothing shows a deep interest in the concerns of the electorate more than winning my sweaty, Markowitz-signed cast.

But why let them get off easy? Help me raise money for "Camp Brooklyn" — and show up my wife, who said the auction wouldn't raise more than \$5 — by driving up the price. Bid today!

Kuntzman's wife is expected to be in a cast for at least four more weeks, putting in jeopardy whether he will be free of this Fiberglas hell in time to collect his Editor of the Year award in Punta Vidua Beach, Florida, on Feb. 21. Watch for updates. In the meantime, you have until Saturday at midnight to bid on his cast, which is signed by Borough President Markowitz.

Go to <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/ebay/SAF4dNw8t8h8d8m/200719701064> to bid. All money from the winning bid will go to Camp Brooklyn (no, really). For information on the charity, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org/Pages/whats_happening_in_brooklyn/campbrooklyn_info.htm

40G raised for cyclist causes

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

In the two months since his son was killed cycling across the Manhattan Bridge, Brooklyn Brewery founder Steve Hindy has shepherded nearly \$40,000 in donations to a group working to make city streets safer for bikers.

Most recently, Bobby Gagnon, owner of the Gate, a Park Slope bar that Steve Hindy called his "local pub," donated \$3,500 — from the sale of Brooklyn Brewery's Winter Ale — to Transportation Alternatives.

Hindy's son Sam accidentally biked onto the Manhattan Bridge's upper level, which is reserved for cars and trucks, on Nov. 16. When he realized his mistake, he turned around, struck a concrete barrier, and fell to the lower level, where he was hit by a car. The devoted cyclist was 27.

Indeed, the morning of his death, Sam Hindy sold his car to one of his father's colleagues at the Williamsburg-based brewery.

"He was committed to going totally green," said Steve Hindy. "So we immediately thought of Transportation Alternatives when this tragedy struck us."

Transportation Alternatives' Executive Director Paul Steely White promised that the money, donated by friends and colleagues of the Hindy family, would go towards preventing such tragedies.

BEATEN...

Continued from page 1

All of 13th Street was shocked at the attack on Gabbur.

"He's so dedicated," said Eva, whose children have been going Gabbur for the 15 years. "You don't find doctors like him anymore. Usually doctors put the money before the patient, but not him. He's the opposite."

For Gabbur, payment is less important than treatment. When patients cannot afford to pay, he doesn't charge. Because of that policy, many patients like him to the Slope's version of Albert Schweitzer.

"It doesn't matter to me whether they have money," he told The Brooklyn Paper. "I actually feel bad when I ask them for money — even when it's just a small amount."

Anyone with information about the assault are asked to contact the 78th Precinct at (718) 636-6411.

Correction

Last week's story about the rise of concierge services in Brooklyn ("Jeeves, be a dear and get my laundry," Feb. 2) incorrectly referred to Sharon Beason, the owner of All About Brooklyn, as an "aspiring accountant." She is a former accountant. Also, the role of the Developers Group at One Brooklyn Bridge Park was mischaracterized. The company is doing sales and marketing for the development. The Brooklyn Paper regrets the errors.

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POLICE...

Continued from page 4

Fake cop

A thug who impersonated a police officer stole a man's cash and dignity at 11:45 pm on Jan. 21.

The victim was on 85th Street near 17th Avenue at 11:45 pm when the impersonator pulled up in a dark-colored vehicle. The thief exited the car, told the victim he was a police officer, and without showing any identification, began searching him, removing a wallet which contained \$150, police said.

The thief followed the victim as he walked back to the apartment, but then quickly sped off down 84th Street, throwing back

the wallet — minus the cash, of course.

—Michael Giordina

88th Precinct

FT GREENE / CLINTON HILL

Stick-up

A Waverly Avenue Pizzeria was robbed at gunpoint on Jan. 30 by a perp who wanted more than just extra cheese.

The thug, a 6-foot man wearing a red jogging jacket and a black 'do-rag, entered the restaurant, which is near Greene Avenue, around 5 pm. Instead of ordering, he pulled out a black

handgun and said, "Open the register and take out the money."

The terrified employee complied, and the hood grabbed \$150 and ran off down the street.

Car jamming

At least three cars were stolen and another two were broken into in the Fort Greene area during another bad week for vehicle owners.

In the most brazen incident, a man's car was stolen at a car wash while he was paying his bill at 7 pm on Jan. 31. The victim had just gotten his 2001 Lincoln Towncar a thorough cleaning around 7 pm at a car wash on Flatbush Avenue Extension near Wiloughby Street, and was settling up at the register when a man wearing a green jacket ran into the vehicle and drove it away. Security cameras were present, but they did not get a clear view of the perp.

Another sedan — a 1995 BMW — was stolen earlier that day just a few blocks away on Navy Street near Tillary Street around midnight.

The third vehicle — a 1990 Jeep Cherokee — was parked at the corner of Cambridge Place and Gates Avenue around 6 pm on Jan. 30. When the owner returned round 8 am on Feb. 2, it was no longer there.

Earlier, cars were broken into but not stolen. On Jan. 27, a crook took away \$2,400 worth of photography equipment from a 2000 Honda Civic parked at the corner of Wiloughby and Washington avenues. Also, a rear window was broken and a DVD player and stereo was ripped out of

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Pathfinder that was parked on Downing Street near Gates Avenue on Jan. 28 around 8 am. The loss was valued at \$1,800.

Mistaken ID

An innocent bystander was assaulted by an angry woman who was apparently looking for vengeance on Feb. 1.

The victim, a 48-year-old woman, was waiting in the Lafayette Avenue train station at 6:30 pm when a black-clad short woman approached and, without warning, punched her in the face.

"You took my life!" the attacker yelled, grabbing the woman's backpack before running away.

The stunned victim didn't receive serious injuries, but she did lose an iPod, credit cards, and keys she needed for work.

Purse purloined

An purse-snatcher grabbed a woman's handbag as she was heading home early on Feb. 2.

The 31-year-old victim was walking along Carlton Avenue, near Lafayette Avenue, at around 1 am, when a man wearing a dark blue jacket asked for her help. The woman, rightly suspicious, said she couldn't help him and kept walking. The criminal decided to eschew tricking her, and simply ran behind her and grabbed her bag from her arm as he went past.

There were credit cards, a monthly Metrocard, and ID cards inside the purse, but the most valuable thing was the bag itself — it was a Gryson bag, worth \$715, cops said.

—Harry Chase

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

February 9, 2008

Love bites

Heartbeats and good eats abound on Valentine's Day

By Adam Rathe and Linnea Covington
The Brooklyn Paper

There's nothing romantic about spending Valentine's Day in front of the stove. And while making dinner for your sweetheart is certainly an admirable gesture, why not leave the cooking to the professionals? Across the borough, chefs are preparing meals that might prove once and for all that the way into someone's heart is through his stomach.

Archives Restaurant

For \$150 per couple, including tax and gratuity, lovebirds can indulge in a gourmet, three-course meal — including a glass of “pink champagne” — at Archives Restaurant in the Brooklyn Marriott in Downtown Brooklyn. Chef Ralph Romano is offering starters like a roasted chestnut soup with foie gras cracklings or a candied beet salad. Romano's main courses include braised pork shank with parsnip puree, a surf-and-turf plate or roasted cod. The dessert, however, is worthy

of being your Valentine all by itself: a chocolate, cream cheese pound cake with raspberry coulis and marzipan hearts.

Archives Restaurant (333 Adams St. at Willoughby Street in Downtown Brooklyn) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves breakfast and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday and brunch on Sundays. For information, call (718) 222-6543 or visit www.marriott.com.

Chez Lola

With its low lighting, pressed tin ceilings and chic French charm, Chez Lola always oozes romance. This Valentine's Day, though, thanks to a special menu from chef Octavio Simancas, the Fort Greene restaurant will be creating an even more amorous setting. For \$32 per person, diners will get a three-course meal — with a bonus amuse bouche at the start of the meal and truffles at the end — with choices like spinach salad with watermelon and hearts of palm; chicken with mascarpone, polenta and mushroom sauce; a mini-pesto crusted leg of lamb; and desserts like molten chocolate cake or sweet

crepes with fruit compote. Chez Lola (387 Myrtle Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For information, call (718) 858-1484 or visit www.bistolola.com.

Dressler

Once seated at Dressler, which boasts one of the best looking dining rooms (and matching servers) in Williamsburg, maneuvering the three-course \$70 prix-fixe Valentine's Day menu will require all of your concentration. Options include appetizers like Hudson Valley foie gras with heirloom apples and white grapes, oysters or a warm artichoke heart salad and entrees such as grilled and braised duck with truffled potatoes or Scottish salmon. Desserts will be announced day of by chef Dopkin Polo and, if your date doesn't do it already, are sure to make you swoon. Dressler (149 Broadway at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves dinner daily and brunch on weekends. For information, call (718) 384-6343 or visit www.dresslerryc.com.

Laura's Gourmet Bistro

“We're having a romantic dinner by candlelight,” said Laura Leone, owner of Windsor Terrace's Laura's Gourmet Bistro, and she wasn't kidding. For \$45 per head, couples can perch at a table for two and tuck into a four-course meal of baked clams, homemade ravioli in a mushroom sauce, osso buco and chicken rollatini. To finish things on a sweet note, Laura's will be serving Italian gelato. “A lot of people get engaged here, because they feel like this is a special place,” Leone said. “Once you come, you always want to come back again.” Laura's Gourmet Bistro (1235 Prospect Ave. at Reeve Place in Windsor Terrace) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesday through Sunday. See **VALENTINE** on page 8



Valentine's day vittles: At Chez Lola in Fort Greene, chef Octavio Simancas will offer couples a special three-course menu on Feb. 14.

ART

Kiss this

A good kiss is unforgettable, and to prove it, Lori Baker and David E. Brown are displaying 76 photographs of kisses from their personal collections at Williamsburg's City Reliquary now through March 31. Baker and Brown, who live in Carroll Gardens, are committed amateur photographers. When they met, they discovered they were drawn to the strange allure of vernacular, or found, photographs.

Looking through their collections, they found a variety of photos with kissing as the subject, and decided to develop a collection that evolved into their first show. “We would go into junk stores,” said Baker, “and spend hours sorting through bins of photos, hoping to come across a kissing photo. It was like panning for gold.”

The photos in the exhibition span the 20th century, the majority hailing from 1930s to the '60s. The photos include a couple kissing at a lake, an older couple smooching — while the woman holds a cigarette in her hand, and a man holding and kissing his pregnant wife.

“This exhibit is a new and strange thing,” added Baker. “It's great, but my collections all feel so personal. There's a vulnerability in showing these to the world.”

“We're very happy that it's up at The City Reliquary,” added Brown, “as it's an organization dedicated to collections and collectors in New York.”

“76 Kisses” will be on display until March 31 at the City Reliquary (370 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg). For information, call (718) 782-4842 or visit www.cityreliquary.org.

— C.W. Thompson

CINEMA



Czech mates

It might not be everyone's idea of the perfect Valentine's Day date movie, but don't let that deter you from seeing Milos Forman's bittersweet Czech New Wave classic, “Loves of a Blonde,” a gentle but probing look at relationships that's as far from those typically sappy Hollywood chick-flick romances as it's possible to be.

In a small Czech town where the ratio of women to men is 16 to 1, young factory worker Andula (the delightful Hana Brejchová, sister of Forman's then-wife, Jana Brejchová) is desperate to find a man. First, she and her friends flirt with a trio of middle-aged reservists at a party, then Andula falls for a young piano player, whom she goes to bed with. However, when a smitten Andula arrives at his parents' home to continue their relationship, she discovers that true love is far more complicated than she thought.

Forman's breakthrough film — it was nominated for the 1966 Best Foreign Film Oscar — “Loves of a Blonde” explores first love with a frankness rarely seen onscreen, eschewing the sentimentality that later crept into even his better American films, with the notable exception of that underrated, bittersweet satiric gem “The People vs. Larry Flynt.”

“Loves of a Blonde” plays at BAMcinematek in conjunction with a complete retrospective of Forman's films at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan Feb. 14-28, which includes his two Oscar-winning films for Best Picture and Best Director, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest” and “Amadeus,” along with early, pre-“Blonde” features from Forman's native Czechoslovakia, “Audition” and “Black Peter.”

BAMcinematek presents “Loves of a Blonde” Feb. 15-21 at the BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$11; seniors, students and children are \$7.50. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org. For information on the Museum of Modern Art retrospective, visit www.moma.org.

— Kevin Filipski



SWAK: At Jacques Torres Chocolate in DUMBO, sexy “Champagne Kiss” truffles are infused with Tattinger bubbly.

Handcrafted hearts

Woo them with chocolate treats made in Brooklyn

By Linnea Covington
The Brooklyn Paper

As we write, the heady scent of homemade chocolate treats is wafting from every corner of the borough. Among the sweets emporiums we visited for freshly made Valentine's Day gift-giving ideas were a 61-year-old chocolate shop in Midwood that has been handed down from father to

son, to a less-than-year-old-kosher chocolate store in Park Slope.

If your sweetheart swoons for cocoa, Brooklyn offers seemingly endless forms of handmade temptation. You can play your lover with a simple milk chocolate heart, or a white chocolate truffle infused with rose water or ganache bursting with Champagne flavor. “Most of what we sell is for someone to give to someone else,” said Michael Rogak

of JoMart Chocolate in Marine Park. “We help people celebrate their lives.”

CaryMo Chocolates

Confectioner Cary Becraft presents a trio of handcrafted chocolate hearts this Valentine's Day. Becraft, who learned to make chocolate while working at the River Cafe in DUMBO, started CaryMo Chocolate Candies and Con-

See **CHOCOLATE** on page 8

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VALENTINE...

Continued from page 7
 through Sunday. Closed Mondays. For information, call (718) 436-3715.

Le Petite Marche

Oysters, foie gras and sweetbreads, oh my. At Le Petite Marche — a warm and romantic restaurant in Brooklyn Heights — the four-course, \$60 prix-fixe Valentine's Day menu is chock full of rich offerings like roasted chestnut soup, duck breast with butternut squash fondue, goat cheese and prosciutto, and chocolate soufflé with pistachio ice cream. Even after the meal, chef Mick Pimik will offer complimentary chocolate-dipped fruit, ensuring everybody leaves with a sweet taste in his mouth.

Le Petite Marche (46 Henry St. at Cranberry Street in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves dinner daily. For information, call (718) 858-9605.

Marco Polo Ristorante

Marco Polo chef Bruno Milone, who has made hearts flutter with his Italian cooking for years, plans to outfit himself on Valentine's Day with a special menu served a la carte (entrees range between \$14.95 and \$27.95) for lovers and food lovers alike. Diners are invited to Carroll Gardens to enjoy appetizers like a tricolor salad; try pasta dishes like risotto with shrimp in a Champagne sauce; dig into rich entrees like the fillet of sole stuffed with crabmeat; and finish the meal off with Italian cheesecake or a heart-shaped strawberry mousse with chocolate sauce.

Marco Polo Ristorante (345 Court St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For information, call (718) 852-5015 or visit www.marcopoloristorante.com.

Piramide

If you can't get away for a romantic weekend, a Valentine's Day dinner at Piramide in Park Slope is the next best thing. Thanks to chef Freddy Luna, authentic Mexican food — three-fish ceviche, chicken with hazelnuts, a Chilean



All Dressler-ed up: (Above) Williamsburg's Dressler restaurant will offer a \$70 prix-fixe dinner on Valentine's Day. (At left) Marco Polo chef Bruno Milone will offer a special menu a la carte in Carroll Gardens.



Tempo Restaurant & Wine Bar (245 Fifth Ave. at Carroll Street in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Dinner is served daily. For information, call (718) 636-2020 or visit www.tempobrooklyn.com.

dinner daily. Brunch is served on week-ends. For information, call (718) 499-0002 or visit www.menpiramide.com.

Tempo

Even if you're not going dancing this Valentine's Day, a bit of Tempo is a good thing. As part of the elegant Park Slope restaurant's three-course \$65 prix-fixe menu, chef Michael Fiore will serve yellow fin tuna tartare with ginger wasabi sauce, roasted rack of lamb crusted in black olives, and a molten chocolate cake with a caramel crunch gelato. Paired with a long walk down Fifth Avenue, Fiore is serving up a recipe for romance.

Tempo Restaurant & Wine Bar (245 Fifth Ave. at Carroll Street in Park Slope) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. Dinner is served daily. For information, call (718) 636-2020 or visit www.tempobrooklyn.com.

Water Street Restaurant

At this bi-level DUMBO institution,

chef Reggie Taylor will be serving an incredibly romantic meal at a rock-bottom price. For \$100, couples can enjoy a four-course meal, a bottle of red wine, complimentary flowers and music from a live pianist.

"We're a neighborhood restaurant, and we want to give the best service and food to our local customers," said owner Jeffrey Rodman. "And we have incredible rustic ambiance, so it's very romantic."

After finishing a meal with options like sweet pea, spinach and mint soup, baked acorn squash, prosciutto-wrapped halibut and herb-scented Cornish hen, diners even get a complimentary box of chocolates from the neighboring Jacques Torres shop to bring home.

Water Street Restaurant (66 Water St. at Main Street in DUMBO) accepts American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For information, call (718) 625-9352 or visit www.waterstreetrestaurant.com.

CHOCOLATE...

Continued from page 7

feet in 2000. This year, she will make a white chocolate heart with a rose-scented marshmallow center; a salt-and-pepper caramel wrapped in a milk chocolate heart; and a dark chocolate heart with creme de cassis, a black currant liqueur. (They're \$10 for a box of three.)

Afraid to buy it before you try it? CaryMo is offering a chocolate tasting on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 5 pm to 7 pm, at the Greene Grape (765 Fulton St. at South Oxford Street in Fort Greene). For more information, call (718) 797-9463 or visit the Web site www.greengrape.com.

CaryMo's chocolate heart trio is available at Stinky Brooklyn (261 Smith St. at Degraw Street in Carroll Gardens). For more information, call (718) 522-7425 or visit the Web site www.carymochocolate.com.

Chocolate Girl

Celebrating its first Valentine's Day, the Chocolate Girl store will serve up kosher dark chocolate in the form of roses (\$4), records that read "Just for the record, I love you" (\$18), keys (to your heart, of course, for \$2) and hand-painted flower lollipops (\$3).

Owner Tziporah Avigayil Jaeger will also offer heart-shaped boxes filled with whatever chocolate your Valentine desires (\$36 per pound).

Chocolate Girl is located at 383 Seventh Ave. between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope. For more information, call (718) 788-9182 or visit the Web site www.thechocolategirl.net.

Chocolate Room

At the three-year-old Chocolate Room in Park Slope, three heart-shaped truffles are returning specialties for Valentine's Day. There is Antoinette, a sexy bite of white chocolate with dark chocolate ganache infused with rose water; Charlotte, a cartoon heart of swirled milk and dark chocolate surrounding a basil-apricot core; and Donna, a dark chocolate heart with a rich currant center that glitters with copper dust. Purchase these hearts individually or by the pound (\$40 per pound).

Also featured is the Fritz Knipschidt Valentine box, which comes in two sizes, large with 23 pieces (\$35) and small with 17 (\$29).

Chocolate Room owners Naomi Joseph and Jon Rayson are also offering, for the third year running, a three-course chocolate tasting (\$28 per person) by chef Jennifer Jupiter. The tasting is held only on Valentine's Day in their intimate cafe. There will be three seatings at 7 pm, 8:30 pm and 10 pm.

The Chocolate Room is located at 86 Fifth Ave. at Prospect Place in Park Slope. For more information and reservations, call (718) 783-2900 or visit the Web site www.thechocolateroombrooklyn.com.

Jacques Torres Chocolate

Jacques Torres' shop is festive with two signature, heart-shaped boxes: one is filled with 35 bonbons (\$49) and the other is filled with seven truffles in an assortment of three flavors: coconut,



peanut butter and almond (\$10.50).

The seven-year-old DUMBO chocolate shop offers a special "Champagne kiss" truffle: dark chocolate infused with Taittinger rose Champagne and topped with a sassy red "kiss." (A box of 12 truffles is \$18, 25 for \$33, and 50 for \$55).

If you feel your relationship is ailing, it's possible that Torres's "Love Tonic," a sinful hot fudge sauce available in a seven-ounce jar, might hold the cure for just \$9.

In the European-style cafe the seating is quaint but limited; however, you can stand and catch a peek through the

glass at chocolates being lovingly crafted by hand.

Jacques Torres Chocolate is located at 66 Water St. at Main Street in DUMBO. For more information, call (718) 873-9772 or visit the Web site www.mrchocolate.com.

JoMart Chocolates

The largest selection of handcrafted Valentine's chocolates is found at JoMart Chocolates in Marine Park. You can choose from a variety of sizes of heart-shaped boxes for the seven-pound, lace-covered monster (\$192) to a three-and-a-half ounce metal-lic red box (\$4.50).

All of the chocolate has been made on the premises since 1946, and owner Michael Rogak happily tempts his customers with a heart-shaped raspberry ganache truffle infused with Champagne (\$22.50 per pound), milk chocolate bouquets of half-a-dozen roses (\$9.50), three-and-a-half to four ounces of dark and milk chocolate handcuts (\$7.95) or cupid's (\$9) and dozens of other amazing chocolate creations.

Patrons can also enjoy the window that offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the delicious, rich chocolates being made.

The sky's the limit; at JoMart, special orders are welcomed.

JoMart Chocolates is located at 2917 Ave. R at Nostrand Avenue in Marine Park. For more information, call (718) 375-1277 or visit the Web site www.jomartchocolates.com.



'Wild' time

Gallery Players 'Party' all night long with hours of song and debauchery

By Deirdre Donovan
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's off — from fedoras to cloches, from feathered caps to top hats — to The Gallery Players, for reviving the flamboyant musical, "The Wild Party." The production kicks off the New Year in high theatrical style and stirs up a real musical tempest in Brooklyn.

With music, book and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, posh lighting by John Eckert, Jazz Age costumes by Summer Lee Jack, this is racy stuff, made racier by choreographer Brian Swasey and musical director Jeffrey Campos. This musical is, mark you, a kind of dark, purrable about the Roaring Twenties, and how its razzamatazz downspiralized — fast. Derived from Joseph Moncure March's 1926 narrative poem, the work is freshly imagined under the same and sober direction of Neal Freeman.

Forgive my clobbering you with so many names, but credit must be given where it's due. In compensation, I'll briefly outline the story, which centers on a quartet of characters. In this new adaptation, Queenie, a gorgeous vaudeville dancer, and Burns, her abusive beau, decide to throw a wild party, which pushes their love-hate relationship over the edge.

The other couple? They are your stereotypical pretty boy with his hard-boiled dandy. The setting is the Big City. And, once the party gets underway, there will be a lot of two-timing among this foursome.

I have no major quarrels with the current production. In fact, one of the main reasons it

pulled me in from the get-go was that it's — first and foremost — a true revival. That is, it breathes zesty, new life into the seven-year-old musical. Without being gimmicky, the show creates its own frisson.

Glancing back to the original production at the Manhattan Theater Club in 2000, the musical arrived like the proverbial rose with a thorn. The critics, without totally panicking its premiere, were hesitant in giving it a thumbs-up. Many felt that its sizzling content and anything-goes attitude was too frivolous and verged on vulgarity. Nonetheless, the critics and public eventually came round. And the show went on to win the Outer Critic Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical

THEATER

The Gallery Players presents "Wild Party" through Feb. 24, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Also, 2 p.m. matinee performances will be offered on Feb. 16 and Feb. 23. The Gallery Players is located at 199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope. Tickets are \$18, \$14 for seniors. Tickets can be purchased by calling TheaterMania at (212) 352-3101 or by visiting the Web site www.galleryplayers.com.

and a Drama Desk Award for Best Music.

What I like about this particular revival is that the creative team seems to adhere more closely to the actual text of Queenie's book-length poem. The former, and more lavish, MTC production seemed more intent on the high-gloss effects, or perhaps dramatically appropriating to the stage the fashionable illustrations of Art Spiegelman's 1994 publication of "The Wild Party." The Gallery Players production takes up that slack, and you get a much meatier rendering of March's work here.

March's poem is a slow burn.



Ladies man: Jonathan Hack (center) as Burns in The Gallery Players production of "The Wild Party," on stage through Feb. 24 in Park Slope.

And its bebop verse rhythms (along with some doggerel) poses challenges to even the most astute creative team. Furthermore, its subject matter — sex (of all varieties), booze and hot jazz — makes any stage-adaptation a tough bet. To be sure, the work can turn trashy in a nanosecond under the wrong direction. But to Freeman's credit, he takes the spicy material and gives it lots of jazzy substance. Without taking the narrative poem verbatim, he's able to retain enough of the language, and injects the necessary adrenaline, to fit the two-act structure.

The acting? I found that the principals were well cast, but some supporting actors were uneven in their performances of various musical numbers and scenes. Outstanding was Nicole Sterling, playing Queenie. In many respects, the part of Queenie is the lynchpin to any production. And, fortunately, Sterling has the voice and the talent for the flapper-fatale.

Another notable performance was turned in by Julie Cardia, as Kate, the epitome of a Jazz Age demimondaine. Cardia turns social climbing into a sleazy art, and even outdoes Queenie, at times, with her seductive glances.

Jonathan Hack as Burns, superbly inhabited the romantic

aspects of his role, and was also a good fit as "a very scary clown." True, he was a tad shorter in physical stature than Sterling — and my first impression was that he was miscast in his lead role. However, his bulldog determination and tenacity made him ultimately right for the part.

Michael Jones exudes humor, a caddish wit, and a certain urbanity as Mr. Black. But like every other character on stage, one wouldn't want to turn one's back for very long with him at the party. In short, nobody can be trusted in this place where anything will be done for kicks.

Not surprisingly, the music is the thing in the show. Forget spoken dialogue. This is a totally sung-through musical — and Andrew Lippa's music and lyrics coalesce like a charm. The opening number, "Queenie is a Blonde," sets the tone of the piece and calibrates the emotional energy of the rest of the scenes. But it is the second song, "The Apartment," that better captures the lackadaisical personality of Queenie (who sleeps till noon). This song strikingly spells out the sexual tension, and hidden jealousies, between her and Burns.

The show is a veritable feast of songs. Sixteen numbers zigzag through Act One,

and Act Two brings the grand total to 19. My favorites? Perhaps the powerhouse solo, "An Old-Fashioned Love Story," belted out by veteran Gallery Players actor Taren Hagens as Madeleine True, in Act One, as the predatory lesbian.

The jazz-inspired songs develop the characters and the story simultaneously, and more than a few numbers in the show are memorable — and hum-able.

What works against the production, in my view, is its sheer length. After two-and-a-half-hours, the show sagged under its own musical weight. Aren't there a few scenes that might be cut, or trimmed, an iota? I realize I'm nitpicking. But even with the intermission, the show seemed like a marathon of songs.

I would have liked a more sangfroid finale as well. This is no happily-ever-after story, and perhaps a more visually chilling tableau in the last tragic scene would heighten the theatrical power.

This is my second visit to The Gallery Players this season. And I must admit that they have succeeded, once again, in bringing first-rate talent into their intimate, no-frills venue. This might not be a flawless production, but snub this "Wild Party" at your own risk.

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What's up 'Next'

While The National will take the stage at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House on Feb. 22 and Feb. 23, there are 175 shows that comprise "Brooklyn Next," and you can be sure to find your new favorite band at one of them.

Held across the borough at venues like Grand Dakar Cafe in Clinton Hill, Southampton Park Slope and Pete's Candy Store in Williamsburg, the series — now in its second year — is designed to create a sense of community between the up-and-coming bands of Brooklyn and BAM, one of the borough's cultural heavyweights. Groups like Turnbells on the Hudson (playing a Feb. 20 party at Southampton) and The A-Bones (playing Feb. 23 at Magnetic Field in Brooklyn Heights) are drawn into the clubs thanks to a grant that makes it possible for smaller venues to pay the bands more than just a cut of the bar's business.

"It seems like BAM's mission is to nurture the Brooklyn music scene," said Andy McDowell, owner of Pete's Candy Store. "There are a lot of great acts that aren't necessarily getting the kind of attention or pay that they should, and this provides for the hands to perform. It's also a chance to attract acts that might not play at a place as small as ours."

Similarly, in putting the series together, BAM is able to work with nightclubs and musicians that it might not otherwise have a chance to, such as the White Rabbits (pictured) which will play the BAMusic on Feb. 16.

"Brooklyn Next" runs through Feb. 24 at venues around the borough. Prices vary. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.bam.org.

— Adam Rathe

Super National

'Boxer' band sells out two nights at BAM

By Adam Rathe

The Brooklyn Paper

When local rock bands begin selling out the usual venues — Galapagos, Southampton, The Music Hall of Williamsburg — they tend to move on to the super-sized concert halls of Manhattan and stadiums across the country.

The National, however, is taking a step sideways. Instead of playing for a room of wild, crowd-surfing fans — like they'll do on tour with Modest Mouse and R.E.M. this summer — on Feb. 22 and Feb. 23, everyone who goes to see the band will be seated, and a mosh pit will definitely be discouraged.

On those evenings, the band will be taking the stage at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's opera house to play two sold-out shows as part of BAM's "Brooklyn Next" series. But for a group that's used to playing at rock clubs, BAM's gilded halls can be a bit daunting.

"We were really flattered when they asked, so it's something we're nervous about, because we're used to loud clubs where people are drinking a lot," said Matt Berninger, the band's singer and Prospect Heights resident. "We never expected to do that kind of a show. It seems

a little highfalutin for us."

Formed in Cincinnati, Ohio, the band relocated to Brooklyn in the late '90s and has become a part of the local fabric. Berninger praised Bout on Smith Street as his favorite bar, and Bryce Dessner, The National's guitarist, pals around with Dittus Park crooner and indie music maven Sufjan Stevens. Still, Berninger said that there wasn't

community of musical cross-pollination. Everybody sees shows, but it's not that kind of scene."

And while Brooklyn might not have a small-town indie rock infrastructure, The National isn't exactly small time. "Boxer," the band's fifth record, was released in May and has become a staple on top 10 lists and the iPods of clued-in music fans. With Berninger's deep voice and remarkable lyrics and the tight talent of the rest of the band (Dessner and Scott Devendorf, also brothers), The National has gained national attention and a rabid local fan base.

"We're starting to worry that we're playing New York too much," said Berninger. "We've played 25 venues in the city, and we've done them all once or twice." Still, the Feb. 22 date at BAM sold out, and the second show, which is also completely

demanded.

"I don't have a sense of there being a Brooklyn scene now. It's just a huge place where a lot of people live and make music," he said. "There's not this tight-knit

community of musical cross-pollination. Everybody sees shows, but it's not that kind of scene."

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demanded.



National goes local: The National will play the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Feb. 22 and 23.

Fans might be surprised to learn that despite the songs of love and loss that fill "Boxer" and the band's fifth record, was released in May and has become a staple on top 10 lists and the iPods of clued-in music fans. With Berninger's deep voice and remarkable lyrics and the tight talent of the rest of the band (Dessner and Scott Devendorf, also brothers), The National has gained national attention and a rabid local fan base.

"I look for lyrical inspiration [everywhere]," he said. "I don't have a process, and it actually takes me quite a long time to write lyrics that aren't bad. I will steal from wherever I can find it, conversations or eavesdropping on people at a bar. That's where

the most interesting stuff comes from, the awkward little details of normal people talking about something."

Berninger cited influences like Nick Cave and Tom Waits — "people who have no fear of sounding like an a-hole" — and said that his band is too often pegged as precious and sad by critics.

"We've been described as a dark, morose band, but I've al-

ways thought that while there are moments like that in our songs, it was never accurate," he said. "I don't think of 'Boxer' as being a depressing record at all. We might be darker than some bands, but I never thought of us as moosey."

And with a sold-out crowd packing the seats in BAM's opera house, it's unlikely that the audience will be moosey either.

"I don't know what the atmosphere will be like," said Berninger. "but we're looking forward to it."

The algo-rhythm

The National's "Boxer" has topped plenty of "Best of 2007" lists, but if you've never heard them, you won't understand why. GO BROOKLYN breaks it down for you, explaining the charm of one of the best bands in the borough.

Take the sensitive, slightly maudlin sound of the Cure, which was epitomized by 1989's "Disintegration," and add...

the authentic, edgy sound of Interpol, another band of New York gloomers. Toss in...

the swagger of former Smiths frontman Morrissey, whose wit made albums like 1988's "Viva Hate" classics, and you'll have...

The National's "Boxer."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 2

fees, \$25, \$15 members, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, 250 Baltic St. (718) 637-1892

Tues, Feb 12

SENIOR EVENT: Bay Ridge Chapter of AARP meets, 2:30 pm, Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Rd. (718) 748-0114.

BUSINESS TALK: CAMBA offers a business workshop, "How to Start a Home-Based Business." Learn what steps are involved in the planning and execution of a business based out of your home. 6 pm to 8:30 pm, 884 Flatbush Ave. (718) 282-2500. Free.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of

Music presents Patrick Stewart in Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Benefit performance, 8 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

COOKING LIGHT: The Center for Kasher Culture offers a class in basic, Spanish cuisine tradition. \$70, 10 am to 1 pm, 1407 Cones Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

Wed, Feb 13

SENIOR ACTIVITIES: Adults 60 and older are invited to an art class, 1 pm to 3 pm, 115 pm, St. Charles Jewish Center Adult Services, 55 Piermont St. (718) 855-0324. Free.

AFRICAN HERITAGE: Exhibit hosted by The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy, The Harlem River Ecology Center and the Envision Media Mobile Project. Documentation, art and more, 3 pm to 9 pm, Governors Community Center, 420 Baltic St. (718) 797-7752 or (647) 224-5828. Free.

MEDITERRANEAN COOKING: The Center for Kasher Culture offers a class in basic, Spanish cuisine tradition. \$70, 10 am to 1 pm, 1407 Cones Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

AUDITION: Community Theater holds auditions for its Spring 2008 production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None." 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Salem Lutheran Church, 400 67th St. (718) 482-3173.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Patrick Stewart in Shakespeare's "Macbeth." \$30 to \$90, 7:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

YEAR OF THE RAT: Brooklyn Borough President Mark Markowitz hosts a Chinese New Year celebration to benefit Camp Brooklyn. \$50 includes dinner at Pacifica Restaurant, 6:30 pm, 813 56th St. Reservations necessary. (718) 802-3531.

SUPPORT: The HAMS Harm Reduction Network offers a free

chrysalis harm reduction support group for people who inject drugs, 7 pm to 9 pm, 1407 Cones Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

COOKING LIGHT: The Center for Kasher Culture offers a class in basic, Spanish cuisine tradition. \$70, 10 am to 1 pm, 1407 Cones Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.

Thurs, Feb 14

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Black History Month events

Sat, Feb 9

CONCERT: Brooklyn Queens Conservatory of Music and the Brooklyn Museum present jazz legends Taj Mahal, \$25 and \$50, students and seniors \$15, 8 pm, Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 209-3370.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Academy of Music's Central Branch hosts a celebration of composer and violinist Louis Lurie. Wadada Leo Smith, Myra Melrose, Thomas Buehler and Flux Quartet perform, \$10, 37 students and seniors, 7 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100.

MUSEUM TOUR: The New York Public Library leads a guided tour highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to transportation, 3 pm, The New York Transit Museum, at the corner of Museum Plaza and Schermerhorn Street, (718) 694-1000. Free.

COFFEEHOUSE: Third Street Space Food Co-op presents Rufus Cappadocia, his five-string electric cello, \$10 at door, \$6 for children, 8 pm, 33 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-2972.

NEW WORK FEST: Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts a festival of new works, \$15, 55 students and seniors, 8 pm, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Wild Party," 8 pm, See Sat, Feb. 16.

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Sun, Feb 10

MUSEUM TOUR: highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to transportation, 3 pm, See Sat, Feb. 9.

Sat, Feb 16

AUTHOR TALK: Ishmael Beah, author of "A Long Way Gone," and his mother, Laura Simms, will speak at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch, 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Public Library's central branch hosts a concert by Sweetbeatz, a kid-friendly band, 7 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

PERFORMANCE: Metropolitan Opera Live in HD: Today, "Manon Lescaut," 8 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

ICE SKATING: at Prospect Park's Wollman Rink, \$5, \$3 kids and seniors, 56 skate rental. Sessions from 10 am to 10 pm, 2 pm to 6 pm, 7 pm to 10 pm, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Avenue A, (718) 965-8999.

ICE SKATING: at Prospect Park's Wollman Rink, \$5, \$3 kids and seniors, 56 skate rental. Sessions from 10 am to 10 pm, 2 pm to 6 pm, 7 pm to 10 pm, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Avenue A, (718) 965-8999.

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ICE SKATING: at Prospect

ALL DRAWN OUT

A black and white cartoon illustration of a man in a trench coat and hat running away from a large sign that reads "COMPULSIVE LIAR" and "ALMOND". The man is carrying a briefcase and is running towards the left. The sign is on a wall and has the words "COMPULSIVE LIAR" in large letters and "ALMOND" in smaller letters below it. The man is running away from the sign, suggesting he is fleeing from the accusation. The illustration is signed "© 1994 by [illegible]" in the bottom right corner.

this sweetheart deal before Ratner formally acquires the state-owned rail yard on which he hopes to build, and before Ratner and other state agencies ink the subsidy deals that prop up this oversized white elephant of a project.

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Poly wanna raincheck

Some Technic trustees don't trust N

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Plans for a takeover of Brooklyn Polytechnic University by New York University could be delayed by an attempt to postpone the decisive vote by Poly trustees unconvinced the engineering school was making a wise decision.

Several members of the Polytechnic board sent a memo to their fellow trustees on Jan. 30 urging them to delay their decision until they could review all the terms of the deal that would put the college, based at Metrotech, under the purple banner of NYU.

"We need to ask ourselves: With a 153-

year history of independence and self-sustainability, why is Poly's administration rushing to 'merge' with NYU on terms which remain questionable and without reviewing the alternatives Poly has with the entire board?" asked three trustees in the memo, provided to The Brooklyn Paper.

Polytechnic President Jerry Hultin told

the New York Times that a case of "pre-vote jitters" afflicted some board members and that he was confident the decision would be made on Thursday, as scheduled.

But a Polytechnic alumnus who opposes the deal told The Brooklyn Paper on Thursday that the vote had been postponed.

Slope Y bids to run the Armory

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

The Prospect Park Y in Park Slope is one of just two bidders vying for the chance to operate an enormous recreation center inside an old Eighth Avenue armory that the city spent \$16 million to rehab.

The Brooklyn Paper has learned. The news that the armory-turned-recreation center could be run by the Y cheered one civic leader who has grown frustrated by years of delays and the city's inability to keep neighbors informed.

"The YMCA is probably the best fit," said Tom Miskel, a

member of the Park Slope Civic Council's Armory Committee. "This complex is directed toward sports programs for younger people. The Y fits that [mission] better than anyone else."

The city had promised to turn the armory, which is between 14th and 15th streets, over to a private operator by 2006. But the Department of Homeless Services, which is administering the bidding process and which will control use to maintain a small women's shelter in the building, pushed back the process at least twice.

A source closely involved in the rec center project said the city is gearing up for a big



The Park Slope Armory underwent a \$16 million renovation that converted it into a recreation center.

announcement — and that the Y will be chosen over.

The YMCA has a long-standing presence in Park Slope. It began operating in 1891, and has been at its present site, on Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, since 1926.

Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who not only organized the funding to rehab the armory, but has been a member of Y for at least 10 years, would not comment on the bidding process, but called the Y "a core institution in our community."

DeBlasio said that a formal announcement should be coming soon.

Heights swastika bomber is indicted

The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights man — arrested last month for having an apartment filled with bombs that were discovered after he accidentally shot himself — was slapped with a 132-count indictment stemming

from the explosives and his connection to a swastika graffiti attack in September. The bomb charges against Ivalyo Ivanov, 37, carry a maximum sentence of 25 years on the charge.

Ivanov faces additional hate crime charges for allegedly tattooing two syna-

gogues, buildings and cars in Brooklyn with messages saying, "Kill all the Jews," in September.

District Attorney Charles Hynes said he would aggressively prosecute Ivanov, calling his crimes "attacks against the

whole of society, not just the individuals or groups targeted."

Ivanov's court-appointed attorney, Adrian Lesher, from Legal Aid, criticized the indictment as a public-relations stunt.



Red Hook food vendors discuss new rules for licensing with NYC Parks members (from right) Phil Abramson, Gabrielle Ohayon and Melissa Auerbach.

Viva el mercado!

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

The Latin American food vendors in Red Hook Park will continue their struggle with the city to set up stands in a once-outcast location that became a weekend haven for foodies.

Despite significant hurdles, the vendors decided to submit a proposal under the city's new open-bidding process for vending permits at the Red Hook bullfights, on Bay Street, between Clinton and Henry streets.

"They decided to stick on, which is good news," said Cesar Fuentes, who acts as spokesman and advocate for the 13 vendors.

One of the food vendors, Rafael Soler, added: "We tried to keep it together because when everyone is together, we're stronger."

The decision to dig in culminates months of hand wringing that began after the city decided to put the vending sites, where the food hawkers have been operating for decades, up for open bid. At the time, the Parks Department said its "request for proposals" would allow the vendors to put the vendors a leg up. But the RFP unveiled last month would have the purveyors from setting up folding tables, tarps and grills as they have been doing, instead, vendors must get mobile units, licensed by the Health Department, which cost \$15,000-\$30,000. "For a corporation, that's pocket change," said Fuentes. "But for hardworking people holding down two other jobs, it's a lot."

The city says it wants a lively marketplace, but a spokesman recently suggested that the city is less concerned with who actually runs it — the longtime vendors or a new corporation.



The Brooklyn Paper's Tom Cullen

PAY-TO-PARK

Continued from page 1

Neighborhoods that fit the bill include Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Downtown and Park Slope.

Most of the 75 people in attendance at St. Francis College on Remsen Street supported the plan in the hopes that it would allow them to actually park their cars on the street when they arrive home.

"Free parking is not a divine right," said Jo Anne Simon, a Boerum Hill activist. "This is about residents having the ability to park in their own neighborhoods without being crowded and having non-residents use their neighborhoods as a commuter parking lot."

Simon referred to a Downtown Brooklyn Council study that said 40 percent of cars parked on Downtown streets during the day were commuters. Local police — including councilmembers Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), Bill DeBlasio

(D-Cobble Hill) and David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) — are behind the plan, even with its admitted limitations.

"It's a mathematical impossibility that everyone could park on the street. We're not talking about a reserved space outside your front door," said Yassky. "We're talking about making it a little easier."

But some critics say the program is just another handout to denizens of well-heeled neighborhoods.

"They already have mass transit. They already live in a desirable area. Now the city is saying they should have a car," said Mandy Harris, one of about 10 people wearing T-shirts saying, "Windsor Terrace is not a parking lot."

That T-shirt captures the dread of some in Windsor Terrace that their neighborhood would have to absorb would-be parkers if nearby Park Slope opts for permits.

Other people in the audience said the permit plan won't make a dent unless the city cracks down on parking abuse by government employees in Downtown Brooklyn.

The mayor recently announced he would reduce the number of placards issued to tackle this perennial problem. Nonetheless, residential parking permits have been a priority for many neighborhood groups. For the first time, they seem within reach.

But the city will be hard-pressed to convert its concept into a workable system by next spring.

"If we're talking about implementing residential parking permits in the short term, we need to keep it simple," said Bruce Schaller, a deputy commissioner for the DOT.

That's easier said than done. The city will have to figure out how to deal with visitor parking, what hours the plan would be in operation, and how to set neighborhood boundaries.

So. Slope meters

Parking is giving some South Slopes even more of a headache than usual, thanks to 68 new parking meters being installed along Seventh Avenue, between 10th and 15th streets. Residents are less than thrilled. "It's outrageous," said Alan Gottesman, who likes to park his car along the avenue. "The neighborhood doesn't have enough parking for the residents. This takes away even more."

— Dana Rubinstein

Foes eye 'supreme' after a Ratner win

By Gersh Kuntzman and Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-project vowed to take their fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court after a federal appeals court ruled unanimously in favor of the developer on Feb. 1. Experts say, however, that this latest defeat is most likely the end of the road for the lawsuit.

"The odds are extremely slim that the Supreme Court will hear the case," said Michael Rikon, an eminent domain expert who represented plaintiffs who fought the use of eminent domain when Ratner built the Metrotech office complex in Downtown a generation ago. "That's it."

Steven Anderson, director of the anti-eminent domain Institute for Justice's Castle Coalition, agreed.

"The Court gets something like 8,000 petitions a year and

accepts maybe 1 percent of them," said Anderson.

In the case in question, the plaintiffs, including Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn's Daniel Goldstein and Freddy's Bar, argue that the state's economic development arm broke the law when it condemned privately owned properties and turned them over to Ratner.

Eminent domain — the seizure of private land for public benefit — has traditionally been used to build public projects like highways or government buildings. However, the High Court's landmark 2005 Kelo decision expanded the notion of "public benefit" to include the effects of economic development on a "blighted" community.

Opponents of the 16-acre-per-and-arena Atlantic Yards project, slated for Prospect Heights, argue that a publicly financed baseball arena that will largely benefit a private developer was not the kind of "public benefit" re-

quired under eminent domain law. They also argue that the area around the Vanderbilt rail yards where Ratner plans to build his Xanadu is not blighted at all. Last week, the appeals panel declined to weigh in on either argument.

Federal judges may not intervene in such matters simply on the basis of our sympathies," the court wrote. "Just as eminent domain has its costs, it has its benefits."

Matthew Brinckerhoff, who represented the plaintiffs, said he was "certainly disappointed" by the ruling.

"We believe the decision is wrong," he added, vowing to bring the case to the Supreme Court "to re-examine the use of eminent domain."

Brinckerhoff added that he would re-file the case in state court because the federal court have consistently declined to take up the substantive issue in the case, preferring to rule on

jurisdictional grounds. But New York state courts are notoriously unsympathetic to challenges to eminent domain law. And, while 42 states have passed legislation since 2005 designed to constrain the Kelo decision, New York State is not one of them.

Ratner praised the decision, his second major court win in as many months.

"Atlantic Yards will bring thousands of affordable homes and needed jobs to Brooklyn," he said in a statement. "We believe, and the courts have repeatedly agreed, that these are real benefits that have a significantly positive impact on the borough and the city."

The Empire State Development Corporation, the state's economic development arm, also praised the court.

"We are excited about construction moving forward on this important, transformative development project," said Warner

Johnson, an ESDC spokesman. In another decision, a state judge ruled last month that the ESDC's environmental review of the mega-project was legally sufficient. That decision is also being appealed.

YARDS SUBSIDIES...

Continued from page 1

"If we are going to say this about areas for the Nets will get Yards, too," said Yassky, who said the measure would be re-introduced, this time as a fast-track resolution, not an amendment.

According to the councilmembers' calculations, the proposed arena for the Nets will get close to \$700 million in subsidies from the city and state.

The resolution's failure came

What your lawmakers think about raises ... for themselves!

By Gersh Kuntzman and Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Paper

Amidst dire predictions of a looming \$4.4-billion deficit, Gov. Spitzer has signaled his support for a pay raise for New York's part-time legislators, who already earn more than their counterparts in 47 states. The base pay for a legislator is \$79,500, though many earn more than \$100,000, thanks to stipends for serving on committees or in leadership positions. We asked local elected officials, who haven't gotten a raise since 1999, what they think of voting themselves a pay raise:



Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-Prospect Heights)
I am supportive of the pay raise.

Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Williamsburg)
It's a good idea to give everyone raises, the judges and the legislators. We have not gotten a

Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge)
I am not concerned about making raises for the legislative session. Raises for our judges should be among the priorities, [along with] an agenda that will create more jobs for New Yorkers, that will reduce the taxes, and address the needs that are pressing here in New York.

raise, not even a cost of living adjustment, in 10 years. ... I know how to do things that many junior members don't have the experience to do. So speaking for myself, I can say I'm worth it.

Sen. Marty Connor (D-Brooklyn Heights)
My real income is \$88,000 after 30 years on the job. ... If the bill had an exorbitant salary, I'd oppose it.

Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick)
No comment.

Sen. Eric Adams (D-Park Slope)
Legislators have not received an increase in pay since 1999. This is an unacceptably long period without a raise for what should be considered a full-time job. The work of a state senator or state assemblyman is a year-round endeavor.

Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Fort Greene)
The overwhelming majority of my colleagues in the legislature are hardworking, decent and committed public servants whom I believe deserve a pay raise.

Sen. Diane Savino (D-Bay Ridge)
No comment.

Assemblyman Janelle Hyer-Spencer (D-Bay Ridge)
I am a "no" vote. It's my first year, and I don't feel it's appropriate to come in and vote for a pay raise. I can understand colleagues, many of whom have done work, who feel they deserve a pay raise, but I can't, in good conscience, vote for it.

Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Brighton Beach)
No comment.

Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope)
Information available to us last year indicated that the legislative base pay proposal might range between \$96,000 and \$98,000, although as stated last year, there is no proposal before us at this time. I would support a salary increase in that range.

Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill)
I have never had a job where I waited 10 years for a pay raise.

Assemblyman Phil Colton (D-Bensonhurst)
No comment.

Sen. Diane Savino (D-Bay Ridge)
No comment.

Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope)
Information available to us last year indicated that the legislative base pay proposal might range between \$96,000 and \$98,000, although as stated last year, there is no proposal before us at this time. I would support a salary increase in that range.

BAM AND HILL...

Continued from page 1

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Hillary in the two congressional districts that went for Obama.

Meanwhile, Fort Greene Councilwoman Letitia James, who was just as indecisive as Denby last week, went in the opposite direction. "I voted for Hillary," said James. "I heard that Barack told people somewhere out west that he didn't want to take away their guns, and I'm a staunch gun control advocate."

Indeed, according to news reports, Obama told a crowd in Idaho, "We've got a lot of hunters in downstate Illinois. And I have no intention of taking away folks' guns."

Like James, Councilman David Yassky (D-Park Slope) supported Clinton, and was one of thousands who were delighted with her victory, particularly since he wasn't entirely sure she would win.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm in Brooklyn for both candidates, so, honestly, I didn't know how it would turn out," he said.

Aside from Clarke's and Towns's districts, the rest of the borough — from the Bay Ridge to Williamsburg — was a clean sweep for Clinton.

• In the Brooklyn portion of the largely Manhattan-based 8th CD, represented by Clinton supporter Jerry Nadler, Democrats voted 59 percent for Clinton and 41 percent for Obama.

• In the Brooklyn portion of Anthony Weiner's 9th CD, 73 percent of Democratic voters supported Clinton, and 27 percent voted for Obama. Weiner, too, is a Clinton partisan. His district extends into Queens.

• In the 12th CD, which encompasses Williamsburg and Sunset Park and slivers of East Williamsburg, and is represented by Clinton endorser Nydia Velázquez, the hometown senator trounced Obama, taking 65 percent of the vote, to his 35 percent.

• Similarly, in the Bay Ridge and Dyker



Jeanne Hefetz of Park Slope does some last minute campaigning for Barack Obama on Tuesday.

Heights morose of the 13th CD, which also encompasses Staten Island and is represented by the city's only Republican congressman, Vito Fossella, the result was Clinton 68 percent-Obama 32 percent.

In the much more sparsely attended Republican primary, Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) surprised no one by taking 53 percent of the vote. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney was a distant second with 25 percent and Texas Rep. Ron Paul came in third with 8 percent.

Romney withdrew from the race on Thursday. "We were expecting McCain would do well across New York, and we were pleased that he did," said Matthew Walter, the spokesman for the New York State Republican Party.

Times that "banks aren't completely out of the market and the bond market is still there. But the risk is continued delay."

Opponents scoffed at the developer's implicit suggestion that legal challenges to the controversial project were to blame for his financial woes.

"We're in court to defend the community's rights," said Daniel Goldstein of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, one of the plaintiffs in the suit.

In addition to the environmental review case, another pending lawsuit challenges the state's use of eminent domain.

— Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

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