

INSIDE: 20 PAGES OF COUPONS TO SAVE YOU CASH

# The Brooklyn Paper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION  
INCLUDING DUMBO

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(Top) The "Connections" proposal would add trees plus six new pedestrian bridges. (Above) The "Green Canopy" plan includes a lattice covered with solar cells and foliage—plus a cafe.

## TRENCH WARMERS

City likes latest BQE fix plans, but balks at price

By Gary Bulso  
The Brooklyn Paper

Designers unveiled three ways to tame the cavernous Brooklyn-Queens Expressway trench on Monday night—but city officials are already expressing concern over how to pay for any scheme bold enough to "fix the ditch."

The three concepts are part of an Economic Development Corporation-led plan to reconnect neighborhoods balkanized by the Robert Moses-built highway, including Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and the Columbia Street Waterfront District—a portion of the area

whose very existence was spawned by the roadway's creation.

The cheapest plan, about \$10 million, involves a massive tree-planting effort along the highway-created chasm—creating one of the greenest stretches in all of Brooklyn.

Another option calls for the construction of six lightweight bicycle and pedestrian bridges over the ditch, costing between \$20 million to \$45 million.

And the most expensive plan calls for the construction of an iconic, \$85 million, energy-gen-

See BQE on page 2

## THE GOOSE NOOSE

New documents reveal full extent of geese massacre

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

The 250 geese and goslings that were massacred in Prospect Park in July were only the tip of the goose-berg, new documents reveal.

Federal agents rounded up a total of 1,676 geese from 19 locations in the city and Nassau County—apparently making last summer's operation the largest intentional waterfowl extermination in city history.

The birds were thrown into crates and hauled to JFK Airport, where they were gassed, bagged, and discarded, according to documents obtained through a Freedom of Information request. The goose-filled dumpsters were then hauled

to an incinerator in Garden City.

In Prospect Park, the July 8 "culling" was done under cover of darkness and the records indicate that officials knew their efforts would be controversial.

"JFK ops will also coordinate your arrival each day to avoid any unwanted attention," Laura Francoeur, the chief wildlife biologist for the Port Authority, wrote in an e-mail explaining protocol for the operation.

Of course, unwanted attention is what the feds got after visitors to Prospect



Park noticed that hundreds of molting geese and baby goslings had vanished overnight.

Within days, the truth was revealed: that the animals had been swept up in city-wide operation meant to clear the skies of geese—the same waterfowl that caused the crash landing of a US Airways flight in the Hudson River in 2009.

That harrowing incident led federal officials to kill 1,235 geese from sites within five miles of both city airports that year.

But this summer, the radius was expanded to seven miles, though federal officials exceeded that distance when they corralled geese in Prospect Park.

City, state and federal officials insisted that the culling of the goose population—which had grown to around 25,000 in the city—was necessary to

See GEES on page 6

## HEEL, BOY

How Achilles was saved



Ed Bahlman captured Achilles so that wildlife rehabilitator Anne-Katrin Titze could remove the hook (inset) from the cygnet's heel.

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

A swan with an illegal barbed fishhook through its foot was saved from a painful fate by two wildlife enthusiasts on Friday, in the latest clash between waterfowl and Prospect Park fishermen.

Park watchdogs Anne-Katrin Titze and Ed Bahlman first noticed last week that their beloved cygnet had three barbed hooks through its webbed foot that was trailing a 10-foot-long fishing line.

They dubbed the gray cyg-

See SWAN on page 6

## Knicks make pass at Brooklyn

By Joe Melillo and  
Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

The New York Knicks have decided that it's not enough to battle the Nets on the court—the team is now taking the fight to the streets of Brooklyn in hopes of recruiting fans of the soon-to-be-Brooklyn Nets.

A huge billboard at Flatbush and Seventh avenues urges drivers on their way towards the Barclays Center site to defect to the Manhattan-based basketball team. It reads:

"You: The republic of Brooklyn. Us: The original ball team of the Empire State. We: Are unstoppable together. Now: Is the time to represent."

The signs have a clear urgency—apparently, Brooklyn needs to pledge their allegiance right now to the Knicks before the Nets arrive in town.

Some local hoops fans noticed. "Putting a billboard up like that so close to the Barclays Center, it's like putting a mosque near Ground Zero."

See KNICKS on page 6



The New York Knicks, a basketball team from a neighboring city, have put up a billboard on Flatbush Avenue, an in-your-face move against the soon-to-be-Brooklyn Nets.

## Grimm times ahead

Congressman-elect shares his views in first interview

By Thomas Tracy  
The Brooklyn Paper

Believe it or not, government, protecting local businesses from arduous fines, that the science of global warming is unsettled and that Muslims need to suck it up—and he's your new congressman.

Rep.-elect Michael Grimm

Read the full interview at BrooklynPaper.com

(R-Bay Ridge) is in Washington, D.C. this week for his freshman orientation, but before heading south, he sat down with the best damn political team covering a local House district. The Frank 50-minute interview (full tran-

script online at [www.brooklynpaper.com](http://www.brooklynpaper.com)) revealed much about his personal and political philosophy. In short:

- Taxes shouldn't be raised on anyone in this troubled economy (for which the Democrats are to

blame, by the way).

- Government shouldn't use regulations and fees as revenue generators (in fact, regulations need to be scaled back to make sure the money is spent in my district).
- He's against the so-called Ground Zero mosque because



Rep.-elect Michael Grimm.

Muslim-Americans need to be sensitive to the rest of us (even as he acknowledges their right to build at the site).

"If another 'out-of-control' spending bill is passed, he'll set aside his principles to make sure Bay Ridge gets a piece of the pie."

"If you ask me if I will vote for borrowing more money from China, I won't," Grimm told us.

"But if I'm outvoted and there's nothing I can do about it, I'm going to fight like heck to make sure the money is spent in my district."

So said the soon-to-be statesman who once claimed that the passage of the federal stimulus

bill was one of three cardinal sins committed by the Democratic-controlled Congress—the others being electing Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-California) as House Speaker and passing health care reform, which Grimm says is a jobs killer.

Incumbent Rep. Mike McMahon did not vote for President Obama's reform, but it didn't help him at the polls against Grimm, a former Marine and FBI agent who beat McMahon with 51.5 percent of the vote. McMahon had won the long-Republican seat in 2008 when disgraced Rep. Vito Fossella declined to run for re-election after he was arrested for drunk driving.

See GRIMM on page 6



## GET HIGH

Welcome to the loftiest apartment in the borough

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

There's only one way to get high legally in Brooklyn, and it'll only cost you \$7,500 a month.

The Brooklyn tower on Lawrence Street in Downtown just put its three-bedroom penthouse suite on the rental market, making the swanky top floor

apartment the highest residential space the borough. If you don't get a buzz from the pressure change as the elevator shoots you to the 51st floor, you'll certainly be high on the sweeping views of seven different bridges, the Manhattan skyline, and of course, the Community Newspaper Group building in the Metrotech Center across the street.

Then there are the bragging rights.

"There's certainly some cachet

See HIGH on page 6

## Yards on center stage

Mega-development is subject of play at Irondale Center



The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension

To the reams of paper, scores of legal proceedings, hours of hearings and years of anger over Atlantic Yards, you can now add one more thing: an unsuccessful theater production.

"In the Footprint," a new play by the Fort Greene-based Civilians company, takes one of the most important stories in the history of Brooklyn—the battle over the \$4-billion mega-development and basketball arena—and turns it into a series of strident monologues that will leave uninformed theatergoers with more questions about the project than answers.

The central problem is the format: The entire play is based on interviews with key figures in the "drama," such as activists like Patti Hagan and Daniel Gold-



Billy Eugene Jones is eloquent as an Atlantic Yards supporter in "In the Footprint," now at the Irondale Center. Colleen Werthmann (background) does a devastating portrayal of anti-project activist Patti Hagan.

stein, politicos including Councilwoman Letitia James, project supporters including James Caldwell and Bertha Lewis and

some of the 800 residents of the footprint that gives the play its name.

Don't know any of those peo-

ple? Then good luck appreciating a play whose main point seems to be that the greatest tragedy in the entire saga was that the city's uniform land-use review procedure was superseded.

Yes, there's a song about ULLURP, too.

That said, there are some worthy moments in the production. The racial undercurrent of the project is very well dramatized, as the mostly black supporters of the project gain the higher ground against the mostly white newcomers who claimed that "the community"—which community? Theirs, of course—opposed the project. Yet the same plotline also reveals the race game that Rattner himself played, racking up black support with a promise of pro basketball while urging his supporters to pay no attention to the large luxury development behind the curtain.

Given the trials and tribulations of the project, it's hard to see YARDS on page 6

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## PIZZA PROBLEM

Kobayashi fails to set new Guinness mark in first free agent appearance

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

Legendary competitive eater Takeru Kobayashi thinks he won his huge battle to become a guaranteed free agent — but in the end, he couldn't beat a small pizza.

Kobayashi, whose reputation as one of the world's greatest eaters was soiled when he was arrested at the Nathan's hot dog eating contest on July 4 after refusing to sign the standard Major League Eating contract, was hired by the organizers of the Japanese Art Matsuri festival in Greenpoint on Saturday night to attempt to set a Guinness World Record by eating a 12-inch pizza in under 105.37 seconds.

But the Japanese Jaw failed before a sellout crowd on Java Street, downing the pie in 123 seconds. The champ blamed his failure on Guinness's strict fork-and-knife requirement.

"It was hard — [the pizza] was too soft," he told the audience. "I couldn't get it with the fork. One more time! One more time!"

But the judges didn't give him a second chance, pushing the six-time hot dog champ deeper into a rut that began in 2007, when he lost to Joey Chestnut for the first of three consecutive times, and culminated with his arrest this July.

The pizza failure was rough, but Kobayashi is likely finding his new found career "competing" at arts festivals, libraries and press events even harder to swallow. Now a free agent — he refused to sign the "unfair" Major League Eating contract, which simply required that he not compete against the league's own sponsors —

Kobayashi is brushing aside fame and fortune. International Federation of Competitive Eating President George Shea said that top eaters like Chestnut can earn more than \$200,000 a year in appearance fees and



Competitive eating free agent Takeru Kobayashi failed to break a Guinness Book record for pizza-eating on Saturday night.

Kobayashi is brushing aside fame and fortune.

International Federation of Competitive Eating President George Shea said that top eaters like Chestnut can earn more than \$200,000 a year in appearance fees and

sponsors. "Yet Kobayashi hasn't competed in any significant event since he was with us, nor has he had any real competition," Shea told us. "A contest in which someone eats pizza against no competitors is not something that is compelling viewing for anyone."

Some speculate that Kobayashi is creating a new model for competitive eating — the gustatory free-lancer, if you will — but Shea disagrees. "Bare dinners and evening Bingo matches is not a new paradigm for the competition," Shea said. "I think this is a demonstration of a sad decline."

Kobayashi didn't get back to us by deadline, but it's clear that even his long-time supporters are starting to lose faith after the former champ's failure to eclipse the Guinness pizza mark.

"He's gone from champ to chump," said Fort Greene resident Glen Cabbagessall, who watched Kobayashi fail. "He's way out of his element, but he doesn't really have an element to go back to."

"Paying for it will be no problem," offered Roy Skare of the Cobble Hill Association. "We're just going to put out on Hicks Street."

He was joking.

## THE TAKERU KOBAYASHI STORY

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

Has Takeru Kobayashi fallen from gustatory grace? Look at his rise and fall and judge for yourself:

**1978** — Takeru Kobayashi is born.

**2001** — As a competitive eating rookie, Kobi doubles the former Nathan's Coney Island hot dog-eating record by wolfing down 50 hot dogs and buns in just 12 minutes.

**2001-2006** — Breaks his own record three times, and demoralizes Nathan's competition six consecutive times.

**2006** — Breaks his own world record set for speed-eating hamburgers, raising the bar to 97 burgers in 94 seconds at the Kryptal Square



In 2001, Kobayashi enjoyed his first victory at Nathan's contest. Two years later, he was taken from the event in handcuffs.

Off. **2006** — Sets the world record for speed-eating hot dogs, downing 58 sausages in 10



Kobi loses to Chestnut in the finals, 66-63, claiming a jaw injury.

**2009** — Chestnut again upsets Kobayashi. **2009** — Kobi defeats Chestnut in a Pizza Hut P'Zone competition. **2009** — Chestnut defeats Kobayashi at the Nathan's championship, 68-64-1/2. **June, 2010** — Kobayashi declares his free agency, announcing that he won't sign the Major League Eating contract. **July, 2010** — Chestnut wins again at Coney Island, as Kobayashi is arrested for trespassing. **November, 2010** — Kobi fails in an attempt to set the world record for speed-eating a 12-inch pizza.

## Weekend watch: More Fing work

By Gary Buiso  
The Brooklyn Paper

Here are the service changes affecting you this weekend (12:01 am, Saturday, Nov. 20 to 5 am, Monday, Nov. 22, unless otherwise noted):

**A:** Manhattan-bound trains run on the F from Jay Street to West Fourth Street, skipping High Street.

**C:** No trains between Manhattan and Brooklyn (Saturday, Nov. 20 and Sunday, Nov. 21, 6:30 am to mid-

night). **F and G:** No trains between Church Avenue and Jay Street (Friday, Nov. 19 at 11:30 pm to Monday, Nov. 22 at 5 am). Free shuttle buses replace trains.

**D:** Manhattan-bound trains run on the R line from 36th Street to DeKalb Avenue.

**M:** Service suspended (Friday, Nov. 19 at 11:30 pm to Monday, Nov. 22 at 5 am).

Residents said it's about time that something is done about the ditch. "It's long overdue," said Union Street resident Kim Yee, who favors the expensive canopy. "It's more ap-

pealing with all the green. It shows that it's more than just traffic there, that you can relax. I just hope they can make it work."

Some already figured out how to pay for the long-

awaited fix. "Paying for it will be no problem," offered Roy Skare of the Cobble Hill Association. "We're just going to put out on Hicks Street."

He was joking.

Information courtesy of New York City Transit — and is accurate at press time. Community Newspaper Group is not responsible for last-minute changes made by the agency.

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Derick dropped 150 lbs after surgery and is now a certified personal trainer. "My blood pressure is normal, my sleep apnea has improved — I have a brand new chance at life."

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To read more about Derick's story, visit [nym.org/brothers](http://nym.org/brothers)

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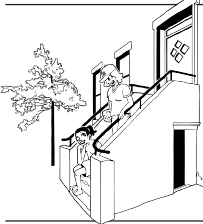
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# THE

## Neighborhood Report

### DOWNTOWN



The Parks Department finally took action last Friday and laid new pavement in front of Borough Hall.

## Concrete move

City begins fix of Boro Hall plaza slate disaster

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city finally got to work fixing the dangerous cracked slate in front of Borough Hall last week — and all it took was a broken hip and a lawsuit.

Last Friday, the Parks Department had roped off and repaired two small sections of the broken-up bluestone plaza surrounding the government building near Adams Street, less than a month after the announcement of a lawsuit by a Fort Greene woman who tripped on the obstacle course and shattered her hip.

Joan Bassin, 71, and her lawyer had started preparing to sue the department over its longtime negligence — and suddenly senior workers began a month-long repair process.

"Thanks to the unusually mild weather ... we're using dyed concrete to fill in the worst cracks," said Borough Commissioner Kevin J. Adams.

It's the first time that the department has done real work on the plaza since an agency spokeswoman said that a repair would be completed "as soon as possible" in January, days after this paper pointed the problem out.

Bassin's lawyer, Steven Kaufman, said on Monday that the repairs won't block a lawsuit — especially considering Bassin's hospital and lost-work costs after the fall that put her through two hip surgeries and the installation of her "first bone plate."

"It's fantastic that they've started repairs on the plaza," Kaufman said. "But it's a shame that they didn't get the much-needed work done in a timely manner."

The Parks Department won't comment on the lawsuit, but Jeffrey said that the repairs should be completed within a week and that workers will check on the plaza's status again in spring. Department officials have said that the damage — which remains widespread — is caused by weather and government cars and trucks that often drive on the plaza.

### BORO WIDE

## Trade 'spaces'

Parking lanes may lose out to sidewalk cafes

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

The only bad thing about our borough's roads is that there's no place to sit and have a meal.

Of course, that could change this summer when the city widens a pilot program to allow "pop-up" cafes in the parking lanes of commercial streets like Fifth Avenue or Smith Street.

Such public spaces are level with the sidewalk, have tables and chairs, are ringed with a barrier of planters and typically cost \$10,000 to build, according to the city.

The first "pop-up cafe" proved to be a hit in Lower Manhattan last summer, and next year, a dozen more are expected to be built around the city.

Restaurant owners in Park Slope have already started expressing interest.

"It would make the neighborhood cozier," said Irene Lo Re, the president of the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District and the owner of Aunt Suzie's Restaurant. "It would add a dimension of warmth to neighborhood."

Lo Re added, "It gives the opportunity for more expensive restaurants to reach a different market, and for the cheaper ones to do something fun."

But many drivers think any loss of parking — especially in Park Slope — isn't fun at all. The Department of Transportation, which is behind the program, hopes to avoid a kerfuffle over parking by requiring that the local community board approve each cafe proposal.

"Obviously, there will be an impact on parking," said Craig Hammerman, the district manager of Community Board 6, which covers the restaurant belt of Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Red Hook. "But there are a lot of people that think the benefits that would not affect at all — they would love the opportunity for more outdoor uses [of the sidewalk]."

The first pop-up cafe was unveiled last summer on Pearl Street in Manhattan. There, a cafe called Fika and an Indian restaurant called Bombay's collaborated and built a public space that occupied the parking in front of both entities.

It was a stylish wooden platform surrounded by waist-high planters and — best of all — brought in customers, according to Madeleine Hjeltn, the manager of Fika. "It helped business, people liked to hang around there," said Hjeltn. "It really brought some beauty to the street. Normally, it was just commercial trucks out from."

The Department of Transportation is accepting applications to create pop-up cafes. The application is online at [www.nyc.gov/dot](http://www.nyc.gov/dot). Applications must be received by Friday, Dec. 3.

### GREENPOINT

## Small craft warning

City bans kayaks on Newtown Creek

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

The city has suspended boating from public sites on Newtown Creek — a move that potentially wipes out recreation on the polluted waterway as the federal government begins a long cleanup.

A Department of Environmental Protection said its short-term ban on launching boats from city-owned sites would remain in place until the state analyzes the creek's water quality.

The move comes two months after the federal government listed the 3.5-mile Newtown Creek as a Superfund site — beginning a decade-long, hundreds-of-millions-of-dollars cleanup.

Matt Mahoney, an official with the Department of Environmental Protection, said the city was banning recreational use of the waterways out of "an abundance of caution" with regards to public health.

But frustrated community members and environmental advocates castigated the agency for "deliberately



Kayakers like these are now banned from launching into Newtown Creek from city-controlled areas.

crippling" recreation on the creek without having any public health data.

"No kayaker has been hurt or gotten sick after years of use of the public waterways," said Kathleen Schmidt, head of the Newtown Creek Alliance.

"The city, as well as the kayakers, have known the state of Newtown Creek's waters for years and the city felt no compunction to limit access based on information that they have themselves collected."

The timing of the announcement arrives paradoxically as other city agencies are investing in new ways to expand public access along Newtown Creek — including a renovated park at the end of Manhattan Avenue and a proposed boat launch inside the ground floor of the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center.

The city has already moved to prohibit boating at the Newtown Creek Nature Walk, which it manages, where community members discovered a "No Kayaking" sign at the park's entrance a month ago, though community members insist that the restricted public access is simply about liability in the post-Superfund world.

"We have been aware of pollution for a long time," said Greenpoint resident Laura Hoffmann. "Now that it's a matter of money, the Department of Environmental Protection suddenly cares."

The agency will hold a public meeting in December for community members to air their concerns about the policy change. The as-yet-unscheduled meeting should be lively, said Community Board 1 member Dewey Thompson.

"This is a hell of a thing," said Thompson. "There's going to be a very big reaction from the people who use this creek who have stewardship over this if the city goes ahead with this misguided plan to ban, even temporarily launching of kayakers and canoes on the waterway."

"But two people knew that wasn't the case — me and there was the person who opened that door," he said. While Baum crumpled in pain, the car-door opener slid away into the night.

"I would appreciate if the driver would get into touch," said Baum. "I'm not sure it's right they just melted away like that."

A spokeswoman for the bike advocacy group Transportation Alternatives reminded that it's illegal to open a car door without looking. The spokeswoman, Caroline Samponaro, said that three fatal dooring incidents this year — in the Bronx, Harlem, and the September crash that killed Jasmine Heron on Atlantic Avenue — as evidence that the issue is being ignored.

"Local dooring an accident is a misdemeanor," said Samponaro. "It's a preventable collision. And it's the responsibility of the driver."

Cyclists can avoid doors by claiming an entire lane, which is legal, but most riders would rather not anger drivers by getting in the way.

Baum took his first steps this Monday. "If all goes well, I will be close to who I was, and that's to be thankful for," he said. "But the short term is nine miles of hard road. I would just like to raise awareness."

### PARK SLOPE

## Doored!

Cyclist knows what hit him

By Mat Probasco  
for The Brooklyn Paper

A driver's carelessness in opening a car door — not a collision with another vehicle, as witnesses reported — caused a serious cycling accident on Sixth Avenue last week, according to the biker who broke a hip and an arm in the ugly crash.

Witnesses originally reported that 60-year-old rider Stan Baum had been sideswiped by a car, but Baum told us on Monday that he slammed to the pavement after a driver opened his car door into him.

Baum, a long-time biker, remains at New York Methodist Hospital, where he is recovering from hip-replacement surgery and a broken left arm. He doesn't remember anything after he hit the roadway in the 8:00 crash — but he does know what caused it.

"The guy opened his door right into me," said Baum, who was between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place when the car door flung open.

There was nothing I could do," said the city Sanitation worker, who was riding with head and tail lights.

Baum's elbow and left hip shattered when he hit the street. Witnesses thought he had been struck by a car because the driver of another vehicle got out and



Stan Baum broke his hip and his arm when a motorist opened his door into him.

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### BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

## Vets: Memorial a disgrace

By Thomas Tracy  
The Brooklyn Paper

Armed with a priest and a fist full of American flags, fouring warriors honored the memory of 1,000 Brooklynites who died in World War II on a different type of battlefield this past Veterans Day — inside a memorial dedicated to the great conflict which the city uses as a glorified storage shed.

Stepping over rolled-up flags and squirming between boxes and crates filled with cut-up logs, the seniors looked over the large bronze plates adorning the walls inside the memorial at the center of Cadman Plaza Park. The plaques held the names of Brooklynites who perished in World War II — many of whom 83-year-old Jack Vansco and his friends knew.

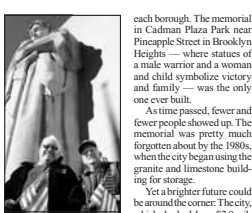
"I grew up with a lot of the guys on this wall," Vansco explained. "Many of them were from my neighborhood and my brother and I would play ball with them."

Yet with the exception of Vansco and his squad, the names aren't read by anyone anymore, save for the few Parks employees who drop off supplies and materials as they pass through the 250-seat auditorium.

Vansco and his team only gained entry after a kind-hearted city Parks employee let them inside to pay their respects on Veterans Day.

"It's truly a disgrace," Vansco said. "People should be coming in here so they can look at these names, but instead the city fills it with junk."

As Parks commissioner in the 1940s, master planner Robert Moses wanted to put a World War II memorial in



Abraham Riis and Jack Vansco salute our borough's veterans in front of Brooklyn's World War II Memorial in Cadman Plaza Park.

each borough. The memorial in Cadman Plaza Park near Pineapple Street in Brooklyn Heights — where statues of a male warrior and a woman and child symbolize victory and family — was the only one ever built.

As time passed, fewer and fewer people showed up. The memorial was pretty much forgotten about by the 1980s, when the city began using the granite and limestone building for storage.

Yet a brighter future could be around the corner. The city, which plunked down \$2.9 million to revitalize the park three years ago, said it intends to refurbish the memorial once it can secure funding. A group of veterans led by former borough President Howard Golden is

also pushing to have the building turned into a memorial for veterans of all American wars, including Desert Storm and the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That sounds fine to Vansco and his troop, as long as the borough's World War II veterans aren't forgotten in the process.

"A nation is judged on how they treat their veterans," said Monsignor Louis Elias Milazzo of St. Lucy's Church on Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, who officiated at Vansco's brief service. "The lives of the men and women who sacrificed themselves in a cause for freedom are being disrespected by the condition of this memorial. What does say about us as a nation?"

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# Look out for that pumpkin!

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—  
DUMBO-Boerum Hill—  
Downtown

Two young girls clobbered a woman in the back of the head with a pumpkin on Nov. 9. The victim told cops that she was walking to the doctor's office on Grace Court near Hicks Street at around 2:15 pm when the large orange gourd knocked her to the ground. As she collected herself, she saw two girls running away laughing.

But the post-Halloween pair did not get far, as the 42-year-old woman managed to stop the kids and demand their IDs. Each of the troublemakers reportedly gave the classic excuse: "It wasn't me, it was her!"

Clearly, there is no honor among pumpkin tosters. **Bump and run** At least two larcenies within the confines of the 84th Precinct involved the reliable "bump and swipe" tactic:

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at  
BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

•A thief bumped a man at Smith and Livingston Streets and stole the phone off his belt on Nov. 9.

The victim told cops that he was jostled at around 7:30 pm and later noticed that the thief had swiped his BlackBerry.

•A thief bumped a woman shopping at a 99 Cent Store on Hoyt Street on Nov. 12. The victim said she was shopping at the store at Livingston Street at around 2:15 pm when the bump bumped into her and took off. Moments later, she realized her purse had been opened and she was missing an assortment of credit cards, an ID, and \$100.

### Camera caper

A thief stole \$21,000 in camera equipment from a photography office on Wash-

ton Street.

The victim, who works for Catchlight Digital, told cops he had last seen the equipment in a storage room at the office between Water and Front streets at around 11 am on Nov. 13.

•A thief pulled the woman back into the station, where he took her cell phone and ordered the woman to give up her purse by screaming, "Bag! Bag!" according to police.

When the brave woman refused, the thief beat her—leaving the woman with a smattering of injuries—and ran off with her purse, police said.

—Stephen Brown

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill

### Purse pinch

A sticky-fingered thief made off with a woman's purse inside the Atlantic Terminal on Flatbush Avenue on Nov. 8 as his victim tried on a coat.

The woman put her bag down inside the store between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue at 4:30 pm. After sampling some outdoor gear, she turned back to her purse, but it had already been pinched.

### Young one

A 12-year-old girl was arrested on Nov. 12 after she robbed someone more than twice her age at Cambridge Place and Gates Avenue.

The 26-year-old victim was nearing the corner at 6:55 pm when the pre-tween jumped her from behind and began to choke her. The thief made off with her pocketbook, but she didn't get far—cops caught up with her a short time later, charging her with robbery.

### Droid dash

A crook made off with a 23-year-old woman's Droid cellphone on Nov. 8 during a harrowing confrontation at the corner of Washington Park and Myrtle Avenue.

The woman was talking on the smartphone as she passed the corner at 6:30 pm when the thief jumped her, sparking the struggle over the item.

### Laptop loot

A burglar crept into a Carlton Avenue apartment on Nov. 12, taking three laptop computers.

The 27-year-old tenant left her pad between Willoughby and DeKalb avenues at 11:30 am. When she returned at 8 pm, the place had been ransacked. The thief had forced open a back window to get into the apartment, police said.

—Thomas Tracy

## 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

### Hospital pain

A mini crime wave last week hit New York Methodist Hospital, the site of at least four prior robberies against patients this year.

In two incidents, patients had their belongings stolen while having tests performed. Here's a round-up:

•A thief stole a 65-year-old woman's wallet while she was getting a CAT scan at around 1:30 am on Nov. 7 inside the medical center between Seventh and Eighth avenues. She lost a gift card and cash totaling more than \$1,300.

•A 33-year-old patient had her bag stolen while she got a test done at around 4:20 pm on Nov. 14. This time, the thief got \$130.

### Two o'Phones

At least two more Apple smartphones were swiped from their owners as they were using them last week. Here's the 411:

•A thief sneaked up on a 43-year-old woman as she chatted on her phone while walking on Seventh Avenue near Berkeley Place at around 8:30 pm. He grabbed the pricey phone and fled.

•A thief on a Coney Island-bound F train on Nov. 12 grabbed a woman's iPhone as the train pulled into

## MUGGED! Subway scum

By Thomas Tracy  
The Brooklyn Paper

There were at least four more violence incidents at a Fort Greene subway station last week—an eerie echo of a spate of four attacks at two other stations nearby.

In the most terrifying of the new incidents, a transit terror jumped a 30-year-old woman trying to exit the Lafayette Avenue subway station on Nov. 13, dragging his victim down a flight of stairs during the daring afternoon heist.

The victim was exiting the station at S. Oxford Street and Greene Avenue at 2 pm when the thief grabbed her from behind, clamping a beefy hand over the woman's mouth.

He then pulled the woman back into the station, where he took her cell phone and ordered the woman to give up her purse by screaming, "Bag! Bag!" according to police.

When the brave woman refused, the thief beat her—leaving the woman with a smattering of injuries—and ran off with her purse, police said.

The 71-year-old victim was admitted following a car accident, and handed two gold rings to a hospital employee for safekeeping.

When checkout time arrived a week later, his property was gone. Cops said hospital officials can't even say if the person was an employee of the hospital, or explain what happened to the man's rings, valued at \$2,500.

### Purse thug

A man dressed in black robbed a woman on Sackett Street on Nov. 11.

The 30-year-old victim said the man threw her to the ground and snatched her purse at around 4:30 am near Henry Street. The creep dropped his black hat at the scene, but made off with a \$600 Gucci pocketbook, \$275, and two credit cards.

### What a hoser

Someone snatched a cellphone from an unlocked car on Van Dyke Street on Nov. 3.

The 45-year-old Quebec-native said that he briefly stepped away from his car near Richards Street at around 4:15 pm and when he returned moments later, his BlackBerry phone was gone, along with a \$400 navigation system, \$50 in large worthless Canadian cash, and \$180 in good old American greenbacks.

### Car cad

Someone stole a car from Columbia Street overnight on Nov. 8.

The 47-year-old victim told cops that he had parked his 1994 Acura Integra near DeGraw Street at around 7 pm, and when he returned 12 hours later, it was gone.

—Gary Buiso

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights

### Bank jobs

At least two banks were robbed last week—both involving an unmasked perp—a note and a threat of a bomb. Here are the details:

•A robber threatened to blow up Flushing Bank on Third Avenue on Nov. 9 before forcing the teller to hand

over \$1,725.

Cops say that the unmasked perp entered the bank, which is between 71st and 72nd streets, at 3:16 pm, passed the teller a note that said, "This is a bank robbery. Don't be alarmed. I have a bomb." The teller handed over the cash and the perp fled. Cops say that he is a 6-foot man who wore a green sweatshirt.

### Margaritaville

Some jerk hit another guy in the face with a glass bottle at Las Margaritas restaurant on Third Avenue on Nov. 5.

The victim told cops that he got into an argument with three unknown dudes at the restaurant, which is between 72nd and 73rd streets, at around 11:30 am when one of the guys smashed the bottle in his face, giving him a black eye.

### Big daddy cane

Some unknown aggressor smacked a 16-year-old kid in the head with a cane on the corner of Fourth Avenue and 86th Street on Nov. 13.

The teenage victim told cops that he was on the corner at 7:15 pm when the perp struck him from behind before taking off. The victim did not sustain any serious injuries.

### Macbooked

Someone stole a MacBook from a 63rd Street apartment overnight on Nov. 11.

The victim told cops that he was gone from his home, which is between 13th and 14th avenues, from 8 pm until 7:30 pm the next day, when he found that his computer was gone.

—Alex Rush



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# House organ

## Vito and allies have own newspaper

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

Assemblyman Vito Lopez and his political allies have found a nifty way of ensuring good press: publishing their own newspaper—and you're paying for it!

The Bushwick Observer, a newspaper founded in 1995 and published by the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, receives about \$70,000 a year in state funding for its budget—not including revenue received from ad sales.

More than 9,000 issues are distributed for free in Ridgewood Bushwick-controlled senior centers and housing developments, businesses and government offices throughout Bushwick every month.

The paper, which operates out of a building owned by Ridgewood Bushwick, is a more sophisticated version of the kind of mailers that elected officials typically send to constituents, consisting of short articles and photographs of city and state

leaders attending Ridgewood Bushwick-sponsored events in Lopez's district. Lopez's girlfriend, Ridgewood Bushwick Housing Director Angela Battaglia, reviews every issue personally before it goes to press, according to Ridgewood Bushwick sources. And Lopez is the publication's primary focus.

In a September 2010 issue, distributed a few weeks before the primary where Lopez was running for state com-



A typical front page of the Observer features Assemblyman Vito Lopez (left) in a heroic pose.

mittee and Assembly, the lawmaker is featured in five photographs and two articles, and graces the issue's cover with Mayor Bloomberg at his senior picnic in Long Island.

The headline reads "Assemblyman Lopez Picnic Draws Seniors, Gov. Mayor."

Nearly all of the newspaper's budget is funded from a member item earmarked by Lopez ally, state Sen. Mar-

tin Dilan (D-Bushwick), who contributed \$70,000 in funds last year to the enterprise—about half of his \$135,000-to-

tal allocation to Ridgewood Bushwick programs.

The practice of using a state member item to fund a newspaper is extremely rare. Records show that only one other allocation has gone to a newspaper, a \$500 award for an upstate high school to start its own paper in the 2009-2010 school year.

Dilan's member item says that the taxpayer money is necessary to enable the nonprofit to "continue to write, print, publish and distribute The Bushwick Observer."

"I just know it's a community paper," said Dilan. "They've put in requests and I've honored their requests. It goes through background checks [at the Department of State]."

Last year, \$48,967 of the earmark was designated for salaries for its editor and

bookkeeper, \$165 for supplies, and \$20,868 for other services, which include \$12,765 for printing and \$5,550 in rental payments back to Ridgewood Bushwick, documents show.

The paper contains several advertisements from Ridgewood Bushwick-affiliated entities and legislative officials, including Dilan, though it is unclear how much revenue the ads generated. A spokesman for Ridgewood Bushwick declined to explain the specifics of the paper's budget and the information is not outlined in Ridgewood Bushwick's federal tax filings.

Lopez himself has not contributed funds to the newspaper over the past two years—but has cited it at meetings as a paragon of objectivity.

Critics have lambasted the publication for serving Lopez's and his friends' interests and never featuring the work of political opponents such as Councilwoman Diana Reyna (D-Williamsburg) and Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-Williamsburg) in the neighborhood.

"The Bushwick Observer had no journalistic integrity," said Esteban Duran, a candidate who challenged Lopez in his state committee race this year. "Bushwick residents deserve better news coverage from what's supposedly a local community paper that they ultimately pay for in taxes."

A Department of State spokesman said that the agency funds a variety of requests for programs involving nonprofits and is not in the business of determining what qualifies as news.

# Nunchucked on Roebling!

## 90TH PRECINCT

**Southside-Bushwick**  
A perp hit two victims, one with a pair of nunchucks, in a scuffle outside Roebling Street on Nov. 12.

The perp approached his first victim as a crowd was hanging on the corner of S. Third Street at 4:20 a.m. and hit him in the face. The victim's sister then hit the perp back, but the perp pulled out the pair of martial arts knucklers and struck her on her cheek.

He then got into a Honda Accord and fled down Roebling Street.

**Cheers robbery**  
A thug robbed a man as he was entering the Cheers Hotel on Broadway and Hooper Street on Nov. 9.

The perp shouted, "Open the door!" and pushed his victim, a 20-year-old hotel worker, inside the hotel at 8:50 p.m.

He pulled out a knife and demanded money. The victim surrendered \$300 and the perp fled into the night.

**ATM withdrawal**  
A thief drilled into a Bushwick Avenue bodega on Nov. 8 taking 30 cartons of cigarettes and more than \$16,000 from an ATM in front of the building.

The store's owner left his business near Cook Street at 10:30 p.m., but when he returned at 8 a.m. the next day, he found \$300 worth of calling cards, the cigarettes and

## POLICE BLOTTER

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## 88TH PRECINCT

**Fort Greene-Clinton Hill**

**Purse pinch**

A sticky-fingered thief made off with a woman's purse inside the Atlantic Terminal on Flatbush Avenue on Nov. 8 as his victim tried on a coat.

The woman put her bag down inside the store between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue at 4:30 p.m. After sampling some outerwear, she turned back to her purse, but it had already been pilfered.

**Young one**  
A 12-year-old girl was arrested on Nov. 12 after she was successful with his trick: he called up a 73-year-old woman, who lives on Jewel Street near Nassau Avenue, acting as her grandson at about 12:30 p.m. Somehow, the scammer convinced her to meet him and hand over the cash, in person, so he could "buy a car"—putting this thief's total winnings at \$27,500 over three separate incidents.

**Burgled**  
A thief broke into a Leon and Street apartment and stole everything of value while the victim was at work on Nov. 10.

The victim told cops that he was at work when his apartment, which is between Meserole and Norman avenues, was

burgled sometime between 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. When he went home, the tenant realized that his door was busted open and his iPod, camera, laptop and TV were gone.

**Rim job**  
Some jerk stole the tires and expensive rims off a car that was parked on Java Street on Nov. 10.

The victim came back to the car, which was near McGuinness Boulevard, at about 10 p.m. to find the vehicle on blocks. He told cops that he had some very pricey spinning rims on the car.

**Camera thief**  
A quick-handed thug stole a camera bag off a motorcycle while its owner was inside a Coneslyva Street bodega on Nov. 11.

The photographer said that he went into the shop, which is near Union Avenue, at about 9 p.m. for a couple minutes. When he came out, the bag containing expensive Canon equipment—was gone.

**Car thefts**  
At least two cars were stolen last week, including an ancient Honda Civic, the thieves' choice.

A jerk stole a 1998 Civic from McGuinness Boulevard near Clay Street on Nov. 14. The victim said he noticed the car missing at about midnight.

—Andy Campbell

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## Downtown made easy

New maps should help the tourists find their way

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper  
By February, you'll never be lost in Downtown again — thanks to dozens of giant map kiosks that only took 10 years and \$1.4 million to erect.

The Metrotech Business Improvement District unveiled its Wayfinding Sign System — a cool way of saying, "big of maps" — on Tuesday, revealing a sidewalk-clogging informational wall and its accompanying directional signage near Borough Hall on Joralemon Street.

Of course, the signs are only two of 78 installations planned for completion after the new year — an old-school solution to a age-old problem that a simple iPhone app couldn't fix, planners said.

"It's sort of a belt-and-suspenders approach — but we want to give a quick message to pedestrians, and help them get to points of historic interest fast," said project designer David Gibson of Two Twelve Associates.

The BID has been touting the new navigation tool — which towers at more than six feet tall and boasts pictures of



Mike Weiss of the Metrotech Business Improvement District (left) and designer David Gibson showed off the first of 78 map kiosks that was installed near Borough Hall on Tuesday. Borough President Markowitz looked on in delight.

historic buildings, along with a map — for more than 10 years.

Gibson said that the process was delayed by constant meetings with the community board, the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Public Design Commission over that span. Money was a factor too, until the City Economic

Development Corporation chipped in the \$1.4 million to finish the job.

It's yet unclear whether people will use the maps to their advantage, though pedestrians did ask us where the Metrotech Center is, right next to the freshly unveiled directional poster on Tuesday.

## Diggin' deep

EPA archeologist rolls up sleeves for the Gowanus

Environmental Protection Agency archeologist John Vetter just wrapped up an initial survey of the polluted Gowanus Canal, a waterway inching its way towards a \$500-million federally overseen Superfund clean-up. Federal law mandates that the agency is careful not to destroy an area of historic value during its clean-up, so Vetter's analysis will be vital. That's why we had our Gowanus gofer, Gary Buiso, check in with Vetter this week.

**GB:** So, how's the investigation going? **JV:** We're working with underwater archeologists now to evaluate the historic significance of some of the partially submerged bulkheads. We are also using remote sensing technology — a form of sonar that gives you a high resolution image of what is on the bottom in otherwise difficult body of water to see directly through. We started in the fall and just finished the first phase of our work, which will be included in a report [called a cultural resource survey] due early next year.

**GB:** How can a bulkhead be historically significant? **JV:** One of the most difficult tasks is maintaining the integrity of shorelines. There's been quite an evolution of the associated techniques as to how to do that, so it essentially becomes a history in and of itself — industrial archeology. So it is that aspect that interests us.

**GB:** How much is this all going to cost? **JV:** We are dealing with things that are not identified and known. Before we can start we have to wait for the initial phases to be carried out and then see what the impact will be as a result of the clean-up.

**GB:** Could your findings affect how the canal is ultimately cleaned? **JV:** If there are significant historic properties in the canal or part of the canal, they can be impacted as the clean-up takes place. What we do in our preservation work, is we identify prior activities, understand them, and see if it is necessary to protect and mitigate them. The presence and characteristic of the historic properties needs to be taken into consideration in designing the clean-up.

**GB:** Can you give a real world example of this? **JV:** We found remnants of small boats from the 1880s in the Hudson River, and prior to disposing of the contaminated wood, they were properly analyzed in a historic context. So depending on the condition, items may be documented in a careful, detailed way, or some artifacts might be set aside for public collections.



**DEAD HEAD:** John Vetter, the Environmental Protection Agency's archeologist, will try to find stuff in the muck at the bottom of the Gowanus Canal.

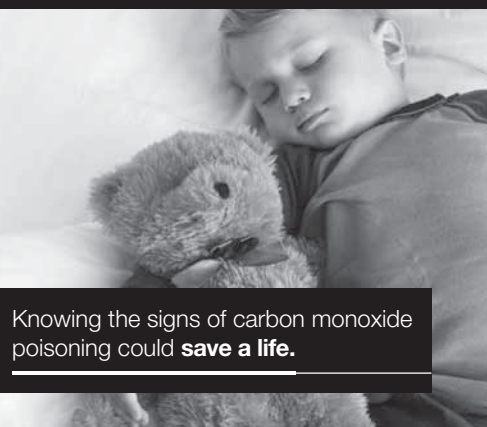
**GB:** So what do you expect to find? **JV:** First off, you have to consider past instances of dredging [which could have disrupted large objects], but taking that into account, fragments of vessels or barges that might have been lost, either whole or in part, in the canal. Anchors, and anchor chains, and of course, the industries adjoining and abutting the canal have changed over time, and they likely would have lost bits and pieces of their world into the canal. The variables in this are legion. It is likely things would have survived, but we're still in the early stages.

**GB:** Urban legend has it that the canal was a favored dumping ground for the mob. Would finding human remains here be significant? **JV:** You mean the canal as a site of human evolution? [Laughs] I suppose if one was pursuing a narrative of criminology, it might. But past episodes of dredging will take a toll on our ability today to find evidence of [these] historic activities.

**GB:** Do you expect to find something in the canal that surprises you? **JV:** I'm always surprised.

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Call or email Mark Mundy, New York Methodist Hospital's President and CEO, at 718-780-3301, or [mmundy@nym.org](mailto:mmundy@nym.org), and tell him to keep his promises and increase the number of RNs caring for patients at New York Methodist Hospital.

\*According to a 2002 study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, high caseloads can put patients at risk.

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## GRIMM...

Continued from page 1  
ing and was revealed to have had a secret second family in Virginia.

During his campaign against the freshman Democrat, Grimm often described himself as "angry" over Congress's "liberal agenda," including the economic stimulus package that "boils my blood," he said at one debate.

But victory can be quite a stress reliever. Grimm's blood pressure had dropped considerably when he sat down with us in the Staten Island portion of the cross-harbor district on Friday.

"I don't think I would categorize myself as angry," he said. "I have been angered by certain things that happened in the last 22 months. I've been very disappointed with this administration, because they haven't kept their promises."

Grimm strongly believes that's all going to change by certain things that happened in the last 22 months. I've been very disappointed with this administration, because they haven't kept their promises."

Grimm's victory put Bay



Michael Grimm sat down with the Community Newspaper Group team last week.

"[Boehner] told me straight to my face that we have to do a better job listening to the people [on spending]. And we are going to do that," Grimm said. "He's serious about it. This election sent a clear message to

Republicans and Democrats alike that if you don't do what we're asking you to do, we're going to fire you."

Grimm's victory put Bay

## Excerpts from the interview

Brooklyn Paper: Hasn't history shown that cutting taxes increases deficits? We had huge deficits under both Reagan and George W. Bush.

Grimm: I'm not a world-class economist, but we need to keep taxes low, we need to stop the out-of-control spending and we need to grow our economy with a more business friendly environment and get [the] rid of the onerous regulations.

BP: But in other countries, you have kids dying of pollution. Grimm: We need some rules, but we've gotten to the point where we can't grow our economy.

BP: Do you believe in "global warming," as they call it?

Grimm: I can say that I believe or don't believe. What I've seen are conflicting reports. Science has been unable to confirm or deny it. Until the science is there, I don't know. I believe we need clean air, clean water

and we should conserve our natural resources. At the same time, any environmental policies that we're going to implement need to be in line with our economic policies. If we don't, we'll have the cleanest planet in the world and no more country.

BP: A country with a lower standard of living, perhaps, but the country isn't going anywhere. Grimm: The American dream is what I'm saying.

Grimm: When government grows, we have less individual liberties.

BP: Do you have an example? Grimm: Well, when government starts telling you you can't put toys in your Happy Meal because they're not healthy, I think that's an individual liberty encroachment.

BP: Where do you stand on abortion?

Grimm: I'm pro-life.

BP: What does that mean? Are

you against capital punishment? Grimm: No.

BP: So what does "pro-life" mean?

Grimm: I have three children: Rape, incest and life of the mother. I also don't believe in federal funding going to abortion.

BP: Isn't that a black mark on our history? Isn't that a bad thing about America? Grimm: I don't understand why you ask that question.

BP: You just said that American history shows that we've had animosity to newcomers and I'm saying that's a bad thing. Are you disagreeing?

Grimm: No, but it's human nature that people don't accept people different than they are.

Ridge firmly back in the hands of the GOP, which gained control of Congress on the same historic night.

Grimm's victory put Bay

Today, he's the only Republican in the city's congressional delegation, automatically making the new politician New York's direct link to the Republican-controlled Congress.

It's no surprise, then, that Mayor Bloomberg, when endorsed McMahon during the election, wanted a sit-down.

During their meeting last week, the two discussed improving the city's economy, and improving small business, Bloomberg told reporters.

Grimm said he would also be reaching out to Bay Ridge leaders to set

a local agenda, including working with the neighborhood's Muslim community, which came out in droves to support the Republican, despite his opposition to the so-called Ground Zero mosque.

"I am adamantly opposed to it," he said. "They have the right to build a house of worship of any kind, but this is what I consider hallowed ground for so many who have suffered so much. Out of respect for that hallowed ground, this is not the right place to build a mosque."

In the most-heated exchange of the entire interview, Grimm and Brooklyn

Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman got into over Grimm's contention that it's "human nature" for longtime residents to hate newcomers. As a result, Grimm said, Muslims should be the ones backing down over the mosque.

though Kuntzman argued that our national "live-and-let-live" ethos requires all Americans to either allow the mosque or be exposed as hypocrites.

"In a perfect world everyone loves everyone, but if you think that world exists, good luck," Grimm said. "It doesn't. I'm just being real."

## GEESE...

Continued from page 1  
reduce risk to aircrafts.

But the wide array of government agencies involved likely did not comprehend the passion of many parkgoers for the Prospect Park waterfowl. Immediately after the culling, hundreds of Brooklynites were outraged, and organized a vigil in memory of the geese.

Later, it was revealed that city officials — concerned about issues of liability — had discussed the possibility of a 30-mile goose kill zone. And recently Tupper Thomas, Prospect Park's top administrator, confessed that she was aware that the goose massacre was imminent, but said nothing publicly because she felt it was not her place.

Despite all these revelations, the feds remain tight-lipped about the details of their goose eradication plan, which, records show, could encompass nearly the entire city.

All 19 locations visited by Wildlife Services agents last summer remain a mystery, but documents from the Port Authority — the agency managing the city's airports — do reveal a few of the sites in addition to Prospect Park.

In Nassau County, agents exterminated geese in Valley Stream and Hempstead Lake State Park.

In Brooklyn, agents killed animals at the Fountain Avenue and Penn Avenue landfills.

In Queens, agents slaugh-

tered geese in Alley Pond Park, Little Neck Bay and Fort Totten.

Animals on Rikers Island and Randall's Island were also swept up in the culling.

Some saw the stunning scale of the goose massacre as evidence that the policy needed to change.

"It is certainly the largest waterfowl [massacre] we know of," said Patrick Kovan, the New York State director of the Humane Society of the United States. "It's an example of why we need transparency. For 1,600 geese to be killed without New Yorkers knowing what was going on or being able to consider alternatives... it's not the most effective, efficient or humane method."

But gassing is the method favored by the city — and it is possible that it will be expanded to include the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge near the city.

The chief of resource management at the Gateway National Recreation area, Dave Avrin, said a study was underway to determine how to control the goose population in the area. Previously, Jamaica Bay, which is part of a National Park, was off-limits to Wildlife Services.

"We are going through an Environmental Impact Statement this time," said Avrin.

"One of the alternatives is to cull them next year, another is not. We'll determine which one at the end of the process."

## SWAN...

Continued from page 1  
net Achilles, after the legendary Greek warrior with the tragically weak ankle.

The pair then hatched a plan to capture Achilles and remove the hook — at whatever cost.

"We waited for him to jump out of the water to preen himself and I got in between him and the lake and grabbed him," said Bahlman.

He squealed like a pig. Bahlman held the panicked bird from behind while Titze — a licensed wildlife rehabilitator — swooped in with a pair of pliers and removed the hook, which still had a tiny shred of fowl-flesh on it hours later.

By Sunday, Achilles was back to his normal self, flying and feeding on breadcrumbs given to him by park-goers (which is against park rules, by the way).

A spokesman for Prospect Park, Eugene Patron, was thrilled that the couple

had removed the hook from the swan.

"That's great," said Patron.

He added that fishermen "should follow all the rules and not use barbed hooks. Thousands of people enjoy fishing at the park and most do so responsibly."

Still, this is far from the first time hooked waterfowl have been an issue in the park.

Last winter, park-goers sounded the alarm on a stunning array of fishing-related injuries to park waterfowl, including the beloved "Beaky," a goose that was missing the top half of its beak — likely due to a fishhook.

Beaky is thought to have been swept up in the city-wide goose massacre by federal agents in July.

And in August, the Parks Department admitted that it had not issued a single fishing-related summons last year — despite the widespread concern.

## KNICKS...

Continued from page 1  
said basketball fanatic Chris Tucker of Bedford-Stuyvesant. "I'm up in arms about this."

And imagine the metaphor Tucker would've come up with if he had known about a second "You Us/We Now" billboard — the one with Knicks star Amar'e Stoudemire in DUMBO.

Of course, these massive ads are not the first volley in this war for the hearts and minds of Brooklyn sports fans.

The Nets hung a building-sized promotion featuring smiling pictures of Nets owner Mikhail Prokhorov and minority owner Jay-Z that covered the side of a building next to Madison Square Garden.

The sign, which was unveiled during the frantic scramble to recruit LeBron James, read "The Blueprint for greatness." (Never mind that neither Prokhorov nor Z have played pro ball — this is hearts and minds thing, people.)

In the end, of course, neither team landed James, and both are likely headed for mediocre seasons this year.

Still, some Brooklynites took offense at the Knicks' erobckers' aggressive sales pitch.

"We're insulted because the Knicks are coming in

here while we're trying to get a basketball team," said Flatbush resident Chiloupe Washington.

Knicks' brass says that the "You Us/We Now" campaign is meant to reconnect the city with its stories — and as of late, historically dysfunctional — basketball team. The team did not comment beyond that, but it's clear that more is going on than a public awareness campaign.

The Knicks are gearing up for a new marketing push to counter the looming arrival of the Nets to Brooklyn in the 2012-2013 season, as the team spent \$230,390 on advertising in the first six months of 2010, as compared to \$18,200 in the same period last year, according to The New York Times.

When the Nets finally come to town, expect the borough-based basketball rivalry to reach new heights.

"It will be heated just like the Yankees and the Mets," says Jennifer Perry of Crown Heights. "There has always been a rivalry between boroughs even without sports."

Nets CEO Brett York is already reveling in the showdown.

"I'm glad to see [the Knicks] know where Brooklyn is," York said. "Clearly, they know what's coming."

## HIGH...

Continued from page 1  
in being at the top of the tallest residential tower in Brooklyn."

said Brooklyn Leasing Manager Elana Jochimek. "You've got a unique apartment with an incredible terrace — it's incomparable."

The apartment has all the fixings of a Manhattan bachelor pad, with a full kitchen, two bathrooms, hardwood floors and spacious rooms with views. Then there's the private terrace, with enough room to fit lounge chairs and a couple dozen other rich kids. At 585 square feet, it's

bigger than many reporters' apartments.

The suite is being rented out as part of the 490-unit tower's last marketing phase — the rest of the building is already 90-percent sold, according to Jochimek. Now, floors 46 through 51 are up for grabs.

Prices drop dramatically from the lofty penthouse. On the 46th floor, a one-bedroom sets you back \$2,650 per month, including amenities such as a weight room, yoga room, lounges, and a dog-washing station.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings November 19-25, 2010

# Open the vault!

Comic book legend puts it all up for sale in Sunset Park

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

One of the country's biggest collections of comic books will be opened to the public for the first time ever this weekend.

Joe Koch, one of the owners of Forbidden Planet comic shop in Manhattan, has invited fans into a private lair filled to the ceiling with more than one million comics, memorabilia, action figures, cards, posters, and other stuff.

"There is a lot of cool stuff in the world," said Koch. "There is something for everybody here."

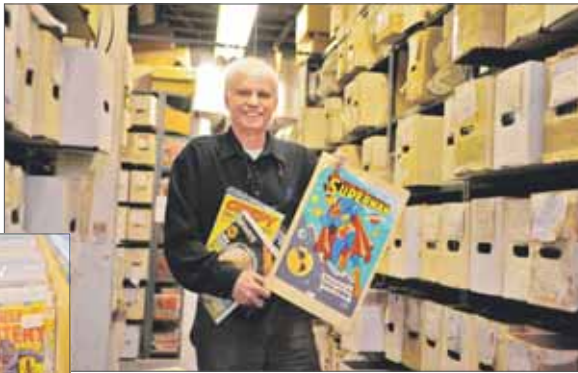
Indeed there is. The exterior of the warehouse at Second Avenue and 41st Street does not hint at the geeky treasure trove contained within, but inside there are more than 200,000 comics that cost only \$1, as well as graphic novels that cost only \$6.

There are classic comics from the 1970 to roughly 2002 like X-Men, Daredevil, Incredible Hulk, Superman and hundreds of others, as well as the occasional random piece of memorabilia, like a custom denim vest of the heavy metal legend Danzig, or the exercise regimen of Joe Bonomo, the "Arnold Schwarzenegger" of the 1920s.

"They have an immense amount of stuff!" said Mike DeVito, a collector who got an advance look last week. "You can get lost in here!"

Since Koch moved his collection to the warehouse in 1986, he has been expanding his collection while running a mail-order business.

"There is a lot of neat items just sitting in attics, basements, warehouses and storage bins," said Koch, who expands his trove all the time by buying



Secret lair: Joe Koch, owner of Joe Koch Comics in Sunset Park, has just started opening his huge warehouse, making thousands of vintage comic books available to collectors.

out comic shops that go out of business.

So, Koch spends most of his time tending to bulk orders of comics going to places as far away as Pakistan and Bangladesh — Archie is a big hit in both countries — while letting hardcore collectors into his lair of comics by appointment.

But with most comic shops abandoning the "back stock" of comics — think the old, dusty issues of comics in long boxes and clear plastic sleeves — Koch said he saw an opportunity to make some money

(the rising rent going on his warehouse added extra motivation, too).

Koch started sporadically opening his space to the public in the summer, but only in the last few months has he begun making it a monthly event.

He expects plenty of bargain hunters and die-hard collectors to show up for the holidays.

He added that he had buried some valuable comics among the \$1 assortment. "A lot of collectors show up with checklists," said Koch. "And if they did a good job they'd clean us out of the good stuff

—there are \$15 books in the dollar boxes that we leave in there to amuse everybody."

DeVito had already gotten to work digging through the awe-inspiring collection.

"I was like, 'Holy s--- when I walked in here,'" said DeVito. "I bought a bunch of Christmas presents — \$6 graphic novels, you can't beat it."

Joe Koch's *Avantgarde Comics, Neat Stuff and Collectibles* (206 41st St. at Second Avenue in Sunset Park, (718) 768-8571, Nov. 20-21, Opens at 11 a.m.

# Break out the bubbly

Local restaurants making their own sodas

By Kristen V. Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

Fancy-pants cocktails may be the mark of sophistication, but some Brooklyn venues are beginning to take on libations that inspire that warm, fizzy feeling of nostalgia.

Locales such as Fort Defiance, Brooklyn Farmery and the newly opened Tin City Drug & General Store in Bedford-Stuyvesant are dish-ing out their own homemade fizzy beverages.

At Tin City, which opened last month, owner Saratu Nafziger wanted

## DINING

**Fort Defiance** (365 Van Brunt St. at Dileman Street in Bed Hook, (347) 453-6672); **St. Anselm** (341 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384-5044); **Brooklyn Farmery & Soda Fountain** (151 Henry St. at Sackett Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 522-6560); **Tin City Drug & General Store** (66 Lewis Ave. between Macon and Halcyon streets in Bed-Stuy, (718) 443-1411); **Thistle Hill Tavern** (441 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (347) 599-1262).

to create a well-stocked corner store with an "old-fashioned feel" — so she added a soda fountain.

"We wanted a place that truly had the neighborhood-y vibe of an old general store — one figured everybody loves ice cream and good soda," said Tin Nafziger, Saratu's brother, who manages the store. Nafziger crafts sodas from extra-fizzy schler on tap and Torani-flavored syrups — some with the addition of Van Lecuwen ice cream. The store's signature soda is the Brownstone, made with Coca-Cola, chocolate syrup and hazelnut-chocolate ice cream.



Fizz honor: Tin City manager Tin Nafziger whips up a float.

Tin City, though, wasn't the first. The store opened on the heels of Brooklyn Farmery & Soda Fountain, a Cobble Hill general store and fountain that was perhaps the game-changer of the Brooklyn soda-scene, if you will.

At the store's opening, owner Pete Freeman said it was his dream to make a great egg cream — which he does — along with a host of other great sodas all made from P&H Soda and Syrup's Brooklyn-made flavorings.

Fizzy, alcohol-less drinkables are now on restaurant menus across the borough. At St. Anselm, the menu features a smattering of sodas, home-made with Fee Brother's syrups. Park Slope's Thistle Hill Tavern introduced a puckery, homemade lemon soda to its menu. And at Fort Defiance, mixologist-owner St. John Fritzell was not content with the idea of merely making the sodas himself. He undertook making the syrups as well for sodas like the cafe's gingerade.

So is this the soda revolution? We might not be ready to give up our G&T's yet, but we'll certainly give them a night off. "Anywhere you can grab a cola and go," said Nafziger, "but good soda — that's something to talk about."

## MUSIC

# Love train

Soul legends The O'Jays are coming to Brooklyn, and they're bringing their classic hits with them.

On Nov. 20, the Brooklyn Academy of Music in Fort Greene hosts the legendary trio, one of the bestselling R&B groups of all time, thanks to hits like "Love Train," "Back Stabbers," "Stairway to Heaven," "Use to Be My Girl" and "For the Love of Money" (now, unfortunately, known as the theme song for Donald Trump's

TV show, "The Apprentice").

Original members Eddie Levert and Walter Williams, along with Eric Grant, who's been an O'Jay for nearly 20 years, still nail the impeccable harmonies, and they've still the moves, too, with choreographed numbers for every performance.

The O'Jays won't be the only legends on stage that night, as Liki Thomas, of "You're a Good Girl" and "Magic Man" fame, and Ted Mills, belting out songs like "Side Show," "What's Come Over Me" and "Spell," will be joining them.

Now, the only question is, can the aides at BAM accommodate a "Soul Train"-style line dance?

The O'Jays at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, Nov. 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets \$69-\$125. For info, visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). — Meredith Deliso

## EVENT

# Boss 'Tweed'

Get out your 19th-century knickers, gloves and shirtwaists — it's time for the Tweed Ride.

In May, organizers of the first throwback bike ride drew more than 100 riders, most gussied up in their old-school finery as they competed for "awards" such as "Most Distinguished Lad," "Most Ravishing Lass," and "Most Magnificent Steed" (a reference to the bike).

It was so successful that aficionados decided to bring it back.

"We're like a moving time machine that is paying homage to a timeless period and having fun doing it," said Tweed Ride organizer, Maude Delice — or, as some know her, Lady Gry.

The journey will begin in Grand Army Plaza and continue through Park Slope before finishing at Flatbush Farm, a restaurant at Sixth Avenue, where riders will be able to refuel with an Old English style brunch and live music.

It's like a posh Halloween in November!

**Tweed Bike Ride** (meet in Grand Army Plaza, Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (646) 263-4200, Nov. 21 at 11 a.m. \$20 suggested donation for House of Hope). For info, visit [www.bigappleptweed.com](http://www.bigappleptweed.com). — Adam Warner

## SHOPPING

# Toy story

Here's a marketplace for the person who has everything — and also has a somewhat twisted sense of humor.

Starting on Nov. 20, MF Gallery in Gowanus hosts its annual toy show, featuring unique, handmade toy art items, some for as little as \$10, that are sometimes creepy, sometimes cute. Take Moses Jaen's growling zombie heads, Jacqui Gallant's deranged

Mary and her little rabid lambs, or the gallery's own Frankenstein's monster-esque pieces. The toys and dolls are meant for display purposes mostly — hence the "toy art" term — and make for neat additions to an art collection, or, for the smaller, hanging pieces, even ornaments for the tree.

"Everything we do, we try to open it up to a broader audience, that's not your typical art collecting people," said gallery co-owner Martina Russo.

**MF Toys Show** at MF Gallery (213 Bond St. between Butler and Baltic streets in Gowanus, (917) 446-8681, Nov. 20-Dec. 23 by appointment only. For info, visit [www.mfgallery.net](http://www.mfgallery.net). — Meredith Deliso

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# THE TO

## EDITORS' PICKS

**FRIDAY**  
November 19



### The 'Other' Israel

The Other Israel Film Festival will focus on Palestinian-made films during a spinoff this weekend at the Alpine Cinema in Bay Ridge. There are four films in the mini-series, including "Laila's Birthday," a funny story about a taxi driver who only wants to get home with his present and cake intact. Think "After Hours," but in the West Bank.

The Other Israel Film Festival at Alpine Cinema (687 Fifth Ave. between Bay Ridge Avenue and 68th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-4200). Tickets \$11. For info, visit: www.palestiniancinema.org.

**SATURDAY**  
November 20

### Gotta sing!

Klea Blackhurst's got rhythm, so who could ask for anything more from her Ethel Merman tribute concert, dubbed "Everything the Traffic Will Allow: The Songs and Sass of Ethel Merman"? The performance is a musical theater junkie's goldmine, featuring classic tunes from "Annie Get Your Gun," "Hello Dolly" and "Girl Crazy."

8 pm. "Everything the Traffic Will Allow" at the Kingsborough Performing Arts Center (2001 Oriental Blvd. at Decatur Avenue in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5596). Tickets \$25. For info, visit: www.kickapop.org.



### Rae of light

Rae McGrath, the owner of the Brooklynite Gallery in Bedford-Stuyvesant, didn't have to look far for his latest show: It's his own Pop Art creations. Most are based on portraits that he doctors with paint, silkscreen or product labels. It's good stuff.

"Unconventional Conviction" at Brooklynite Gallery (334 Malcolm X Blvd. between Decatur and Bainbridge streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (347) 405-5976), through Dec. 18. For info, visit: www.brooklynitegallery.com.

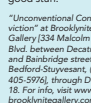
**SUNDAY**  
November 21



### White stuff

Christian Lander, whose blog, Stuff White People Like, got him a book deal, has finally come out with the satirical "study" of upper-middle-class Caucasians, "Whiter Shades of Pale." And you know what they like: Lucky Strikes, messenger bags and moleskin notebooks. Brooklyn gets it's own chapter.

7 pm. Christian Lander reads from "Whiter Shades of Pale," at powerHouse Arena (37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049). Free. For info, visit: www.powerhousearena.com.



### Puccini perfect

You gotta hand it to Regina Opera. This Bay Ridge troupe has become one of the foremost smaller companies in the city with a singular vision: do it like the composer envisioned. This week, it's Puccini's "Tosca," a classic tale of love, lust, murder and, of course, death.

3 pm. "Tosca" at the Regina Hall (1210 65th St. at 12th Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 259-2772). Also, Nov. 28. Tickets \$23. For info, visit: www.reginaopera.org.

## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

**FRI, NOV. 19**

**UGLY RHINO — A MICRO-SEASON:** A celebration of theater, music and games. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816). www.uglyrhino.com.

**THEATER, "ROOM SERVICE":** The Heights Players take on the classic 1930s comedy. 8:15 pm. Heights Players (26 Willow Pl. between Jordan and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237-2752). www.heightsplayers.org.

**THEATER, "THE RED SHOES":** Based on the fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. 8:15 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-6779). www.stannwarehouse.org.

**HOLIDAY SALE:** Handmade items, white elephant, gourmet table and refreshments. Free. 11 am–3 pm. Our Savior's Lutheran Church (614 80th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-0020).

**READING, "FRECKLEFACE STRAWBERRY":** Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2102).

**RECESSION ART SHOW:** Free. 6 pm. Invaluable Dog (51 Bergen St. between Borsum Place and Smith Street in Cobble Hill, (347) 981-4184). www.theinvaluable.org.

**MUSIC, BLUE FISH:** 6–8:30 pm. Pup-pet's Jazz Lab (481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope, (718) 499-2622). www.pup-pet.com.

**FILM, OTHER ISRAELI FILM FESTIVAL:** Festival focuses on Palestinian filmmakers. \$11 per film. 7 pm. Alpine Cinema (687 Fifth Ave. between 68th and 69th streets in Bay Ridge), www.alpinecinemas.com.

**THEATER, "THE MARRIAGE OF MARIA BRAUN":** 8:15 pm. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 638-4100). www.bam.org.

**DANCE, "YURMEIN":** Celebrate the Ghanesha people of Central America through music and dance. \$30. 7:30 pm. Kumbie Theater at Long Island University (DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1626). www.brooklynliu.edu/kumbie-theater.

**THEATER, "DANCING AT LUGH-NASA":** Lyrical look at an Irish community and family in 1936. \$15. 86 Brooklyn College members. \$12. Seniors. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn College, Gowanus Theater (2000 Bedford Ave. in Midwood, (718) 951-4500). dephome.brooklyn.cuny.edu/theater.

**MUSIC, LOS ENCANTADOS, DEAD PHONES, TRAP AVOID, HELIO-TROPES:** 7:30 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). www.unionhall.org.

**READING, "FREUD'S BLIND SPOT — 23 ORIGINAL ESSAYS ON CHERISHED, ESTRANGED, LOST, HURTFUL, HOPEFUL, COMPLICATED"**



**Thankful:** Let Fort Greene's iGI do the cooking for you this Thanksgiving, as manager Lauren Berg (right) and owner Catherine Saillard serve up the restaurant's menu for the big day, including turkey, of course, and a butternut squash soup. Check out our guide to Thanksgiving restaurants at BrooklynPaper.com.

**SISTERS AND BROTHERS:** Featuring Christine Seel, Miranda Seel, Whittemore, and more. Free. 7:30 pm. Greenlight Bookstore (466 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. 4th Street in Fort Greene, (718) 244-0200). abokstorein-brooklyn.blogspot.com.

**MUSIC, "BENICENT ROMANTIC":** Pianist Eleanor Bindman celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of composer Robert Schumann. 8:00 pm. Old Stone House (136 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195). www.theoldstonehouse.org.

**THEATER, "IN THE FOOTPRINT":** The Civilans take on Atlantic Yards. \$20-\$35. 8 pm. Ironclad Center (85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233). www.ironclad.org.

**MUSIC, SALOME CHAMBER ORCHESTRA:** Selections by Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky, Schoenberg. \$40 (\$35 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Barge-music (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2053). www.bargemusic.org.

**POETRY:** Featuring Edwin Tyler, Pamela Sneed, mTalla Keaton, Sabrina Gilbert, Hanifah Walidah, James Lowell and George Davidson. Free. 8 pm. BAM Café (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100). www.bam.org.

**MUSIC, KARAOKE:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400). www.unionhall.org.

**SAT, NOV. 20**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB:** Group runs for intermediate and advance runners. Free.

**CIVIC CALENDAR**

**MON, NOV. 22**  
Community Board 10 Senior Issues, Housing and Health Committee. Monthly meeting. On the agenda: Budgeting. 7 pm. Community Board 10 office (8119 Fifth Ave. between 81st and 82nd streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827).

**WED, NOV. 24**  
Community Board 4 Youth/ Human Services/Education Committee. Monthly meeting. 6:30 pm. Cobble Hill Community Room (250 Baltic St. between Court and Clinton streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 643-3027). www.brooklynclub.org.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail: Calendar@cnglobal.com

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# Rocking out

Frank Hoier's new band, Boom Chick, to play Trash Bar gig

By Meredith Deliso  
The Brooklyn Paper

When Frank Hoier and Mosselle Spiller first formed their two-piece band, they literally played any gig they could get.

"That was one of our strategies, just for practice sake," said drummer Spiller, who reckons they played over 100 shows since forming last year. That included a lot of Bushwick loft parties.

"That's our favorite type of show for sure," said Spiller. "People feel comfortable to dance, and give you energy. There's not that people-standing-around-with-their-arms-crossed-starting-type-of vibe."

The duo briefly went by the name Frank and Mo, but soon settled on Boom Chick ("I don't like being called Mo," said Spiller). Boom Chick works better for the Delta blues garage rock duo, any way. Spiller, a graphic designer, had no music experience whatsoever until her



Boom Chick bring the Delta blues to Trash Bar on Nov. 21, with Frank Hoier on slide guitar and Mosselle Spiller on drums. Yes, we know, they look kind of like the White Stripes.

boyfriend, Hoier, invited her to sit at a drum kit about two years ago. She took to it like a pro — for the most part. "I'm really bad with counting, but if Frank says something with sounds, like boom chicka chicka, I can do it," said Spiller.

Hoier is no novice himself. We christened the guitarist the "new Dylan" two years ago, thanks to his fantastic folk album, "Lovers & Dollars." Since then, he's been gigging pretty much everywhere in the borough, even anchoring Jalopy's "Roots and Ruckus" show.

Boom Chick finds Hoier rocking out a bit more on his slide guitar, as evidenced by the band's loud, raring debut, the aptly named "Show Pony," a nod to the two's gig enthusiasm, out on Nov. 30.

Long known as the bard of Bushwick, Hoier currently calls Red Hook home, where he lives with Spiller and their turtle, Oke (John — well, they think it was John, at least — didn't make it).

You can find Hoier and Spiller at Jalopy a couple times a month, but, you're not much of a gambler, they'll be playing on Nov. 21 at Trash Bar in Williamsburg. It's no loft party, but it's sure to get you moving.

Boom Chick play Trash Bar (256 Grand St. near Roelbling Street in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000), Nov. 21 at 10 pm. Free.

# New pizza challenger

Trattoria 312 opens across from Motorino

By Andy Campbell  
The Brooklyn Paper

There's beer and pizza, and then there's Pizzini, Italian hospitality and the best damn pizza in Williamsburg.

We only say it when we mean it folks, and Trattoria 312 on Graham Avenue could very well have the crispiest, sauciest 'za in the neighborhood — and it's right across the street from its hottest competition, Motorino.

The Italian bistro — which recently changed hands from Barosa, but kept most of its classic menu — has the date night trifecta: restaurant quality food, quick and friendly service, and all the makings of a real sports bar.

And let us remind you that it's across from Motorino, which is hailed far and wide as a gourmet Neapolitan delicacy. We tried the sausage pie from both parlors, and the Trattoria slice is every bit as good as the heavyweight champ when you compare



Joe Prezioso at Trattoria 312.

pure crust, sauce and overall flavor.

The art displays and elongated bar were touches added by Brooklyn born-and-bred owner Joe Prezioso, who's taking his first crack at the restaurant biz. A newbie, maybe, but his experience at swanky hotels in Manhattan and his partnership with a 10-year professional pizza guy will prove to be successful in the coming months.

And really, it's all about the pizza

(58-12) at Trattoria. We salvaged over the simple ingredients — tomatoes, prosciutto and sausage, among others — and chef Patsy's keen grasp of the brick oven fundamentals come together for textural and tasty perfection.

If you're looking for other Italian treats, try the Penne Pomodoro (\$10) with tomato and basil, a load of mussels (\$14) in an edible calzone-like container, or check the place out for brunch on the weekends.

Or just head in for a couple glasses of Scotch for your favorite game like we did.

"I want this to be for the neighborhood," Prezioso said. "Through the appearance, the food and the music, we're slowly expanding to let people choose their own experience here."

Trattoria 312 (312 Graham Ave. near Aniele Street in Williamsburg, (718) 218-8135)

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# Norman Rockwell

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# American icons

Norman Rockwell show is an eye-opener

By Stephen Brown  
The Brooklyn Paper

Normal Rockwell's hyper-idealized vision of America is brought back to reality via the photos used for inspiration in a new exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum.

Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera reveals an illuminating window into the creative process employed by Rockwell, who remains one of the most-mocked artists of the 20th century.

Take, for example, his classic "Girl at Mirror," which depicts a young girl looking at herself in a magazine on her lap opened to a photo of the movie star Jane Russell.

The photo on which the painting is based doesn't have the magazine—but in Rockwell's version, the celebrity is not only front and center, but the artist added in a cast-aside doll for a forward-looking statement on growing up surrounded by images of fame.

Another iconic painting shows a hulking cop gently conversing at a diner with a kid who has run away from home. Beside it are a dozen photos with different elements—the cop, the kid, the cook at the diner—that Rockwell combined to make the painting.

Almost all of the photos have a sense of exuberance to them—these were average folks being posed by one of the most popular artists of the time, and photographed by renowned professionals like Gene Pelham and Louis Lamone.

The finished products of ten ended up on the cover of the Saturday Evening Post, which are on display as well. The magazine's only enrichment of the sense of history, as they feature headlines like "Humphrey, the Man Like Trusts with the Cash," and "Traitor Klaus Fuchs: He Gave Stalin the A-Bomb."

Taken together, the photos and paintings are fascinating as a time capsule and undeniably charming.

But as a history lesson,



Look again: Louie Lamone's 1967 shot of kids became Rockwell's racially tinged "New Kids in the Neighborhood."

"Behind the Camera" is woefully incomplete. In its effort to humanize Rockwell's portraits of Americana, the exhibit

umentary director Ken Burns—the Norman Rockwell of film, if you will—who puts his stamp of approval on the artist. "So many of the moments we see as impossibly idealized versions of us are in fact us," he says.

Seriously? It's doubtful any Brooklynite from any era would identify with such white-bread Americana.

But is Rockwell to blame? He was an artist-for-hire creating works meant for mass consumption, mainly through a conservative magazine. There was little appetite in that environment for depictions of racial discord—or racial harmony, for that matter. That, in and of itself, is worth remembering today.

The final, small room of the exhibit highlights the twilight of Rockwell's career, when he began—at last—to address the social upheaval of the 1960s. Did he have a crisis of conscience, or was it that his new job for Look Magazine simply offered him more freedom?

Rockwell once said he wanted to "paint the big picture, something serious and colossal which will change the world."

His paintings certainly never changed the world, instead the vast majority of his work depicted America as a certain segment of people wanted to see it. But that, for all its flaws, is quite compelling enough.

## ART

**"Norman Rockwell: Behind the Camera,"** at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000), Nov. 19-April 10. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

serves up a stark reminder that "Rockwellian America" was almost entirely devoid of black people, Kanye West—where were you when we needed you?

Worse, literature accompanying the exhibit quotes doc-

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# The Brooklyn Paper

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# PARENT

## Crises are not just for middle age

Racing down Fifth Avenue, through the gauntlet of cheering spectators, into Central Park, passing the flags and grandstands, throwing my arms up high. I finished my first marathon last week. It was great. I felt the high and did something I never thought I'd be able to do. I've been talking about the experience with everyone I know, getting praise and pats on the back. A lot of you could call it a mid-life crisis, a pre-mid-life crisis or just a desire for sore knees.

My older daughter, at 15, wants to try boxing. What's with that? What teenage girl wants to get her face pounded



**The Dad**  
By Scott Sager

on, get caught up in, give us a rush of excitement. It's not teen/teen and mid-life crises we're in, not some life-cycle emotional distress nor are we adrenaline junkies.

My 12-year-old wants to build a computer, maybe out of paperclips or other unusual materials, winning the Westinghouse Science Fair and a big college scholarship, an article in the paper, fame.

The three of us are all looking for new challenges to take

huge things when they happen and you get tremendous praise and attention for each achievement from everyone, aunts, uncles, grandparents, strangers in Key Food and Connecticut Muffin.

But then it happens less and less. Your opportunity to learn new things is reduced. The charge and buzz of accomplishment slows to a trickle and we miss it.

My girls have lists of things they want to try and do. In addition to playing Rocky, the older one really wants to hike in Bolivia, learn to play the bassoon and speak Russian. The younger one wants to climb all the Adirondack high peaks, speak Italian and play saxophone.

I cherish their desire for adventure and exploration. I also see that each experience they begin starts with the rush of newness until they hit that first learning plateau. The first time I hit a golf ball and watched it sailing away I thought, this is a cool, I could be the next Jack Nicklaus. When my next few swings sent balls curving gracefully into trees, water and my fellow golfers, my aspirations came back to Earth.

And my girls' too. Some things have taken hold and found a place in their lives — knitting, softball, flute, gymnastics — and others fill the basement and closets with skateboards, pottery and the starts of collections like stamps and pennies.

Forme, I don't know what's next. My life includes many mundane things like

cleaning out the basement, but I've got my eyes open for the next adventure.

For my daughter, I've found out about boxing lessons for teenagers. I don't

relish the sight of 16-ounce

gloves smashing into my child's body, but I understand what she's looking for and if it's not this, it will be something else. We'll see if her gear ends up in the basement or in a locker at a gym.



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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

**TUES, NOV. 23**

**HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB:** 6:45 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 20.

**THEATER, "THE RED SHOES":** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 19.

**WORKSHOP, JAZZ MASTER CLASS:** Featuring Justin Brink. Free. 4 pm. Long Island University (Dedham and Flatbush avenues in Downtown). (718) 488-1628. www.brooklyn.lu.edu.

**READING, CHRISTIAN LANDER:** Author of "Whiter Shades of Pale: The South White People Like, Coast to Coast, from Seattle's Sweeteners to Maine's Microbrews." Free. 7 pm. PowerHouse Arena 137 Main St., at Fifth Avenue in DUMBO. (718) 666-3049. www.powerhousearena.com.

**MUSIC, THE DANIELS, JOHNS, DUCHESNEAU:** 7:30 pm. Union Hall 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 638-4400. www.unionhall.org.

**MUSIC, BENEFIT FOR FUTURE OF MUSIC COALITION:** With Walter Trout, Palomar, Melody Lane, All Stars, The Scorpions, Dave Hill. 7:30 pm. The Rock Shop 249 4th Ave. (718) 230-5740. www.therockshopny.com.

**THEATER, "IN THE FOOT-PRINTS":** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 19.

**READING, POET EILEEN MYLES:** 8 pm. Spoonbill & Sugarbush, Bookstore 278 Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg. (718) 387-7322.

**READING, ILLUSTRATOR PAUL CUMMINGS:** Author of "Avenue and the Lizard." Free. 10 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Flatbush Avenue at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope. (718) 230-2100).

**WED, NOV. 24**

**THEATER, "THE RED SHOES":** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 19.

**THEATER, "IN THE FOOT-PRINTS":** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 19.

**THURS, NOV. 25**

**Thanksgiving Day REUNION, THANKSGIVING MASS:** Free. 9:30 am. Saint Saviour R.C. Church 611 Eighth Ave. at Third Street in Park Slope. (718) 768-4053. www.saint-saviour.org.

**HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB:** 6:45 pm. See Tuesday, Nov. 23.

**FRI, NOV. 26**

**THEATER, "THE RED SHOES":** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 19.

**DANCE, "FALLING SIDEWAYS":** Elizabeth Strout's new show. \$20 (\$10 children). 7 pm. STREB Lab for Action Mechanics 51 N. First St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg. (718) 384-6491. www.streb.org.

**BLACK FRIDAY FREE STORE:** Bay Ridge Interfaith Peace Coalition protests consumerism. Free. 1-3 pm. Century 21 1472 86th St. between 4th and 5th avenues in Bay Ridge. (844) 824-5500. www.panys.org/BR.

**MUSIC, RALPH HAMPE:** Brian's Tuba D'Amore. 5:45-6:30 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-2622. www.puppetsjazz.com.

**MUSIC, LUOWIG:** 8 pm. Union Hall 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 638-4400. www.unionhall.org.

**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Selections from Debussy, Liszt, Schubert, with Jeanne Park, piano. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO). (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org.

**MUSIC, GREG GARING:** Country. 8 pm. Barbies 1374 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 965-9177. www.barbies-brooklyn.com.

**MUSIC, GERMAN JAZZ FESTIVAL:** Hosted by Jazzwerkstatt, a wide-ranging European record label. \$25. 8 pm. Ironclad Center 85 S. Oxford St. in Fort Greene. (718) 488-9233. www.ironclad.org.

**MUSIC, GINA'S PICTURE SHOW:** 9 pm. Spike Hill Tavern 154 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9737. www.spikehill.com.

**MUSIC, ROBERTO POVEDA GROUP:** 9:15-10:30 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-2622. www.puppetsjazz.com.

**MUSIC, WE CAN'T ENJOY OURSELVES:** 9 pm. Peter's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg. (718) 302-3770. www.petescandystore.com.

**MUSIC, JACK GRACE:** Country. 10 pm. Barbies 1374 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 965-9177. www.barbies-brooklyn.com.

**MUSIC, COMMUNICATION CORPORATION:** 11 pm. Spike Hill Tavern 154 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9737. www.spikehill.com.

**MUSIC, PUPPETS JAZZ COLLECTIVE JAM SESSION:** 11 pm. See Friday, Nov. 26.

**SIGN:** 56. Midnight-3 am. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-2622. www.puppetsjazz.com.

**MUSIC, KARAOKE:** Free. Midnight. Union Hall 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 638-4400. www.unionhall.org.

**SAT, NOV. 27**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**HEALTH, BROOKLYN ROAD RUNNERS CLUB:** 6:45 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 20.

**NATURE WALK:** Lecture and tour. Free. 11 am. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center (Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene. (718) 965-8000. www.nyc.gov/parks/fortgreen).

**NATURE WALK WITH WILSONA STEVE:** BRILL: Hunt for wild carrots. RSVP required. \$15. (510) children under 12. 1:45 pm. Salt Marsh Nature Center 3302 Avenue U in Marine Park. (718) 433-1531. www.wildmanstevebrill.com.

**PERFORMANCE**

**THEATER, "THE RED SHOES":** 2 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 19.

**MUSIC, STEVEN KROON SEKTET:** Celebrating the 25th anniversary of Jazz966. \$30 (\$25 in advance). 4-6:30 pm. Jazz 966 166 Fulton St. at St. James Place in Clinton Hill. (718) 638-4910. www.illurew.com.

**MUSIC, NADIA RAYE, NELL & THE BROOKLYN NOYSE:** 5 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-2622. www.puppetsjazz.com.

**MUSIC, BEN KELLER WITH JULIA JONES:** 6:30 and 10:30 pm. The Rock Shop 249 4th Ave. (718) 230-5740. www.therockshopny.com.

**MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT:** Selections Haydn, Brahms, Beethoven with Mark Peskanov, violin. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). 8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO). (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org.

**MUSIC, GERMAN JAZZ FESTIVAL:** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 26.

**MUSIC, HOMECOMING DANCE:** Featuring Gordon Visbeck, Walpole, Midnight Magic. \$12 (\$10 in advance). 9 pm. The Bell House 149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus. (718) 643-4510. www.thebellhouse.com.

**MUSIC, ALEX BLAKE QUARTET:** \$12. 9-11:30 pm. Puppet's Jazz Bar 481 Fifth Ave. at 11th Street in Park Slope. (718) 499-2622. www.puppetsjazz.com.

**MUSIC, HALINA LARSSON:** Jazz and folk. 9 pm. Peter's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg. (718) 302-3770. www.petescandystore.com.

**MUSIC, DANNY KALB:** 9:30-10:30 pm. Jolopy 315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbus Street Waterfront. (718) 395-3214. www.jolopybar.com.

**MUSIC, MOTHER SUN:** 10 pm. Spike Hill Tavern 154 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9737. www.spikehill.com.

**MUSIC, LES CHAUS LAPINS:** Presents French songs of the 1920s-40s. 10 pm. Peter's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg. (718) 302-3770. www.petescandystore.com.

**MUSIC, HOWARD FISHMAN:** Folk, jazz. 10 pm. Barbies 1374 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 965-9177. www.barbies-brooklyn.com.

**MUSIC, FLOATING KARETT:** \$10. 10:30 pm. Jolopy 315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbus Street Waterfront. (718) 395-3214. www.jolopybar.com.

**MUSIC, THE TURKEY JERK PARTY WITH DJ PATTY HEART:** Free. 11 pm. Union Hall 702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope. (718) 638-4400. www.unionhall.org.

**MUSIC, NONOUS FOXES:** 11 pm. Spike Hill Tavern 154 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9737. www.spikehill.com.

**MUSIC, THE BICYCLISTS:** Pop, rock, and old-timey melodies. guitar, ukulele, singing, guests. witty, charming, often humorous lyrics. 11 pm. Peter's Candy Store 709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg. (718) 302-3770. www.petescandystore.com.

**MUSIC, DISCUS:** 11:55 pm. Spike Hill Tavern 154 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9737. www.spikehill.com.

**MUSIC, PUPPETS JAZZ COLLECTIVE JAM SESSION:** 11 pm. See Friday, Nov. 26.

**SALES AND MARKETS**

**ARTISANAL EVENTS:** 1-4 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 20.

**PARK SLOPE GREENMARKET:** 9 am-4 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 20.

**PS 321 FLEA MARKET:** 9 am-5 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 20.

**ARTISTS AND FLEAS:** Noon-8 pm. See Saturday, Nov. 20.

**BROOKLYN DESIGNERS SHOWCASE:** Local artists show off their wares. Noon-6 pm. St. Ann's Church 157 Montague St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 701-1415.

**OTHER**

**DANCE, "FALLING SIDEWAYS":** 3 and 7 pm. See Friday, Nov. 26.

# Downtown smoke shop busted for tax evasion

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper

Police arrested the owner of a popular Downtown smoke shop last week, part of an ongoing crackdown against the scores of tobaccoists who hawk untaxed cigarettes to smokers in schemes that are wholly unknown by the non-smoking public.

Cops with the 44th Precinct descended on the Tobacco Shop at Lawrence and Willoughby streets and arrested Hamoud Alsaidi-Hesham for allegedly selling untaxed cigarettes for as low as \$7 a pack — more than \$5 less than his price for a legal pack of cancer sticks.

The enforcement is part of Mayor Bloomberg's attempt to curb smoking by raising taxes on cigarettes — which has more than doubled to a combined \$4.25 between the city and state tax since Bloomberg took office.

The crackdown is working, at least on the city's side. Between 2009 and the end of October, the Department of Finance has collected \$3,337,481 in settlements against tax evaders and websites that sell untaxed cigarettes to New Yorkers.

Undercutting the system may be a "deal" for vendors and their customers, but it comes with a price — Alsaidi-Hesham faces up to four years in jail on charges of tax evasion and selling untaxed cigarettes from both the city and state.

The government requires that every pack of cigarettes bears both city and state tax stamps, which Alsaidi-Hesham did not, and sent an undercover detective's report.

"[We] recovered 120 packs of cigarettes that did not have the required... tax stamp from under the floor behind the counter," the report said.

A spokesman for District Attorney Charles Lyles wouldn't comment on the office's priority for these types of cases. But the spokesman, Joseph Bruno, did say, "We've had them before" and "we will prosecute [Alsaidi-Hesham]."

It's a well-known loophole among the 15 percent of adults in the city who smoke: Un-registered, unregistered smokers



Reporter Andy Campbell's favorite tobacco shop was shuttered.

## My last drug deal

The days of my lunch break drug deal may now be over.

The drug I'm talking about, of course, is tobacco, and the deal is \$7 a pack in a city where 20 cigarettes can cost you up to \$13. That's right — I have a cigarette guy in Downtown, and he was arrested last Wednesday for selling untaxed cigarettes and faces up to four years in jail.

But before you go all patriot on me or accuse me of being a tax-bagger, I want to explain why this is a deal I couldn't refuse, despite my enormous paycheck at The Brooklyn Paper.

First, without using the tired excuse that "everybody's doing it," I'll say that seriously, everybody is doing it. If you're one of us smokers — 15 percent of adults in the city — who don't have an illegal cancer stick dealer, you're paying too much. Hell, when I lived in Washington State, I was complaining when they were \$5 a pack.

Second, it's a easy — and even thrilling — process. You walk in with your buddy who "knows a guy," all shifty-eyed and nervous, and say, "Hey, can I get a pack of [Parliaments] [or Camels, or New-

ports, or Marlboros] please?" and then the guy behind the counter looks around all shifty-eyed and says, "How much do you normally pay?" and you say, "Um, \$7?" and he nods, and ducks down behind the counter for a secret carton.

Once he tells you that pack, the relationship is set in stone. You never rat out your cig guy for not paying taxes because you need your bargain fix.

That said, I'm not trying to educate our dear readers on how to engage in illegal activity; it's simply a fact of life for smokers — and the rest of you probably don't even know it's as common as breathing tar-filled air.

So naturally, being an addict myself, I was disheartened and even dismayed to confirm the arrest at the Tobacco Shop near Lawrence and Willoughby streets, right by my office at the Metrotech Center. Then again, when I sent an intern into Downtown to see if he could get another \$12.50 pack for a smooth \$7 on Thursday, he succeeded — I shouldn't be telling you this, but the same shop was up to its old tricks.

And so was I. Did I mention that cigarettes are expensive?



By Andy Campbell



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2. Your age ☐ under 25 ☐ 26-45 ☐ 46-65 ☐ 65+

3. How many adults in your household? (Select one)  
☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 or more

4. How many children under 18 in your household? (Select one)  
☐ 0 ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 or more

5. Your annual household income before taxes is: (Select one)  
☐ under \$50,000 ☐ \$51,000-100,000 ☐ \$101,000-150,000 ☐ \$150,000+

6. Do you ☐ Own your residence ☐ Rent ☐ Other

Do you plan to move in the next 12 months?

☐ No If yes, where? ☐ Yes (Select one)  
☐ Brooklyn ☐ Bronx ☐ Queens ☐ Manhattan ☐ Other

7. Do you own/lease a vehicle? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you own/lease 2+ vehicles? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you plan to purchase a new vehicle in the next 12 months? (Select one)

☐ Buy new ☐ Buy used ☐ Lease ☐ None

8. Check any that you plan to purchase in the next 12 months:

☐ Home improvement services ☐ Vacation ☐ College tuition  
☐ Cosmetic/elective medical procedure ☐ Cell phone  
☐ Electronics or appliances ☐ Financial planning or banking services  
☐ Insurance ☐ Mattress ☐ Furniture ☐ Fine jewelry  
☐ Designer clothing/shoes/accessories ☐ Pet supplies

9. How often do you eat out at (or order in from) a restaurant per month?

(Select one) ☐ 1-3 ☐ 4-7 ☐ 8-11 ☐ 12 or more

From which restaurants, typically? (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

10. Check any stores that you have shopped in the past 12 months:

☐ Target ☐ Lowes ☐ Home Depot ☐ Century 21 ☐ Barney's  
☐ J&R Music World ☐ JC Penney ☐ PC Richards  
☐ Burlington Coat Factory ☐ Best Buy ☐ Marshalls ☐ TJMaxx  
☐ Macy's ☐ Apple Store ☐ Bloomingdales ☐ Saks ☐ Lord & Taylor  
☐ H&M ☐ Radio Shack ☐ Staples ☐ Harry's Shoes

11. Check the entertainment/cultural venues you attended in the past 12 months:

☐ Concerts ☐ Movies ☐ Plays ☐ Museums ☐ Sporting events  
☐ Street fairs ☐ Bars/night clubs ☐ BAM ☐ BAM Cinema  
☐ Brooklyn Museum ☐ BCBC (performance at Brooklyn College)  
☐ Celebrate Brooklyn (free outdoor concerts at Prospect Park)  
☐ Free outdoor concerts at MetroTech ☐ Bargemusic

If yes for sporting events, which of the following did you attend in the last 12 months:

☐ NY Yankees ☐ NY Mets ☐ NY Giants ☐ NY Jets  
☐ NY Rangers ☐ NY Islanders ☐ NY Knicks ☐ NJ Nets  
☐ NY Liberty ☐ NY Red Bulls ☐ Brooklyn Cyclones

12. Is there anything you especially like/dislike about this newspaper?

\_\_\_\_\_

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## Senator of attention

### Adams denies that he lied on corrupt Aqueduct plan

By Aaron Short  
The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn state senator accused of giving non-credible testimony to a panel investigating the corrupt process to bring gambling to Aqueduct racetrack fired back this week, saying that his conduct was proper.

State Sen. Eric Adams (D-Fort Greene) was cited last month by New York State Inspector General Joseph Fisch as one of several state lawmakers who were guilty of "failing to fulfill their public duty" in choosing the Aqueduct Entertainment Group run new video slot machines at the racetrack in a process that was a "political free-for-all."

Fisch singled out Adams, chairman of the Senate Racing, Gaming and Wagering Committee, for taking \$14,500 in campaign contributions from AEG and delivering testimony that Fisch deemed "incredible."

But Adams strongly disputed that charge this week, asserting, "My conduct during this process was always proper and above reproach."

"My actions were guided by an important goal: to serve the best interests of the people of the state of New York, and of my district by finding the bidder that would develop a project that expedited job creation and reflected the input of the community," said Adams.

The report found that Adams played an instrumental role in persuading Gov. Paterson to select AEG.

Adams is mentioned multiple times in the Fisch report, though most of those references focus on two critical events that Adams allegedly attended: a dinner with Paterson and state Sen. Majority Leader John Sampson (D-Canarsie) where the finalized bid was conveyed, and a victory celebration at the house of the winning bidder's chief lobbyist.

According to Paterson's testimony, Adams and Sampson attended a dinner with him at a Manhattan restaurant in January, 2009, where they stated their preference for AEG to run the Aqueduct gaming concession.

Adams disputes this, saying he heard Paterson was in town and only stopped by the

restaurant to "say hello and moved on."

"So I don't know if that's considered a meeting," said Adams. "They were chatting. I don't know if people were meeting there... but I believe they identified the person. They stated they were with AEG, and I said hello and kept on going. I went to another part of the restaurant."

But in the report, Fisch writes that Adams contradicted his Albany colleagues.

"Adams's version of events strains credibility as it would require a belief in a happenstance intrusion on a dinner

between the governor and Sen. Sampson, [who] both testified he fully attended," said the report.

A source close to Adams further disputed that finding, saying that Adams conveyed his preference for AEG to Paterson in November or December, not at the January dinner as Paterson represented.

The report further stated that Adams was present at a victory party on Feb. 2 at the Albany home of AEG lobbyist Carl Andrews — but a source questioned that allegation, noting that Adams attended Andrews's Fourth

of July barbecue and not the post-bid party.

Findings in the report have been turned over to Manhattan District Attorney Cy Vance, whose office is currently conducting its own investigation into the case and has not yet brought any charges. A spokeswoman for Vance declined to comment.

In the end, the Aqueduct Entertainment Group was deemed unqualified to run the site and the state Lottery has since selected another group to operate the racetrack casino.

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