

## MTA: Sun will grease the rails

BY KYLE MCGOVERN

The MTA's newest bright idea calls for harnessing the sun to make riding on the F and G trains a bit smoother for straphangers.

Workers installed solar panels designed to fuel track lubricators along the elevated section of the Culver Viaduct near the still-under-construction Smith-Ninth Street station — letting the agency grease the rails using a renewable energy source.

The sun-charged lubricators are an environmentally friendly way to reduce wear-and-tear on tracks and train wheels before curves between the Carroll Street station and the Fourth-Avenue Ninth Street station, according to Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman Charles Seaton.

The permanent solar fixtures are a bright spot in the MTA's much-delayed, over-budget, Culver Viaduct rehabilitation project — which calls for \$257-million renovation of the elevated tracks between

*Continued on Page 13*

# FIELD HOUSE OF FRUSTRATION



**WHAT'S THE HOLDUP?:** Marine Park resident Ray Torres would love to know why he hasn't seen any work being done on the Marine Park Field House in more than five months.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

## Park house construction stalled – again

BY COLIN MIXSON

If you thought work has slowed on the new Marine Park Community Center, you'd be wrong — it's stopped completely.

The city Comptroller's Office cut off the project's funding in December — stopping the one-story green community center that ballooned from \$6.5 to \$16 million in its tracks.

Brooklyn Borough Parks Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey said construction workers walked off the site after not getting paid for several months worth of work.

*Continued on Page 16*

## Bklyn spurns JoePa

BY DANIEL BUSH

A community panel sacked a plan to rename a Sheepshead Bay street after a native son: Penn State coach Joe Paterno.

Fans of Paterno, who died of lung cancer in January, proposed renaming E. 23rd Street between Avenues S and T — the block

where he grew up — after the gridiron great, but Community Board 15 blind-sided the request on Tuesday.

Chairwoman Theresa Scavo said the late icon's legacy fell short of the goal line: street renamings only go to residents who leave a lasting impact on their community.

*Continued on Page 14*



**OUTLAWS:** Hugging is against the rules at the Brooklyn Prospect Charter School.

## Middle school bans hugs

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

A popular charter school in Windsor Terrace has banned hugging between classes — a rule that parents and students aren't, well, embracing.

Brooklyn Prospect Charter School principal Dan Rubinstein said he created the no hugging rule to keep

students from lingering in hallways between classes, which can cause disruptions and tardiness.

"It's a time, place, and manner thing," he said. "We don't want students spending too much social time between class."

But some parents say the rule is a spirit-crushing assault on kindness that keeps pre-teens from connecting with each other.

"It seems kind of cold," said parent Allison Pennell. "My seventh grader was like, 'I've had enough of this place.'"

The school established the rule roughly three

*Continued on Page 15*





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# BEAUTIES BATTLE IN BILLYBURG

It's the wrestling event of the season

BY COLIN MIXSON

What do a bunch of girly  
burlesque dancers have  
in common with “Macho  
Man” Randy Savage? Four  
words — spinning-head-  
lock-elbow-drop.

A band of fearless danc-  
ers are meeting at Public  
Assembly for the “Ultimate  
Pin-down” event on April  
30, where beauty meets  
brawn to find out who is the  
best burlesque-wrestler in  
Brooklyn.

The almost all-female  
fight roster will feature a  
bevy of beautiful dancers,

It's going to be all  
out animal war on  
the humans.

Evil Hate Monkey

as well as a spattering of  
acrobats and circus per-  
formers, who are putting  
their good looks on the line  
in what is expected to be a  
burlesque bloodbath.

“The thing with bur-  
lesque, it takes bravery to  
take off your clothes, but  
it leaves out the violence,”  
said the lovely Rosabelle  
Selavy, professional bur-  
lesque wrestler and event  
organizer. “But I like sex  
and violence — there will  
be some danger for sure.”

Not all of the contenders  
are of the fairer sex, how-  
ever — the devilish Evil  
Hate Monkey will form a  
primate tag team with a  
mystery gorilla fighter to  
take on the lovely Harvest  
Moon and the ferocious Lu-  
cille Ti Amore.

“It's going to be all out  
animal war on the humans,”  
said the corrupt chimp.

The rules are simple; no  
booby trapping, arm twist-  
ing, biting, gum chewing,  
or texting; no weapons and  
absolutely no “stomping”  
on privates, according to  
“Ultimate Pin-down” ref-  
eree Sweet Lorraine. Aside



**BEAUTY, BRAUN, OR BOTH:**  
Burlesque dancers Lucille Ti  
Amore and Rosabelle Selavy  
will not hold back at the “Ulti-  
mate Pin-down” risqué wres-  
tling spectacle at Public As-  
sembly on April 30.

Photos by Alex Colby

real deal, according to host  
James Habacker.

“It's not strictly choreo-  
graphed, there are some  
moves we teach people, but  
each wrestling match is  
different and the perform-  
ers are trying to win,” Ha-  
backer said. “It's not fake  
and it's not setup.”

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from that, a three-second  
pin wins the match.

But don't assume the  
“Ultimate Pin-down” is  
just an all-girls WWF with  
fancy outfits and five-inch  
heels — these fights are the



# How rich! Cyclist gives \$40M to park

BY DANIEL BUSH

A wealthy cyclist will pay the city \$40 million to build an athletics complex featuring a velodrome at Brooklyn Bridge Park — realizing the longtime dream of open space advocates whose hopes were dashed last year when park officials pulled the plug on a modest sports bubble.

Millionaire philanthropist Joshua Rechnittz announced he will donate the eye-opening sum — which is one of the largest ever made to a single park in city history — to cover the costs of a year-round recreational facility on Furman Street near Pier 5.

“We want this to truly be a community endeavor that will add amenities for park users and provide a much needed all-weather sports facility,” said Rechnittz, a grandson of the late investor Robert Heilbrunn and founder of NYC Fieldhouse, an organization that’s spent years searching for a suitable site in the city to build a competitive track cycling arena.

The center’s main feature will be the 200-meter inclined cycling track, equipped to host major races. Plans for the massive building — which is slated to be roughly the size of two football fields — include space for high school, college, and professional sports such as basketball, tennis, and gymnastics, as well as amenities including a public boathouse and bathrooms.

Rechnittz’s field house by the foot of Joralemon Street will replace the proposed sports bubble, which would have been open from December to March, but did not include rest rooms



**EXCITEBIKE:** A bicyclist gave \$40 million to Brooklyn Bridge Park to fund a sports complex with a velodrome. File photo

or locker rooms.

The city secured \$750,000 for the construction of the bubble last August, after the state and Mayor Bloomberg struck a controversial deal to allow luxury housing in the park to pay for its \$16-million annual upkeep. But the bubble plan popped four months later after the city failed to attract a developer to fund the rest of the project.

The project’s collapse infuriated community leaders who have pushed for an indoor recreational complex on the Brooklyn Heights waterfront for the past 30 years. Indeed, the park’s original master plan in 2000 included a sports hub on Pier 5, but the design was ditched in favor of the seasonal structure that the city eventually abandoned.

Park advocates cheered Rechnittz after learning of his enormous donation.

“Anyone who would do this deserves a big salute,” said Judi Francis, the president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Defense Fund. “This is a big step in the right direction, and reinforces what we’ve been saying all along.”

*Continued on Page 10*



**WHEELY GOOD NEWS:** Brooklyn Bridge Park will get a Chelsea Piers-esque recreation center with a velodrome (that’s for racing bikes) near Pier 5 thanks to a huge donation from a single bicycle-loving park backer.



**NO PLACE LIKE HOME:** David Opdyke, Kimberlae Saul, and their kids Zoe and Quinn, must find a new place to live because a law crafted to protect loft-dwellers doesn’t apply to them, a judge ruled. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## LEFT LOFTLESS

### ‘Burgers lose rare live-work spaces on Berry St.

BY AARON SHORT

A law designed to protect loft-dwellers from eviction won’t save the residents of a Williamsburg building because they signed away their rights before the legislation came into effect, a judge ruled Tuesday.

The so-called Loft Law — a state regulation revised two years ago to defend loft residents from eviction — will not protect the tenants of a Berry Street building because

they signed an agreement with their landlord years before the law came into effect promising they would leave by last spring.

But after the Loft Law became the law of the land, tenants at the building between S. Third and S. Fourth streets asked a city panel to let them stay — sparking a 16-month legal war that ended with Appeals Court Justice Ariel Belen’s ruling in favor of their landlord.

“It’s over, it doesn’t matter, the

court system has done its worst and we’re done,” said artist David Opdyke. “All we can do is hope the landlord won’t feel like ripping us to shreds and maybe give us a break on months of back rent.”

The ruling affirms a Brooklyn Supreme Court judge’s decision earlier this month that the Loft Law cannot be applied to long-time tenants who have already promised to move out of live-work spaces.

“The amended Loft Law does not contain any language that directs a retroactive application, thus this 2010 amendment may only be applied prospectively, and cannot affect previously accrued rights,” the Brooklyn Supreme Court ruled.

The state enacted the Loft Law in 1982 to regulate the residential conversion of commercial and manufacturing buildings in Manhattan, but state legislators, led by Assembly Housing Chairman Vito Lopez (D-Williamsburg), amended the legislation in 2010, extending a swath of rights and rental protections to thousands of residents living in illegally converted industrial spaces in Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Bushwick, and Gowanus.

Residents of the seven-story former noodle factory applied for rental protections last summer after then-Gov. Paterson signed

*Continued on Page 19*



**EVICITION NOTICE:** Residents of this Berry Street building must move out by the end of the month. Community Newspaper Group / Aaron Short



# First casualty in War on Brunch

## Greenpoint bistro Lokal hit with summons as conflict escalates

BY AARON SHORT

A Greenpoint restaurant received a shot across the bow in the War on Brunch when city inspectors slapped it with a court summons for serving outdoor diners on Sunday morning.

Department of Consumer Affairs regulators issued a citation to the Lorimer Street bistro Lokal at 9:35 am for violating a little-known rule that bars eateries from operating sidewalk cafes before noon on Sundays.

The violation comes after members of North Brooklyn's Community Board 1 mounted an aggressive front against brunch-serving scofflaws and urged the city to take action against law-breakers.

But the owners of the Nassau Avenue cafe, who will defend themselves and their brunch menu be-



Community Newspaper Group/Aaron Short

**THE GENERAL:** Community Board 1's Tom Burrows has been leading the charge against brunch scofflaws – and he says Lokal is a major target.

fore a judge on June 11, say they are being unfairly targeted.

"In New York everybody is operating their sidewalk cafes before noon," said Lokal co-owner Serkan Uzel. "We're the only ones

so far that got the ticket. We're going to go to court first and we're going to try to solve the problem."

A Department of Consumer Affairs spokeswoman confirmed that Lokal was the only restaurant in Greenpoint and Williamsburg that received a violation last weekend, but noted that Sunday's rainy weather may have deterred other businesses from serving outdoor brunch.

The summons is a victory for CBI's public safety general Tom Burrows, who vowed to shush noisy restaurants and move diners indoors by campaigning against restaurants that serve mimosas, bellinis, and french toast to sidewalk crowds on what some consider a day of rest.

The board, under Burrows's leadership, has pushed back against several popular eateries in-

cluding Five Leaves and Pies 'n' Thighs for installing illegal wooden benches in front of their establishments that encourage customers to mingle outdoors while waiting for tables.

Burrows and other board members say the summons issued to Lokal proves the city is rightfully defending a policy that's on the books.

"If it's a city law, then people should be following it," said Monsignor Joseph Calise, pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and a CBI member.

Some of North Brooklyn's Sunday morning diners have been taken aback by the city's show of force, retreating to their apartments until the afternoon.

"That's a bummer," said Williamsburg resident and avid bruncher Jordan James. "I do think it's sad that it's not happening anymore."



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

**UNDER ATTACK:** Lokal, a Mediterranean bistro, broke the law by serving sidewalk brunch at 9:35 am last Sunday, the city claims.

Elected officials who represent the front lines in the conflict are remaining neutral.

"The law is the law —

but I'm open to having a dialogue as to how the law is written," said Councilman Steve Levin (D-Williamsburg).

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# Motorists: Don't change Fourth Ave.

## Drivers fight Beep's beautification plan

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Bay Ridge motorists drew a line in the asphalt against Borough President Markowitz's plan to rejuvenate Fourth Avenue last week — demanding that the task force assigned to redesigning and beautifying the dangerous roadway keeps its hands off their cherished car lanes.

"It takes me 35 minutes to go from 69th Street to Atlantic Avenue, off-rush hour," griped Community Board 10 member Greg Ahl during an April 18 task force meeting at Our Lady of Angels Church. "Reducing the number of lanes on Fourth Avenue is only going to make it worse."

Markowitz wants to transform Fourth Avenue from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to Atlantic Avenue into a tree-lined stretch replete with street furniture and wider sidewalks and curbs, brick crosswalks and pedestrian walkways that will have space for vendors.

He has enlisted grad students from New York University's Urban Planning program to help him flesh out his vision for the boulevard, where six-lanes transport motorists from Downtown to Sunset Park, then shrink to four lanes between 65th Street and Shore Road.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the six-mile thoroughfare was the third most dangerous road in Brooklyn, tied with Avenue U and Eastern Parkway.

Four pedestrians were killed on the strip between 2008 and 2010, but the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration report did not indicate just where these fatal accidents occurred.

Yet Shore Road resident Allen Bortnick, who tried to get the city to rent him a public parking spot outside



Photo by Elizabeth Graham



Photo by Steve Solomons

of his building earlier this year, said Markowitz's plans for Fourth Avenue will destroy a motorist's day.

"The Department of Transportation has made its mind up to destroy traffic in New York," Bortnick said. "My fear is this is just part of a plan to reduce the number of lanes on a major thoroughfare," Bortnick said. "Beautify the building facades all you want. But keep it curb-to-block, not curb-to-curb."

CB10 member Ann Falutico told task force attendees that any attempt to limit traffic on Fourth Avenue would cause an exodus from New York.

"Creating an environment that is frustrating for drivers does not change things, it does not turn the world around, it just encourages people to move to New Jersey," said Falutico.

Yet not everyone was against reducing traffic on Fourth Avenue.

**LANE RAGE:** Motorists lashed out against Borough President Markowitz's plans to rejuvenate Fourth Avenue this week, fearing the Beep wants to slow down traffic on the popular strip. (Left) An SUV speeds onto Fourth Avenue.

"This is a vision to move forward," said longtime Bay Ridge bicyclist John Murphy. "A lot of people here are looking behind. If you look at Fourth Avenue now and think it's good the way it is, you're kidding yourself."

Project head Carlo Scissura, assured outraged car lovers that no one has decided to reduce traffic on Fourth Avenue.

The proposals for wider curbs and pedestrian walkways were just conversation starters, he said.

"We're at just the beginning of a very long process," Scissura said.

But the city is already taking steps to reduce traffic on Bay Ridge streets feeding into Fourth Avenue.

Last month, CB10 rejected a Department of Transportation proposal to strip away two lanes of traffic on 86th Street between Fourth Avenue and Shore Road.

The city also wanted to ban left turn lanes from Fourth Avenue onto 86th Street, claiming that the change will alleviate traffic congestion.

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**RESCUE ME:** Coney Island sewer worker Dan Luffredo harnesses his strength at the 25th Annual Operations Challenge, where teams of wastewater treatment compete against each other.

# SEWAGE GAMES!

## Sludgemen slug it out in wastewater contest

BY AARON SHORT

It's the wild world of wastewater sports!

Five teams of city sewage workers competed against each other in feats of skill and strength during the 25th Annual Operations Challenge at the Owl's Head wastewater plant on Tuesday to earn bragging rights over their brainy and brawny brethren.

Department of Environmental Protection workers fixed leaky pipes, tested wastewater for pollution, repaired heavy machinery, and showed off how they would rescue team members from confined spaces during the first day of the two-day competition at the Bay Ridge plant.

But Brooklyn's teams endured a frustrating morning.

Owl's Head's "Sludge Fellas, the home team and winner of last year's sewage games, finished the day in fourth place, edged out by the Coney Island "Warriors" and the Jamaica "Sludge Hustlers," who came in third and second, respectively.

The day belonged to the North River "Harlem Pump Trotters," who emerged in the lead and are in a good position to sweep the games with only the sewage trivia

portion remaining on May 1.

It could be a redemptive victory for the Harlem-based sewage workers, whose plant caught fire and

flooded millions of gallons of raw sewage into the city's waterways last July, forcing the closure of several beaches.



**HOLE IN ONE:** Luffredo, a member of the "Coney Island Warriors," sizes up his rivals at the contest.



# Critics blast plans for Plumb Beach

## Say corps wants to add sand before building jetties needed to keep it in place

BY DANIEL BUSH

The Army Corps of Engineers is torpedoing a crucial Plumb Beach rehab project needed to keep the Belt Parkway from falling into the Rockaway Inlet, outraged community leaders claim as they blasted the federal agency's decision to dump tons of sand onto the eroded beach before building the jetties that would prevent the new shoreline from being swept out to sea.

The Army Corps of Engineers will begin replenishing Plumb Beach's eroded coastline this fall, but admitted that the stone jetties that will keep the sand in place, also known as groins, won't be constructed until 2013 — which some residents see as a bone-headed move.

"When they start building the jetties, half of the sand will be back in the bay," Community Board 15 Chairwoman Theresa

Scavo said. "What's going to stop the sand from going back into the water if the groins aren't built yet?"

Anthony Ciorra, the Army Corps's Plumb Beach project manager, said his agency hasn't received the funding to build the groins.

"We're going to need around \$2 million to build the groins," Ciorra said. "But we're confident we will get that funding."

The Corps promised to spend \$5 million on the project, but has only secured \$3 million in federal funding to start the first phase of the rehab, which consists of dredging the Rockaway Inlet and dumping the sand they collect onto Plumb Beach's alarmingly eroded shoreline.

That work is expected to begin this summer, after the horseshoe crab mating season on the beach is over.

Ciorra said that install-



**SWEPT AWAY:** Sheepshead Bay resident Mario Savitzki is worried the Belt Parkway will flood if the Army Corps doesn't restore Plumb Beach as quickly as possible. Photo by Steve Solomonson

ing the jetties and a third stone wall to stave off future erosion won't start until the

feds agree to pay for the rest of the work.

But Ciorra believes the

bulked-up beach should survive — and, more importantly, keep what's left of Plumb Beach intact — until the jetties are put in place.

"There is infrastructure that's at risk here," Ciorra said. "But once the sand is in place there will be protection."

The Corps agreed to bolster Plumb Beach in February, after the city promised to chip in an additional \$2 million to help save the beach.

Elected officials hailed the decision, but some residents said it should have included extra funding to dredge Sheepshead Bay, where sandbars strand boats at low tide.

The Corps restored Plumb Beach in 1992 after a storm swept most of the coastline away, but over the years the sand shifted into the marshes inside Gateway National Recreation Area.

Another massive storm in 2009 whittled the beach down even further, prompting the Corps to attempt to bolster the shoreline with sand bags.

But Plumb Beach doesn't have the Corps full attention right now. Gov. Cuomo announced on April 16 that the state will partner with federal workers and the city to restore a section of Sea Gate's shoreline that's taken a beating in recent years.

Officials said the work is part of a 50-year restoration project in Coney Island that began in 1994 when the Corps extended the W. 37th Street jetty to protect the eroding coastline.

"Our beaches need to be preserved," said Councilman Dominic Recchia (D-Coney Island).

"The whole peninsula will be in much better shape."

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# Fast times at Dewey High

## Recchia flip-flops, now says he wants school to stay open

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Councilman Domenic Recchia, a proud graduate of John Dewey High School, came out swinging for his alma mater during a Department of Education hearing on the Gravesend school's possible closure — three months after he demanded the city gut the failing institution's administration.

In January, Recchia (D-Coney Island) urged the Department of Education to boot longtime Principal Barry Fried, the man the lawmaker said was responsible for killing Dewey's alumni association.

Many felt the councilman's claims were a tacit endorsement of the city's plans to enroll Dewey into the Department of Education's Turnaround Program — where a failing school can receive an influx of federal tax dollars as long as it adopts a new name and fires the principal and half the staff — but Recchia said the exact opposite on Tuesday when he begged Deputy Schools Chancellor March Sternberg to keep Dewey open.

"Let's bring back the school, let's bring back the arts. Let's bring back



Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

**TRUE TO HIS SCHOOL:** Councilman Domenic Recchia is now singing John Dewey High School's praises.

the auto shop," Recchia said as he and 30 Dewey supporters sang the school's praises.

Recchia told Brooklyn Weekly that he never supported the Turnaround plan — he just wanted the Department of Education to get rid of Fried, who resigned last month.

A Department of Education spokesman said that Dewey's new leader, Principal Kathleen Elvin, will remain in place if the city's Panel for Education Policy decides to close the school and rechristen the building 21K415 in exchange for \$1.6 million in federal grants.

Sternberg said Dewey has persistently underperformed in both academics and school safety and would benefit from the Turnaround model. Dewey is on the state's list of chronically low-achieving schools and received Cs on its last three city-issued report cards.

Yet Recchia and other Dewey supporters said the school has had some academic gains since 2009 and blamed Fried for the school's safety problems.

"Damage was done to the school," Recchia said. "Children will be scarred for the rest of their lives. We should keep the staff and give them the chance to work with the new leadership."



Photo by Bryan Bruchman

**LEFT IDLING:** Shore Road resident Allen Bortnick fears he will have a hard time parking his car on the Bay Ridge drag once a major harbor construction project begins.

## Parking pains

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

The city is giving parking spots on Shore Road's clogged curbs the shaft as it moves ahead with a plan to install an inter-borough water pipe.

City dredgers will soon excavate a section of New York harbor to accommodate larger ships as part of a \$250 million project that involves digging up water and sewer lines along Shore Road, said spokeswoman Mercedes Padilla.

Padilla said that the east side of Shore Road, between 83rd and 86th Streets would be the first blocks to be scooped out in July and August.

Area resident Allen Bortnick said the city needs to show drivers some love.

"If they are going to take away parking spaces, they need to replace them with back-in spaces around the construction," he said.



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# 'TRIANGLE' DEFENSE

Plaza foes fight to save hated open space



**SAVE OUR CURB:** James Powell and Noah Griffin protest the city's plan to rip out part of the Putnam Triangle to ease traffic congestion.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

BY DANIEL BUSH

The biggest opponents of a controversial Clinton Hill pedestrian plaza have become the mini-park's staunchest defenders by blasting a city plan to hack away a few feet of the open space to make room for buses.

Critics of the plaza in the Putnam Triangle — a public space where Putnam and Grand avenues converge with Fulton Street — lambasted the Department of Transportation and a neighborhood merchants group late last year for creating the European-style piazza with tables, benches, and plantings.

Now they're furious that neither the city nor the Fulton Area Business Alliance informed them of plans to tear out a corner of the pedestrian plaza so that Downtown-bound B26 buses won't veer into the

oncoming lane and halt traffic while turning from Grand Avenue onto Fulton Street.

"We're tired of being treated as a guinea pig for the Department of Transportation's experiments," said Schellie Hagan, who produced a film chronicling opposition to the plaza.

Many curb cut critics — who initially contested the pedestrian-only plaza at the foot of Putnam Avenue over claims it impedes side street access and came into effect without community input — say it makes more sense to reroute the bus than rip up a portion of the open space less than one year after its renovation.

"The work costs a lot of money at a time when the city is saying they don't have any," said corner cut opponent Joe Gonzalez.

Gonzalez and others want the bus to turn from

Putnam Avenue onto Fulton Street a block before the tiny park, at Downing Street rather than Grand Avenue.

A Department of Transportation spokesman said once the road work is finished, the B26 bus won't have to make such a wide turn to skirt the Putnam Triangle—a maneuver that often obstructs a lane of oncoming, Bedford-Stuyvesant-bound traffic.

The spokesman said a start date for the project hasn't been set and declined to discuss its cost.

Plaza supporters said tweaking its design would ease traffic congestion in the area.

"It makes sense," said Phillip Kellogg, the director of the Fulton Area Business Alliance. "It's a solution to making the turn smoother and it looks like it will do that."

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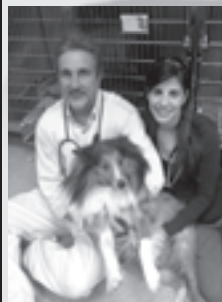
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# City says Lou will get smoother ride

Powsner gets action: Ave. P to be repaved

BY DANIEL BUSH

Legendary 92-year-old BrooklynDaily.com columnist Lou Powsner has pounded the city for letting a pothole-strewn stretch of Avenue P fall into disrepair. This week, he finally received something he's been demanding for years: a smoother ride for his 1997 Mercury Sable.

The Department of Transportation announced this week that it will repave Avenue P between 65th Street and Ocean Parkway — and Powsner couldn't be happier.

"People avoid Avenue P just because of the conditions of the road," said Powsner. "I'm thrilled they're going to fix it."

City officials said workers will resurface the street to cover up a lunar landscape's worth of craters caused by wear and tear from passing vehicles. The strip has been largely unattended — but not unnoticed by Powsner — since 2009.

A Department of Transportation spokesman said the work will take place in May — but wouldn't say how much the project would cost.

Powsner has long complained that the street bangs up his Sable when he drives to Midwood to visit his doctor or grab a bite at the Mirage Diner on Kings Highway.

The road gives him



**THE POWER OF POWSNER:** All it took for the city to finally pave Avenue P was a column by BrooklynDaily.com's Lou Powsner.

headaches and butt-aches every times he rides along it, he claims.

"You'll be driving along at a normal speed, then all of a sudden you're bouncing up and down," the former Coney Island menswear shop owner said.

"It's all rutted. I've called the Councilman David Greenfield's office 36 times in the last year and a half and I never got the courtesy of getting an answer."

A rep for Greenfield (D-Bensonhurst) said the councilman's staff received

Powsner's complaints and forwarded them to the Department of Transportation, but the city won't say if the senior's many grievances — both in person and in print — sparked change.

But the beloved nonagenarian isn't the only one who thinks the city should have rehabbed the riddled roadway years ago.

"It's gotten pretty bad," said Wolf Sender, Community Board 12's district manager.

"This has been a priority for a long time."

## Cyclist

*Continued from page 3*

The city is moving forward with the rest of its plans for Pier 5, which include a regulation-sized soccer field, a playground, promenade, and barbecue station at the southern end of the \$350-million, 85-acre waterfront open space.

The Bloomberg administration agreed to spend

\$55 million, but cut its share down to \$44 million during last summer's bruising fight over housing in the park. The city announced last Thursday that the funding will be restored — but the reversal was largely overshadowed by news of the park's unlikely new benefactor.

Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation President Regina Meyer gushed over the donation — and vowed

to give residents a say in designing the sports space — but steered clear of providing details on the project's timetable.

"I am thrilled at the magnitude and generosity of this gift," Meyer said. "I look forward to working with community and recreation stakeholders to examine this proposal in full and evaluate how it can enhance Brooklyn Bridge Park's legacy."





**BAD MEDICINE:** Harold Gruber and other neighbors are fighting the proposed Kemistry Lounge – and a Brownstone Brooklyn civic group has their back.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

# Bar fight!

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

A proposed nightclub called Kemistry Lounge features some bad elements, according to a civic group representing Brownstone Brooklyn.

A Community Board 6 committee voted unanimously on Monday to reject a liquor license request for a sprawling Flatbush Avenue venue near the Barclays Center after neighbors complained it would bring noise and nuisance.

The proposed music venue, which wants to offer bottle service and dancing, would keep nearby residents awake at all hours and bombard a neighborhood that's already oversaturated with boozy nightlife establishments, committee members said.

"People in the area feel more and more put upon — there's been a cumulative element when it comes to liquor

license applications," said CB6's Gary Reilly.

Neighbors want the club to close no later than midnight — a request Kemistry Lounge owner James Brown says is unfeasible.

Club representatives say the venue won't be a burden on anyone, promising it will serve food along with drinks, approach its neighbors with respect, and use a controversial doorway on a mostly residential block of Prospect Place only during emergencies.

"The community has relevant concerns and they will be addressed," said Peter Flores, a spokesman for the bar.

The 12–0 vote by CB6's public safety, permits, and licenses committee is merely advisory — the State Liquor Authority will make the final decision on whether or not Kemistry Lounge can serve booze.

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**FEATHERED FRIEND:** Artist Lauren Wachtler gives a performance during the Brooklyn Museum's "Firsties" awards dinner as part of the Brooklyn Museum's Brooklyn Artist Ball on April 18.



**ALL SMILES:** (Left) Filmmaker Susan Lazarus and curator Susi Kenna check out a photo installation at the Brooklyn Museum, while Heart of Brooklyn director Ellen Salpeter and Prospect Park Alliance president Emily Lloyd take in the scene (right). Photos by Stefano Giovannini



# Ladies night at the Museum

**BY AARON SHORT**  
The Brooklyn Museum welcomed a diverse crowd of legendary ladies for a special celebration of feminist ideals — and no we're not talking about Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party." Gloria Steinem, Toni Morrison, Connie Chung, and other icons celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Brooklyn Museum's

ground-breaking Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art on April 18, partying until the lights went on at midnight. The event drew scores of boldfaced names including the museum's honorary chairwoman, Marisa Tomei, philanthropist Elizabeth Sackler, and artists including Chicago, Amy Sillman, Liz Magic Laser,

Swoon, and Kate Gilmore, who toasted 16 pioneering women for their leadership in the arts, government, business, and education. Surprises abounded throughout the night, when Sackler announced to the crowd that the Museum had dedicated a new hybrid rose in Steinem's name and that she would endow a permanent feminist art curator at

the museum — the first such position in the country. At about 9 pm, the Museum opened the doors for a W Magazine-sponsored after-party featuring a futuristic green-screen photo booth, glasses of Brooklyn Brewery's bubbly Belgian-inspired ales, and a sound cloud of pop music tunes mixed by DJ of the moment Mia Moretti.

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# Cat hoarder's hissing fit

BY DANIEL BUSH

Now this is a cat fight!

An attempt to save a cat hoarder from being kicked out of her Brighton Beach apartment has ended in a hissing match between the kitty collector and the woman trying to protect her beloved felines.

Brooklyn Umbrella Rescue founder Josie Marrero saved half of the 45 cats that once roamed Barbara Berger's one-bedroom apartment on Coney Island Avenue, but she now says she won't save the rest because Berger has become too difficult to work with.

"She's not making sense anymore," said Marrero, who has taken swipes at Berger on her blog. "I'm done with her."

Marrero agreed to help Berger — who is facing eviction unless she gets rid of all but two of her cats — after reading about her plight on BrooklynDaily.com.

Marrero rescued 18 of the cats, which were given good homes during a week-long



**FED UP:** Josie Marrero said cat hoarder Barbara Berger won't let her save 20 cats remaining in the woman's kitty colony.

adopt-a-thon at the Petco on 86th Street near Stillwell Avenue in March. A dozen of Berger's cats were adopted by neighborhood residents, while the rest were taken in by the North Shore Animal League in Long Island, Marrero said.

But Berger is refusing to part with any more of her cats, even though her landlord has only given her until mid-May to whittle her brood down to two.

Marrero said she can't work with Berger anymore and decided to pull her support.

"I'm frustrated because she doesn't want to give up any more cats," Marrero wrote in her blog. "I can't trust her."

Berger defended her actions — and lashed back at Marrero for publicizing their feud on the Internet.

"She's making me feel like I'm a villain and it's not true," Berger said. "I don't want to give up the cats that I love."

Berger moved into her rent-stabilized apartment, for which she pays just \$153 per month, with 15 cats in 2007. She said the number quickly tripled as she took in strays off the street and accepted kittens from neighbors and friends.

She's insisted all along that she's willing to part with most of the cats, but won't give up her 10 favorites, which have names like Yoshi, Blake and Montgomery.

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## MTA

*Continued from cover*

Carroll Street and Fourth Avenue-Ninth Street.

Repairs on the run-down Smith-Ninth Street station will not be finished until September at the earliest — six months after the MTA said the transportation hub would be operational again and 15 months since it closed for refurbishing.

And when the project wraps up, a beloved five-

stop extension of the G train that brings the Brooklyn Local to Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, and Kensington is slated to reach its last stop — despite outcry from straphangers across the borough.

Delays and possible G train cuts notwithstanding, transit advocates are happy to hear about the MTA's energy-efficient effort.

"Any initiative to reduce their carbon footprint is a step in the right direction," said Cate Contino, a spokeswoman with

Straphangers Campaign.

Ya-Ting Liu, a spokeswoman for Transportation Alternatives, is surprised the agency hasn't been shouting about its solar-powered lubricators from the highest point on the Culver Viaduct.

"It's a good thing for one of the largest transit agencies in the country to be looking into alternative energy sources to keep its own network running," she said. "I wish they were publicizing it more."

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**THEY'RE ALL CHAMPS:** (Above) Tony Biella (shirtless) with undefeated political champ state Sen. Marty Golden. (Top) JL Chico (in firepants) gets pushed around by Rob Comacho. (Right) Vinny Demaro (on top) pins rival Jumbo Joe Gunns (on bottom).

Photos by Steve Solomonson



# Grappling for a good cause

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Lets get ready to ruuummmblle!

Grappling greats from East Coast Professional Wrestling rolled into Bensonhurst last Saturday night, turning Our Lady of Guadalupe School's gym on 73rd Street into a testosterone-laden, muscle-bound, trash-talking school for youngsters who want to become masters of the four-figure leg lock and the back-drop driver.

The event, which fea-

tured World Wrestling Entertainment legend Kevin Nash and heavyweight champ — and Bensonhurst native — Tony Biella, gave wrestling-loving students a chance to shake their ring heroes' hands and watch the matches from just feet away, as well as support their school.

Gary Cassiliano, president of Guadalupe's youth program, organized the school's first fight-night fundraiser with the New Jersey-based Wrestling As-

sociation back in 2010.

The event was so popular that the wrestling night has become a regular event, Cassiliano said.

"We do it three to four times a year," he said.

"The entertainment is fantastic. We bring in big wrestlers, and the kids have a blast."

"It's a real family event," he said.

Money raised from the wrestling night will go to the youth program and into making repairs on the

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on 15th Avenue between 72nd and 73rd streets, Cassiliano explained.

Fans can look forward to the next wrestling night in just a few months, Cassiliano explained.

"We like to build up the suspense, so people look forward to it," said Cassiliano. "When it comes around, you can see all the excited looks on the kids faces."

"It's a tremendous evening, and its all for a good cause," he said.

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## JoePa

*Continued from cover*

munities, she explained. Paterno may have done great things in Pennsylvania, but he did nothing in Brooklyn, Scavo claimed.

"What kind of impact did he have here?" Scavo said. "His career was at Penn State. The street renaming should take place in Pennsylvania."

But the Hall of Famer affectionately known as "JoePa" wasn't the only person who got snubbed.

The community board also unanimously rejected proposals to rename streets after Rabbi Samuel Fink, the longtime leader of Young Israel of Bedford Bay on Brown Street, and Daniel Sabatino — a former gov-

ernor of the Kiwanis Club's Brooklyn chapter, Elks Lodge member and owner of Sabatino Funeral Home on Avenue U in Gravesend.

Scavo said that the city has accepted fewer and fewer street renaming recommendations ever since Councilmembers were vilified for rejecting a proposal to rename a Bedford-Stuyvesant street in honor of black activist Sonny Carson in 2007.

Paterno went to Good Shepherd School in Marine Park and worked as an usher at Ebbets Field.

He won a record 409 college football games over 46 seasons with the Pen State Nittany Lions before the 85-year-old was forced to retire in the wake of a child sex scandal involving one of his longtime coaches.



# Pfizer pfinally pflees

BY AARON SHORT

Pfizer sold its last remaining stake in Williamsburg last week, officially ending the pharmaceutical giant's decades-long run in North Brooklyn and putting two large lots in play — potentially for residential development.

Pfizer sold four acres of land near Wallabout Street to a newly formed investment group with a background in residential and mixed use development that's operating under the name 306 Rutledge Street II, LLC, according to the medicine maker.

"We are very excited about this project and the benefits it will bring to the neighborhood Pfizer called home for so many years," said Pfizer spokesman Chris Loder. "We are also pleased that the sale of these remaining parcels is a very positive step forward in our long-standing efforts to achieve a productive reuse for the property that will ultimately benefit the community."

The buyers registered



**PFAREWELL:** Pfizer, the maker of Viagra, has completed its pullout of Williamsburg by selling this Southside lot.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

a limited liability corporation with the Department of State on April 12, but have not come forward publicly with their plans.

Their attorney, Steven Barshov, said his clients have not yet told him the specifics of their proposals for the two sites, but said they would likely seek to rezone the industrial properties for residential use.

The sale comes after a coalition of housing organi-

zations floated a \$10 million bid for the land in hopes of converting the plots into hundreds of below-market-rate apartments.

The housing groups issued no statements about the Pfizer sale, and calls to losing bidders including St. Nick's Alliance, Los Sures, and Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration were not returned.

The properties went on the market

last December, 10 months after Pfizer sold its former Flushing Avenue pharmaceutical plant to Acumen Capital Partners, and four years after the drug company closed its factory and laid off 600 workers.

The sale fully severs the Manhattan-based drug corporation's ties with Williamsburg, where the brand got its start in 1849 as a family business launched by two cousins.

## No hugs

*Continued from cover*

months ago after a sixth grader told teachers a hug from an older student made her feel uncomfortable, parents said.

Kids claim the rule actually came into effect after a gaggle of students began "group hugging" in the hallways, which blocked other children on the way to class.

The hug ban prompted protests and some eye-roll-

ing from middle schoolers, who said the too-strict rule stomps on their ability to express themselves — especially after being forced to wear uniforms last year.

"It's silly," said parent Laura Sainz. "If my son feels uncomfortable he can say it — there's no need for a rule."

The ban on public displays of affection prompted some rebel huggers, who embraced in protest. Some of those kids got recess detention, students said.

"It's ridiculous; we do it anyway," said one student.

Next year, the school's roughly 300 middle schoolers will move from their current home at the Bishop Ford High School building on 19th Street near Prospect Park West to the Immaculate Heart of Mary School — a larger facility roughly 10 blocks away.

It's unclear if the ban on hugs will apply at a building that simply has more space for canoodling than Bishop Ford's narrow hallways.

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# NAZARETH IS SAVED

## Martha Stewart's former CEO pulls embattled school back from the brink

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Nazareth High School has been saved — and it has Martha Stewart Living to thank for its survival.

Sharon Patrick, the former CEO of the lifestyle guru's magazine and television empire and the aunt of a teacher at the embattled 50-year-old Catholic institution, offered Nazareth High School a \$500,000 loan.

The loan allowed the school to meet fundraising goals set by the Brooklyn Diocese to remain open, school guidance counselor Nancy Robert said.

"We are just very, very happy," said Roberts, who led the effort to keep Nazareth open.

"The board came through and has been working on the development of the school's business plan."

The Diocese demanded that Nazareth enroll at least 80 students for the fall semester — the school ultimately enrolled 81 — create a sustainable business plan for the future, and raise over \$700,000, most of which came from Patrick's loan.

Patrick is very close to Stewart and drew up the business plan that turned the one-time caterer into a household name. Patrick ran Stewart's company in 2004 after the decorating icon was sentenced to five months in prison for lying to detectives investigating



Photo by Paul Martinika

**RESCUED:** Nazareth High School in Flatbush will not close thanks to a last-minute donation, so Lament Fraser (right), who will graduate this year, won't be a member of the last senior class, and its girls' basketball team, led by Brianna Sidney (far right), will play again.

claims that she had dabbled in insider trading.

Martha Stewart's Living boasted a magazine circulation of more than two million in 2011.

Once Nazareth High School reached its fundrais-



Photo by Paul Martinika



Photo by Denis Gostey

ing goal, the Diocese gave its new principal four years to show that it could be solvent, Robert said.

The remarkable turnaround furthered the Cinderella story surrounding the small school, where 98 percent of its student body graduates and 96 percent of its graduates attend college.

The school counts actor William Forsythe and former Knicks player Stewart Granger among its alumni.

Teachers and students staged a walkathon, held a bake sale, and sold T-shirts, but raised a little over \$200,000 before Patrick's donation, according to the New York Post.

Councilman Jumaane Williams (D-Flatbush) said he was impressed with how the community joined together to save the school.

"For the many who thought its closure was ensured, this is proof positive of the power people possess when they band together and are committed to the right cause," he said.

After the six week roller-coaster ride where they didn't know if the school would be open in September, Nazareth teachers say they're glad they can finally focus on educating students.

"It's been very stressful," said Monique Fisher, a math teacher at the school and a 1982 graduate. "Now I can finally go back to teaching."

## Field house

*Continued from cover*

Yet the Comptroller's office said that Parks Department officials were the ones who goofed.

The agency was supposed to hold a citywide bid search for a qualified crew to install the project's highly-technical heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, but decided to give the job to T. Moriarty and Sons, one of the construction crews al-

ready working on the project, the spokesman said.

The Comptroller's Office blocked the project's funding until a proper bidding process could begin, the spokesman said.

Jeffrey admitted his agency's mistake to members of the Marine Park Civic Association last week.

"There's fine language that indicates we should have gone to bid instead of assigning the work to an existing contractor," Jeffrey said. "One of the chal-

lenges with going to bid is the length of the process. It would throw us back another six to nine months, but we already have Moriarty down there on site and he was proven to be a very qualified contractor."

Jefferies told Association members that he expects work on the community center to resume in May.

The six months of work left on the project should be completed sometime in November, he said.

Community leaders

were surprised that the city was taking so long — and spending so much money — to create a one story building that's essentially a community room with a toilet

"At this moment we don't have any faith," said Barusso. "We hope that Commissioner Jeffrey has the know-how to get it done. But I don't have faith in Parks."

"If May comes and we see work being done then our faith will be restored. If not, I don't think there

will be any faith left."

Others scoffed at the project's hefty price tag.

"The building is in the neighborhood of \$5,000 per usable square foot," said community activist John Manzola.

"The cost of building a skyscraper in Manhattan would be cheaper per square foot and, in this case, we didn't have to buy the land!"

"Who's watching the money?" he asked.

"Fidler gets the money, drops it into the Parks De-

partment's lap, and the department just lets it ride. Nobody's watching procedure," he said.

There have been no working bathrooms in Marine Park since the project began in 2008 — forcing park-goers to use toilet trailers brought to the park.

The project will be named for beloved civic leader Carmine Carro, a former civic leader who had pushed for a new park house before his death in 2005.





**THE RIGHT TOOLS:** (Above) Paul Leung wielded a broom at the spring cleaning. (Center) A teenage sweeping squad charges down 18th Avenue. (Right) Kiddies chip in. Photos by Steve Solomonson



## Kids help spruce up Bensonhurst

BY DANIEL BUSH

Cleaning up Brooklyn was all in a day's work.

More than 100 youngsters joined Assemblyman William Colton (D-Bensonhurst) on April 21 to sweep up 86th Street between 18th and 23rd avenues, and remove garbage from a trash-strewn stretch of 18th Avenue between Bath Avenue and 82nd Street.

Students from several neighborhood groups, including the Midwood High School Environmental Club, Youth Action Team, Our Lady of Grace Boy Scouts Troop, and the United Chinese Association of Brooklyn pitched in to help Colton beautify the neighborhood.

"I continue to be proud and amazed by the commit-

ment of our neighborhood's young people," said Colton, who's organized similar cleanups on Kings Highway and Avenue U. "They understand that keeping our neighborhood clean keeps our quality of life great."

The city supplied shovels, rakes, and gloves to participants who sacrificed their Saturday morning to scoop up cigarette butts,

bottles, plastic wrappers, and other debris from bus stops and gutters.

"That's what happens when people litter," said Steve Chung, the president of the United Chinese Association.

"The kids learned that if you don't get together and clean up you end up living in a dirty environment. Nobody wants that."

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# St. Anselm's Church celebrates 90 years

## Revelers raise cash at birthday bash

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Parishioners of Saint Anselm's Church raised a little hell on April 20 as they danced and dined the night away while marking their beloved congregation's 90th birthday.

More than 300 congregants kicked up their heels at Gargiulo's Restaurant on West 15th Street in Coney Island to commemorate the milestone, as well as the 60th anniversary of St. Anselm's church building, which sits on 82nd Street between Third and Fourth avenues.

The dinner dance capped off a year of celebration at the church that included retreats and special events, said Monsignor John Maloney, the church's pastor.

"It was a time to celebrate what the parish has been and where the parish is going," Maloney said.

And the congregation's come a long way: worshippers banded together in 1922, but only had enough money to build the school building. Congregants held services inside the school until they could save up enough money to build the church building in 1953.

Besides honoring St. Anselm's storied history in the neighborhood, three parishioners were also celebrated for their contributions to the church: Third Avenue Merchants president Robert Howe, who received an award for community service, Saint Anselm's science teacher Eileen Downey, who took home an education award, and Pastoral Planning Council Co-Founder Lynn Savage, who earned the parish service award.

Howe humbly ac-



**PRAISE THE LORD:** (Above) Saint Anselm's parishioner Barbara Cirruzzo dances her heart out at Gargiulo's during the church's 90th birthday bash. (Right) Bob Howe shows off his Community Service Award while (below) Lynn Savage receives her reward for her service to the church.

Photos by Steve Solomonson



cepted the honor, but said the congregation should receive all the praise.

"Saint Anselm's deserves

the credit for being a vital institution and an essential component in Bay Ridge life," he said.



## Jeffries-Barron report card

Longtime Rep. Ed Towns's decision to retire after nearly 30 years cleared the way for a Democratic showdown between Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Fort Greene) and Councilman Charles Barron (D-Canarsie). Both men are expected to do well in their home neighborhoods, meaning the race could be decided by voters in Southern Brooklyn, which was added to the district this spring. For anyone playing catchup, here's a quick primer on the candidates, and their thoughts on Walmart, which wants to open in East New York, a key issue in the campaign.

— **Daniel Bush**

### Hakeem Jeffries

**From:** Crown Heights

**High school and college:** Midwood High School, SUNY Binghamton, Georgetown University and New York University.

**Job before politics:** Full-time attorney.

**Biggest gripe about Congress:** Partisan gridlock.

**Top priorities for the district:** Creating housing and jobs.

**Position on Walmart coming to Brooklyn:** "I'm not convinced that Walmart is appropriate for [the borough] at this time."

### Charles Barron

**From:** Manhattan

**High school and college:** GED and the City College of New York.

**Job before politics:** Owned a leadership training company.

**Biggest gripe about Congress:** "We bailed out crooks on Wall Street, yet we don't have enough money for our children to go to college, or get health care and jobs."

**Top priorities for the district:** Creating industrial and manufacturing jobs.

**Position on Walmart coming to Brooklyn:** Vocal opponent of Walmart setting up shop in the borough.



# WAR FOR THE SOUTH

## Insiders: Right-leaning areas will make or break campaigns

BY DANIEL BUSH

The Democratic primary between Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Fort Greene) and Councilman Charles Barron (D-Canarsie) could come down to voters living in Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Marine Park, and Bergen Beach — conservative neighborhoods that were added to the expansive Central Brooklyn district last month.

Political insiders say the candidates battling to replace Rep. Ed Towns, who announced his retirement earlier this month after nearly 30 years in Congress, are expected to carry their home turfs and run competitive campaigns in Bedford-Stuyvesant, but whoever picks up more votes in these mostly white, right-leaning portion Southern Brooklyn neighborhoods could win the race.

"Southern Brooklyn is going to make the difference in this election," Canarsie District Leader Frank Seddio said.

Neither black candidate is known in Southern Brooklyn, where Democrats tend to vote more conservatively than elsewhere in the borough.

When borough congressional maps were redrawn last month as part of the decennial redistricting process, Towns received neigh-



**HEADING SOUTH:** Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries is vying to replace Rep. Ed Towns.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

borhoods once represented by Reps. Bob Turner and Anthony Weiner, who stepped down in disgrace following a sexting scandal. Weiner's former district, which includes Bergen Beach and Marine Park, is mostly Democratic, but tends to vote Republican.

In 2010, Rep. Jerrold Nadler — whose district includes a swath of real estate that stretches from the Upper West Side to Seagate and Brighton Beach — neighborhoods Jeffries and Barron are now fighting for — lost those communities to his Republican opponent Susan Kone. Kone won 60 percent of the ballots cast in the

area — and also triumphed in the assembly district that includes Manhattan Beach. Nadler was still victorious, however, gaining steam in the northern parts of his district.

Jeffries, a Crown Heights native, said he's focused on winning over swing voters in Southern Brooklyn's "battleground communities."

"I've spent an increasingly significant amount of time in the southern portion of the district," Jeffries said.

The Thomas Jefferson Democratic Club, Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island), and other elected officials are already lining up behind the more moderate Jeffries, who they say is a better fit for the district than Barron — a bombastic orator known for his controversial speeches on race and Israel.

Barron downplayed Jeffries endorsements, and says he often fights for neighborhoods such as Coney Island.

"This is not my first time in Coney Island — I've been out there before," said Barron, who voted against the city's rezoning of the People's Playground in 2009.

"I don't need to come up with some slick way to get votes. I just have to present myself to these communities, he said."

But Seddio said Barron's popularity in Brownsville

might not translate in Bergen Beach.

"If he's planning to change his rhetoric I don't think that anybody's going to be fooled," said Seddio, who's backing Jeffries. "Charles has made many, many remarks over the years that people consider offensive. I don't think he can get around that."

Barron nearly beat Towns in a three-way primary in 2006, thanks to a strong showing in Central Brooklyn. But he only captured a paltry 31 percent of the vote in Democrat Assemblyman Alan Maisel's district, which includes Marine Park, Mill Basin and Bergen Beach.

Barron raised \$132,000 for the 2006 campaign. This time around he's only raised \$42,089, according to campaign finance records.

Jeffries hauled in \$237,587 in the last three months, and has just under \$400,000 cash on hand.

Political analysts said the Fort Greene pol's fundraising advantage makes him the odds-on favorite in the June 26 primary.

"Barron has the populist argument and Jeffries has the money," said Hank Sheinkopf, who worked for Towns before the veteran lawmaker announced he would not seek reelection. "You have to give Jeffries the edge."

## Loftless

*Continued from page 3*

the bill. But the building's owner, Mona Gora-Friedman went to court in January 2011 demanding their immediate eviction.

Tenants charged that Gora-Friedman, who bought the property for \$25 million in 2005, harassed them and cut off their water in an attempt to force them out. They stopped paying rent during the court fight, but now must pack up their

things and leave one of the few remaining artists lofts in a neighborhood where live-work spaces have been gradually squeezed out by luxury residences.

"We all live and work here and we cannot afford a workspace that is some-

where else from our live space," said tenant Andrea Haenggi, a choreographer. "There aren't really any live-work spaces left in New York."

The decision comes as state Assembly members proposed several bills in-

tended to strengthen rental protections by reducing the amount of rent increases from 20 percent to 10 percent after vacancies.

Tenants in the Berry Street building say that legislators must also draft a bill fixing the amended Loft Law.

"The judge's decision clearly states that he did so because the Loft Law does not specifically tell him not to," said Kimberlae Saul, who claims a re-worded piece of legislation would give her and other tenants a "slam dunk case."



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## ► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

## OLD MILL BASIN OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 4/29, 1-4PM

**1760 EAST 53RD ST. (Bet. Ave. O & Fillmore)**

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**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS**

Index No.: 18472/09

**SUMMONS**

Plaintiff Designates Kings County as the Venue

The Basis for Venue: Plaintiff Resides in Kings County

Plaintiff Resides at 36 Beacon Court Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229

Thomas M. Dewitt, Plaintiffs, -against- Francis McCaffery, Thomas McCaffery, by John Ray, Esq., his conservator, and Kathleen Daly, aka Kathlen Daly Bennett Defendants.

**TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of Appearance, on the Plaintiffs' attorney within Twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the date of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint, plus interest and costs from date of the occurrence.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York July 22, 2009

**STEVEN SMITH, ESQ.**

Attorney for the Plaintiff  
2402 Gerritsen Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11229

(718) 743-5800

Defendants Address:

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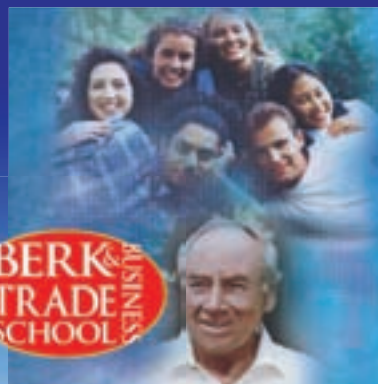
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