

## BROOKLYN

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## Water tower to shimmer in DUMBO

#### BY NATALIE O'NEILL

An artist is turning an underappreciated Brooklyn icon into a statement about finding beauty in gritty urban environments.

Tom Fruin's "Watertower" a glittering 14-foot Plexiglas-andsteel sculpture shaped like the common rooftop utility fixtures - will light up the DUMBO skyline beside the Manhattan Bridge starting next week.

"I want this one to be a colorful kaleidoscope," he said.

> Fruin — who best known for weaving discarded heroin bags into a quilt - will mount the vibrant installation on the roof of the building at 20 Jay St., a 12-story struc-

ture that houses his art studio.

The piece will light up at dusk for one year and was paid for, in part, through a grant from the Brooklyn Arts Council.

Visitors aren't allowed inside the structure — but there will be a stunning view of it from the Manhattan Bridge, Fruin said.

## SOUNDS GROSS, TASTES GREAT



POTATO PIZZA?: (From left) Mac Pohanka, Peter Entner, Glen Hudson, and Jesus Agosto show off their pride and joy - a baked potato pizza - at Pete Zazz. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## Brooklyn's most daring and delicious dishes

#### BY SARAH ZORN

It's not quirk for quirk's sake — it tastes amazing, too.

Don't let a weird list of ingredients keep you from missing out on some of the most inventive and surprising meals that Brooklvn has to offer.

From brocolli tacos to beet and dill ice cream, creative and courageous chefs across the borough are breaking new ground with totally off-the-wall dishes that set themselves apart from the culinary pack.

"We didn't want to be like everyone else," said Pete Entner, co-owner of the cutting edge Crown Heights pizzeria Pete Zazz, which serves pies topped with baked potatoes and fried chicken, among other offerings.

Continued on Page 17

## Field house flop

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

Construction will resume on the long-delayed Marine Park Field House this week after Comptroller John Liu broke down and allowed the Parks Department to work with a contractor he claimed it illegally hired.

Work on Brooklyn's

most expensive green latrine stopped more than six months ago when Liu claimed Parks officials didn't conduct a citywide search for a qualified crew to install the building's highly technical heating and air conditioning sys-

Continued on Page 16



**GET A ROOM:** Neighbors say the alley behind Key Food is a meet-up spot for public sex.

## Going to the mattresses

#### BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Horny Park Slopers and drug users have turned a secluded nook behind a popular grocery store into a makeshift bedroom for public sex — and neighbors want them to get lost before a grade school opens

Brooklynites who live

near the Key Food on Fifth Avenue and Baltic Street have discovered dozens of condom wrappers, a dilapidated mattress, and even couples mid-romp on Gregory Place, a narrow, seldom-used street behind the shop.

"It's an isolated spot for sex and other unsavory activities," said neighbor Emilia Sherifova, who runs a blog documenting the problem.

The sex nook is also a popular area for drug use and a dumping grounds for trash, residents said.

"I've seen condoms everywhere — and people Continued on Page 16

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## Brownstone savior Everett Ortner dead at 92

#### BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Everett Ortner, the trailblazing Park Slope preservationist credited with saving Brownstone Brooklyn's namesake architecture from the wrecking ball, died last week after health complications caused by a fall. He was 92.

Ortner spearheaded a movement in the late 1960s to restore then-dilapidated brownstones in an era when it was more popular to tear them down and convert them into brick rooming houses.

"He had no fear of what other people thought," said Dexter Guerrieri, a longtime friend and colleague. "He knew how to rally the community."

The strong-willed Park Sloper — who helped found the Brownstone Revival Coalition — was a major force in convincing banks to grant mortgage loans to residents of brownstones, which were then considered slums, Guerrieri said.

In 1968, owners of brownstones could get federal subsidies to help convert their buildings into new brick ones — which made giving out loans in Park Slope unattractive to banks.

"The progressive thinking back then was, 'Better spend money on new brick houses than these decrepit old buildings,'" Guerrieri said.



**HISTORY HERO:** Everett Ortner, a legendary Park Slope preservationist, died last week.

Courtesy Dexter Guerrieri

But Ortner disagreed — and he wasn't afraid to say so. He organized a community meeting with bank officers to show the growing interest in saving the buildings, and eventually convinced them that Park Slope was a worthwhile investment.

Ortner bought his home on Berkeley Place for roughly \$32,500 in 1963 and lived there with his wife Evelyn — who was also an influential brownstone booster — until she died six years ago. The New York Times later ran

a piece called "The Couple Who Saved Park Slope" that dubbed them "the original gentrifiers."

Ortner was also a big force behind the creation of Park Slope's historic district in 1973, which now protects the neighborhood from out-of-character development.

That's part of why modern-day preservationists call him a visionary of

"He really was a pioneer," said Peter Bray, a preservationist and Park Slope Civic Council member.



**EVERETT-LASTING:** Park Slope's scenic blocks – now part of the city's biggest historic district – still exist thanks largely to the work of Everett Ortner

File photo by Michael Short



**BIG WIN:** The Brooklyn Public Library's main branch came out on top in a preservation competition, netting the beloved book depot \$250,000 for repairs.

## History victory for Brooklyn

#### BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Two ailing historic buildings will get hundreds of thousands of dollars for renovations after placing at the top of a citywide preservation contest.

The Brooklyn Public Library's main branch won first prize, besting big name rivals across the river such as the Guggenheim Museum to snag \$250,000 to repair its broken-but-beautiful front doors.

"It's important not only for the library — but for Brooklyn," said Brooklyn Public Library spokeswoman Sacha Thompson, whose employer will use the cash to fix revolving doors that have been out of commission for several months

Park Slope's Congregation Beth Elohim synagogue got the second-most votes in the Partners in Preservation contest, snagging \$250,000 to fix its boarded-up stain glass windows as part of a bigger restoration project that includes repairing its aging roof and weathered facade.

"We're thrilled," said Cindy Greenberg, the director of the house of worship on Garfield Place at Eighth Avenue. "It's amazing we beat some of New York's finest institutions."

Both buildings received about eight percent



**CASH FLOW:** Congregation Beth Elohim in Park Slope received the second-most votes in the American Express-sponsored contest, and will also be awarded \$250,000.

of total votes in the competition, which is sponsored by the credit card company American Express.

Brooklynites cast online ballots for their favorite preservation projects, which included a proposal to bring the B&B Carousell back to its original home in Coney Island and a pitch to construct a bulkhead at the Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center.

Other prize winners in the competition include a botanical garden and a museum in the Bronx.

Some additional cash will go to projects that will be chosen by preservation experts and contest organizers in June.

## Warehouse to playhouse

### St. Ann's will get historic digs in controversial city plan

#### BY AARON SHORT

DUMBO's historic Tobacco Warehouse will become a playhouse under a new deal that will keep a beloved avante-garde venue on Water Street by allowing private development on parkland.

St. Ann's Warehouse will build its new home inside the landmarked shell of a Civil War-era building that had been a federally protected park until 2010, when the city controversially redrew zoning maps in an attempt to remove it from the National Parks Service's control — a move that resulted in a lawsuit by opponents.

But the new plan exchanges the lost parkland at the Tobacco Warehouse with more than an acre of city-owned asphalt under the Manhattan Bridge.

Mayor Bloomberg said the agreement — which paves the way for a new \$15-million performance venue and 38,000-square feet of green space beneath the bridge — will allow the Civil War-era building to be preserved and reused for the community's benefit.

"Brooklyn Bridge Park has quickly become woven



**DRAMA IN DUMBO:** St. Ann's Warehouse, known for its cutting-edge theater, will move to the Civil War-era Tobacco Warehouse under a city proposal that critics say gives public land over to a private company.

into the fabric of the neighborhood and this expansion will make it an even more invaluable community resource," he said.

For the deal to be finalized, state legislators must pass a law permitting the development of the Tobacco Warehouse and the adjoining Empire Stores — an historic warehouse built between Old Dock Street and Main Street in 1885 that is slated to be converted into

a retail and commercial facility.

Brooklyn Bridge Park planners hope transforming Empire Stores into a Chelsea Market-style shopping center will help fund the green space — but that won't happen until the National Parks Service signs off the plan.

Critics have long complained that handing over the Tobacco Warehouse to a private theater company would be an encroachment on public space — going so far as to file suit in 2010 alleging that the city illegally rezoned the Water Street site and awarded it to the world-renowned theater with the state's backing.

"It's atrocious that there is a settlement — it's a giveaway of the only real parkland for private development," said the DUMBO Neighborhood Alliance's Doreen Gallo. "It's a transparent land grab and it's a bad deal — they didn't get anything for it. They gave away sacred historic sites."

But other opponents say they have come to accept the new agreement.

"At the end of the day, everyone came together and agreed on the importance of process. All of the state and federal legal protections for parks and historic sites will be respected," said Peg Breen, president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy. "All appropriate public process will be followed."

St. Ann's will renovate the Tobacco Warehouse, constructing an enclosed theater inside the aging brick walls after the state

Continued on Page 19

## Ferry fairs well, needs big boats

#### BY AARON SHORT

They're going to need some bigger boats.

New York Waterway is calling in an armada of larger ships to transport greater numbers of seafarers across the East River to accommodate swelling crowds on summer weekends.

The city-subsidized service had room for 149 commuters at a time, but the new fleet of ships shuttling between Williamsburg, Greenpoint, DUMBO, and Manhattan on weekends more than doubles capacity to 399 passengers.

The new boats will take advantage of a renovated

landing at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1 — potentially reducing delays on the open

"The larger vessels and other improvements will make sure more New Yorkers and tourists can get wherever they want to go," said Mayor Bloomberg.

Ferry officials also changed the schedule this summer, extending week-day service beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 8:45 pm. On weekends, three of the yacht-like cruisers will run every 45 minutes from 9:35 am to 9:30 pm with a stopover at Governors Island

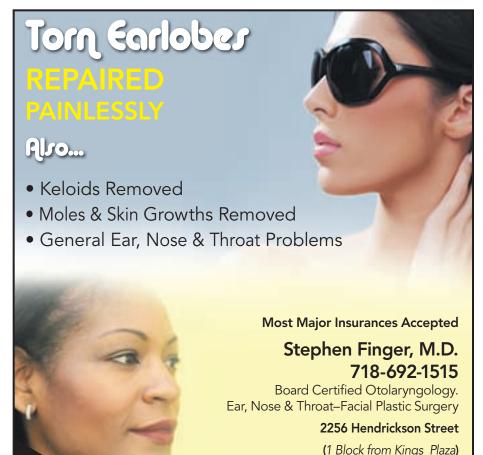
"We are thrilled we are



**MAKING A SPLASH:** The ferries that shuttle passengers between DUMBO, Williamsburg, Greenpoint, and Manhattan are so popular that operators got larger boats for busy summer weekends.

able to provide our customers with this enhanced service," said Paul Goodman, CEO of Billybey Ferry Company, which operates the East River Ferries. "With

the new ferry landing, fleet of larger vessels, and recent addition of on-board concessions from local vendors, we know that this summer Continued on Page 19



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**BENCH WARFARE:** A Bay Ridge businessman says he will cover the cost of tearing out two street seats – but the neighborhood group responsible for sidewalks on Fifth Avenue won't let him.

## Merchant: I'll pay to move illegal benches

#### BY WILL BREDDERMAN

A merchant who claims he has a distaste for street vendors will pay to remove illegal benches someone bolted onto Fifth Avenue to displace a gyro cart — but his offer is being ignored by the group responsible for street furniture in the area.

Pharmacy owner Habib Joudeh says he thinks street meat sellers dirty up the sidewalk — but he sympathized with the uprooted cart workers.

"No one has the right to take the law into his own hands," said Joudeh, who owns Pharmacy on Fifth more than 15 blocks from the corner where the benches forced the Middle Eastern Halal Cart to relocate from a popular selling spot back in March.

"The carts are licensed. They're legally there," he said.

Yet Joudeh claims Patrick Condren, the manager of the 86th Street Business Improvement District — which is responsible for placing and maintaining street furniture on the business strip — ignored Joudeh when he offered the \$425 the group said was needed to have the benches removed.

"To resolve this issue, I said 'I'll put up the money right now," said Joudeh, who claims he offered Condren both cash and a check, but received no response.

But Condren denied ever citing a price for pulling out the benches — and declared that his group was done dealing with the issue.

"We're not talking about benches anymore," Condren said. "We're moving on."

Joudeh heard about the street seller's plight when Middle Eastern Halal Cart workers came to the Arab American Association of New York — where he serves as vice president — asking for the group's assistance.

The Arab American Association of New York decided not to do anything about the benches, which have become weapons in the ongoing war between brick-and-mortar



**TURF WAR:** Sammy Kassen's food cart was displaced by mysterious benches.

businesses and rolling entrepreneurs.

The mismatched street seats were put near 86th Street under the cover of darkness on March 22, knocking the Middle Eastern Halal Cart off its usual perch.

Sammy Kassen, the Middle Eastern Halal Cart's manager, suspected that a group of Fifth Avenue merchants he has had ongoing problems with — who are all members of the 86th Street Business Improvement District — installed the benches.

The businessmen denied any wrongdoing.

No one has claimed responsibility for the street seats' forced migration so far.

A store owner near 87th Street said one of the benches was removed from in front of his business, but said he didn't know who uprooted it and brought it closer to 86th Street.

The city has repeatedly said that the 86th Street Business Improvement District was responsible for tearing out the benches.

Yet Condren claims that 86th Street Business Improvement District rules prevent him from spending money to remove seats that it didn't install.

## That's it! Storobin wins

#### BY DANIEL BUSH

Political neophyte David Storobin grabbed a 16vote lead over Councilman Lew Fidler as the Board of Elections ended its final recount of the incredibly close March 20 special election to fill a state senate seat abandoned by prison-bound expol Carl Kruger — but the newcomer will only spend a whopping three weeks in Albany.

Board of Elections spokeswoman Valerie Vazquez said the election results should be certified sometime next week.

"We're hoping for Tuesday," she said.

The new Republican state senator is urging the city to certify the results sooner so he can go to Albany before the 2012 state senate session ends on June 21.

"Now that the recount has been completed, the Board of Elections must certify this election," Storobin spokesman David Simpson said.

Fidler (D-Marine Park) conceded the election on Thursday, assuring sup-



THE WINNER: David Storobin. File photo by Steve Solomonson

ports that the loss will not end his political career.

"I guess I am simply not destined to be the mayor of Mooseport," he said.

It's been one heck of a roller-coaster ride for the two candidates.

Storobin was up by 120 votes on election night, but his lead shrank to just three votes after several hundred absentee ballots and affidavits were tallied.

Both sides contested roughly 300 ballots in court, and Fidler took an 87-vote lead after most of those votes were counted. But Storobin again jumped ahead — by a slim 27-vote margin — two weeks later after a judge ordered the city to count 119 ballots Fidler claimed the Sovietborn attorney's campaign obtained illegally.

The city ordered a final winner-take-all hand recount since the results in Brooklyn's version of Florida's Bush vs. Gore election were so close.

But if Storobin is sent to Albany, he won't make a big impact up there: the state senate's legislative session ends in three weeks — and Kruger's old stomping grounds will be wiped off the map at the end of the

State lawmakers approved new political maps that divvied Kruger's district up between two borough senators and a new "Super Jewish" district that encompasses Borough Park, Midwood, and Homecrest.

The race started last year after Kruger pleaded guilty to accepting \$1 million in bribes. He was sentenced to seven years in prison earlier this month.

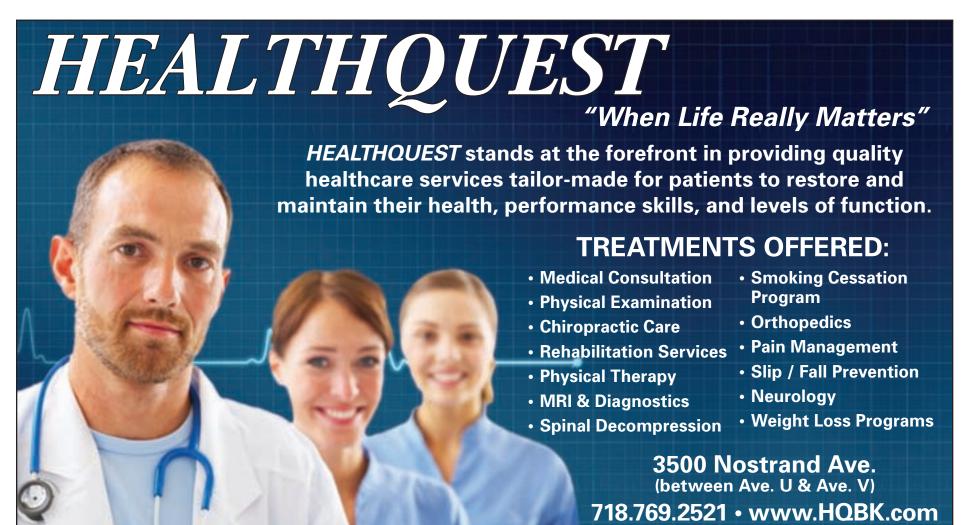


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## BROOKLYN WEEKLY, JUNE 3, 2012

PAAAABST: Kate Hepburn and Benjamin Caldwell fuel up on some Pabst Blue Ribbon at the Trash Bar on May 27, before joining the zombie horde as it lurched its way up Bedford Avenue to Mc-Carren Park (below). Photos by Stefano Giovannini



## Williamsburg is undead

#### Zombies invade nabe in search of Pabst Blue Ribbon

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

It's difficult to tell how many people showed up for the "NYC Zombie Crawl" on May 27, but when confronted with three city blocks jam-packed with the moaning undead, who's really counting?

The NYC Zombie Crawl, now in its ninth year of bringing a horde of beer-craving ghouls to Williamsburg watering holes, has — like any good apocalyptic plague should — grown with every new incarnation.

"Every event gets bigger and bigger," said Zombie Crawl organizer Doug Sacmann. "It was very impres-

Infact, the zombie-themed drinking party has swelled to a point where many revelers arrive pre-zombified — with some even lending a hand to help the team of 20 beleaguered makeup artists turn less-prepared participants into bloody, rotting

"More people show up already in makeup, and people pitched in to help our makeup artists," said Sacmann.

It might sound scary, but the event looked like so much fun that even children in the neighborhood wanted to get involved.

"Sometimes parents would stop in with their kids and they would get zombified," said Sacmann. "They couldn't go the bars, but they could walk along with us."

After spending about three hours at the Trash Bar on Grand Street putting on



**ZOMBIE MD:** Zombie doctors Rob Rogoyski and Rachel Marcuse prep for brain surgery.

makeup and going through lots of fake blood, the undead horde lurched its way up Bedford Avenue to McCarren Park, where a bevy of horrorthemed giveaways awaited.

An hour later, the zombies

wrapped up the night at Public Assembly with some unusual entertainment including a faux talk show called "Smut Cave" and "Strip for Pain," a game show in which organizers say they shocked

willing participants with a dog collar and a Taser.

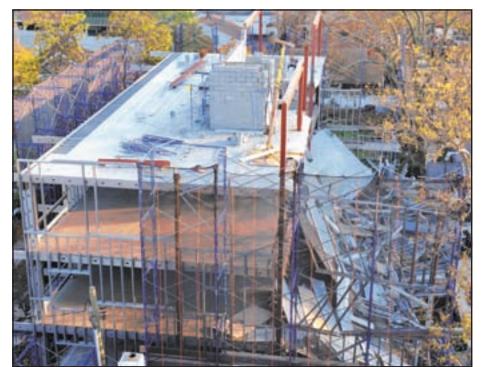
It's worth noting that although the zombies claimed to be craving blood, many seemed to prefer the libations at the open bar.



THIS PARTY'S DEAD: A group of The undead chillax with some choice brewskies.







**DISASTER ZONE:** One person was killed and several others were injured last year when a five-story building under construction on Brighton Fifth Street collapsed. Federal officials found the contractor, SP&K Construction, responsible for the collapse, fining the company more than \$77,000. Below, rescue workers at the scene last year.

File photos by Paul Martinka

## GOLLAPSING JUDGEMENT

#### Feds: Contractor responsible for disaster

BY DANIEL BUSH

A Midwood-based construction company knew that its Brighton Fifth Street building was unstable, but rushed to complete it anyway, federal officials said on May 22 as they slapped the contractor with \$77,880 in fines for causing a collapse that killed one worker and injured four others.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration hit SP&K Construction with 11 violations, claiming that the company was aware that its steel building was unstable.

"Had proper procedures and safeguards been followed, [the collapse] could have been prevented," said Kay Gee, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Brooklyn director.

Investigators said employees were told to begin



pouring concrete on the top three floors of the five-story building near Oceanview Avenue on Nov. 8 — before the concrete on the lower floors had hardened.

The structure buckled under its own weight, burying seven workers in debris. Two workers were able to make it out of the rubble on their own.

Firefighters found the rest after a short search, but one of the men suffered a heart attack and died after being rushed to Coney Island Hospital.

Federal officials say SP&K Construction has two weeks to either pay the fines or file an appeal.

Brighton Beach residents feel the company should pay up.

"They wanted to get the job done as quickly as possible," said Brighton Beach resident Judd Fischler. "There was no supervision."

SP&K Construction did not return calls for comment.

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## Critics: Billyburg BBQers made a big mess



FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Some neighbors of Cooper Park including Ebony Langhorne and Barbara Hickman (above), as well as Carlos Torres (right), love the new grills and picnic tables (top right) - but others say they are turning the green space into a crowded, smokey site that's covered in litter. Photos by Stefano Giovannini

#### BY AARON SHORT

They can't take the heat and they wish everyone else would go back to their kitch-

Opponents of newly installed grills in Cooper Park claim their greatest fears were realized over Memorial Day weekend when crowds of outdoor cooking fanatics flocked to the Williamsburg green space, seared up a storm inside and outside the designated barbecue area, and left trash all over the place.

"There was lots of illegal barbecuing, people used a propane gas tank, and ashes piled up around the trees," said grill critic Nancy Darling. "My daughter was really upset. It was not a good situation."

Scores of grillmasters set up cookouts for the holiday in the park at the corner of Maspeth and Morgan avenues, where the city installed eight new grills and six picnic tables last month as part of a \$2.6-million renovation.

The grills are popular with barbecue backers, who lobbied for cookouts at community meetings — but other neighbors have rallied against them, arguing they will leave the park riddled with trash.

And on Tuesday morning, grill opponents say their prophesy was fulfilled.

Paper plates, plastic cups, bags of charcoal, and corn cobs lay scattered across the northeast section of the park, below a park sign warning against littering.

Supporters of the grills claim the outdoor cookouts help the neighborhood come together and said that barbecue lovers carted out the vast



majority of the trash.

"There were a lot of people here but there's not much garbage left, they picked it up," said Williamsburg resident Pascual Revnoso.

The Parks Department called neighborhood politicians and said it has tidied up the green space.

"Parks staff regularly maintains our lawns and beaches, but as always, we encourage everyone to properly dispose of trash," an agency spokesperson said.

But critics say more should be done to rein in barbecuing and large crowds — especially since fire pit rules allow visitors to bring as many portable grills as they like, so long as they cook in groups of 30 or

"There were many fires outside of the designated area near the playground and even fires set up without a hibachi or barbecue grill at all," said Williamsburg resident Jamaica Taber.









### Going up!

Beatrice DeJesus checks out the Coney Island's Scream Zone "Skycoaster," where riders are hoisted 110 feet up in the air then swung 200 feet back and forth at 60 miles per hour. It was one of several new rides to open up at the People's Playground last weekend on May 24. Photo by Paul Martinka

## Teenage bicyclist struck down by jeep

#### BY ELI ROSENBERG

A cyclist was in critical condition after being struck by a car in Midwood last Sunday night.

Police said the cyclist was traveling eastbound on Avenue M — a street that does not have a bike lane when she was clipped by a driver in a Jeep.

The driver stuck around — the hood of his Jeep SUV visibly dented — while paramedics rushed the 16-yearold girl to the hospital.

Police said no charges had been filed against the driver, and no criminality was suspected.

Midwood is not generally considered safe terrain for cyclists, and bikes are a rare sight on the streets, with the exception of the path on Ocean Parkway.

A study released by the advocacy group Transportation Alternatives found that Flatbush, Ditmas Park, and Midwood were the worst neighborhoods for pedestrians between 1995 and



STRUCK DOWN: A Jeep struck a cyclist traveling on Avenue M near E. 18th Street last Sunday night. No criminal charges have been filed against the driver, but the 16-year-old cyclist was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition. Photo by Steve Solomonson

## Burger war brews in Coney

BY DANIEL BUSH

A national fast-food chain wants to get the jump on Brooklyn homegrown eateries coming to Coney Island — where it will spark a neighborhood burger war and take a stab at a hot dog giant that made the People's Playground famons

Checkers — the Florida-based company that serves Big Buford and Baconzilla burgers, as well as three varieties of hot dogs - says it will open an eatery on Surf Avenue in a bid to wrestle business from the growing number of restaurants coming to Coney Island as well as Nathan's Famous, which opened on the Boardwalk in 1916 and will be expanding on the historic walkway this year.

But mom-and-pop restaurateurs say they plan to make chop meat out of the corporate patty purveyor.

"I'll put my hamburger against anybody," said Jimmy Kokotas, the owner of the legendary Prospect Heights diner Tom's Restaurant, who's opening a Boardwalk outpost that will serve up \$5 flame-broiled burgers made from fresh ground beef.

Nathan's Famous fans shrugged off news that Checkers will be coming to the amusement district as well.

"Checkers may be on Nathan's turf but their hot dogs won't be able to compete with Nathan's," said George Shea, who runs the Nathan's Famous hot dog eating contest each year. "The Nathan's hot dog is a touchstone to what it is to be an American and certainly a Brooklynite."

Many predict that Coney's faithful won't cozy up to Checkers, which is known for its bright red logo and sells grilled burgers made from frozen beef patties that cost between \$1 and \$5.

"It's hard to compete with someone who uses frozen food," said Zito's Sandwich Shoppe coowner Marcello Bucca,

who's bringing a gourmet hoagie hub to a former carny game booth on Jones Walk near Bowery Street. "I think people will see that and come to us instead."

But the burger chain's new location at the foot of the Stillwell Avenue subway station — which is a stone's throw from the beach. Nathan's, Luna Park, and the Scream Zone could make it a popular destination with visitors to the historic amusement district.

Checkers woman Jennifer Durham said the empty storefront it scooped up will make for an ideal fast-food restau-

"We looked at a lot of different things such as traffic flow and the surrounding residential population," Durham said.

neighborhood Some boosters pointed out that Nathan's, which is also a chain restaurant, has flourished in Coney Island for decades — and hailed Checkers' decision to move onto Surf Avenue.

"It's not a unique Brooklyn business, but it's still a wonderful addition," said Dick Zigun, the man behind Sideshows by the Seashore. "Every nook and cranny of Coney Island is being gobbled up right now. There's real momentum."

Several popular Brooklyn restaurants have staked a claim in Coney Island since Central Amusements International was tapped to remake the area into a year-round tourist destination.

Restaurants opening in Coney Island include Tom's Restaurant, DUMBO icon Grimaldi's Pizzeria, and Cha-Cha's Coney Island Seafood Bar and Pizzeria.

Checkers has opened seven locations across Brooklyn since 2009, including ones on Court Street at Schermerhorn Street in Brooklyn Heights, and Havemeyer Street near Broadway in Williamsburg.

## FIELD OF FLAGS

### Troops honored in solemn Marine Park tribute



THE ORGANIZER: Charles Gili organizied the "Field of Flags" fund-raiser in 2007 to honor his father, who fought in WWII.



REMEMBERING HEROES: Kathy Ford of Marine Park reads about a fallen soldier after noticing the "Field of Flags" on Saturday. Photos by Steve Solomonson

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

More than 250 flags lined the fields in Marine Park on Saturday — each one honoring an American soldier who had fallen in a distant country — giving the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the Democratic way of life.

'The first flag I picked up was for a boy of 22," said Kathy Ford, a Marine Park resident who came upon the field during her daily walk. "It's just so sad. Some of them were very young people. They gave everything for their country."

The flags represent soldiers from more than 100 towns throughout New York State and from all branches of the armed services. Each flag bared a small, laminated card, with a picture of the soldier, and basic information regarding his rank and service.

The "Field of Flags" is a fund-raising event organized by Charles Gili and US Hockey Players Support Our Troops foundation, which sells armed services patches worn on the jerseys of hockey players. Proceeds from the patches are given to Gold Star

Families — families who have lost loved ones in the service.

Gili began organizing "Field of Flags" events in 2007, when he started raising money to help support Gold Star Families living in the Empire State. He did it to honor his own father, a World War II veteran, he said.

Gili also complied profiles on all 283 of the fallen heroes, taking information from the Internet or old newspaper clippings.

"Some of them are incredibly special people," said Gili. "I think it's a big misconception that people in the military are there because the can't do anything else. That's far from the truth."

For example, fallen soldier Michael Murphy was a Penn State graduate and the son of a Suffolk County lawyer, Gili said. Murphy could been anything, but opted to be a Navy Seal and died on a special operations mission in the Hindu Kush mountains of Afghanistan in 2005.

"The guy had choices," Gili said. "He could have done a lot of things, but he choose to serve his country."



PORT PROTECTORS: Members of the Coast Guard march down Third Avenue in Bay Ridge on Memorial Day.

## Parade gets new recruits

#### BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Dozens of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans joined the ranks of Brooklyn's Memorial Day Parade on May 28, making the 145-yearold cavalcade — America's oldest procession honoring fallen soldiers - one of the grandest in recent memory, both audiences and organizers said.

The United Military Veterans of Kings County said that they were hurting for reinforcements from recent conflicts as the survivors of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam faded away. But this year some 40 to 50 soldiers from the Middle Eastern battlefields answered the group's bugle call — compared to just two or three in past years, said parade committee Vice Chairman Ray Aal-

"We wanted to recognize our Iraq and Afghanistan vets and we're glad we got them to march with us," Aalbue said, crediting the increase in participation to his organization's aggressive advertising.

Aalbue said he hoped to recruit even more young warriors next year through online outreach.

"We're going to go viral," the Vietnam-era soldier laughed.

The desert vets marched under a sweltering sun with Girl and Boy Scout troops, sailors, and Marines in town for Fleet Week, with civic groups bringing up the rear. Those who stood on the sidelines were unanimous in praising this year's procession.

"It looks bigger this year, but I'm enjoying it so much it's hard to analyze it," said Howard Nygaard, a 92-year-old World War II Navy veteran. "I hope it'll go on forever."

Younger soldiers who marched stressed the inclusiveness of the

"It's honoring every veteran and every person who's served, and it brings the whole community together," said Amanda Martinez, a National Guard private who will be deployed to Afghanistan in August.



HE WANTS YOU: Bob Carlsen of Bay Ridge breaks out his most patriotic attire for the Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade. Photos by Elizabeth Graham

## Brooklyn toasts vets — with champagne

## Soldiers feted at Gravesend Memorial Day party

BY DANIEL BUSH

Nothing says Memorial Day like a good bottle of champagne.

More than 80 members of Marlboro Post 1437 held a Memorial Day ceremony at the Gravesend group's 66year-old social hall on Avenue X near W. Third Street on May 20 - and then toasted their fellow veterans with a little bit of well-deserved bubbly.

The post's annual champagne breakfast drew vets from World War II the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and members of the Ladies Auxiliary group, according to one of event's organizers and past



SALUTING THE FLAG: Vietnam veteran Al Mercurio was one of 80 vets on hand for the celebration.

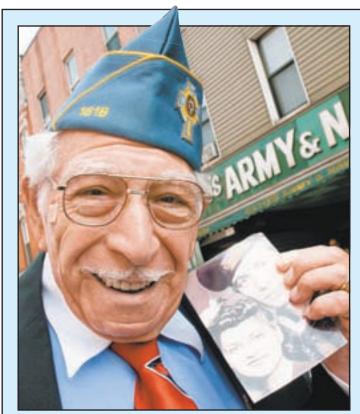
American Legion post commander Sossio Compagnone.

"I was very happy with the turnout," said Compagnone, an Army sergeant in Korea and retired photo engraver who's volunteered with the post for the past several decades.

"So many people showed up. This place is like a second home for us," he said.

Retired Lt. Col. Al Zafresi said he attended to pay tribute to his aging army buddies.

"It's good to see veterans who still carry themselves proudly," said Zafresi, who served from 1952 to 1973.



### A walk to remember

World War II veteran Jerry Cardinal - holding a photo of himself and his late wife Antoinette - reflects on his contributions and those of his compatriots at the Greenpoint Veterans Memorial Parade.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini



HELLO SAILOR!: (Above) Nicolas Khoury manned one of the cannons fired to welcome ships to New York while (right) Lutheran Elementary fourth-graders (from left) Fiona Ferguson, Elizabeth Lambrakis, Aimee Caban, and Amal Dawoud showed their patriotic Photos by Bess Adler

## Fort Hamilton kicks off Fleet Week



#### BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Kids, soldiers, and sailors had a blast on May 24 as Fort Hamilton fired off its cannons to welcome Navy ships into New York Harbor for the beginning of Fleet Week.

Nearly 2,000 people attended the 10th annual Salute to Ships event at the base - 1,300 of them children - according to spokesman Bruce Hill. Fort Hamilton greeted them with a magic show and music from

the Xaverian High School Band and the Navy Band Northeast before the main event: 21 ships passing under the Verrazano-Narrows

"It was a great way to kick off Fleet Week," Hill

The parade of boats started with seven "tall ships" — complete with sails and rigging — from Operation Sail 2012, a commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812. The wind vessels came from Spain, Indonesia, France, Colombia, Brazil, Mexico, Ecuador, and the New York City Fire Department, and made the first such international procession since the millenial celebration in 2000, and the sixth since the first Operation Sail cast off in 1964 to coincide with the World's Fair.

Thirteen warships followed—nine from the United

States, and four from Great Britain, Canada, Japan, and Finland — with the USS Wasp bringing up the rear. It was the Wasp that fired off the first shots of Fleet Week, prompting the Fort's own 11-gun salute — much to the thrill of the children in attendance, Hill said.

"The kids loved it. After we finished returning fire, a bunch of them just started chanting 'U-S-A, U-S-A,'" he

## Witness: Cops let Slope groper out of grasp

#### BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Cops are hunting a Park Slope sex fiend responsible for a May 23 attack — but they already had him at the scene of the crime and let him go, according to a witness.

Residents of 16th Street heard a woman shouting for help at 5 am and detained a man believed to have attacked her near Fourth Avenue, but when cops arrived on the scene they let him go because the victim had returned to her home a few houses away, an onlooker told this paper.

Donald Harrington says he heard a girl scream, so he peeked out his window and saw a creep in a baseball cap running away.

Another neighbor chased down the man and held him until cops showed up 15 minutes later, but when they learned the victim had gone home, they set the man free, Harrington claims.

"I pointed to her house and said, 'She's four or five houses down on the right," he said. "They said she wasn't there so they just let him go."

Cops can't file charges without a victim's cooperation — but critics say the way police handled the situation is bizarre for two reasons: the victim's close proximity to the scene, and the fact that cops sent out press releases and distributed surveillance

videos the following day showing a suspect who resembles the man detained by neighbors at the scene.

The move is lazy at best and, at worst, a procedural violation worthy of a reprimand, say legal experts with the National Accountability Police Project, a non-profit comprised of lawyers.

"You would think they would at least get identification," said Rochelle Berliner, a criminal lawyer with the organization. "It's just common sense."

Two officers involved in the incident have been placed on modified duty, an NYPD spokesman said. Cops at the 72nd Precinct declined to comment.

The situation outrages neighbors who say cops should more thoroughly investigate sexual assault cases in the area, especially after last year's spate of attacks against women in south Park Slope, which began in warm weather months.

"What [cops] have learned from last year is how to put a public relations spin on all of this," said neighbor Aaron Brashear. "I have a spin for them: do your job.'

The attack comes after more than 20 women were assaulted in the South Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Sunset Park, and Bay Ridge last year and ample press over the so-called "South Slope Sex



STILL WANTED: Residents say this man groped a woman near Fourth Avenue.



### That's no way to park a car

A driver lost contol of his Lincoln on Marine Parkway on May 27, and ended up too close for comfort with a parked Chevy. No serious injuries were reported by police, but we did get this cool photo. Photo by Steve Solomonson

## Finally! Drinking and spelling

#### BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Grown-up spelling whizzes are putting the "bee" in bar game – and beer and booze!

Win some serious word nerd bragging rights at The Williamsburg Spelling Bee, a goofy-meets-brainy twist on the sweat-inducing grade-school competition.

Orthography-loving bar-goers can compete in three rounds that grow increasingly difficult as contestants grow increasingly tipsy.

"We start off with 'broccoli' or 'carburetor' and by the end it's words you've never heard," said host Jennifer Dziura, a comedian.

Dziura said pop intellectuals and hardcore English language buffs - including magazine editors, senior citizens and even brave dyslexics — get three strikes per contest, which in-



THINKING DRINKER: Contestant David Zheng takes a sip while taking on the spelling challenge. Photo courtesy of Williamsburg Spelling Bee

cludes "beer breaks" in the back room of Pete's Candy Store.

Past winners have spelled malmignatte, degringolaide and mustelidae correctly — and if you can guess which one of those words spelled wrong in this article, The Brooklyn Paper solutes you.

The last person standing wins a scrabble-themed prize and a shot at the annual spelling finals — which promises to be much more fun than a case of Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis!

"It's a nerd pride thing," Dziura said.

"The Williamsburg Spelling Bee" at Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770, www.petescandystore.com], June 4 at 7 pm. Free.

## Teens float green idea for G'point

#### Kids dream up new Newtown Creek park

#### BY BEN LOCKHART

Newtown Creek would go from Superfund to super fun if a group of high schoolers have their way.

Twelve students earned praise from design experts across the country for dreaming up a concept for a massive 378-acre waterfront park alongside the putrid sludgeway that would bring foliage, baseball fields, a boardwalk, ziplines, an amphitheater, and the city's biggest ferris wheel to an area that plays host to one of history's largest oil spills.

Dubbed "Pippin Park" after George Washington's fa-

vorite apple, the ambitious, but for now not-so-realistic proposal would straddle Brooklyn and Queens and could one day draw visitors to a viaduct slated for a federal Superfund cleanup and a waterfront that many do their best to avoid.

"We've never really had a hangout near the creek," said Taylor Clark, a junior and member of the city's Architecture Construction Engineering mentoring program, which earned an honorable mention in the Construction Industry Roundtable's national design competition. "Most

of us go to school in the area and it's so dense that there's nowhere to go. We thought if we combined the eco-friendly agenda with a recreational space, it would make the most sense."

The team — which includes students from Brooklyn Technical High School as well as kids from schools in Queens and the Bronx — bested 36 other youth squads thanks in part to its approach, said mentor Miguel Cedeno.

"We asked ourselves, 'Why would anybody come to this park as opposed to Central Park and all of the



**PARK LARK:** The banks of Newtown Creek should feature the city's biggest Ferris wheel, baseball fields, and zip-lines, students say.

Courtesy of Robert Bernacett



neighborhood parks, why would you come here? What would make this place special?'" said Cedeno, who

works as a program director at the Department of Design and Construction.

That said, making Pip-

pin Park anything more than a pipe dream wouldn't be cheap. The project would cost \$19 million for materials alone — not to mention land acquisition, environmental remediation, labor, and public relations costs, the teens said.

And all of that would come at a time when other parks projects in North Brooklyn — from the sprawling Bushwick Inlet Park to the more modest proposed green space at 65 Commercial St. — have stalled amidst budget problems and bureaucratic red tape.

"We took some liberties to make it happen," Cedeno said.

But the ambitious youngsters view their plans with unpolluted optimism.

"It would take several years because of the contamination, but I could see it in the future," said Janet Cortes, who joined the program this year. "We decided in the meantime we could throw some distractions in there, camouflage it with an arts park for example."



**FREE MAN:** Authorities released Greenpoint artist Takeshi Miyakawa, who was jailed for hanging art that cops initially believed was a bomb. But he says the sculpture was meant to calm the neighborhood.

CNG / Aaron Short

## 'Bomb' artist says sorry

#### Art that sparked explosive scare had message of peace

#### BY AARON SHORT

A Greenpoint artist who sparked a bomb scare on Bedford Avenue by hanging illuminated trash bags says his art project was supposed to make the neighborhood more peaceful.

Furniture designer Takeshi Miyakawa, 50, walked out of court a free man on May 16 after spending five days in jail for planting a plastic "I Love NY" bag containing battery-powered LED-lights that cops mistook for an explosive.

Miyakawa insisted he just wanted to help calm one of his favorite hangout spots with public art, but cops initially considered his sculpture a threat and cordoned off three blocks of Bedford Avenue while the bomb squad investigated

Hours later, police say they caught Miyakawa as he was putting up another bag on a lamppost near Lorimer Street. Prosecutors charged him with reckless endangerment, criminal nuisance, and planting false bombs.

After his arrest, Judge Martin Murphy ordered Miyakawa held in custody pending a mental health evaluation — perhaps the artist's



**ART THREAT:** Cops cordoned off Bedford Avenue last month when they saw a bag containing lights that an artist had affixed to a tree.

NYPD

worst critique in his career.

Following his release, Miyakawa apologized for the disturbance his project caused neighbors.

"I was in shock that I got arrested, but I was more in shock that people in Williamsburg were locked down for two hours — I really apologize," he said outside

Brooklyn Supreme Court. "Some people suffered from the project."

Friends and work colleagues called the judge's decision to hold Miyakawa behind bars for days "absurd" and rallied to support the artist and secure his release.

"Takeshi is a fabulous human being and a person of extraordinary talent," said architect Rafael Viñoly, who employs Miyakawa in his model shop. "We hope this misunderstanding is cleared up as quickly as possible."

Miyakawa's attorney Deborah Blum asked for his speedy release and Judge William Garnett consented — as long as Miyakawa undergoes psychiatric testing.

Miyakawa said he was happy to have his freedom and was eager to go home so he could take a long bath and have a beer.

He said he is not planning to sue the city for what his supporters claim was a lengthier-thannecessary stay at Rikers Island. Instead, he is focusing his attention on his upcoming trial, which begins on June 21.

"I didn't do this to get media attention, it was supposed to be quiet and discreet," he said.

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IN THE RUNNING: Attorney and CB17 Chairman Terry Hinds is jumping in the ring to challenge longtime Assemblyman Nick Perry in Flatbush. Photo by Steve Solomonson

## Hinds adds variety to 58th assembly race

#### BY ELI ROSENBERG

Flatbush Assemblyman Nick Perry is a donothing legislator who continually fails to address important issues affecting his constituents, says an attorney and community board chairman hoping to unseat the 20year incumbent this September.

"After 20 years there is a tendency in any position to become complacent," said Terry Hinds, who is currently the chairman of Community Board 17. "But the primary job of a legislator is to make laws that make life easier for their community. I have not seen that coming from our assembly member."

Hinds, a Flatbush native who attended PS 244 and Tilden High School. said Perry (D-Flatbush) hasn't addressed pressing community issues, such as education and the neighborhood's high foreclosure rate.

If elected, he said he would fight to end mayoral control of the Department of Education, which he claims Perry has failed to

"Now that we see it hasn't had the positive results which we expected, I would expect we would have some legislation that would give more of a voice to parents to allow them to have a say about what happens with their children," Hinds said.

Yet Perry, who was one of 18 Assemblymembers to vote against Mayoral control in 2009, stood by his record in Albany dismissing Hinds's comments as meaningless blather.

"Obviously Mr. Hinds's ambition to take my job is much larger than his knowledge of his problems in the district," said Perry. "He has a very mountainous task of trying to make his candidacy viable. What he will find out is that an overwhelming majority of voters will disagree with him when they cast their votes."

Hinds will also have a financial hurdle ahead of him: Perry has a \$43,471 war chest to wage a reelection campaign. Hinds has yet to file anything, according to the state Board of Elections.

## New push for Midwood plaza

#### BY ELI ROSENBERG

The city hasn't given up on its plan to bring a pedestrian plaza to Avenue M — even though residents would rather see a community garden there instead of a bustling public square.

City reps met with Midwood Councilman Mike Nelson's staff last week and again pushed their plan to put in chairs, tables and concrete bollards on Elm Avenue, even though the councilman opposed the project, said Chaim Deustch, Nelson's chief of operations.

"We still oppose the pedestrian plaza," Deustch said. "But we did say we're willing to make the area less of an evesore and beautify it with greenery and nice flowers.'

But the city's plans for the plaza, which it wanted to call Dorman Square, are far more ambitious. The Department of Transportation wanted to close Elm Avenue to traffic between E. 15th Street and Avenue M to create the plaza. The Midwood Development



GOOD RIDDANCE: Nancy Losche, a manager at Antelis Pharmacy on Avenue M and E. 15th Street, opposes the city's plan to put a pedestrian plaza across the street from her store, and is glad the proposal has been shelved for now.

Corporation had agreed to maintain the pedestrian island, but the city's plan immediately drew fire from residents who claimed it would attract vagrants and vandals and cause massive traffic backups.

Most of the opposition came from Midwood's Orthodox Jewish community, who said the city neglected to consult the Hatzolah volunteer ambulance mem-

bers and scheduled a hearing about the plaza two days before Passover, making it difficult for Orthodox residents to attend.

Citing community opposition, the Midwood De-Corporation velopment ultimately dropped out of the project — leaving the city with an uphill battle to keep its plaza alive. The city's plan can't go forward until another private company pledges to care for the tables and chairs.

Residents said the city should beautify the drab pedestrian island, but they don't want to see any tables and chairs.

"What they should do is just plant things and put a little fence around it and make a garden," said Mike Pessah, an opponent of the original plan who lives nearby. "I wouldn't want chairs over there."

Community Board 14 postponed its vote on the plaza until September over the objections of some members who wanted to officially shoot the project down.

But some board members say they would welcome a chance to vote on a new proposal.

"This idea is something that we had talked about and suggested to the Department of Transportation months ago," said board member Kalman Yeger. "Most of the opposition is about the traffic, it's not about having something pretty in the neighbor-

## Pedal-pushers parade in W'burg

#### BY AARON SHORT

There's no love like the love a Brooklynite shares with his or her bicycle.

The borough's biggest bike boosters convened on Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg last Saturday to celebrate people-powered machines of all shapes and sizes at the sixth annual Bicycle Fetish Day.

Fans of fixies, roadsters, and classic Schwinn low-riders all found something to love at the City Reliquary-sponsored event. Along with the contests and the eye-candy, cyclists took home copies of the city's new bicycle map and a pamphlet outlining the rules of the road.

This year, a panel of judges picked out the best handmade. commuter, and vintage bikes and even crowned one the ugliest two-wheeler — before a lateafternoon downpour soaked the proceedings.

But the rain did little to dampen their spirits or rust their gears.







(Clockwise from bottom left) Bushwick resident George Sanchez wowed the judges with his low-riding machine, winning the award for best mutant bike. Dana Otto of Williamsburg arrived in style at Bicycle Fetish Day. Tom Porter of Bushwick does a nifty track stand on his "uni-bike" - which won Best in Show at the annual cycling celebration. Photos by Elizabeth Graham



**STRUMMING AWAY:** (Above) PS 238 eighth-grader Vitaly Chuiko strummed a guitar at the concert, where (middle) students had a honkin' good time and (right) teachers Daria Milman and Eddie Ferrer belted out "Sweet Home Alabama."

Photos by Steve Solomonson





## Yee-haw: Country livin' at PS 238

BY DANIEL BUSH

PS 238's country-themed spring concert went off without a hitch — and it was a honkin' good time.

Students wearing cowboy hats and bandanas belted out the Elvis Presley classic "Love Me Tender," country star Hank Williams's hit tune "Your Cheating Heart," and other numbers during the two-hour show at the Sheep-

shead Bay school on Eighth Street near Avenue P.

More than 120 students spent four months preparing for the May 24 show, according to the concert's producer Ellene Nizrach. "They worked so hard,"

"They worked so hard," said Nizrach, who teaches music at PS 238. "The students did an awesome job."

The concert's high points came when students

performed an ensemble rendition of "Footloose," and a team of teachers led by Daria Milman and Eddie Ferrer backed by middle school guitar players covered the Lynyrd Skynyrd smash "Sweet Home Alabama."

The song-and-dance numbers were staged in front of an elaborate handmade set featuring a country house, barn, silo, and a massive mural built by a team of 30 students who began work on the project last fall, according to art teacher Joan Davis.

Davissaidtheexperience left some of the students with dreams of becoming professional stagehands.

"The project taught them that there's art outside the classroom," said Davis. "They really got a feel for stage work."

### Field

Continued from page 1

But after a six month delay, Liu nevertheless approved the Parks Department's decision to hire T Moriarty and Sons — a crew already doing work on the field house, an agency spokesman said.

Yet the field house's contract snafus and continual delays has outraged community residents like Republican District Leader Anthony Testaverde, who demanded to know what local elected officials were doing to fix the "fiasco" at a recent Marine Park Civic Association meeting.

Even Councilman Lew Fidler (D–Marine Park) has given up trying to give the public answers, telling Testaverde to blame Mayor



**LEFT FALLOW:** The Marine Park park house hadn't been worked on in more than six months, city officials say.

Bloomberg.

"I fight to get the money so we can have this in our neighborhood and not in the Bronx, or in Central Park, or in some hoity-toity park in Brooklyn Bridge Park," Fidler told Testaverde. "If the city doesn't do it right, you should talk to the mayor about that."

The Marine Park Field House has become Southern Brooklyn's biggest boondoggle: the price of the community center, which is essentially one meeting room, two bathrooms and closets for storage, has ballooned from \$6.5 to \$16 million and has suffered countless delays.

The project is currently costing taxpayers \$5,000 a square foot — more than the 104-story Freedom Tower in Manhattan, which is \$1,456 per square foot

The Freedom Tower is expected to be completed next year, beating the Marine Park Field House by several months. Both projects began in ernest in 2008.

Yet there are those who are happy to see something happening at the site.

"There are trucks coming out of there," said Greg Barusso, president of the Marine Park Civic Association.

"It appears that they are preparing for something."

### Sex alley

Continued from page 1 shooting up," said neighbor Denise Morales. "It's a real problem."

The tiny block-long street, which abuts a brick wall and the sides of houses, has long attracted crime because it's secluded, neighbors say.

Pocket-sized hipster pub L Magazine even named it the "Best Block to Smoke a Joint," saying it's the kind of street where "you might see joint-toking teens pass a yuppie with a one-hitter walking his dog."

But residents are calling on the city and store management to bring the street's druggy days to an end before PS 133 moves into a new building less than a block away on Fourth

Avenue and Butler Street in September.

A Key Food manager said the store is doing its part to deter criminal activity by tidying up and keeping lights on behind the building.

"I sweep back there twice a day and I've never seen anything," said a manager at the shop, who asked not to be named because he wasn't authorized to speak to press.

But Sherifova and Park Slope civic leaders say more is needed, including security cameras and "keepout" signage — along with more police presence.

"It's a remote location, which makes vulnerable," said Community Board 6 district manager Craig Hammerman. "The [police] need to be involved in these discussions."

## Cyclones warming up for summer

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

The Brooklyn Cyclones are gearing up for their 2012 season and — wouldn't ya' know it — they'll be throwing their first pitch against their longtime rivals from the Rock, the hated Staten Island Yankees.

The Staten Island Yankees bought themselves a ticket. and ultimately won, the New York Penn League Championship on Brooklyn's back last year after beating the mini-Mets 1-0 during game three of the playoff series.

Brooklyn's loss — slight as it was - didn't merely reflect the Cyclones's performance on that warm September day, but symbolized Brooklyn's seasonlong struggle to keep pace with Staten Island.

Yet organizers say that this year is going to be different, even though no one knows who will be taking the diamond. Brooklyn's 2012 lineup won't be named for another few weeks.

But, like last year, there's always the chance that a few rookie holdovers may grace the

roster, said Cyclones spokesman Billy Harner.

'Last year there were maybe five holdovers," said Harner. "Younger guys who needed another year to acclimate themselves to this level of

At least three holdovers have been confirmed, however. General Manager Rich Donnelly and Cyclone mascots Sandy the Seagull, named for Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Sandy Koufax, and Pee Wee, named after Brooklyn Dodg-

ers shortstop Pee Wee Reese, have all agreed to return.

Donnelly said he couldn't be happier about coming to Coney Island.

"I've been in the big leagues 28 years and spent 44 years in baseball overall, but last year was one of the most enjoyable seasons I've ever had," Donnelly said in a recent

"We're lucky here: most rookie teams don't draw thousands of people a night, and here we average almost 8,000 a night."

#### **Brooklyn Cyclones 2012 home schedule**

June 18, 7 pm: Staten Island Yankees June 21, 7 pm: Staten Island Yankees

June 25, 7 pm: Hudson Valley Renegades June 27, 7 pm: Hudson Valley Renegades

June 28, 7 pm: Aberdeen Iron Birds

June 29, 7 pm: Aberdeen Iron Birds June 30, 6 pm: Aberdeen Iron Birds

July 2, 7 pm: Hudson Valley Renegades

July 4, 6 pm: Williamsport Crosscutters

July 5, 7 pm: Williamsport Crosscutters July 6, 7 pm: Williamsport Crosscutters

July 7, 6 pm: Jamestown Jammers

July 8, 5 pm: Jamestown Jammers

July 9, 7 pm: Jamestown Jammers

July 17, 7 pm: Hudson Valley Renegades

July 20, 7 pm: Staten Island Yankees

July 22, 5 pm: Staten Island Yankees

July 23, 7 pm: Aberdeen Iron Birds

July 24, 11 am: Aberdeen Iron Birds

Aug. 1, 7 pm: Connecticut Tigers

Aug. 2, 7 pm: Connecticut Tigers

Aug. 3, 7 pm: Connecticut Tigers

Aug. 4, 6 pm: Auburn Doubledays

Aug. 5, 5 pm: Auburn Doubledays

Aug. 6, 11 am: Auburn Doubledays

Aug. 10, 7 pm: Vermont Lake Monsters

Aug. 11, 6 pm: Vermont Lake Monsters

Aug. 12, 5 pm: Vermont Lake Monsters

Aug. 21, 7 pm: Tri-City Cats

Aug. 22, 7 pm: Tri-City Cats

Aug. 23, 7 pm: Tri-City Cats

Aug. 25, 6 pm: Staten Island Yankees Aug. 30, 7 pm: Hudson Valley Renegades

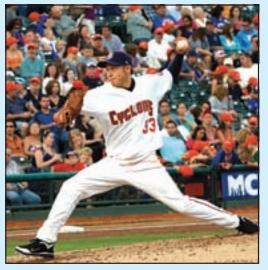
Aug. 31, 7 pm: Staten Island Yankees

Sept. 2, 5 pm: Staten Island Yankees

Sept. 3, 6 pm: Lowell Spinners

Sept. 4, 6 pm: Lowell Spinners

Sept. 5, 6 pm: Lowell Spinners



BATTER UP: Attending a Cyclones game is a beloved Brooklyn pastime. File photo by Tom Callan

## Not gross

Continued from page 1

Just trust these envelope-pushing eateries that have no compunctions with letting their food freak flags fly - in the most delicious of ways.

#### Pete Zazz

There's little in the way of uncharted territory when it comes to pizza these days, unless you're talking about Pete Zazz — an outof-the-box pie shop currently making waves in Crown Heights. Shop employees attribute the heavy foot traffic to unexpectedly alluring combos like the coconut tofu pie (spiced coconut, mozzarella, peanut and bean sprouts) and the best-selling baked potato pie (purple spuds, crème fraiche, white cheddar, bacon, and green onion). "We're located on an offbeat block, which in just a few months, we've made as popular as Franklin and Washington Avenues!" Entner said.

Pete Zaaz [766 Classon Ave. between Park and Sterling Places in Crown Heights, (718) 230-9229].

It's no surprise that Entner once worked at one of the original captains of quirk, No. 7 restaurant



**LEAN AND GREEN:** Steve Michael takes a bites out of the broccoli taco at No. 7 – a gutsy dish that's much more appetizing than it sounds. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

in Fort Greene - where owner Tyler Kord has been showcasing the improbable pleasures of deep-fried broccoli since 2008. The veggie makes a particularly tasty showing in the oddly appealing double decker tacos, paired with peculiar

playmates like feta cheese, pine nuts, and hoisin sauced beans.

No. 7 [7 Greene Ave. between Oxford and Fulton Streets in Fort Greene, (718) 522-63701.

#### The Burger Bistro:

given at the Burger Bistro in Bay Ridge (just try to find antelope, kangaroo, or ostrich patties elsewhere in the neighborhood), but it's the gut-busting weekend specials like the donut burger - topped with bacon, a fried egg, and American cheese, and slapped between a split, sugarglazed pastry — that gets patrons especially pumped. "We were originally thinking of doing a take on a Boston cream donut, with chocolate ganache over the top and a burger that oozed some sort of cheese — but that went a little too far," said co-owner John Agnello.

The Burger Bistro [7217 Third Ave. between 73rd and 72nd Streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-58331.

#### St. Anselm:

It's all about nose-to-tail eating nowadays — or in the case of the sweet tea-brined young chicken at the recently revamped St. Anselm in Williamsburg—head to foot. The disarmingly named bird arrives succulent and moist on the inside, charred and crispy on the outside with grasping talons and wizened face quite shockingly intact.

St. Anselm [355 Metropolitan Ave. between Fourth and Have-Unusual meat options are a meyer Streets in North Williamsburg, (718) 384-5054].

#### Robicelli's:

Matt and Allison Robicelli have never shied away from introducing unusual ingredients to their acclaimed baked creations, but it's their chicken n' waffles cupcake that really takes the well, you know. "It came about when I was thinking of my favorite ethnic food influences when growing up in Brooklyn," Allison said. "Since chicken doesn't taste like much, if you surround it with sweet ingredients, it can easily transition into a dessert."

Robicelli's [Multiple locations, (917) 509-6048. robicellis. tumblr.com].

#### **Karloff:**

Another sweet for the notso-sweet toothed can be found at Karloff, a Cobble Hill eatery that's half Eastern European comfort food haven, half artisan ice cream parlor. The idiosyncratic eatery hits high notes on both side of the aisle, but it's their beet and dill ice cream, made especially for them by Jane's Ice Cream upstate, that demonstrates a true meeting of

Karloff [254 Court St. between Butler and Baltic Streets in Cobble Hill, (347) 689-42791.

## BROOKLYN WEEKLY, JUNE 3, 2012

## HERE'S THE BEEF!

## Brooklyn vegan named America's sexiest vegetarian

#### BY BEN LOCKHART

He's a piece of meat and he won't even eat one! Williamsburg actor and waiter Zachary Koval is the "Sexiest Vegetarian Next Door" according to People for Ethical Treatment of Animals, earning the accolades of plant eaters worldwide. And the proud vegan bares it all in this exclusive interview:

Ben Lockhart: We're talking over the phone now, but you sound like you look great. How did you become such a sexy vegetarian?

Zachary Koval: I had done a quick fun photo shoot with one of my friends and posted the pictures on Facebook. One of my other friends, who had heard of the contest prior, saw it and recommended that I enter. So I sent in my picture and filled out the quick questionnaire just for fun and sent it off.

BL: And you actually won this thing?

ZK: It was a huge surprise. I'm completely honored; there were some pretty amazing contestants. I got a lot of great support from friends and family with regards to the contest.

BL: We live in the borough of Mile End, Fette Sau, and Nathan's. Does Brooklyn really play nice with vegans?

ZK: Oh, definitely. In Williamsburg there are vegan foods everywhere pretty much. Every res-



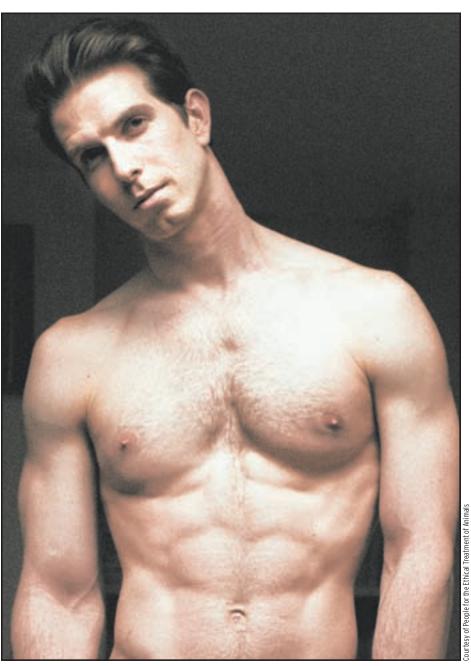
taurant, essentially, has a vegan option. Even the corner stores sell almond milk or other things you can buy that are super vegan friendly.

BL: There's no way you get a body like that by cutting out pork chops. How do you do it?

ZK: I bike everywhere. It's my mode of transportation. I go to the gym about four times every week, for an hour each time, working my entire body. A couple days a week I go running, so I live a pretty active life-

BL: Zachary you're an animal! Where do you do your grocery shopping? We want to know who will be asking for endorsements now that you've hit the big time.

**ZK:** Quechol Products off Graham in Brooklyn and Westerly Market in Manhattan are my favorite grocery stores to shop at, and there are a couple of organic groceries stores that are right next to my house.



STATUESQUE: Williamsburg resident Zachary Koval doesn't eat meat or wear any clothes made from animals. Here, he is shirtless, and looks kinda like the statue of David (left), which doesn't eat anything.

BL: Tell us about the simmering tension between the vegan and vegetarian communities? It exists, right?

ZK: I don't think so. Personally, I was vegetarian since I was 10 before I became vegan two and a half years ago. Vegetarianism is kind of a diet where you don't consume meats or fish, whereas veganism is more of a lifestyle where it's your diet but it's also how you live your life. You don't buy or purchase anything that comes from an animal or is tested on an animal. So it's a little more holistic in that sense.

BL: What's your stance on plant rights?

ZK: It's a whole different thing than animal rights. For example, plants don't have pain receptors to like animals do, so they don't have feeling. There's a pretty big difference between the two actually. A vegan lifestyle simply means not consuming eating anything that comes from an animal — no leather, no wool, no eggs, no dairy, no fish,

BL: I take it you don't own leather shoes then.

ZK: Yes, no leather shoes.

BL: You consume no animal products. So what would you do if your dog baked you a fruit pie?

ZK: As long as my dog baked the pie of his own free will and without butter or eggs, I'd happily eat it.

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## Come sail away

Fernanda and Regina Roblesgil, ages 6 and 8, learn the ropes aboard the Mexican sail boat B.E. Cuauhtemoc at the Red Hook Terminal during Fleet Week on May 28. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## Sign not of the times

### Blinking artwork lights up the Old Stone House

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Don't worry history buffs: the bright flashing sign adorning one of Park Slope's most famous historical landmarks isn't a Las Vegas-style advertisement. It's art!

The hard-to-miss blinking sign hanging from the Old Stone House a legendary Revolutionary War site that looks much the same as it did when Gen. George Washington's men fought the British in front of it — is actually a statement about imagination and perfection, museum employees say.

"It explores varying ideas about utopia," said Meredith Hackett, whose community organization is housed inside the reconstructed 1699 Dutch farmhouse off Fifth Avenue and Third Street. "It flashes, 'Come play with me."

Hackett said the piece is one part of the space's "Brooklyn Utopia: Park Playspace" exhibit, which features other works in less prominent positions inside and upstairs.

The sign, designed by artist

Tamara Gayer, will come down by the end of June, Hackett said.

Park Slope preservationists aren't giving the artwork a good review — but say it's fine so long as it's temporary.

Park Slope historian Francis Morrone compared the idea of hanging a flashy sign from the

historic building to artist Jeanne-Claude's "The Gates," a massive outdoor exhibition that brought thousands of orange gates and flags to Central Park.

"If it is temporary artwork, even if it's unsightly, preservation practice basically says it's okay," he said.



FLASH AND GO: A light-up sign has changed the look of the Old Stone House in Park Slope – but it won't be there for long. Photo by Bryan Bruchman

## Midwood machete showdown

BY COLIN MIXSON

Cops arrested a 30-year-old man accused of beating his girlfriend with a machete before barricading himself inside his Midwood apartment on May 23, sparking a two-hour standoff with police.

The suspect allegedly attacked his girlfriend inside his E. 10th Street apartment between Roder Avenue and Avenue N at noon, slicing her arm with the blade.

He then turned the weapon around and struck his beloved repeatedly in the face and arms with the machete handle, police said.

When cops arrived at the scene, the suspect had already booted his girlfriend out of the apartment and barricaded himself in his bedroom.

But rumors swirled that the alleged assailant had a shotgun, forcing a standoff that dragged on for more than two hours before cops



TAKEN INTO CUSTODY: Cops arrested this man, who they claim beat his girlfriend with the handle of a machete, following a two-hour standoff in Midwood. Photo by Paul Martinka

stormed the apartment and took the Midwood resident into custody.

No firearms were recovered, but police did find a pellet gun along with the machete, according to cout records.

Attempts to reach the suspect's attorney were unsuccessful.

#### **Ferries**

Continued from page 3

will be more successful than the

So far, nearly a quarter of a million people have sailed between Brooklyn and Manhattan since the service launched last June — far above the city's estimates.

Ferry operators will receive \$6.2 million in public funds over the next two years to keep the service afloat.

Waterway officials are pushing the city and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to allow passengers to pay for ferry



SMALL FRY: This thing is a minnow and we are dealing with whales.

trips with MetroCards, creating a single pass for straphangers who want to travel by land and by sea.

But that could be complicated because nautical jaunts cost \$4 per ride or \$140 for unlimited monthly service, while subway and bus rides go for \$2.25 and \$104 for unlimited monthly access.

### St. Ann's

Continued from page 3

approves the plan — which seems likely since state Sen. Dan Squadron (D-DUMBO) and Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Brooklyn Heights), who initially opposed the warehouse plan, now support the deal.

"This agreement is another sign that the community's role is critical as we shape open space," Squadron said.

The theater company will move into a temporary headquarters at 29 Jay St. for the next three years and will lease the Tobacco Warehouse from the city once it is up to code.

"We are heartened by this agreement and hope that our dream for a new home at the Tobacco Warehouse will be realized," said Joseph Steinberg, chairman of the St. Ann's Warehouse board of directors.

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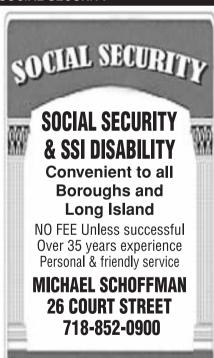
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