

# Marty's first big victory

BY COLIN MIXSON

Borough President Markowitz cut his political teeth fighting for the little guy — literally!



His first foray into politics dates back to the early 1960s when the 5-foot-5-and-a-half (he's very proud of that half) pol fought size discrimination at Wingate

High School, where he was barred from joining a public service club called the Long Fellows because he was too short.

"As crazy as it sounds in 2012, Wingate had a service organization that allowed only boys, which was perfectly acceptable in those days, but you had to be at least 5-feet-10, or taller, to join," said Markowitz, who recounted his high school exploits during Wingate's class of 1962's 50th reunion last weekend at Gargiulo's Restaurant in Coney Island.

"I wanted to be of service, so I started an organization called the Middle Men, which was for everyone under 5-feet-10," the Beep said.

*Continued on Page 15*



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

**RAMEN RELIEF:** Chefs Matt Sakowicz and Marc Giroux have turned heads with their matzo ball ramen, showing off their knack for curing the common nostalgia.

# A FEW GOOD RAMEN

Bklyn's best off-beat takes on Japanese comfort food

BY ANTHONY SMITH

Sweater weather is noodle-slurping season — and with ramen shops popping up across the borough, Japan's comfort food is the perfect cure for the cold.

And those looking to shake things up with some truly untraditional takes on the stuff that kept them full in college need look

no further than Brooklyn, where bold and bizarre takes on the tried-and-true noodle soup are the borough standard.

In a sea of worthy choices, here are our five absolute favorite places to shovel unique varieties of ramen into our mouths.

Break out the nice chopsticks: *Continued on Page 13*

# Dogs dump dilemma

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Bay Ridge dog-owners are foaming at the mouth over the lack of neighborhood trash cans — a state of affairs they claim has given them no place to put their best friend's doo-doo bags and turned the streets into a minefield of improperly-disposed animal waste.

Angry pooch-lovers say that only Third and Fifth avenues have garbage receptacles on each block, while Fourth Avenue only has baskets near the train stations — leaving thoroughfares like Narrows Avenue, Colonial Road, Ridge Boulevard, and Sixth Avenue without

*Continued on Page 15*



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

**FIGHT CLUB:** Joseph Katz says that the best way to approach non-violence is through violence.

# Fight fighting with fighting

BY LORRAINE BOISSONEAULT

A Williamsburg mixed martial arts aficionado says he can keep troubled kids from resorting to violence — by teaching them to fight.

Joseph Katz started offering free classes to at-risk youth at Williamsburg's

Renzo Gracie Fight Academy this summer because people who know how to throw a punch also know when not to throw a punch.

"The only reason why [the kids] fight in the streets is because they don't know how to fight," said Katz, who calls the classes Hope Academy. "When they know how

to fight, they don't have to show up and prove a point."

The 25-year-old Hasidic Jew says he was inspired to give free classes and pay for equipment out of pocket after realizing so many neighborhood teens have problems in school and at home — then resort to mis-

*Continued on Page 15*

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Photo by Steve Solomonson

**OIL IN WATER:** City workers barricade off parts of Paerdegat Basin following Sept. 27's spill, when more than 1,100 gallons of gasoline and oil bled into the waterway. Photo by Steve Solomonson

# OIL SPILLS INTO BASIN

## National Grid gas main soils Paerdegat

BY COLIN MIXSON

A noxious gas and oil spill at Paerdegat Basin that multiple government agencies are scrambling to staunch has left nearby residents wondering if their health is in jeopardy.

More than 1,000 gallons of an "oily water residue" — which could fill about 15 bath tubs, but only six inches of an average-sized swimming pool — seeped into the Basin Sept. 27 as National Grid worked on an old, unused gas main. The state Department of Environmental Conservation, the city's Department of Environmental Protection, and the United States Coast Guard are in the process of cleaning the spill, but residents who have complained about a foul odor coming off the basin since last Thursday wonder if the damage has already been done.

"I was little worried about what I've been breathing in for the past few days," said long-time Bergen Beach resident Steve Collins. "I didn't

even open the windows and the smell was still seeping into the house. It was bad."

Clean-up crews have placed barriers known as hard booms at the mouth of Paerdegat Basin, which feeds into the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, as well as around basin marinas to stop the oil spill from spreading. Between 1,000 and 1,500 gallons of oily water had been pumped out of the basin as of Monday afternoon, a National Grid spokesman said.

It remained unclear how the spill will affect Jamaica Bay or the Wildlife Refuge, but some level of destruction is inevitable, Coast Guard officials admit.

"Anytime there's an oil spill it will have a negative impact on the environment," said U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Erik Swanson. "That's why we're working to make sure it gets cleaned up as quickly as possible."

In addition to any environmental damage, Swanson said that the hulls of

the 130 boats harbored in Paerdegat Basin will need to be cleaned to prevent the spread of the noxious oils.

Boaters are being allowed in and out of Paerdegat Basin, but are required to submit their vessels to an inspection to determine if the boat is clean enough to sail out of the basin. If it isn't, contractors from Miller Environmental will attempt to clean the ships and schooners.

"If they can do the cleaning on the spot, they will," Swanson said.

Investigators are still trying to determine if National Grid caused the spill. If the energy provider is responsible, the company will be held liable for cleanup costs, officials say.

The amount of oil that leaked into Paerdegat Basin is a minuscule compared to the Exxon oil spill in Greenpoint, when between 17 and 30 million gallons of crude oil seeped into Newtown Creek and nearby land over several decades.

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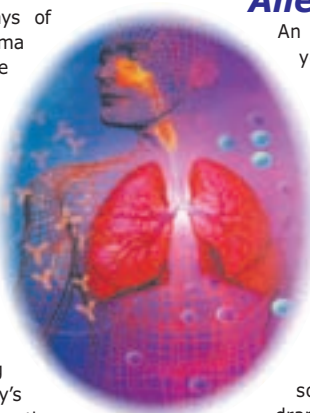
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# Gowanus grand plan panned

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

A planned housing development will bring too many residents to the banks of the Gowanus Canal, claim neighbors who fear it will overburden a fragile sewer system, crowd schools, and pack the subway.

The real estate firm Lightstone Group wants to build a 12-story, 700-unit apartment complex on a canal-side site bounded by Carroll and Second streets, reviving a plan that different developers ditched two years ago — but adding roughly 250 apartments to the original design.

The proposal includes landscaped public esplanade, storm-sewer upgrades, and 140 below-market-rate rentals — which the company claims provide much-needed housing “for people of more moderate means.”

“The way this project fits into the community is important to us — not just its design quality but also its environmental infrastructure, said Lee Weintraub, an architect heading the project at a hearing last Thursday

But dozens of Gowanus residents and activists said the area's infrastructure can't accommodate the roughly 1,400 new residents expected to descend on the blossoming industrial neighborhood.

“It's completely out of line. We don't want to see

a monster building,” said Gowanus neighbor Linda Mariano at a hearing attended by more than 100 residents, activists and civic leaders.

Some residents said they feared the population hike would render the nearby Carroll Street subway station useless.

“None of you have ridden the F train,” neighbor Barrin Bonet told developers at the meeting. “You can't physically get on in the morning.”

Others cited environmental worries tied to flooding and the polluted canal — which is so filthy it's the site for a federal Superfund cleanup.

The new rentals come after the real estate firm, Toll Brothers, backed out of a similar plan to bring luxury condos to the same plot.

The company signed papers to buy the land in 2004, but six years into its plan — and in the midst of a nationwide recession — it walked away from a \$5.75-million down payment, saying the Environmental Protection Agency's clean-up would take so long and create such a strong stigma that the land wasn't worth developing.

Lightstone Group now says its development makes only a “minor modification” to the already approved Toll Brothers plan — allowing the com-

*Continued on Page 15*



**THE VENICE OF BROOKLYN:** The proposed 700-unit housing complex on the banks of the Gowanus Canal looks like this — if you're a bird.

# Controversial Bridge Park condos will boast private lawns

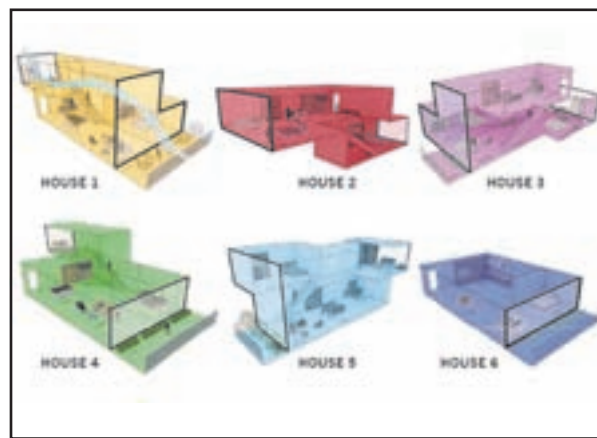
BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Fenced-off yards attached to planned condos in Brooklyn Bridge Park are a greenspace-hogging affront on precious public land, frustrated park-booster say.

A proposal for a controversial housing complex on Pier 1 calls for landscaped private terraces linked to ground-floor residential units — a design that betrays the very definition of “park,” according to recreation advocates.

“The principle is ridiculous,” said yards-in-the-park opponent Roy Sloane, who sits on the park's advisory council. “They're taking up land that should belong to future generations of park-goers.”

Sloane and other critics say the architectural misstep turns the park into a literal and figurative back-



Courtesy of Rogers Marvel Architects

**YARDS ON SALE:** Park-booster say private lawns attached to planned condos will take up valuable public space on Pier 1.

yard for wealthy developers and their future tenants.

He also fears the private yards will set the stage for yard-style activities — such as laundry-drying and tiki-torch-burning — near the park's stunning promenade, potentially tainting

the valuable public commodity.

The new design revives a long-simmering battle over the use of the waterfront space and ultimately how to fund the park's \$16-million annual maintenance budget — a dilemma

that stems from a 2002 agreement requiring the park to raise its own cash so it won't drain public coffers.

Lawmakers eventually decided to build a 159-unit housing complex and hotel in the park near Furman Street, just south of the Old Fulton Street entrance, to bring in revenue.

New housing design details — including news about the private yards — comes after members of the park's advisory panel recommended that architects build a clear visual separation between public grassy areas and private terraces.

“The criticism was that yards of lower units sort of melted into the park,” said Joan McGroarty of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Community Advisory Council.

A spokeswoman for *Continued on Page 15*



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

## Bird of play

Auggie, a Eurasian eagle owl, and Cathy Horvath, of Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation, flocked to this year's Raptor Fest in Prospect Park.



Photo by Bees Adler

**HOSPITAL NEEDS HELP:** David Dobosz is one of many North Brooklyn residents who says the city must redevelop the long-vacant Greenpoint Hospital – and do it quickly – now that the builder selected by the Bloomberg administration has given up on the project.

# HOSPITAL PLAN HAS FLATLINED

## Builder bails on much-anticipated G'point project

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

The developer tapped by the city to turn the abandoned Greenpoint Hospital into affordable housing has backed out of the long-awaited project, leaving the future of the building up in the air and neighbors outraged over continued inaction at a site that has lain fallow since 1982.

The Great American Construction Corp. pulled out of the \$52-million redevelopment of the vacant medical building this summer after its senior executive William Clarke was indicted on bribery charges at a separate job.

The news halts any development at the main hospital building, which was slated to become 240 units of below-market rate apartments.

City officials say they remain committed to turning the hospital in to housing, but will restart a lengthy bidding process from scratch — a proposal that infuriates community activists who claim they're best-suited to rebuild the site, and do it quickly.

A coalition of North Brooklyn neighborhood groups wants the city to hand over the reins to St. Nick's Alliance, a Williamsburg-based non-profit housing developer that lost out on the Greenpoint Hospital bidding two years ago, then sued the city claiming it picked an under-qualified applicant.

Activists back St. Nick's proposal, touting the non-profit's track record in the community.

"It's ridiculous," said Ryan

Kuonen, a Community Board 1 member who voted repeatedly in favor of St. Nick's plan. "At the very least, they should pick one of the other two groups that applied."

But Department of Housing Preservation and Development spokesman Eric Bederman said a new bidding process is the only fair way to proceed.

"All interested parties would be encouraged to apply and would receive a fair and balanced review, as was the case last time," he said.

St. Nick's, working with the Greenpoint Renaissance Enterprise Corporation, managed to revitalize smaller buildings on the hospital campus, opening a homeless shelter and an arts cen-

*Continued on Page 15*

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**GOING WILD:** Andy Mullaney of Bay Ridge brought his safari animals, 6-year-old Molly and 1-year-old Leo, to last Saturday's Ragamuffin Parade.

# TOTS: FORGET HALLOWEEN

Costumed kids parade one month early

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Bay Ridge kids defied gray skies and came out in the thousands dressed as butterflies, bees, lions, and more for a beloved neighborhood tradition.

Pre-Halloween costumed kids stepped off for the 46th annual Ragamuffin Parade last Saturday, and marched down Third Avenue from 76th to 92nd streets.

Parade organizer and spokesman Ted General said he was impressed with both the number of families that came out for the event and with the originality of the children's outfits — many of which were homemade.

"I'm simply amazed at how well-attended it was," General said, estimating that some 2,500 kids were part of the cavalcade, and adding that organizers nearly ran out of prizes to give all of them. "There



**PINK PUP:** Delyla Crespo, 1, of Bay Ridge is beyond happy to be at the parade dressed as a pink pooch.

were quite a few great costumes."

General noted that Visitation Academy — whose headmistress Arlene Figaro led the fanfare along-

side parade committee "Man of the Year," businessman John Abi-Habib — had one of the largest delegations of students, though he added that several other schools had strong showings, too.

"We had a very large turn-out, and it was a great day for the kids," General said.

The tradition has come a long way since the late Reverend James McKenna suggested Bay Ridge kids dress up in their parents' old clothes and circle the block of Our Lady of Angels Church at the corner of 73rd Street and Fourth Avenue.

"It's grown leaps and bounds," said General, noting that the parade has now become a full-fledged costume contest with a much longer route.

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**GNOME MORE:** This giant gnome disappeared from an industrial yard in Carroll Gardens — then popped up at the bar around the corner.

# Beloved Carroll Gardens gnome is dead

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

He is gnome more. “Jerome the Gnome,” the humongous red-capped reality-TV-star-turned-Carroll Gardens-mascot, died last month of a severed head. He was just a year old.

The 20-foot lawn ornament — who was featured on the A&E show “Shipping Wars” and a Wendy’s hamburger commercial before finding a home at Bond and President streets — was dis-

membered by his bar-owning creators, sources say.

Owners of Lavender Lake, who built the statue for the show, took apart his chubby body — then stuffed his head in a warehouse, say staffers at the watering hole.

“I hate to be the bearer of bad news,” said general manager Conrad Oliver. “But the gnome is dead.”

The big fat dwarf, who seemed to be perpetually whistling, became a neigh-

borhood icon when he started looming over the street outside the design studio John Creech D & P — and served as a community conversation-starter for months.

Owners then transported him to the bar’s outdoor patio, pleasing craft beer guzzlers who looked decidedly more attractive standing next to him.

But his creators have since come to realize the Jerome no longer fits the bar’s

minimalist aesthetic, so they killed him, Oliver said.

The gnome creeped out some neighbors, who experienced abject horror when they crossed his path.

“It’s terrifying — the first time I saw him was at night,” said neighbor Ben Afill, who runs the blog Gowanus Your Face Off.

Afill isn’t the only one who felt an unexplainable eeriness near the gnome — a YouTube video shows a

young girl burst into tears because of the statue.

“I’m scared!” she says between sobs. “I’m scared of that gnome.”

That might simply be because gnomes are pure evil, said gnome expert Chuck Sambuchino.

“They’re scary and tacky — and they look like they’re carrying a concealed weapon,” said Sambuchino, author of “How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack.”

## Buddies bring the broom handle back to Bay Ridge

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

The Ragamuffin Parade wasn’t the only game in town last Saturday — a group of friends and family members gathered in Bay Ridge to keep another great Brooklyn tradition alive: stickball.

Old buddies from the neighborhood gathered on 80th Street between Third and Fourth avenues to take part in the hallowed rite of the broom handle.

Coordinator Peter Syrdahl said the annual gathering of the Stickball Old Timers started in 1968, as a generation of Bay Ridge friends graduated from college.

“I realized that something that we did as kids, we should come back and do again, once a year, in the place where we were from,” said Syrdahl, who today resides in Dyker Heights.

Syrdahl lives a lot closer to the block where he and his pals played in the street as youngsters than anybody else from the old gang: Stickball Old Timers had to fly in from California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Florida for the mini-reunion — and Syrdahl’s younger brother even crossed the sea from his adopted home in Norway to swing a bat and run the bases once again. The friends brought their children and grandchildren with them to pass the urban institution on to a new generation.

“It’s great for the kids,



Photo by Steve Solomonson

**OLD-COUNTRY TRADITION:** Hank Syrdahl of Norway gets ready to swing in the stickball game on 80th Street.

because they get outside and run and play,” said Syrdahl, noting that today’s youth spend too much time in front of the television. “Then they want to come back next year, and they bring their friends.”

Some Ridge teens even got in on the act, as they watched the Old Timers play on their street with growing curiosity.

“When the game was over, these junior high school kids asked us what we were doing. They didn’t even know what stickball was,” said the 66-year-old Syrdahl, who lent the boys a few bats to try out. “I’m not

going to be able to do this much more, and so we try to continue the process.”

The man known as “The Commissioner” said that the annual stickball game is the highlight of the year for him and his buddies.

“Everybody tells me this is the greatest thing in their life. They get to come back and see their old friends, and be part of this great Brooklyn tradition,” said the 66-year-old Syrdahl. “When you’re 65, 66-years old there won’t be another big anniversary till you’re in your 70s, and who knows who’ll still be around for that.”



Photo by Steve Solomonson

## Glad hatter

Jazmine Torres, 20, tries on some headwear she bought at last week’s Third Avenue Festival. Thousands attended the fest, which organizers claim is the best in the borough.

# Barclays menu will reflect boro's tastes

## Expect organic food and gluten-free hot dogs



Photo by Paul Martinika

**GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT:** A concession at the new home of the Brooklyn Nets will be the first in the NBA to serve organic and gluten-free fare, according to Levy Restaurants.

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

It really *is* Brooklyn's arena. Snack vendors at the Barclays Center plan to serve organic pumpkin seeds and gluten-free beer and hot dogs from a portable cart, says the company providing grub at the new home of the Brooklyn Nets.

The firm Levy Restaurants decided to make the new arena the only NBA stadium with an organic-and-gluten-free concession after conducting a survey that revealed a demand for foods that would fit right in on the shelves of the Park Slope Food Co-op.

Once the company had the data, it concocted a plan to feature grub that reflects the identity of the borough, said Levy Restaurants operations director Julie Margolin.

"We wanted to go a little less traditional route," Margolin said. "We started to hear about more and more dietary needs and restrictions."

The diet-conscious cart-on-wheels will feature a Kinnikinnick-bunned hotdog that's gluten free (\$5.95), cheesy popcorn that's fine for folks suffering from celiac disease (\$4.95), and Redbridge beer made without wheat or barley (\$9) after the basketball season begins this fall.

Margolin said a growing number of people — roughly 1 in 130 — are allergic to gluten, a protein found in wheat, barley, and rye products.

Levy Restaurants previously set up gluten-free carts in baseball and soccer stadiums in Seattle, Chicago, and Salt Lake City — but the concession will be the

first of its kind for hoops fans.

Vegan chef Neal Harden, who cooks gluten-free meals at Maimonide Of Brooklyn just a few blocks away, is happy to see the arena thinking outside the burger-box.

"It's great — sports fans are more dynamic than people give them credit for," said Harden, who expects his eatery will host plenty of Nets game-goers. "The branding of the arena is well thought-out and in-sync with the 'Brooklyn hipster' image, even down to the jerseys — so this is no surprise."

The cart joins a number of dining options that feature gluten at the newly opened stadium, including outposts from Brooklyn eateries such as L&B Spumoni Gardens, Calexico, and Brooklyn Pharmacy.

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**DOGGIE HEAVEN:** Manhattan Beach resident Ilana Bram says the neighborhood's pooches need a cleaner dog run for their daily exercise.

# GOING TO THE DOGS

Residents say spend money on us, not pups

**BY COLIN MIXSON**  
 The city should see to the needs of its two-legged taxpayers before its four-legged friends, say Manhattan Beach residents who are slamming a \$500,000 plan to move a public dog run that many claim isn't fit for the mangiest of mutts while human play spaces are not being maintained.

The city is ready to move the current Manhattan Beach Park dog run toward the park's tennis courts and replace the existing bark park with a public garden, but some attending last week's Community Board 15 meeting said the city has already shown that it can't take care of the neighborhood's other green spaces.

"We have a garden dedicated to a dear friend of ours, Dana Borell, and what do we have now? Weeds growing," said Manhattan Beach Neighborhood Association Vice President Al

Smaldone. "It's a disgrace and an embarrassment to us as a community."

Others said the money Councilman Michael Nelson (D-Midwood) allocated for the dog run move could be used to replace Manhattan Beach Park's basketball courts, which many claim have been poorly maintained.

"To spend that kind of money when the basketball courts are hurting is ridiculous," said neighborhood activist Ed Eisenberg, a point that Smaldone applauded.

"One-third of our children in the country are obese, but we can't get a basketball court so the kids can run around — never mind the dogs," said Smaldone.

Yet neighborhood dog lovers say Manhattan Beach needs a new bark park.

"I have a beautiful dog and I would never take my

dog to that dog run," said Bunny Fleischer, Vice President of the Manhattan Beach Community Group.

Councilman Nelson's chief of operations, Chaim Deutsch, said the old dog run would not be converted into a garden until the new one had been finished, ensuring that dog owners always have a place to bring their best friends.

"The bottom line is, no dog will be left behind," said Deutsch.

Nelson is waiting for the community board's approval before he gives the money to the Parks Department, which would be responsible for finding a contractor.

Board members said they would table the vote until either the Parks Department or Councilman Nelson's office provides the panel with a written proposal.

File photo by Elizabeth Graham



# Last stop for Bensonhurst garbage

## Residents: MTA property on Bay Parkway a haven for illegal dumping

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

An empty Metropolitan Transportation Authority lot on 66th Street has become a garbage-strewn eyesore that stinks to high heaven in the summer, say Bensonhurst residents and merchants who want the state agency to fence off and clean out the property.

MTA officials say they are trying to get rid of the small lot near Bay Parkway, but that news has done little to quell enraged residents who claim that the property has become a neighborhood waste station for illegal dumpers wanting to get rid

of everything from construction debris to dirty diapers.

"People drive here and leave bags of trash, and we got rats and roaches," said neighbor Hy Doe, who claims that he has repeatedly called 311 about the illegal dumping, but nothing has been done. "Somebody's got to watch the lot at night, from 9 till sun-up. The city used to have guys driving around who looked for these things."

Nearby merchants who have witnessed the illegal dumping agreed.

"Somebody stops a car, and they'll leave something," said Sal Aizah,

owner of the 24-hour Star Deli Grocery across the street from the lot. "Somebody else will see that garbage, and they'll leave something. Then somebody else drives up and sees that and so they leave something. It builds up."

Assemblyman Bill Colton (D-Bensonhurst) said he's been fielding complaints about the lot for nearly seven months, and has repeatedly demanded that the city's Department of Sanitation clean the lot on a regular basis.

But Colton doesn't just want the lot cleaned out —

which the city's Department of Sanitation did last week — he wants the dumpers to be found and dealt with.

"We've been trying to get them to open up the bags and see if they can find a name or an address inside and conduct an investigation," Colton said.

The situation has gotten so bad that Community Board 11 passed a resolution calling on the authority to raise a fence around the property, but MTA officials wouldn't comment on whether they would do so.

"It may be more practical for us to examine our



**DUMPED ON:** Bensonhurst residents Anthony Balzano and Tania Ohlsson are not happy that the corner of Bay Parkway and 66th Street has become an illegal garbage drop-off spot.

needs with an eye towards disposing of this property," MTA spokesman Charles Seaton said.



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# Trouble with truants

## Residents and merchants bash Midwood's new hooky home

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Midwood residents are lashing out at the city's plans to put a truancy center next to a private all-girl's school on Ocean Avenue — demanding that the city should put its bad apples in another basket.

The new Truancy Processing Center — where school-age children caught playing hooky will be housed until 2 pm or when their parents can come to pick them up — will be located near Avenue M, yet residents, merchants, and local civic leaders claim that the kids housed in the new facility could endanger students at Yeshiva Shaare Torah next door.

"Whoever is making this decision has no idea what he's doing!" said Yitzi Gruen, the owner of Judaica Place, which is two doors down from the proposed center. "The city's asking for chaos by putting these kids in a safe area and next door to a girl's school."

Other neighboring merchants say they have no interest in adding a bunch of hooky-playing kids to an area that already sees large flocks of rambunctious teenagers hitting the shop-



**TRUANT TROUBLE:** Yitzi Gruen, the owner of The Judaica Place on Avenue M, thinks it would be a terrible idea for the Department of Education to bring a truancy center to Midwood.

ping corridor every time Edward R. Murrow High School lets out.

Calls to the yeshiva were not returned, but civic leaders say the whole community will be negatively impacted by the truancy center's presence.

"I have deep concerns

about the unacceptable behavior of truant students," said City Council Michael Nelson (D-Midwood), who is opposing the plan. "Everyone will be negatively affected — residents, businesses and particularly the safety of other students in the community."

Other community leaders are outraged that the city did not meet with them first before deciding to drop the truancy center in their neighborhood.

"We don't know the number of truants that will be brought to the fa-

*Continued on Page 12*

## Filmmaker: Black toys are beautiful

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Eat your heart out, Barbie.

A thought-provoking filmmaker is showcasing a documentary about black dolls that probes why beauty and cultural identity are tied to the too-rare inanimate creatures.

In the film, Brooklyn-based director Samantha Knowles interviews dozens of females — kids, artists, and collectors — about their bond with black dolls and discovers that the objects are more than just playthings.

"They really have a certain weight," Knowles said. "They remind us of our heri-

tage and that we are beautiful."

Knowles also explores the fact that cloth-and-plastic ladies of color are not as present on toy shop shelves as their lighter-skinned counterparts, which can deprive black youths of a "positive representation" of themselves, she said.

Knowles asks interviewees, "Why do you have black dolls?" — a question inspired by a childhood experience in which a friend couldn't understand why she preferred a toy that looked more like Beyoncé than Barbie.

The documentary now offers an interesting



**REEL DOLLS:** Filmmaker Samantha Knowles has created a documentary examining the social significance of black dolls.

glimpse into a unique niche of collectors who are not interested in the "cookie-cut-

ter dolls you'd find in Walmart," Knowles said.

It will air at the 15th annual Reel Sisters Film Festival — an event dedicated to supporting movies made by women of color — which Knowles said helps fuel a conversation about the significance of dolls as ethnic artifacts.

"It's a way of reclaiming our history and heritage," Knowles said.

"Why Do You Have Black Dolls?" at Kumble Theater for the Performing Arts [1 University Plaza, between DeKalb and Flatbush avenues, (718) 488-1624, [reelsisters.com](http://reelsisters.com)]. Oct. 14, 5 pm. \$7.

# The man behind Marvel comics

BY CHUCK O'DONNELL

The Brooklynite who founded Marvel Comics only got a one-paragraph tribute from the company he created when he died in 1992 — but now the incredible story of his life and achievements is getting the recognition it deserves.

Martin Goodman was a working class Brooklyn kid who launched the biggest name in comics and tasked his wife's nephew, a junior editor named Stan Lee, to come up with a superhero team better known today as The Fantastic Four.

That hiring decision gave rise to a big bang of creativity that soon brought Spider-Man, Iron Man, the Hulk, and thousands of other characters into the world.

But his legacy was largely overlooked until Prospect Heights resident Sean Howe realized Goodman's historic contributions while researching his upcoming book "Marvel Comics: the Untold Story."

"When Goodman died, there was just a paragraph-long notice in the Marvel publicity letter. It was listed underneath a much bigger obituary for William Gaines, who was one of the Mad magazine founders," said Howe, who uses the perfunctory, one-paragraph obituary in the official Marvel newsletter to close one of the saddest chapters of his text.

Goodman was an unlikely hero, quitting school in the fifth grade to help his parents and 12 siblings in Brooklyn make ends meet, rising from poverty during the Great Depression, starting the world's largest comic book publisher from a cramped office in Manhattan.

And he didn't just sit back and maneuver the purse strings. Goodman had final approval for all covers for decades, and deftly pushed the company to explore genres such as horror and romance.

The strange saga of Goodman's anti-climatic death is just one of the once untold stories found in Howe's book. Through three years of research, Howe stitches together the tale of how impoverished child prodigies, hallucinating peaceniks, and mercenary careerists helped Marvel weather Wall Street machinations, Hollywood failures, and the collapse of the comic book market.

Howe captures the often volatile world of hero-and-villain makers.

While the recent ballooning movie budgets and story lines that have pitted hero against hero would surprise Goodman if he were alive, he would surely recognize the never-ending battles between writers, artists, and editors. Throughout the book, it's like Howe is putting a glass to the door

*Continued on Page 12*



**MARVELOUS BOOK:** Sean Howe's history of Marvel is full of great stories, like how the wacky staff was working on a book wholly of office photographs, and Stan Lee posed nude for the centerfold.

# Cyclist killed in hit-and-run



Photo courtesy of Total Slacker

**CYCLIST KILLED:** Terence Connor, the drummer for Brooklyn psychedelic garage band Total Slacker, died Monday morning after being struck by a vehicle on Metropolitan Avenue in Bushwick.

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

A driver hit and killed a bicyclist then fled from the scene on Metropolitan Avenue in Bushwick early Monday morning, police said.

Investigators said the 26-year-old victim was riding near the intersection of Stewart Avenue when he was struck. Police gave no description of the vehicle and did not release the cyclist's name, though a Facebook page for the indie rock band Total Slacker identi-

fied the biker as drummer Terence Connor.

Total Slacker bandleader Tucker Roundtree said Connor had been touring with the psychedelic garage rock group since May.

"Terence was a rare and beautiful soul. He never judged anyone and was such an exciting and optimistic friend," Roundtree told this newspaper. "We all instantaneously became friends with him and loved him. There isn't anything he wouldn't do for those

close to him."

When police officers arrived at the scene of the crash, they found the cyclist laying in the road with a severe head injury. Emergency responders took him to Woodhull Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

The crash occurred on a busy stretch of Metropolitan Avenue that is classified as a local truck route and frequented by many big rigs servicing warehouses in the area.

North Brooklyn has been the site of multiple bicycle fatalities in the past months. Last September, Erica Abbott lost her life after riding over construction debris, falling from her bike, and being struck by a vehicle on Bushwick Avenue.

In October, a truck driver hit and killed artist Matthew LeFevre as he rode on Morgan Avenue — then left the scene. The motorist received traffic summonses but faced no criminal charges.

## Eatery files galactic lawsuit

BY COLIN MIXSON

A Sheepshead Bay community panel and two neighborhood politicians led a biased smear campaign against an Avenue U restaurant that prevented the eatery from getting its liquor license, the disgruntled restaurateurs claimed in a lawsuit last week.

Galaxy Restaurant owners Marat Zagorin and Mark Shteynshlyuger, who owned the failed Pleasure Island restaurant at the same address near Coney Island Avenue five years ago, claim that community leaders including Community Board 15 chairwoman Teresa Scavo turned down their request for a liquor license because they weren't "Jewish enough" — and are seeking \$180 million in damages.

"Scavo is discriminating against [Zagorin and Shteynshlyuger] based on their national origin and religion," court records claim, indicating that Scavo and CB15 members said they would only approve a Kosher restaurant that caters to observant Jews because they are quiet.

"Scavo is emphatic in her position that she does not want a Russian non-Kosher restaurant opening in that community," the lawsuit claims.

Attorney Linda Cronin said Zagorin and Shteynshlyuger, who put in more than \$400,000 into a restaurant they were never allowed to open, were flab-



File photo by Elizabeth Graham

**NO PLEASURE:** Community Board 15 chairwoman Teresa Scavo, pictured at the former Pleasure restaurant on Avenue U earlier this year, is being sued for allegedly leading a smear campaign against the eatery's owners.

bergasted by the resistance they received on something as routine as a liquor license petition.

"The community board must represent all of the community and right now they're not representing these two Russian Jewish men," Cronin told the Daily News. "They're coming up with all kinds of discriminatory prejudices as to what they believe the restaurant will be."

Defendants in the suit include Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay), who the complainants say called the restaurant "a plague on the community."

State Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) is also a defendant in the lawsuit for allegedly spreading rumors that the two restaurateurs were opening a strip club.

"This institution de-

creases the quality of life ... locations like these need to be strongly monitored and made to cooperate with the community if they cannot be shut down," Golden said, according to court documents.

Cymbrowitz declined to comment on the lawsuit, which he's already forward to New York State's Attorney General's Office for review. Calls to Golden for comment were not returned by our deadline.

Scavo admits that she had complained publicly about the Galaxy Restaurant's non-Kosher offerings, but said her comments were shamelessly taken out of context.

"What was said was, 'that area caters to Kosher establishments, because of the demographics,'" said Scavo.



Photo by Arthur DeGata

## Jumping for joy

Brooklyn Technical High School's Engineers teammates Justin Minucci and Tyler Dougherty celebrate their team's 42-0 trouncing of injury-plagued Fort Hamilton High School on the gridiron last Saturday.

# Brooklyn's bumper crop

Toxic Gowanus corn could pose health risks, volunteers say

BY NATALIE O'NEILL

Gowanus is awash with a mini-bumper crop of corn, but don't go stuffing celebratory tamales — it's not smart to eat the chemically tainted stuff, according to the volunteers whose landscaping efforts gave rise to the maize.

Forth on Fourth Avenue — a group dedicated to beautifying the busy thoroughfare — tried to bring life to tree pits with a planting initiative earlier this year.

But the group used a compost from the Gowanus Canal Conservancy that was likely speckled with corn seeds, resulting in grains sprouting as high as six feet near Saint Marks Place and President Street.

The unanticipated corn plants pleased green-thumbed neighbors, though volunteers now warn that consuming veggies grown in urban soil is a health risk — especially in an area suffering from decades of industrial pollution not far from the putrid Gowanus Canal, which is so filthy that it qualified for an extremely expensive federal cleanup.

"You really can't eat it — it's a bad idea," said Elise Selinger of Forth on Fourth Avenue, an organization that recently received a grant for caring for the boulevard's young trees, which you probably



**WHAT THE HUSK?:** Volunteers say you shouldn't eat the corn growing wild on this Gowanus sidewalk.

shouldn't eat either.

Selinger says that city corn should be grown in planters with cleaner imported soil rather than in tree pits with more polluted

city dirt.

Even "Wildman" Steve Brill — a New York City culinary legend who regularly forages for wild foods that grow across the bor-

oughs — says eating Gowanus corn is a risk.

"If it were in a park I'd go for it — but not so close to traffic and the canal," Brill told this newspaper.

## Judge: Giuffre a dirty dealer

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

A Bay Ridge car dealership will have to pay more than \$500,000 in penalties now that a state judge has ruled that the business bilked several customers.

Judge Bernard J. Graham ordered John Giuffre's automobile empire — which runs four car dealerships in Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst — to reimburse 46 of its former customers \$294,500, as well as \$215,500 in civil fines.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman accused Giuffre of lying to buyers about the contracts they were signing, as well as hitting purchasers with unwanted accessories and strong-arming people into signing blank contracts — actions that Schneiderman claims left Giuffre's victims in the poor house.

"Consumers found themselves owing more than they ever would have knowingly agreed to pay,"

Schneiderman said.

The attorney general cobbled a case against Giuffre, which many community residents call a major Bay Ridge employer and philanthropist, after several customers came forward and claimed that they had been hoodwinked.

Schneiderman claimed that Giuffre salesmen played these illegal practices on immigrants and seniors, steps Judge Graham

found reprehensible when he announced his decision.

"Each person wound up owning a car that they never intended to buy or a price that was dishonestly represented to them," Graham said in his decision as he directed the dealership to reach out to the victims' banks and lenders to try to get the victims' credit scores restored.

Calls to Giuffre for comment were not returned by our deadline.

## State: Amnesia forgot something

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

The owner of the controversial Bay Ridge nightclub Amnesia forgot to get worker's compensation insurance for his employees, say state officials who shut the club down last month.

The New York State Worker's Compensation Board issued a Sept. 17 stop-work order on the Brazilian steakhouse-turned-nightclub — which has come under fire from Community Board 10 for having pounding music, rowdy patrons, double parked cars, and for hosting dance parties without a license — for failing to insure its workers for nearly two years.

That misstep is costing owner Frank Sofia more than \$126,000 in fines.

"We have been trying to work with this owner and this owner has not been available or cooperative," said Workers Compensation Board spokesman Joseph Cavalcante, who said that Amnesia first came on the agency's radar after an employee was injured on the job.

"We have been investigating this business for quite some time. It's gotten a lot of notice from us."

Cavalcante said that if Sofia wants to open Amnesia again — either as a restaurant, nightclub, or any of the other multiple personalities the business has taken on over the years — without providing proof of insurance and paying the fines, he can be taken away in handcuffs.

"If the order is violated, we would refer the case to the district attorney and the police," the spokesman said. "But the business can come to us and review the penalty amount. Our goal is compliance. Our goal is not to accumulate revenue."

Sofia, who also owns Sofia's Restaurant on Third Avenue between 84th and 85th streets and Sofia's Ristorante Italiano in Manhattan's Theater District, said he planned to resolve the situation soon.

"I'm going to take care of things with the Worker's Compensation Board. I'm not going to do anything non-legally," said Sofia, refusing to comment further.

## Truants

*Continued from page 10*

city or how many will be released to roam the streets of Midwood at the end of the school day," said Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein (D-Midwood).

A Department of Ed-

ucation spokeswoman said that her agency does not control the placement of truancy centers.

Attempts to reach the Mayor's Task Force on Truancy and Absenteeism were unsuccessful by our midnight deadline.

## Marvel

*Continued from page 10*

at Marvel's old offices on Madison Avenue and letting us listen in as the drama plays out like an issue of Chris Claremont's theatrical run on the X-Men in the 1980s.

"I think there may be a certain type of person creating superhero stories with a streak of idealism in them," Howe said.

"I wouldn't explain everything away with that, but it's not that much of a leap to think that someone who is creating stories about characters that are fighting for values would be willing to wage a war for their own values."

Sean Howe, author of "Marvel Comics: The Untold Story," at power-house Arena [27 Main St. in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049]. Oct. 9, 7-9 pm.

# Ramen

Continued from cover

## 5. Ramen Yebisu

One of the biggest surprises of the summer was that a consistently great ramen noodle joint should open in Williamsburg's Northside. Enter Yebisu Ramen, a Sapporo-style ramen joint that features "namamen," a ramen soup made with home-made, extremely fresh unheated noodles that are fermented for forty-eight hours rather than boiled. The result locks a wonderfully uncanny flavor into them that's unparalleled by anything else in the city. Particularly good is the Yebisu house ramen, which features seafood broth, prawns, snow crabs, mussels, scallops, scallions, and seaweed.

[126 N Sixth St. between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue, (718) 782-1444].

## 4. Zuzu Ramen

Vegetarians who miss the stuff that used to warm them up during less discerning days can find help quelling the hunger at Zuzu Ramen, which holds the honor of the

best vegetarian ramen in the city. Rather than relying on cooking pork bones down for days at a time to flavor their broth, the garlic soy ramen features roasted garlic, bok choy, a slow-cooked egg, and a veggie broth flavored with soy sauce and seasonal vegetables.

[173 Fourth Ave. at Degraw street, (718) 398-9898].

## 3. Chuko Ramen

All that slurping—slurping being the only way to eat ramen—can get a little heavy on the stomach and a little intense on the tongue. Though Chuko's ramen may not be extraordinarily unique in terms of its ingredients and execution, it's hard to overlook the other fixings that come with the meal. For a balanced meal, ramen-lovers can pair the standard pork bone, scallion, egg, and mustard green ramen with an extraordinarily unique take on a kale salad tossed with sweet potato, raisins, and miso. Moving back and forth between the freshness and lightness of the salad and the intense, rich flavor profile of the ramen will give loud ramen eaters an experience they

can sigh about.

[552 Vanderbilt Ave. at Dean Street, (718) 576-6701]

## 2. Dassara Brooklyn Ramen

This new Carroll Gardens joint has been garnering a lot of attention since it opened up earlier this year, and for very good reason. Of all the ramen on this list, theirs boasts the clearest, most enviable hypothesis for what it means to open up a noodle joint in Brooklyn.

Their "deli ramen" marries nostalgia and cerebral experimentalism so perfectly it's obvious that the chefs are on to something special. It's a chicken broth-based soup served with celery, matzo balls, locally-sourced smoked meats, and a poached egg. It won't taste like any other ramen (maybe a high-end take on the stuff that came in packets), but it will evoke every single nourishing comfort food from grandma.

[271 Smith St. between Degraw and Sackett streets, (718) 643-0781]

## 1. Yuji Ramen

Hail to the absolute, undisputed king of Brooklyn's off-beat ramen. Yuji Haraguchi

chi is a modest man who is always excited to see customers stop by his Smorgasburg noodle stand. Since Yuji Ramen slinked away from its slightly-more-permanent pop-up spot in Kinfolk Studios, customers have been forced to brave the weekend commute to Williamsburg on Saturday and DUMBO on Sunday to try his maze-men (broth-free) takes on the classic fare.

But there's nothing classic about Yuji. His ramens have run the gamut from bacon and egg or smoked salmon to summer crab with dash gelee. Yuji Haraguchi is the umami daddy, and his ramen will be unlike anything you've ever had in your entire life. The best part of that? The impeccably textured noodles and perfectly executed flavors also happens to come together transcendently. Adventurous eaters must try the squid and tomato paste mazemen, tossed at the last second with squid ink, Japanese seven-spice powder, and toasted garlic chips.

[East River State Park, Kent Avenue, between N. Sixth and N. Seventh streets] Saturdays.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini  
**THE BEST OF VEG:** The star dish at Zuzu Ramen isn't vegan, but it's the best vegetarian ramen you can get in Brooklyn.

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# DAWN OF A NEW JAY

Brooklyn-born superstar opens Barclays Center with eight sold-out shows

BY MOSES JEFFERSON  
AND NATALIE O'NEILL

Legendary rapper Jay-Z played the first-ever show at the Barclays Center on Friday night, packing the new arena with a hometown crowd eager to welcome the native son back to Brooklyn.

Wearing a Brooklyn Nets jersey and cap, the rapper from the Marcy Projects who owns a tiny stake in the basketball team took the stage inside the \$1-billion stadium and asked: "Is Brooklyn in the house?"

It was a moment that hoops fans and critics of the Atlantic Yards mega-project agree will change the borough forever.

"This is history in the making," said 27-year-old Jay-Z fan Myrtha Xavier, who came from Staten Island to see the performance. "He's the highest-ranked hip hop artist and no one can take that from him."

In the hours before the sold-out show, fans of Jay-Z's music milled about outside the arena, while movers and shakers strolled down a black carpet (red doesn't match the Nets color scheme) lit by the flashbulbs of press photographers.

Amid the hustle and bustle, protesters staged last-minute demonstrations against the long-stalled Atlantic Yards development, which calls for far more than hoops and hip-hop concerts, as well as NYPD policy.

Jay-Z took the stage and debuted a new verse before welcoming a crowd packed with celebrities including his wife Beyoncé, future Nets players, sports legends including Magic Johnson, and arena developer Bruce Ratner to "the house HOV built."

The emcee, also known as Jigga-Man, then went through his repertoire of classics such as "Izzo (H.O.V.A)" and "99 Problems," as well as a cover of the late Clinton Hill legend Notori-



**JAY-HOVA'S WITNESSES:** (Above) A sold-out Jay-Z performance opened the Barclays Center last Friday night. (Top right) Jay-Z fans Frances James and Saida Cherry came from Los Angeles to see the show. (Bottom right) The grand opening of the \$1-billion arena had its share of protestors.

ous B.I.G.'s hit "Juicy."

Lovers of Jay-Z's music said his rags-to-riches life story is as inspirational as his New York City ballad "Empire State of Mind."

"He was dirt poor and now he's a big-deal entrepreneur. You gotta respect that," said 27-year-old Quintin Potte, also of Staten Island. "I hope he brings out Alicia



Keys for that New York song."

Others went even further to take Jay-Z's business-minded approach to heart.

"We're hustling tonight," said

Watts Hopkins, who camped out in front of the stadium to sell glow-in-the-door "grills"—illuminated dental adornments that fans could clip onto their teeth.



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# Marty

*Continued from cover*

After a year, administrators at Wingate — which ultimately closed in 2006 — learned their lesson in height discrimination and combined both groups into a community service club that included all young men, short and tall, called Fellowship.

Markowitz, who said he had been involved in student government since elementary school, now considers

the formation of the more-inclusive club his first political accomplishment.

“I certainly felt like I achieved something,” said Markowitz.

Carol Weiner, a Manhattan resident and Wingate alum who graduated alongside Markowitz in the class of '62, said the Beep “always wanted to be in politics,” and described her classmate as “mischievous,” and “short.”

“He helped to change that group from the Longfellows

to the Middle Men,” she said. “It eliminated a discriminatory practice.”

But, as any politician will tell you, a victory for one group often comes at a cost to another. The borough president concedes that his first political win was mitigated by the fact that no women were allowed in either the Long Fellows, the Middle Men, or Fellowship.

“A real visionary would have created a club open to everybody,” Markowitz said. “Not just short guys.”

# Hospital

*Continued from Page 4*

ter.

But the Great American Construction Corp. didn't get much done inside the main hospital building at Maspeth and Kingsland

avenues after it won the bid: the city halted all work at the site last November when the builder was accused of nefarious business practices such as underpaying workers.

Now neighbors say something must be done — and fast.

“Anybody who lives in this community knows that the whole area is an eyesore,” said David Dobosz, who is a member of the Greenpoint Renaissance Enterprise Corporation. “They have marginalized this community by leaving this abandoned for years.”

# Gowanus

*Continued from Page 3*

pany to skirt a full review from the city.

Even though developers say the new proposal won't differ much in scale from the Toll Brothers plan, some neighbors say the changes aren't “minor” at all.

“We don't have a sewer

system that can support a project this size,” said plan critic Marlene Donnelly.

Others cheered the project, saying it will bring much-needed housing to the area, spruce up the neighborhood, and offer open space on a hard-to-access waterfront.

“I support it; it provides public access and a means to the canal,” said Bill Duke of the Gowanus Dredgers

canoe group.

Lightstone representatives echoed that idea, saying the company is committed to investing in the neighborhood and could break ground next September if it gets approval from Community Board 6 and the city for the changes.

The plan will go before the CB6's full board next month.

# Lawns

*Continued from Page 3*

Roger Marvel Architects, the firm that drafted the design, did not respond to requests for comment about the size of the private outdoor space and other de-

tails last week.

But a Brooklyn Bridge Park spokeswoman noted that the yards will not be visible from the park greenway and that residents must maintain them.

“The ground floor outdoor spaces are within the

development footprint, are shielded from the public portion of the park by a berm, and we've worked closely with [designers] to ensure that they do not encroach on any of the public areas of the park,” said spokeswoman Teresa Gonzalez.

# Fight

*Continued from cover*

behavior and violence to vent their frustration.

Katz himself discovered martial arts in his teens during a period of family turbulence and found that training helped him gain self-confidence, even though the sport wasn't encouraged by members of his community.

“This is my new family,” Katz said of the gym, which he opened in April. “Everybody is my brother, everybody is my sister. We fight here, we eat here.”

Now Katz wants Williamsburg's troubled teens to share in that sense of

community by taking lessons in jiu jitsu, boxing, strength-training, cardiovascular fitness, and mixed martial arts — a combat sport with minimal rules that's surging in popularity across the nation, but remains illegal for staged bouts in New York state.

But backers of the plan say mixed martial arts teaches skills that are useful outside of the octagon.

“We're not attempting to create [mixed martial arts] champions ... We're trying to create better human beings,” said state Sen. Eric Adams (D-Park Slope), who studied taekwondo as a teenager. “We're trying to teach principles — taking care

of your body, being a better person, not using violence for the offensive.”

Katz says the respect and discipline needed to excel in martial arts easily transfers to the classroom — and he monitors students' grades and puts them on probation from weekly workout sessions if their academic performance starts slipping.

Anastasia Bitis, a physical education teacher who brought her summer-class students to the gym for training, said martial arts instruction turned surly, apathetic “knuckleheads” into punctual, polite model students.

“The difference I saw in my kids in three weeks is huge,” said Bitis.

# Dogs

*Continued from cover*

any place to make necessary dog walk drop-offs.

“Are we supposed to carry trash and dog dump around with us all the time?” asked Tom Mills, who we caught carrying

a knotted bag of his best friend's feces for more than 10 blocks, looking for a place to throw his package out. “When I was growing up there was a garbage can on every corner.”

Ridge residents and the city's Department of Sanitation have often quibbled over how many garbage

cans the neighborhood should have, yet City officials maintain that most blocks don't qualify for trash receptacles.

“The Department of Sanitation places litter baskets in high-trafficked pedestrian streets,” said city spokeswoman Kathy Dawkins.

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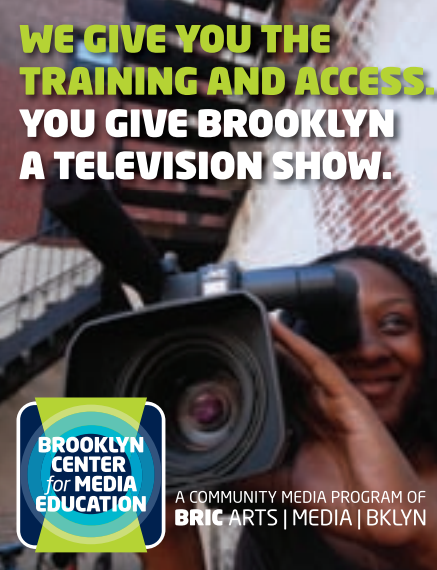
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# Commit to Be Fit



October is Take Care New York Month and New York City's public hospitals and health centers can help you **Commit to Be Fit** in just a few simple steps. Eating right and moving more can do wonders to fight illness and obesity. Weight loss of just 10 pounds can improve your health and decrease the risk of chronic disease.

Start by getting your **BMI, blood pressure and a fit test** at a screening event this October at a public hospital or health center near you. You can also get a flu shot or a simple test for diabetes, asthma, HIV, depression or cancer that could save your life.

Get Social with HHC



Visit [nyc.gov](http://nyc.gov), call 311 or use your smartphone to scan QR Code for more information.



**Visit these locations to get screening tests at little or no cost\***

## Brooklyn

### Coney Island Hospital

2601 Ocean Parkway

October 19, 26

11am–2pm

### Cumberland Diagnostic & Treatment Center

100 North Portland Avenue

October 24

10am–1pm

### Kings County Hospital Center

Ambulatory Care Center, E-Bldg.

Clarkson Avenue at East 39th St.

October 4, 11, 18, 25

9am–3 pm

### East New York Diagnostic & Treatment Center

2094 Pitkin Avenue (Pennsylvania Avenue)

October 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25

8:15am–1pm

### Woodhull Medical & Mental Health Center

760 Broadway

October 17, 12noon–1:30pm

(seminar, no screenings)

October 19, 10am–1pm

**Get a free pedometer** when you take the Fit Test.

\*All screening tests are available at little or no cost. If you have insurance, your insurance will be billed. You will be responsible for co-payments.