

BAY RIDGE *Courier*

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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Post-Sandy, Brooklynites come together

Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Lending a hand

A juggernaut of grass-roots action in Brooklyn and Queens proves neighbors can come together during times of need

BY SHAVANA ABRUZZO

Disasters have historically united close-knit communities more than they have destroyed them, and the storm of the century proved no match for the resolve, neighborliness, and charity of New Yorkers — even in these immensely challenging economic times.

Hurricane Sandy annihilated large swaths of Brooklyn and Queens with crippling storm surges and whopping wind gusts that claimed 18 lives — 11 in Queens, seven in Brooklyn — yielded property damage in the millions, and left thousands of people homeless.

Tens of thousands more were incapacitated by widespread power outages that have yet to be restored fully in some areas.

Sandy battered coastal districts and inlands in both boroughs beyond recognition, including Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Manhattan Beach, Sheephead Bay, DUMBO, and Red Hook in Brooklyn, and the Rockaways, Breezy Point, Belle Harbor, Broad Channel, and Flushing in



Photo by Christina Santucci

neighboring Queens.

Many residents ignored the mayor's order to evacuate as the super storm roared up the Atlantic, but a number regretted their decision after the hurricane left behind a path of devastation.

Hundreds of homes burned to the ground as high winds pushed the flames from one block to the next in Breezy Point, while

raging floods and toppling trees brought down power lines in other parts of the borough.

At least eight people lost their lives in the Rockaways, which remained a dark hinterland nearly two weeks after the storm, with residents struggling to keep warm and find food. Elected officials blasted the tardy responses of the Long Island Power Authority and Con-

solidated Edison, prompting Gov. Cuomo to call for an investigation into the utilities' performance.

The fallout was as excruciating.

A Brooklyn couple walking their dog was crushed by a keeling hardwood. A Queens man was killed instantly when a tree crashed into his home. Uprooted students were sent to other schools. Voters were dis-

(Clockwise from top left) Volunteer Carol McDonald does not know where to put all of the clothing that has been collected at the Blue Star Mother's Hall on Seba Avenue in Gerritsen Beach. The group Occupy Sandy transformed the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew in Clinton Hill into a supply hub for hurricane victims, but they had to clear the pews before Sunday. Whitestone resident Joseph Prisco carries supplies at a drive at Sullivan's in Bayside.

persed to new polling sites. Cars lined up for gasoline in numbers not seen since the oil crisis of the 1970s.

Yet the most alarming question left in Sandy's merciless wake was, "What happens now?"

Gothamites — an inspiring subspecies with a well-documented reputation for conquering cataclysmic events — responded with expected alacrity and attention to civic duty.

Men, women, and children — the ones we see every day walking along our streets, shopping in our stores, and seated next to us on the bus or train — channeled their own losses and despair into assistance and support for others.

The juggernaut of their grassroots action pierced through the darkness like a life-affirming ray of sunshine, and astounded, humbled, and indebted us here at Community Newspaper Group while we prepared this special section of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" during one of the worst crises ever to hit these parts.

The desire of both boroughs' residents to reach out and help was as indiscriminately passionate as Sandy's chaotic path — from civic groups like the Madison-Marine-Homecrest Civic Association organizing a Thanksgiving food drive, and Lifebooker donating 100 percent of its proceeds to a



Photo by Steve Mosco

relief fund, to conglomerates like our parent company News Corporation pledging million-dollar donations to help ravaged New Yorkers regain their footing.

Spontaneous goodwill drives by community groups brought relief that the federal government wasn't able to provide.

Residents commandeered trailers to deliver supplies to besieged regions and conducted flashlight vigils to bring their neighbors out of the dark.

Donations also poured into the offices of lawmakers, who fielded a rush of calls from constituents wanting to help.

Civic groups put together dozens of carloads of items for storm victims, and as the pile of goods built up in churches and de facto rescue centers, the call went out for more volunteers to distribute the life-saving essentials — one that was answered in droves.

Junior's Restaurant, airline JetBlue, the Brooklyn Flea, and Rolling Orange Bikes were among the businesses that donated portions of their proceeds to relief or-



Photo by Elizabeth Graham

(Clockwise from top) A chain of volunteers pass boxes of supplies to each other as they set up to help those affected by Hurricane Sandy in Far Rockaway. Rep. Joseph Crowley unloads supplies off a truck with his family at St. Francis De Sales Church in Rockaway. Yoshi Reynolds of Coney Island collects desperately needed perishables from community volunteers Alfred DeSimone and Ismael Torres.

ganizations, while neighborhood groups like the John Malone Community Center in Bergen Beach collected and distributed clothing, blankets, cleaning supplies, toiletries, food, and water.

Dwarf Giraffe Athletic League, based in White-stone, motivated its network of families and sponsor-

ship organizations to drive truckloads of supplies to the Rockaways.

Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center opened its doors to patients vacated from local nursing homes, while the Owl's Head Running club coordinated a benefit run to Broad Chan-nel.

Flushing's Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation prepared meals and delivered them to residents in the devas-tated neighborhoods of Broad Channel and Breezy Point.

The Brooklyn and Queens chambers of com-merce also stepped in to cre-ate helpful resource guides



Photo by Christina Santucci

with vital information and phone numbers for Sandy-shattered businesses to con-tact for help with emergency loans, disaster assistance and insurance assessment.

We hope these pages will provide our faithful readers with a glimpse into the Her-culean endeavors mounted by generous and spirited

fellow New Yorkers, whose efforts to transform trag-edy into triumph have been success stories of the most extraordinary kind.

We are also confident that our reports will make you as proud as we are to be part of a city that shows the world how to come together when calamity strikes home.

Here's how to help in Brooklyn

Want to help neighbors who are suffering following Hurricane Sandy?

There are plenty of ways to get involved in the cleanup and recovery effort here in Brooklyn.

The city needs volunteers in all of its storm shelters. Most don't have phone numbers, so volunteers may need to show up and find out how they can help:

- Park Slope Armory (361 15th St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope).

- NYC College of Technology (300 Jay St. between Tillary and Johnson streets in Downtown).

- Brooklyn Technical High School (29 Ft. Greene Pl. between Dekalb Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene).

- John Jay High School (237 Seventh Ave. between Fourth and Fifth streets in Park Slope).

- IS 136 (4004 Fourth Ave. at 40th Street in Sunset Park).

- PS 249 (18 Marlborough Rd. between Caton and Church avenues in Prospect Park South).

- IS 187, 1171 (65th St. between 11th and 12th avenues in Dyker Heights).

- FDR High School (5800 20th Ave. at 58th Street in Midwood).

A map of city shelter is available at www.google.org/crisismap/2012-sandy-nyc.

The New York Blood Center is hosting donation drives —



Volunteers with Red Hook Recovery clear ruined possessions out of a Beard Street warehouse.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

check daily to find locations at www.nybloodcenter.org.

The Red Hook Initiative is distributing hot meals and supplies to residents of the Red Hook Houses, who remain without power.

To assist those in need, drop off flashlights, batteries, soap, paper towels, and non-perishable food at the group's headquarters (767 Hicks St. between Huntington and W. Ninth streets in Red Hook), or call (718) 858-6782.

The Greenpoint Soup Kitchen (136 Milton St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint) is looking for volunteers and donations.

NYCares is matching volun-

teers with service providers based on participants' skills and location. Potential volunteers should fill out the form at newyorkcares.org/volunteer/disaster.

The Children's Movement for Creative Education is looking for art therapists to visit children in family shelters.

Contact Elana Haviv at (347) 846-0600 or elana@childrensmovement.org.

PS 84 Jose de Diego School (250 Berry St. between Grand and S. First streets in Williamsburg) is collecting school supplies, food, and household items for the families of children who attend PS 317 in Far Rockaway. Donations can be made Monday-Friday from 7 am-6 pm.

Congregation Beth Elohim (274 Garfield Pl. at Eighth Avenue in Park Slope) is looking for volunteers and food donation for Red Hook. E-mail info@cbebk.org.

The New York City Coalition Against Hunger is looking for both volunteers and donations. See what kind of help they need at www.facebook.com/NYCCA.

Occupy Sandy, the storm relief offshoot of Occupy Wall Street, is continuing its recovery efforts across the city.

Check www.interoccupy.net/occupysandy to see where they need help the most.

— *Danielle Furfaro*

Donate items or service to these Queens groups

Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens

(718) 722-6001

Drop off goods at to these food pantry locations:

St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish
1920 New Haven Ave.

Far Rockaway

St. Helen's Church

157-10 83rd St.

Howard Beach

St. Francis DeSales Church

129-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd.

Belle Harbor

Most needed items: Toiletries, winter gloves and hats, thermal wear, new socks and underwear. Apparel will not be accepted at this time. Visit ccbq.org for more information.

Queens Chamber of Commerce

Accepting donations to help small business owners.

Mail checks to:

75-20 Astoria Blvd., Suite 140

Jackson Heights, NY 11370

Contributions are tax deductible.

Disaster assistance resources available at queenschamber.org.

Visit NYCService.org for volunteer options:

- Volunteer to cleanup Queens parks

- Pitch in on Queens disaster relief projects through New York Cares

- Volunteer at a soup kitchen and food pantry
- Give blood

St. Virgilius Church

Seeking strong, able-bodied men and women to strip watersoaked carpets and damaged furniture.

16 Noel Rd., Far Rockaway

Ask for Father Richard Olmyer

Flushing Town Hall

137-35 Northern Blvd.

Flushing

Accepting essential toiletries, over-the-counter medicines, batteries, work gloves, cleaning supplies. No clothes.

Donors will receive two tickets per person to any featured events.

Local Supply Dropoffs

The Queens Borough President's Office has announced that all fire departments, police precincts, Staples stores and Modell's now serve as supply drop points.



People visit a Federal Emergency Management Agency tent in Rockaway Beach. The city opened a one-stop restoration center in Far Rockaway and plans to open another in Breezy Point. Photo by William Thomas

Here's how to apply for aid, refunds

You don't have to suffer alone.

City, state, and federal agencies as well as utilities are offering assistance to Hurricane Sandy victims who lost homes, suffered property damage, and remain without power as a result of the storm. Here's a sampling of the help you can receive.

- Residents who sustained property damage in Hurricane Sandy can apply for funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

To request federal aid, register at disasterassistance.gov or call (800) 621-3362. The agency asks that applicants have their address, insurance information, and Social Security

number ready.

After applying for help, assessors will visit damaged properties and survey the conditions. The agency won't give a timeline for how long residents must wait before receiving funds — it could range from a week to more than a year, officials said.

- The Red Cross is continuing to hand out emergency relief supplies to Hurricane Sandy victims throughout the five boroughs. Volunteers are also acting as a referral service, so victims can be connected to government agencies that can give them the most help. For more information one can call (877) 733-2767 or visit nyredcross.org.
- The federal Small Busi-

ness Administration is offering merchants hit hard by Hurricane Sandy low-interest disaster loans of up to \$2 million to repair and replace damaged property and inventory. To apply, you can call (800) 659-2955 or visit sba.gov.

- The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development has granted a 90-day moratorium on foreclosures and forbearances on Federal Housing Administration-insured home mortgages — with no paperwork required.

- Con Edison is offering refunds of up to \$450 for food spoiled during power outages that lasted more than 12 hours over a 24-hour period. Visit coned.com to file a claim.

- Although the utility says gas has been fully restored to its Brooklyn and Queens customers, National Grid is continuing with its Emergency Residential Customer Assistance program to assist customers re-establish their natural gas service. For more information, call (718) 643-4050.

- Hurricane Sandy victims are entitled to receive credit for each day they did not have Cablevision's Optimum service as a result of the storm — even when your home had no power. Visit optimum.net/credit to notify the company of the dates you didn't have service to get the credit added to your account.

— *Danielle Furfaro and Tom Tracy*

MCU Stands with Our Valued Members

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, many of our members were severely impacted and are in need of emergency assistance.

MCU's Member Assistance Program is here to help members access emergency funds to assist them with their immediate recovery needs.

The following emergency credit solutions are available to eligible* MCU members:

Replacement Auto Loan - Call 1-888-4MCU-AUTO if your car was damaged during the storm and you have suffered a total loss.

Emergency Personal Loan - Call 1-800-LOAN-MCU to apply for **\$1,500** to help cover emergency expenses. Higher loan amounts are available upon request.

Emergency Credit Line Increase - Call 1-800-481-7338 to receive an **instant \$500** credit line increase on your MCU VISA® Card.**

*Emergency credit solutions are subject to evaluation of individual member creditworthiness.

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Occupy printers now pamphleteers

BY ELI ROSENBERG

When the power goes out, there's nothing more powerful than the printed word.

A group of Occupy Wall Street-affiliated activists in Gowanus became publishers after Hurricane Sandy left many New Yorkers without power, internet access, TV, or phone service.

"The word we were hearing from people is that there was real shortage of information because of the power situation," said Jesse Goldstein, a founder of the print and poster collective Occuprint. "There was a need for analog information to be disseminated for those people."

The collective — which previously made waves by publishing an all-poster edition of a mock newspaper dubbed the "Occupied Wall Street Journal" and creating much of the poster art for the social movement that swept the country in 2011 — sprung into action last Tuesday, producing more than 6,000 pamphlets filled with the vital information necessary for victims of storms like Sandy.

The 12-page bulletin included sections on how to apply for disaster-related unemployment benefits, how to clean floodwater, how to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and how to stay warm — "heat up raw oats or rice in a pot (no water!) and then put them into a sock."

But the pamphlet, like any publication worth its salt, also had lighter material as well, such as a word search, sudoku, and a maze with Mayor Bloomberg on one side and the Rockaways on the other titled "Help Mayor Bloomberg Find the Rockaways."

Goldstein said the group, facing a tight deadline, originally thought they'd merely repurpose government information — but the content fell short of



Justin Wedes and Tess Cohen, both Occupy Sandy organizers, hold a copy of the information pamphlet created by Occuprint to help Hurricane Sandy victims.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

their editorial standards.

"We originally thought we should just republish a FEMA booklet, but we looked at what they had and we realized that we had to make something ourselves that was better," he said.

Goldstein and partner Liz Knafo got to work on the content on Tuesday with the help of a few other Occuprinters, printed the pamphlet that evening, and picked it up early Wednesday from their printer in Queens, which charged them only for materials in the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors.

"It was the quickest thing we've ever made," said Goldstein.

Occupiers working out of the movement's Sunset Park hub at St. Jacobi Church have been distributing the bulletin in Coney Island and the Rockaways since then — and another print run of 6,000 is on the way.

And Occuprint was able to fund the effort due to some money left over from its Occupy Wall Street-related efforts.

"We've been sitting waiting to participate again when there was something again," said Goldstein. "This is what's happening in our city. The relief effort seemed like a natural thing for us to plug back in to."



Lending a hand — and a spoon!

Gerritsen Beach resident Margaret McDonald brings some hearty potatoes to neighbors without power congregating at Blue Star Mother's Hall on Seba Avenue.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Gyro shop finds time for charity

BY COLIN MIXSON

Talk about some chicken soup for the soul!

Anatolian Gyro — a Sheepshead Bay Road staple — is still bouncing back from Hurricane Sandy, but workers now have a new mission: feeding hungry Gerritsen Beach residents left devastated following the Oct. 28 super storm.

Ever since Hurricane Sandy left the borough, workers have joined the growing group of neighbors helping neighbors by trucking gallons of hot lentil and chicken soup and fresh bread to the nearby community — which Anatolian Gyro owner Metin Turan has adopted.

"One hand washes the other, and both hands wash the face," said Turan. "Many of these people are my clients. They need help and I want to give some-



Get it while it's hot! Anatolian Gyro owner Metin Turan serves up hot soup on the house in front of the Blue Star Mother's Hall on Nov. 9.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

thing back."

Turan decided to help out after watching footage of a Federal Emergency

Management Agency meeting at Resurrection Church on Gerritsen Avenue, where more than

1,000 teary-eyed residents turned out to hear what the government can do to help them. The footage showed residents sleeping in buses just to keep warm.

"I'm used to seeing this on TV, not in reality," Turan said. "I've been here 25 years and I've never seen anything like this."

Anatolian Gyro was hardly spared from Sandy's wrath: Turan suffered about \$25,000 worth of property damage.

"We had three feet of water on the ground floor, and the basement was filled," Turan explained. "It took 12 people three days to get everything cleaned up."

The restaurant lost power for the second time during last week's nor'easter — forcing Turan and his employees to serve lamb and chicken gyros by candlelight, Turan said.

HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF FUND

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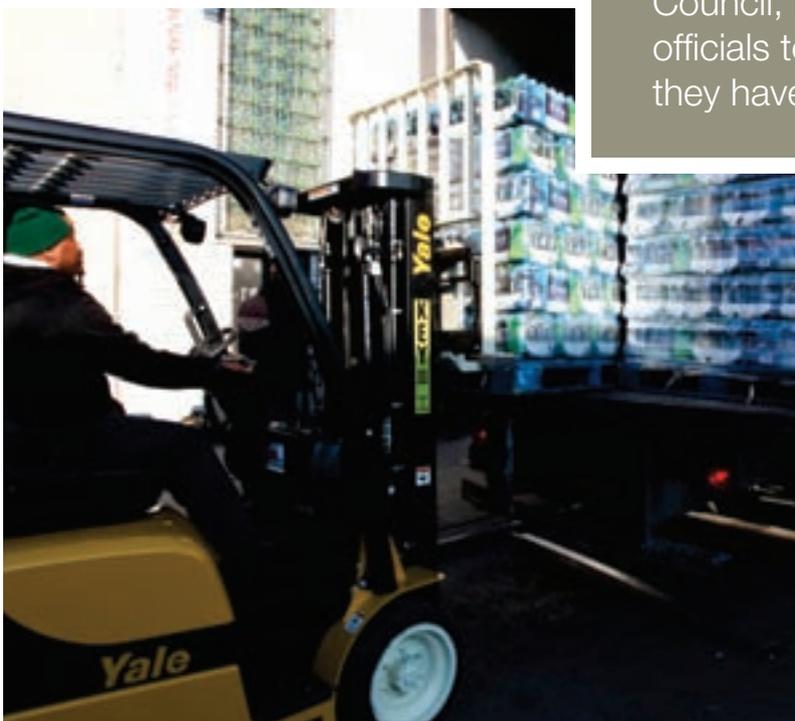
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We've been donating truckload upon truckload of food, water and other staples to local food banks, emergency relief shelters, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters in Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the areas in and around the city. We are teaming up with the offices of the Mayor, City Council, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and other elected officials to ensure that the food, meals and merchandise are going where they have been most needed.



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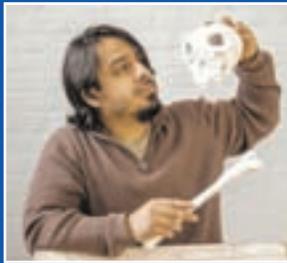
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Sandy spares the Cyclone

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

The cyclone didn't hurt the Cyclone!

The legendary Coney Island roller coaster was covered with some ocean muck, but the city-owned ride survived Hurricane Sandy's wrath unscathed,



according to operator Central Amusements.

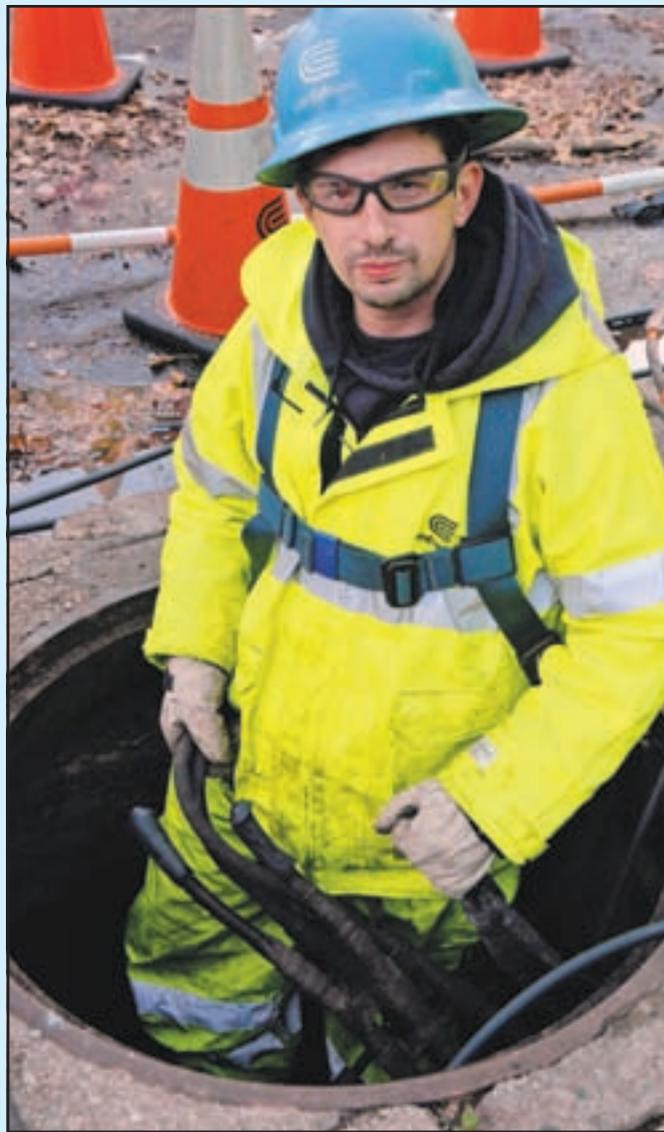
"There wasn't any significant damage, just a lot of cleanup," said Chloe Gallo, spokeswoman for Central Amusements, which also runs Coney Island's Luna Park.

Coney's thrill-ride faithful feared the storm surge destabilized the 85-year-old landmark — leaving the ride unusable.

"If the foundations were affected, they would have to close it down," said Coney Island historian Jay Singer.

The ride sits on pilings that once supported the Giant Racer, which was constructed on the Cyclone site at W. 10th Street and Surf Avenue in 1910, Singer said.

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Fire down below

A Con Ed worker heads into a manhole near the corner of 90th Street and Ridge Boulevard to investigate a report of burning wires underground on Nov. 8. The utility shut off power and the FDNY evacuated five homes as a result.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

BAKER STIRS RELIEF

Cupcake queen aids victims

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Super storm Sandy was a recipe for disaster when it hit Brooklyn, but one Bay Ridge chef has a recipe for recovery.

Ever since Hurricane Sandy struck, Allison Robicelli — the woman behind wholesale cupcake superstar Robicelli's Bakery in Sunset Park and the now-closed Robicelli's Gourmet Market on Third Avenue — has been operating a relief center where she deploys prepared hot meals to hurricane-rattled residents in Southern Brooklyn, Staten Island, and the Rockaways.

Robicelli's operation began in her apartment, but when more lo-

cal chefs and culinary students joined her cause, she moved everything to the kitchen at Saint Mary's Orthodox Church on 81st Street and Ridge Boulevard, where she and her volunteers prepare pans of food ready to be shipped out by car to Sandy's starved and homeless victims.

"I was turning these cars into little bodegas on wheels and sending them out," said Robicelli.

The pastry chef's relief efforts began after a friend in Sheepshead Bay sent her a Facebook message describing the dire conditions in the shore-front neighborhood as well as the lack of basic assis-

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STATE OF SHEEPSHEAD

Two weeks after Hurricane Sandy, merchants are still in trouble

BY COLIN MIXSON

Major sections of Hurricane Sandy-ravaged Sheepshead Bay still do not have electricity, heat, or hot water, say residents and merchants who are spending their third week repairing damaged homes and storefronts.

Con Edison claims that most Brooklynites now have electricity — but that news does little to console the hundreds of Sheepshead Bay residents who either remain without power or don't have a home to return to.

"I lived in an apartment," said 50-year-old Anthony Calzone. "But my landlord doesn't want to pump out the basement, so I'm out on the street. I shower at my sister's place and sleep in a park."

As of Monday morning, a handful of Sheepshead Bay businesses have power, but most remain without. Gas-fueled generators are a common sight, say residents.

Businesses still digging out of the disaster zone Hurricane Sandy left behind include:

- The Mini Centro shoe store. Power generators hum outside the Sheepshead Bay Road store alongside a mountain of sodden footwear destroyed by Sandy's rising floodwaters.

"We lost about 90 percent of our products," owner Yury Sephir said. "We have no other source of income, so we're trying to get everything fixed as soon as possible."

- The Night Life Cafe. The Sheepshead Bay Road bar near Voorhies Avenue was seriously damaged as it



DOWN AND OUT: (Clockwise from left) Sandy wreaked havoc on the Seaport Buffet on Emmons Avenue. Peter Katsichtis, owner of Yiasou on Emmons Avenue, says his business has been destroyed by the storm. Merchants cleaning out their damaged stores heap a mountain of garbage bags on Sheepshead Bay Road, which Sandy hit very hard. Photos by Steve Solomonson

took on more than five feet of water. Bartender Eddie Vasquez, who was serving drinks when the storm hit, was nearly killed when a storm surge caused the security gate to fall — trapping him inside. Fortunately, two passing cops realized he was inside and hoisted up the gate so he could escape.

"They pulled it out, and I went through head first," Vasquez said.

- The Cherry Hill Gourmet Market inside the landmarked Lundy's building on Emmons Avenue, where employees were seen throw-

ing out tons of spoiled food last week, remains shuttered as employees wait for power to be restored. All of the businesses on Emmons Avenue between Ocean and West End avenues still don't have electricity, merchants say.

"It all depends on power," said Cherry Hill Gourmet Market owner Uzi Mizrahi. "We've got a lot of money riding on our refrigerators turning back on."

- The Duane Reade on Ocean and Voorhies avenues was completely destroyed, according to em-

ployee Daniel Vanzandy. "It got about three feet of water," Vanzandy said. "All the products were destroyed. We found stuff in the front aisle, the back aisle, we even found stuff in the bathroom."

Yet pharmacy workers are opting to help others before finishing repairs. Employees retrofitted their pharmaceutical bus — usually reserved for flu shots — to serve as a relief truck that distributed out dried goods, cleaning supplies, and blankets to hundreds of Sheepshead Bay residents-

turned-refugees last week. "Many of them are homeless, or in homes they don't want to be in," said Deidre Zacccone, Director of Marketing for Duane Reade. "We had a group of eight families come over who were all living in the same house."

Most hurricane-rattled Sheepshead Bay merchants say they are ready to turn a corner and open, but can't do a thing until the lights come back on.

"If there was power, we'd be open already," said Peter Katsichtis of Yiasou Estiatorio on Emmons Avenue.



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BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Borough Republican and Conservative leaders were served a disappointing double-whammy on Election Day as they faced the prospect of four more years of President Obama and watched their grasp on Southern Brooklyn fall through their fingers.

Bay Ridge GOP incumbents such as Rep. Michael Grimm, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, and state Sen. Marty Golden were all re-elected, but Brooklyn Republicans lost two neighborhoods to redistricting: Sheepshead Bay, which was led by Rep. Bob Turner, and Brighton Beach, which state Sen. David Storobin held for less than six months.

The GOP also lost a chance to seize the new so-named “super Jewish district,” with Storobin getting just over 30 percent of the vote against former Councilman Simcha Felder.

That, coupled with the

fact that less than 25 percent of Brooklynites pulled the lever for Romney, has made it a very disappointing Election Day for borough Republicans.

“I’m concerned the country will fall into deeper debt and continue its downward spiral,” said Kings County GOP chairman Craig Eaton, who cited the Republicans’ continued majority in the House of Representatives — which includes Grimm — as the week’s single bright spot. “I’m really surprised, because I thought that with the momentum over the last three months and the need for change in America, Mitt Romney was going to win.”

Golden is also sore over Obama’s victory in Brooklyn.

“I thought Mitt Romney had a great vision for America, but President Obama won, and we’re going to have to live with that,” he said.



THIS DIDN'T HAPPEN: Brooklyn Republican boss Craig Eaton and state Sen. Marty Golden cheer on state Sen. David Storobin.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

It was ‘Barack-lyn’

BY MOSES JEFFERSON

President Obama won his second term with 81 percent of the borough’s vote last week, once again making Brooklyn the biggest Barack-backing county in the state.

Recently released numbers show that the incumbent and one-time Park Slope resident racked up 503,291 Brooklyn votes compared to Mitt Romney’s 108,630.



HOPE: (Left) President Obama is visiting New York this week, and (right) Borough President Markowitz is hoping that he stops by Brooklyn during his tour of Hurricane Sandy-ravaged neighborhoods.

Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

Beep calls on the chief

Markowitz says President should visit damaged Brooklyn

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

When Barack touches down in New York this week, he better be Brooklyn bound, say borough leaders who believe the commander in chief’s presence would bring some solace to Hurricane Sandy-scarred residents facing a long recovery.

The White House hadn’t released the itinerary for President Obama’s trip to survey the damage the super storm inflicted on the five boroughs at press time, yet Borough President Markowitz, Brooklyn’s other commander in chief,

said a visit to Coney Island and Brighton Beach is essential — but not because Brooklynites cast more ballots for Obama than any other part of the city last week.

“A presidential visit to Brooklyn would surely give residents a much-needed lift and a sense of comfort knowing that our federal government is doing all it can to support our borough,” said Markowitz.

Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny (D-Coney Island), a Seagate resident whose home and car were

damaged by Sandy’s rising floodwaters, said a visit by the one-time Park Slope resident would reassure desperate residents that more federal help is on the way.

“Coney Island and Seagate are waiting for him,” the legislator said. “We definitely need to see him in the area.”

Coney Island USA founder Dick Zigun, the unofficial mayor of Coney Island and the man behind the famous Sideshows by the Seashore, said Obama should swing by Brooklyn because of the sheer

amount of people who live here — even if he doesn’t have time to grab a hot dog at Nathan’s.

“It’s always a good idea for the President to visit Brooklyn — it’s the fourth largest city in the country,” said Zigun, who urged his Twitter followers to vote for Obama so Federal Emergency Management Agency funds would keep coming to Hurricane Sandy-ravaged neighborhoods. “We’d love to see him in Coney Island, but he’s the President of the United States. He has better things to do than talk to me.”

Police: Rape attempted in Bay Ridge

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Cops are searching for a man who they say mugged and tried to sexually assault a Bay Ridge woman on Nov. 3.

Investigators said the suspect grabbed the woman from behind as she walked down 73rd Street at 3 a.m.

The thug stole the woman’s wallet and cellphone — then tried to molest her — but the victim fought the fiend off and escaped, cops said.

Police fear that the suspect still has the woman’s phone, so investigators are releasing very little information about the victim or the incident, officials said.

“He has her personal information, so they’re being careful about what they’re putting out there,” said an NYPD spokeswoman, who explained that investigators do not believe that the attack is part of a pattern.

Cops described the assailant as a 25-year-old



SUSPECT: Cops are searching for a man who they say jumped a woman on 73rd Street.

dark-skinned male with a long goatee.

The 5-foot-7, 170-to-200-pound suspect was wearing a black hoodie at the time of the attack, according to detectives.

“Investigators are doing everything possible to try and find this person,” the spokeswoman said.

Anyone with information about the robbery and attempted sex assault is urged to call (718) 230-4421. All calls will be kept confidential.

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Fontbonne sticks it to Sandy

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Fontbonne Hall's volleyball team may have lost its semifinal match, but to the Hurricane Sandy-scarred squad — in which 10 out of 11 players were left homeless for weeks — playing was more important than winning.

Despite the hardships they were facing, the Bay Ridge high schoolers said they wanted to play and get back to normal.

"Coming back out and seeing your teammates, playing like we have before, cheering each other up, smiling, laughing, we haven't done that in awhile," said junior Casey McDade, whose house burned down when a fire sparked by Hurricane Sandy ripped through Breezy Point. "It's great to come together again."

There were tears during the squad's post game meeting following a 25-15, 25-21, and 25-20 loss to Archbishop Molloy at St. Francis Prep last Thursday night.

Coach Linda Strong, who also lost her home in



STAYING STRONG: Fontbonne Hall's volleyball team may have lost its semifinal match, but to the Hurricane Sandy-scarred squad — in which 10 out of 11 players were left homeless for weeks — playing was more important than winning. Photo by Ken Maldonado

the Breezy Point fire, told her team how proud she was of them for just being out there.

"We wanted to play for each other," junior co-captain Kristen Sullivan said.

The Bonnies' courage wasn't lost on the team's opponents either — it only raised Molloy's admiration for the squad.

"Our hearts go out to them," said Molloy's Emily Rabot. "I know it's really hard. We give them

props for coming out here tonight."

The Bonnies played to bring back some normalcy to player's lives — but this wasn't the same squad that lost to Molloy in five sets in all three regular season matches.

Strong said the team just went through the motions and lacked a killer instinct, but she didn't want to shout at them because she knew what they were going through.

"I didn't want them to feel bad about their performance," the coach said. "I don't think I could have gotten out on the volleyball court and played half as well as they did."

Even in the darkest moments, players say they are amazed at the generosity that surrounds them. Fontbonne Hall has put together drives for essential household items and gave each of them new school supplies.

Continued on Page 19

Rocking Sandy's storm pains away

BY NATALIE MUSUMECI

Bay Ridgites have the best medicine for those still feeling the super storm blues: a jam-packed afternoon of rock 'n' roll!

Brooklyn music legend Frankie Marra and other neighborhood band favorites plan to rock all day and night at an upcoming concert benefitting Hurricane Sandy victims.

All proceeds of the Nov. 18 concert at the Salty Dog will directly aid storm-ravaged victims in hard-hit areas across Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island, Marra said.

"You look around and can see that the city is in ruins. It's terrible," the neighborhood headliner said. "We are just trying to do our share."

The 10-hour benefit will feature classic rock to southern rock performers including Frankie Marra and his band — featuring



ROCK OUT: Brooklyn music legend Frankie Marra and other local bands are hosting an upcoming concert benefitting the victims of Hurricane Sandy on Nov. 18. Courtesy of Frankie Marra

South; and Out of the Blue.

"These bands are some of the best in Bay Ridge," said Marra. "People can come down, listen to some good music and do something good by donating money."

All attendees will be asked to make a \$20 donation that will be divided up amongst hurricane recovery funds including the Breezy Point Cooperative Disaster Relief Fund, the Brooklyn Recovery Fund, and the Tunnels to Towers Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund for Staten Island.

"The Bay Ridge community has strong ties to these three communities," said Marra. "Many have family and friends living in these areas that were deeply affected by this storm."

On the day of the event, organizers will also be collecting a range of supplies from toys to pet food to baby needs that will be

delivered to super storm victims. A certified animal rescuer with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society will also be on hand to answer any questions about storm-displaced animals, Marra explained.

Longtime Bay Ridge resident Paulie SanFlippio says he will be attending the concert because "it's a worthy cause."

"The government doesn't seem to be contributing too much to this," he said. "Most of the work being done is by volunteers, so we need to help each other out."

"Bay Ridge Music Cares" Hurricane Sandy benefit concert at the Salty Dog Bar and Restaurant [7509 Third Ave. between 76th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-0030]. Nov. 18, noon (bands will play through 10 pm). \$20 donation.



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Zigun: Denny's Ice Cream Shop dead

Sandy destroyed maker of pistachio-banana swirl

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Denny's Ice Cream Shop has hit a rocky road.

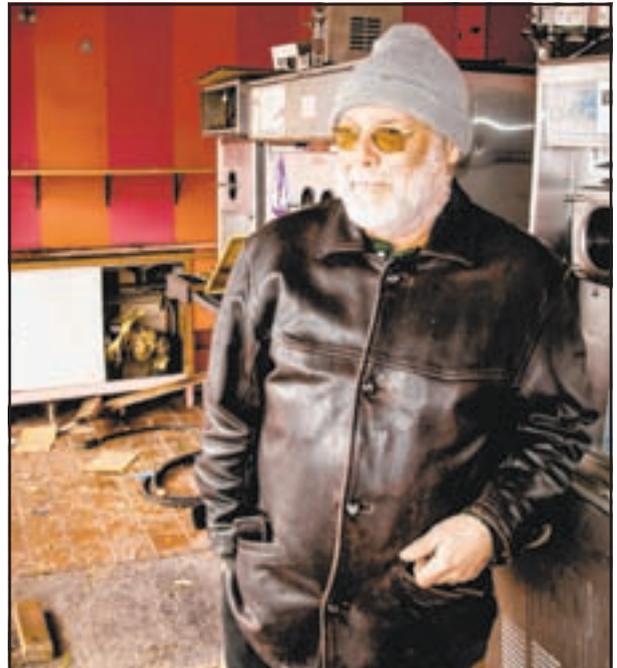
Hurricane Sandy melted away any dreams of preserving the beloved Surf Avenue soft-serve spot famous for its rich, silky banana-pistachio swirl, according to Dick Zigun, the store's owner and unofficial mayor of Coney Island.

"There's no more Denny's Ice Cream," Zigun explained, saying that he couldn't afford to replace the \$50,000 in equipment damaged in the Oct. 29 storm surge. "We are out of the ice cream business."

Zigun bought the frozen treat vendor that has been selling funnel cake and original ice cream flavors since 1978 a year ago with plans of converting most of the building into an extension of his Coney Island USA museum, which is right next door at the corner of W. 12th Street and Surf Avenue.

The Mermaid Parade founder said he soon realized that the ice cream shop came with a loyal customer base willing to continue forking over cash for its exotic trademark combo — fans that helped Zigun pay the mortgage on the property.

"People like the ice



MELTED: Coney "mayor" Dick Zigun stands amid the wreckage of Denny's Ice Cream Shop, which he bought a year ago, caused by Hurricane Sandy's floodwaters. Photo by Stefano Giovanni

cream, and wanted to keep buying it," said Zigun. "I'm as much of a fan of banana-pistachio ice cream as anybody else. I'm going to miss it."

Zigun said he'll push ahead with his original plans and is considering turning part of the space into an indoor paintball arena this summer.

He does plan to rent out the space — possibly to an

other ice cream vendor.

"Hopefully, there will be ice cream there someday, hopefully banana-pistachio twist," said Zigun.

In the meantime, fans of the thick, luscious Coney Island ice cream flavor will have to trek to Williams Candy at the corner of Surf Avenue and Schweikerts Walk — which remains open and serving ice cream.

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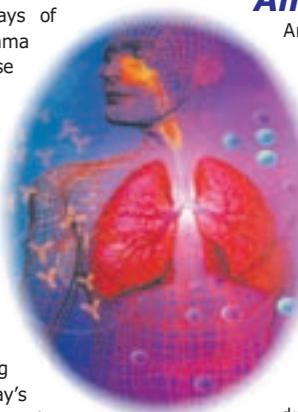
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BROOKLYN NETS FANS OF THE WEEK



Photo by Paul Martinka

Jessica, Tobias, and Ryan Willm of Park Slope with friends Jesse and Ann Montero of Fort Greene

Ryan Willm says, "Growing up, my father was a Dodgers fan. It's so nice to to finally have a pro team back to Brooklyn."

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*The Pointing Finger***Sandy's Law***By Dr. Stephen Finger*

'Hate crime laws' add an extra layer of punishment for crimes committed against individuals solely because they are members of various religious, ethnic, or racial groups, etc. Maybe it's time to try something similar for crimes committed during a national disaster. Maybe there are some things that even the most humane societies don't have to put up with.

How about tacking another 5 or 10 years onto the sentence of anyone convicted of committing a crime in any place declared to be a disaster area. Think that this is too harsh a penalty, especially for crimes that are merely crimes against 'property?'

If you think that, take another look at those pictures of people refusing to leave the wreckage of their homes after Sandy passed thru, living without electricity, heat, or hot water, because they wanted to protect from looters whatever was left. Take a good look and see if you still feel the same.

Or talk to the business owner who's just lost his or her life's savings and

maybe a business that took a lifetime to build. Is there any punishment too great for preying on people in a situation like that? Not everything in life is 'covered by insurance.'

Think the problem is just poor mothers stealing food for their kids? Think again. Very few of the stores vandalized during hurricane Sandy were grocery stores. Much more likely to have been sporting goods, jewelry, or appliance stores. What was that recipe for 'Sneaker Fricassee' or 'Toasted Flat Screen T. V. a l'Orange?'

A disaster 'hate' law? Maybe an idea whose time has come. The price of living in a civilized society is, or at least ought to be, living like a civilized human being.

Visit our blog at: www.ThePointingFinger.Blogspot.com. - We'll leave the light on for you.

Dr. Finger practices medicine (Otolaryngology) in Brooklyn. He ran for Congress in '06 on both Libertarian and Republican lines. Contact: DrSteveFinger@aol.com

Brooklyn mourns boys killed by Sandy

Brothers laid to rest in Green-Wood Cemetery

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Hundreds of mourners lined Parkville Avenue outside of St. Rosa of Lima Catholic Church last Friday to bid a sorrowful farewell to little Brendan and Connor Moore — the two boys who were ripped from their mother's arms and drowned as Hurricane Sandy hit storm-ravaged Staten Island.

Both boys were laid to rest in a single casket before being interred at nearby Green-Wood Cemetery.

A sea of green-clad Department of Sanitation workers, including Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty, stood at attention as the hearse departed the Kensington house of worship out of respect for Damien Moore, the father of the two toddlers.

Damien was working at a Department of Sanitation garage in Brooklyn on Oct. 29 when Sandy barreled toward New York. Mom Glenda Moore was trying to lead her children away from the rising flood waters in Staten Island when her car stalled. She tried to escort her children out of the flood zone on foot, but the unrelenting storm surge swept the two children away from her.

Rescuers found their



DESPAIR: Damien and Glenda Moore, who lost their two sons in Sandy's floodwaters on Staten Island, weep at the children's funeral at St. Rose of Lima Church in Kensington before the burial at Green-Wood Cemetery. Photo by Paul Martinka

bodies three days later in a marsh about 20 yards from each other.

Mourners had no words to calm Glenda, who was sobbing openly as the small, white casket was taken out of the church.

"The only thing that we can offer is our support as a family," Department of Sanitation chaplain Peter Colapietro told the devastated parents. "We pray for your strength in these days — we know that you will need it."



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THE BROOKLYN BACKSTORY

CELEBRATING THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF THE BOROUGH OF KINGS

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Bushwick

Once-forgotten neighborhood has a memorable past

BY SHAVANA ABRUZZO

Bushwick's grapevine is bursting with as much juicy lore as its woodlands once were with the scrub-oak that gave it the nickname "Cripplebush."

Captain Kidd is rumored to have buried his treasure there during one of his visits to his friend Jean Meserole's homestead — near present-day Roebling Street, Broadway, and N. First Street, then part of Bushwick.

Early polar explorer Dr. Frederick Albert Cook once lived in a brick Romanesque revival-style house at 670 Bushwick Ave. off Willoughby Avenue.

Ralph and Alice Kramden's walk-up apartment in "The Honeymooners" was located at 328 Chauncey St. between Howard and Saratoga avenues — miles away from its referenced site in Bensonhurst.

And distraught Bushwickites began dressing their children in street clothes at bedtime to make a swift getaway from the nightly infernos that raged in the late 1970s, after homeowners began torching their homes to collect insurance following a massive mortgage meltdown.

Bushwick is girdled today by Williamsburg, East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brownsville, and Ridgewood in Queens. But it was once the Town of Boswyck — Dutch for "town in the woods" — and one of the six original towns of Brooklyn containing present-day Williamsburg and Greenpoint.

Dutch settlers snapped up its boggy lowlands, lying along the East River between Wallabout and Newtown creeks, from the Canarsee Indians in 1638 for some duffel cloth, kettles, adzes, axes, knives, corrals, and awls.

The region remained farmland for the next 200 years.

The Dutch, and later the French, Scandinavians, and English, grew food, tobacco, and flowers on its fertile soil, grazed their



BUSHWICK HAS IT ALL: Knickerbocker Avenue remains one of the area's premier shopping strips, but it was the site of the city's second worst fire in the 1970s.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

animals, and transported their produce to markets across the East River, traveling along a dirt road running parallel to present-day Bushwick Avenue.

That humble thoroughfare would one day flourish as the residential core of thriving industry and highfalutin' living in North Brooklyn.

Descendants of Hessian mercenaries who settled in Bushwick after the American Revolution launched the town as the American brewery capital, particularly after a sophisticated drainage system introduced in the mid-1800s drew water from the mineral-rich lakes of Long Island.

Bushwick produced more than two mil-

lion barrels of prime suds at its peak, supplying 10 percent of all beer consumed in the country. It boasted 14 breweries on as many blocks, and later sidestepped Prohibition by producing beer made of cereal — a legal enterprise due to its low alcohol content.

Now-defunct Fallert Brewery's storage tunnels still snake below Meserole Street.

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And Otto Huber Brewery at 260 Meserole St. near Bushwick Place is one of two 19th century breweries still standing on the old Brewer's Row — reborn these days as a new beer hall named The Well.

Bushwick also once teemed with luxury dwellings commissioned by wealthy industrial barons and other notables.

Mayor "Red Mike" John Francis Hylan, who served from 1918 to 1925, kept a townhouse on Bushwick Avenue — a big business corridor specializing in shipping and ship building, ironworks, sugar, oil, rope, lumber, glue, and other lucrative trades.

The industrial boom gobbled up any remaining farmland, and the arrival of electric street cars and elevated trains on Broadway and Myrtle Avenue opened up cosmopolitan Bushwick to culture vultures, many of whom came via the Penny Bridge — today the Kosciusko Bridge — to take in an opera or a "high-class" drama at one of the vaudeville-era playhouses.

The 2,000-seat Amphion Theatre on Bedford Avenue between Division and S. Ninth streets — today an area of Williamsburg — was the nation's first theatre with electric lighting, before it was demolished in 1940 as part of a city slum-clearing campaign.

The Bushwick Theatre on Broadway between Palmetto and Woodbine streets gained fame as the second most important vaudeville show hall after the Palace in Manhattan, while the Claridge Hotel accommodated guests seeking a restful weekend away from the clamors of filthy Manhattan.

Bushwick's landscape includes some of the most magnificently appointed churches anywhere.

They are lasting tributes to its Russian, Italian, Irish, and Polish communities, and include St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 626 Bushwick Ave. off Jefferson Street built in 1892, South Bushwick Reformed Church at 855 Bushwick Ave. at Himrod Street constructed in the early 1850s, and St. Barbara's Roman Catholic Church, a Baroque beacon at Bleecker Street and Central Avenue erected in 1910.

Bushwick's industrial age came to an end after its beer plants consolidated and moved away, prompting another demographic shift when African Americans and Puerto Ricans arrived in the late 1950s and 1960s.

They comprised more than half of the area's population by 1970 — a decade when Bushwick famously fell on hard times.

The misery culminated on July 13, 1977 with a massive blackout, prompting unchecked arson and looting along Flatbush, Pitkin, and Utica avenues, and on Broad-



STAYING SWANKY: Luhring Augustine art gallery at 25 Knickerbocker Ave. is among the area's swanky new arrivals.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

way.

A fire in an abandoned factory at Knickerbocker Avenue and Bleecker Street became the second worst in the city's history, destroying four blocks and 45 homes, while eliciting an emotional response from Mayor Ed Koch.

"I remember sitting in the living room of some longtime residents of Bushwick who described what they had been through," he said at the time. "These were people who were determined to die in their community, and they just wanted to be able to do it with dignity."

A crack epidemic in the coming decades skyrocketed the blight.

Murders nearly tripled in Bushwick, peaking with 77 homicides in 1990, making it one of the most dangerous neighborhoods in the city.

"Out here you see your people livin' on the street, they're like cavemen," a local addict named Cookie informed criminologists, according to Steven Malanga's account in the City Journal entitled, "The Death and Life of Bushwick."

"If they could eat each other, they would, if it comes down to that," the drug-gate added.

Crime dropped to an encouraging low in 2006 with just five murders, but soared again two years later to 13 homicides, signaling that any foreseeable recovery in Bushwick was dependent on reducing its chronic lawlessness.

It's been a wild roller coaster ride since the days when Henry Reed Stiles [1832-1909] wrote in his book on the area, "142

Fulton St. and No. 5 Nassau St., where often at mid-day and at early night-fall gathered those who thought there was something more than Kidd's money hid away in the meadows and uplands of the old town of Bushwick."

These days, visionaries and developers are devouring sites in the neighborhood where baseball great Phil Rizzuto and comedy legend Eddie Murphy grew up, hoping to transform its gritty streets into sought-after enclaves of housing and commerce.

"It's no coincidence that I got three or four calls in the last month about Bushwick," Ian Lester, a Manhattan attorney representing commercial developers, tells the blog Brokelyn.

Yet attempts to gentrify Bushwick have met with resistance from long-standing residents, as artists and other young, white professionals move into its abandoned lofts and warehouses.

"Expensive housing sucks!" marchers chanted when a 14-story condo tower opened at 358 Grove St. off Wyckoff Avenue.

The good news is that regeneration on cobbled streets flanked by bodegas, fast-food shops, and auto-repair shops is on the horizon.

Three cafes, two bars, one art gallery, one organic grocer, and several other retail businesses opened in 2010, states Crain's.

"And more are on their way, as people stream in from neighboring Williamsburg and other areas in search of a meal, a drink or just a look around, and as artists and others take up residence," it reports.

Bushwick facts

Five things you need to know about this nabe's history



Bushwick's hard-scrabbled streets define its uniquely gritty character, while its abandoned buildings attract a new wealth of young, white urbanites.

Actress and singer Connie Stevens ("Hawaii Eye") was born in Bushwick.



AP / Nick Ut



AP / Martial Trezzini

Hood-eyed actor Vincent Schiavelli ("Ghost") is a Bushwick boy at heart.

Bushwick's glitterati includes late baseball Hall of Famer shortstop Phil Rizzuto.



AP / Ray Strubblebine



AP / Chris Pizzello

Tinseltown titan Eddie Murphy ("Beverly Hills Cop") hails from the neighborhood.



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Coney kids have school, but it's not in Coney

BY COLIN MIXSON

School's out in Coney Island, but the learning continues.

Kids in Coney Island celebrated their first day back at school after Hurricane Sandy hit last week — just not at PS 188.

"Education will go on," said Scott Kravitsky, who teaches a kindergarten class at the Neptune Avenue school and acts as the school's community liaison, "even if the school's closed."

The Department of Education says that the Michael E. Berdy School should be opened by next week, but teachers were told that the building will not open for a month or perhaps more, Kravitsky said.

The building's boiler is shot, power has not re-



CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Coney Island's PS 188 on Neptune Avenue may be closed for months due to damage it sustained during Hurricane Sandy, and the little scholars there have been sent elsewhere. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

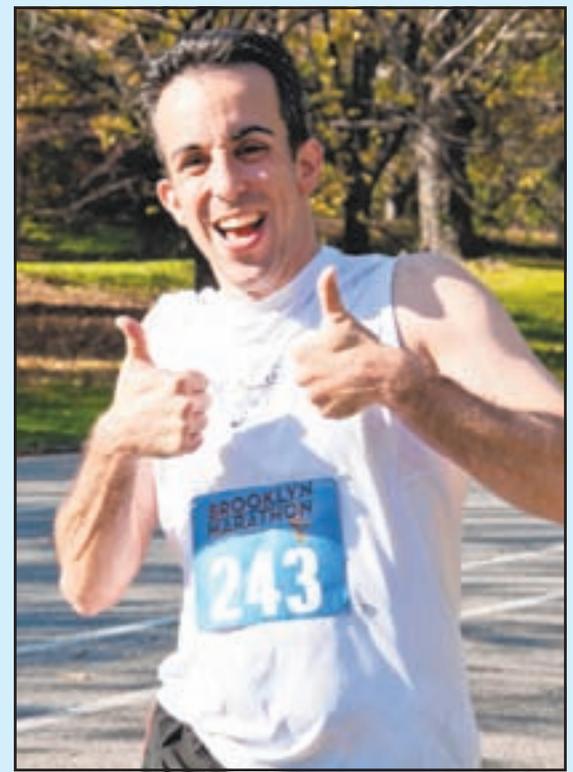
turned, and the school's basement remains inundated in several feet of sea water, officials say.

"The school is constantly being worked on, but we're not going to open until we get a clean bill of health," said Kravitsky.

Meanwhile, the city has arranged for kids in grades pre-K and kindergarten to occupy classrooms in PS 212 in Fort Hamilton. Children in grades one through five are taking lessons at IS 281, also in Fort Hamilton.

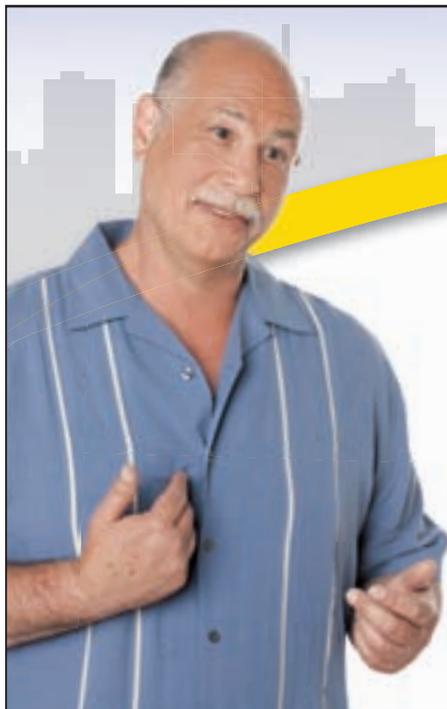
But students won't have to worry about finding their classes — their teachers wait for them at the door.

"As soon as they walk in they're greeted by a smile from their own teachers, so they feel very, very comfortable," said Kravitsky.



Marathon man

The Brooklyn Marathon got the thumbs down to expand its field to displaced New York City marathoners, but the borough's own 26.2-mile race will still go on as planned with its original 500 runners. Photo by Stefano Giovannini



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Brooklyn's dresser is full

Charities say they don't want your clothes anymore

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

Hey Brooklyn, not even hurricane victims want to wear your old mom jeans!

Sandy relief groups say they have been deluged with tons of clothing — and had to divert volunteers and use precious gasoline to cart some of it away — thanks to kind-hearted Brooklynites who graciously donated the shirts off their backs.

“While extremely well-intentioned, some people use it as an excuse to clean out their house,” said Cara Raich, who has been running the supply room at Park Slope's Congregation Beth Elohim. “We have been inundated.”

Now they're spreading the word that other items are needed more than clothing.

Toiletries, cleaning supplies and food are still in high demand in hurricane-ravaged areas, but there is



OVERDRESSED: Shaniqua Smith, a volunteer at Red Hook Initiative, is surrounded by tons of clothing. Since Hurricane Sandy, relief groups have been inundated with clothing donations they can't use.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

limited need for clothing aside from outdoor winter wear, organizers report. And though donation outposts say they are grateful for the outpouring of support, relief workers are saying clothes are becoming too much of a

hassle — and offer little return on invest-gift.

“We didn't realize the amount of work that is involved in sorting unlabeled clothes,” said Raich. “It takes forever.”

At the Red Hook Ini-

tiative, the back room is filled with pants, shirts, and sweaters, and volunteers have asked donors to stop bringing clothes, but it hasn't worked.

“That doesn't seem to stop many people,” said Sandy Brockwell, operations coordinator at the Red Hook Initiative. “We've been trying to get the Salvation Army to come by and take it all.”

At the Occupy Sandy main hub in Sunset Park, volunteers say they have the same problem, and are pleading with residents to bring stuff that's really in demand.

“We have received an immense amount of clothing and we are putting that low on the list,” said Occupy spokesman Justin Wedes.

“We are trying to make sure people know that toiletries are much more needed.”

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68TH PRECINCT

BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS

Bait and kitsch

Three female shysters defrauded a Sunset Park woman out of \$6,000 in Leif Ericson Park on Oct. 31, police say.

The victim reported that she was on 67th Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues at 4:50 pm when the trio of tricksters approached her and offered to sell her a bag full of items bringing good luck and wellness to her family for \$6,000.

The woman agreed to get the cash together and meet up with the shady ladies later on.

The sale went down in the 66th Street and Eighth Avenue corner of the green space, and the woman took the bag home — only to find later that it simply contained rolled up paper and a bottle of water.

Hoosier hold-up

A blade-wielding thug mugged an Indiana transplant on Fort Hamilton Parkway on Nov. 11, according to cops.

The Bloomington-born victim told police that she was near 85th Street on her way home from shopping at 7 pm when the goon approached her with a knife in hand.

The crook ordered her to surrender her phone, cash, and groceries, then frisked the woman to see if she was carrying any more money before fleeing.

No conditions

A tool swiped an air conditioner from a garage on 64th Street on Nov. 11, police report.

The victim said that he locked his garage between 10th and 11th avenues at midnight, but when he returned 10 am to get his car, the fastener was broken — and his cooling unit, along with some of his children's toys, were missing.

62ND PRECINCT

BENSONHURST-BATH BEACH

Murdered

Police found a man stabbed to death inside a Stillwell Avenue apartment on Nov. 6, officials report.

Cops responding to a phone call for help arrived at the home between Avenue T and 86th Street at 11:50 pm, and saw the victim lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

On further inspection, police noticed stab wounds to the man's neck and stomach. Security footage from cameras outside show several men fleeing the scene.

Bag snag

A crook yanked a woman's purse away on 72nd Street on Nov. 7, according to cops.

The victim said she was between 19th and 20th avenues at 8:40 am when the



punk came up behind her, tore her pocketbook off of her shoulder, and fled in an unknown direction.

Bike swipe

An oily perp stole a motorcycle from a Bay Ridge Avenue backyard sometime between Nov. 1 and Nov. 5, cops say.

The victim said he left his ride behind his house between 21st Avenue and Bay Parkway at 4:30 pm.

When he returned at 9 am four days later, the hog was gone.

Pain, no gain

A low life snatched a woman's purse off of a bench in Bensonhurst Park while she exercised nearby on Nov. 10, police say.

The victim said she left her bag on a seat near the corner of Shore and Bay parkways at 9:30 am and started her workout.

When she went back to the bench, the pocketbook was gone.

Car jacked

A punk pinched a car parked on 68th Street sometime between Nov. 8 and Nov. 10, according to police.

The victim said he parked the vehicle near 17th Avenue at 5 pm on Nov. 8, and returned two days later to find it gone.

— Will Bredderman

60TH PRECINCT

CONEY ISLAND-BRIGHTON BEACH-SEAGATE

Shenanigans

A 19-year-old man was arrested for breaking the window of a Mermaid Avenue car service on Nov. 6.

An employee told police that he was inside the business between W. 17th and W. 19th streets at 9:35 pm when he heard a window shatter and, upon investigating the disturbance, noticed the suspect loafing around outside of the building's damaged facade.

Illegal blade

Police arrested an 18-year-old who they say had an illicit gravity knife out in the open on W. 21st Street on Nov. 9.

The arresting officer said that he was between Mermaid and Surf avenues at 7:45 pm, when he noticed the suspect fiddling around with the illegal blade.

Off his rocker

A 43-year-old man was arrested for

threatening a man at knife-point and then slashing his wife on Murdock Court on Nov. 5.

The victim told police that she was between West Street and Ocean Parkway at 5:50 pm when the suspect drew a kitchen knife and placed it to her husband's throat.

"I'm gonna kill you, you son of a b---," the suspect allegedly snarled.

The man's wife then attempted to intervene, but earned herself a deep gash in her hand for the effort, cops said.

61ST PRECINCT

SHEEPSHEAD BAY-HOMECREST-MANHATTAN BEACH-GRAVESEND

Delivery debacle

A trio of thugs roughed up a Chinese food delivery guy on Batchelder Street on Oct. 30, although the crooks were unable to make off with any ill-begotten goods.

The victim told police that he was between Avenues W and X at 3:15 pm when the fiends approached and demanded cash.

The victim refused, so the thugs punched the man and threw him to the ground, before fleeing without any loot, cops said.

Purse perps

Two young purse snatchers robbed a woman in front of an Avenue X apartment building on Nov. 6.

The victim told police that she was between Coyle and Batchelder streets at 9:40 pm when the pint-sized purse pinchers came up behind her and grabbed her handbag, which contained \$55.

Wino

A scoundrel snatched some expensive bottles of wine from an Emmons Avenue diner that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy on Oct. 29.

An employee told police that he left the eatery between Doyle and E. 23rd streets at 11:15 pm, and returned the next day to find that the front door had been busted by the super storm, and that some sneak had used to opportunity to grab the wine.

House call

Police arrested three men who they say beat and robbed a man outside of his E. 28th Street home on Nov. 6, taking his cellphone.

The victim told police that he was in

his house between Avenues W and X at 7:53 pm when one of the suspects called his phone.

"Yo, come outside, I'm going to be by your house," the suspect told the victim, who strolled outside to find the suspect and two other men waiting for him.

The three suspects then showered the victim with a maelstrom of blows before taking his phone and fleeing, cops said.

Garage ganked

A louse looted a man's Corbin Place garage on Oct. 30 — taking \$8,650 worth of property.

The victim told police that he left his home near Oriental Boulevard at 1:30 pm, and returned later to find that his garage, which had been dislodged from the house by Hurricane Sandy, had been completely looted.

Among other things, the victim was missing \$3,000 worth of bicycles, an \$1,200 patio table, an \$850 air conditioner, and an \$800 grill, cops said.

Pipe perp

A pipe-wielding punk attacked a man and took his bookbag on E. 16th Street on Oct. 13.

The victim told police that he was near Sheepshead Bay Road at 11:30 pm when the suspect unleashed a vicious blow on the victim's arm, fracturing it.

The crook then fled with the suspect's backpack, which contained a \$300 Netbook, cops said.

Get down

A ruffian threw a woman to the ground and stole her iPhone on E. 19th Street on Oct. 25.

The victim told police that she was near Jerome Avenue at 9:50 pm when the suspect stole up from behind and shoved her to the ground.

The crook seized her phone, a \$650 iPhone 4, and fled south on E. 19th Street, cops said.

Nice pants

Police arrested a 20-year-old woman who they say lifted a \$1,000 pair of jeans from an Avenue U retailer on Oct. 24.

The store manager told police he was inside the outlet between Bedford Avenue and E. 26th Street at 6:15 pm when he noticed the suspect stuff some Lonestar Skinny Jeans into her pocketbook and attempt to leave without paying.

The manager, however, wasn't letting the suspect go without a fight and, after intercepting the woman, a scuffle ensued, reported police.

When the suspect was apprehended, police found that her bag was lined with aluminum, which confounds some alarms, cops said.

Ransacked

A bandit ransacked a man's Ocean Avenue apartment on Nov. 5, taking a flat-screen TV.

Continued on Page 19

DA storms at Hurricane Sandy filchers

District Attorney Charles Hynes has empaneled a special grand jury to investigate price gouging in the wake of Hurricane Sandy.

Hynes said that his office has received a number of calls over the past few weeks about businesses who used the super storm as an opportunity to illegally raise prices. Some also propagated scams during the disaster.

"The sad truth about a tragedy like Hurricane Sandy is that while it brings out the very best in people, it can also bring out the worst," Hynes said. "To raise the price of a hotel, as people seek emergency shelter is just unconscionable."

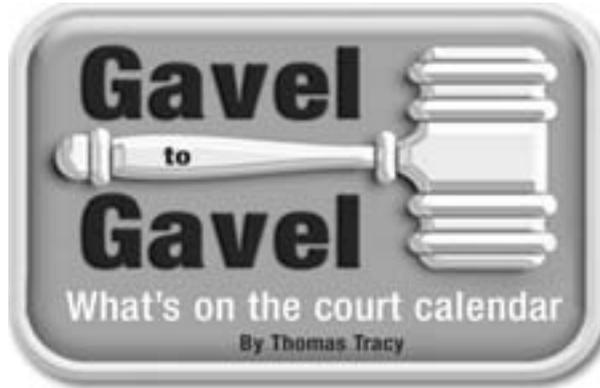
Hynes said the Grand Jury will investigate claims that businesses, such as hotels and gas stations, committed grand larceny by trick and dramatically raised prices in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. The Grand Jury will also investigate claims of grand larceny by false promise.

Some residents said that scam artists created fake charities, then collected – and kept – the contributions they received. Others created bogus construction companies that would offer to damage Hurricane Sandy-ravaged homes, accepted payments, then never did the work they promised to do.

Anyone with information concerning storm-related scams and price gouging should contact the DA's Action Center at (718) 250-2340.

Card sharks busted

Two Sunset Park men accused of making fake social



security cards and green cards are facing seven years in prison each now that they have been indicted on criminal possession of forged devices.

Investigators from District Attorney Charles Hynes's office said Jose Mateo Castro, 56, and Leonel Escamilo, 43, would make fake social security cards, green cards, and license plates and send the bogus identifications to associates in New Jersey and Michigan.

The men were arrested following a year-long investigation conducted by the DA's detective investigators and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

The investigation began in July, 2011, when Homeland Security agents received a tip that an individual known as "Pancho" was selling forged Green Cards and Social Security cards to undocumented aliens out of Las Con-

chitas Bakery in in Sunset Park. Investigators learned that "Pancho" worked at the bakery and discovered that his real name was Jose Mateo Castro.

The DA's indictment charges that Castro, on multiple occasions, sold fake Green Cards and Social Security Cards to an individual in exchange for \$130.

The charges allege that over the next few months, undercover operatives met Castro and gave him money, passport photos and the information to be used on the ID's. Later that day, Castro would provide that individual with forged Green Cards and Social Security Cards bearing the names and photographs that the individual had provided to Castro previously. Castro provided identification cards "in the names of at least six different people," the indictment claims.

On August 14, 2012, the surveillance team observed Castro hand an envelope to a man identified as Escamilo. Escamilo took the envelope and went to a Sunset Park building. About an hour later, Escamilo exited the building with a bag, which he gave to Castro.

Investigators executed a search warrant on the building, and recovered a trove of supplies used to manufacture various forms of government-issued identification cards, including blank cards, holograms, laminates, a paper-cutter, a computer and a printer, easily available online for about \$1,300, specifically used for making double-sided ID cards.

Both men were taken into custody on Nov. 8.

Attempts to reach both Castro and Escamilo's attorneys were unsuccessful by press time.



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Sloper helps evacuees vote

BY ELI ROSENBERG

In some parts of the country, people spend their time fighting tooth-and-nail to prevent others from voting. But here in the Brooklyn, locals give their blood, sweat, and tears to get everyone they can out to vote — especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

A 36-year-old Park Slope TV writer volunteering at the Park Slope Armory realized that many of the evacuees at the makeshift storm shelter were not going to be able to make it back to their devastated neighborhoods to vote — so she worked a 26-hour shift printing, distributing, and then collecting absentee ballot applications.

And she narrowly managed to beat the city's voting deadlines.

"I was calling everyone and Facebooking everyone and trying to get everyone to help," said Livia Beasley. "That's how it is in producing television. Sometime's there's a crunch, it's no biggie."

As she volunteered at the 15th Street shelter last week after the storm, Beasley found out that many of the people she was attending to — largely a group of older residents from two indepen-

dent care facilities in the Rockaways — had no way to get to the polls, nor any other way for them to vote at the shelter.

"It started to dawn on them that they weren't going to be able to get back," said Beasley, who Park Slopers might know from the band Barefoot Walking. "That's when I started making calls."

Luckily for her, the state Board of Elections extended the deadline to apply for absentee ballots in person to Monday — giving her one day to make sure the storm evacuees received and turned around the paperwork they needed to be eligible.

Beasley printed out stacks of the applications on Sunday evening, then she began her grueling, vote-gathering marathon.

The trick was finding people who were awake.

"It doesn't get completely dark in here, and these folks don't necessarily sleep at the same time," said Beasley, who worked straight through the night into Monday.

"In the middle of the night I was seeing who was awake and we did register a bunch of people in the middle of the night."

After collecting 76 absentee ballot applications, Beasley and fellow volunteers raced to the Board of Elections outposts in Brooklyn and Queens, flagging some cabs, to get them in before the offices closed Monday evening.

She said she headed home at 9 pm on Monday — after beginning her one-woman get-out-the-vote effort at 7 pm the day before.

After her first night of sleep since Saturday, Beasley was back at the Armory on election day, gathering the ballots themselves and making sure the evacuees managed to drop them off before the 5 pm Tuesday deadline for hand-delivered votes.

She and some other volunteers also took several shelter residents to vote due to Gov. Cuomo's affidavit ballot provision, which allowed New Yorkers in storm-affected areas to vote anywhere they'd like in the state.

Beasley said the results from the Armory were clear.

"There were maybe two people voting for Romney talking about it in like a hush-hush tone," she said. "But just about everyone said they were going to vote for Obama."



ABSENTEE DEVOTEE: Livia Beasley helped Hurricane Sandy evacuees cast absentee ballots.
Photo by Stefano Giovannini

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Forage with 'Wildman' Brill

BY COLIN MIXSON

No matter what natural disaster looms around the corner, there remains one habitat in Brooklyn where residents can literally live off the land — Marine Park!

Naturalist "Wildman" Steve Brill will show everyone just how easy it is to find farm-fresh fruits and vegetables in a city park, just in case another disaster strikes, during a four-hour foraging tour of the Marine Park wetlands on Nov. 24.

"You can get stuff there that is fresh when your power is out and everything's going bad in your fridge," the "Wildman" explained. "If we mess up our planet a lot more foraging is going to become more important."

To Brill, Marine Park is a veritable Garden of Eden when it comes to sumptuous, uncultivated edibles, and

while its sandy soil is bad for trees, it's great for hardy roots and vegetables that benefit from the extra sun.

"The soil is poor, limiting tree growth, but benefiting plants that can take advantage of the unblocked sun and nutrient-poor soil," Brill explained.

Feral fruits certainly grow in abundance, and frolicking foragers can expect to find winged sumac — great for pink lemonade in a pinch — and Autumn olive berries, which taste like the unclaimed offspring of raspberries, according to the foraging expert.

And there's mushrooms, too! After 25 years of leading foraging tours in Marine Park, Brill says he's found a grove full of tasty blewitt mushrooms not far from IS 278.

"They're incredibly fla-

vorful, very, very powerful and just as good as anything you'd find in a gourmet store," Brill said.

Aside from leading foragers to the tasty plants — and away from the toxic ones — Brill will share some delectable recipes from his iPhone app, "Wild Edibles Full."

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Foraging with Steve Brill at Marine Park [Avenue U and Burnett Street, call (914) 835-2153 at least 24 hours in advance to reserve a spot]. Nov. 24, 11:45 am. \$20 suggested donation.



THE WILDMAN: "Wildman" Steve Brill will lead a foraging tour through Marine Park on Nov. 24.

Photo by Violet Brill

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Continued from Page 4

The victim told police that he left his home between Avenues Y and Z at 8 am, and returned to find one of his windows left ajar and his \$500 boob tube missing.

70TH PRECINCT

FLATBUSH-MIDWOOD

Terrible tantrum

A 25-year-old woman was arrested for throwing a fit — not to mention a few cellphones — inside a Flatbush Avenue Verizon Wireless store on Nov. 11, before stealing some phones and a laptop.

An employee at the store between Nostrand Avenue and E. 31st Street told police the suspect stormed in at 10:45 am and started harassing him.

“Call your f----- manager,” the suspect allegedly shouted, before snatching up cellphones and tossing them on the floor. She then allegedly swept a computer monitor off its stand, before grabbing a laptop and phones.

“I am going to come back with a gun,” the suspect snarled, before fleeing with his ill-begotten goods, police reported.

Bad apple

An 18-year-old boy was arrested for viciously trying to rob a man on E. 23rd Street on Nov. 9.

The victim told police that he was near Glenwood Road at 12:23 am when the suspect and another man crept up behind him, and placed him in a choke hold.

The suspect and his accomplice allegedly beat the victim, threw him to the ground, and searched his pockets. The crooks fled empty-handed, according to police.

Gang assault

A 17-year-old boy was arrested for mugging another man on Argyle Road on Nov. 8.

The victim told police that he was between Dorchester Road and Ditmas Avenue at 8:30 pm when the suspect and some partners shoved him to the ground and hit him.

The suspect then allegedly grabbed the victim's phone before fleeing. — *Colin Mixson*

Fontbonne

Continued from Page 4

McDade said teachers and students approach her all the time and ask her what she needs.

“People are coming up to me and giving me money,” she said. “Everyone wants to be such a big help. I feel like I don't have nothing anymore.”

Strong, who recently found an apartment in Bay Ridge, said she and the players have been living a nomadic existence since the storm, as they bed at different friends' or family members' homes.

Junior Daisy Trustumm couldn't make it to the game because she is living in Connecticut. Also, eight members of the school's first-

place junior varsity team were also affected, adding to an already difficult situation.

“It's really, really tough on these kids,” Strong said. “They are too young to have to experience this. It's horrible.”

Many of the players have been back to Breezy Point and what's left of their homes. Sullivan called it

“pure devastation.” in some sections there's nothing but burnt houses and houses collapsed inside of others.

It didn't feel like home, but doesn't mean it won't be home again in time, McDade explained.

“My family is very determined to rebuild our house where it was,” McDade said. “But it's gong to take awhile.”

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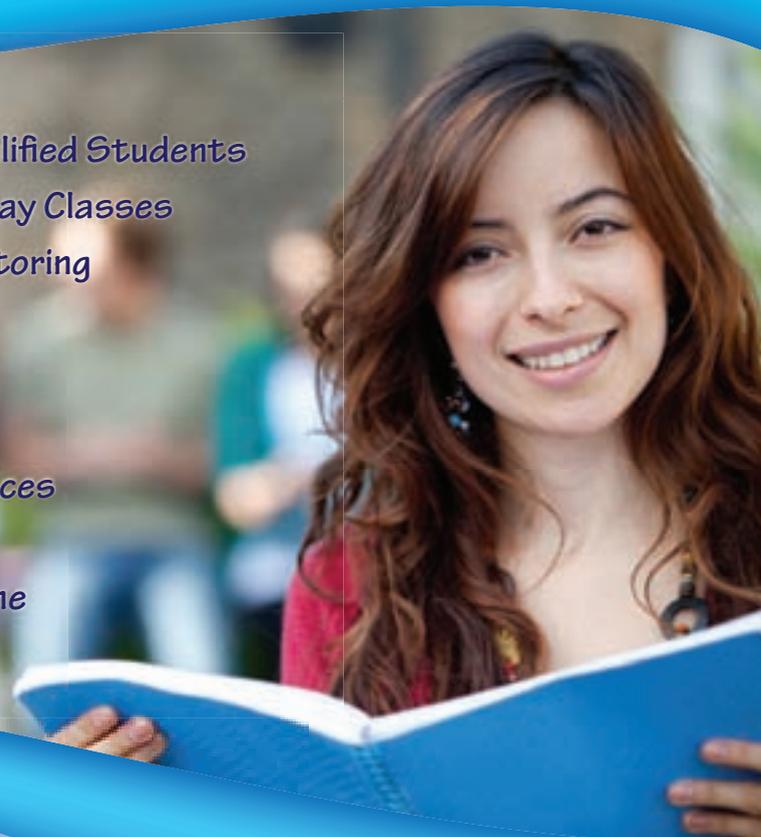
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Two fire engines collide in Canarsie

Ten of New York City's Bravest listed in serious condition after crash

BY COLIN MIXSON

Two fire trucks collided at E. 103rd Street and Avenue J in Canarsie last Thursday, propelling both through a man's brick wall and sending 10 of New York's Bravest to local hospitals in serious conditions.

Engine 257 was racing southbound on E. 103rd Street, while Engine 170 traveled west on Avenue J — sirens blaring on both vehicles — when they collided at 7:30 am.

The fire engines skidded to a stop in long-time Canarsie resident Cecil Lowe's front yard, mere feet from his Avenue J home, and demolished his \$22,000 brick wall in the process.

"When they hit, I ran to the window and saw two trucks rolling towards me," Lowe explained. "I said 'holy lord,' and prayed they would stop before hitting the house. The closest truck ended up about a yard from the house."



BRAVEST DOWN: All 10 firefighters involved in the two-rig accident were transported to local hospitals. The driver of Engine 257 — pictured here — had the most serious injuries, witnesses said.

Lowe described the violent impact as akin to an explosion.

"Yeah, I felt the vibrations, boom, like a bomb went off," he said.

All 10 fire personnel involved in the accident, who were on their way to assess an odor of smoke emanat-

ing from a Paerdegat Avenue North home at the time of the accident, were sent to hospitals in serious conditions.

The driver of Engine 257 suffered the most severe injuries, and emergency workers had to pry him out of the vehicle with a Jaws of

Life apparatus.

"One of the passengers was walking around dazed, the driver was unconscious," said Lowe. "He was bleeding, the blood was all over the door. They had to use the jaws of hell, or whatever they call it to get him out."



GATE CRASHERS: Canarsie resident Cecil Lowe is going to have to rebuild his \$22,000 brick wall surrounding his Avenue J house now that Engines 257 and 170 collided into it while enroute to a call on Nov. 7. Photos by Paul Martinka

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tance.

"When I found out these places had no cops, Federal Emergency Management Agency workers, or the Red Cross helping out, and I saw five cops at an intersection in Manhattan on the TV, I was incensed by it," said Robicelli. "Brooklyn's my home, and these people who were being so neglected are our brothers and sisters."

Robicelli — who is still on the mend after being hit by a car last month — immediately sent out messages urging people to get involved through Twitter and through the Bay Ridge Parents Facebook page.

The response was overwhelming, as tweets and messages asking how to give or receive aid began pouring in from all corners of the city.

"Tons of people started tweeting at me or sending me messages over Facebook, asking 'what can I do?' And people from Seagate and Staten Island were calling me, asking for help," said Robicelli. "They know



RAW MATERIALS: Bay Ridge Cares member Karen Tadross shows off some of the donated food Allison Robicelli and fellow chefs will turn into hot meals for Sandy victims. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

that people in the areas that got hit aren't going to have power for a long time, they aren't going to have their homes."

"We can't forget about them next week, we can't forget about them next month, we can't forget about them in January and February," she said.

But her efforts hit a speed bump thanks to the gas crunch: many of the dishes Robicelli's team prepared spoiled because they

couldn't be delivered. That's when Robicelli reached out to the Occupy Sandy relief effort — an offshoot of the Zucotti Park movement — to help her identify where the neediest people are located, and used Facebook and Twitter to coordinate drop-offs.

"Social media acted like a dispatch, like a 911 center, except that everybody's on call all the time," said Robicelli, who was amazed by all of the support she received.



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Electrician lights up Gerritsen Beach

BY COLIN MIXSON

Gerritsen Beach residents are griping that they have been neglected by Con Edison, but at least one son of the devastated neighborhood is lending a helping hand.

Electrician and Gerritsen Beach resident John Langone, who says he is sickened by all the price-gouging predators flocking to his Hurricane Sandy-scarred community, has taken it upon himself to prepare his beleaguered end of Brooklyn for the anticipated return of electricity.

"I'm tired of hearing about women getting charged \$700 for an inspection," Langone raged. "I've lived in Gerritsen Beach my whole life and I've never seen a disgrace like this."

Langone, whose roots run deep in Gerritsen Beach, has vowed to spend his days inspecting properties in the neighborhood without charge so residents can get their lights switched on.

Con Edison won't power up homes hit hard by the storm until it gets the all clear from a licensed electrician.

"My house will be the last to be touched," Langone vowed. "My grandparents have been here since the 1920s and I would disgrace them if I didn't help the neighborhood first."

The electrician, who also works for the Port Authority in New York and New Jersey, says Gerritsen Beach has been largely neglected by the city, and said that last Thursday's town hall

meeting at Resurrection Church, which featured announcements from Con Edison officials, was little more than a sham held to placate neighborhood residents.

"What a bogus town hall meeting," said Langone. "I work for the Port Authority. I see all the relief coming in and I don't see any of that in Gerritsen Beach."

With little aid coming from outside, Langone is adamant that Gerritsen Beach will have to look to its own as it struggles to regain a measure of normalcy.

"We're the last ones noted on the map," he said. "We're a community of first responders, and we're the last neighborhood to get any kind of assistance. We have to help each other."

Beyond providing



THE POWER OF CHARITY: Electrician John Langone has been providing free inspections for residents in Gerritsen Beach, which was devastated by Hurricane Sandy. Photo by Steve Solomonson

free inspections, Langone offers other services at extreme discounts for hard-hit homeowners, including installing much-needed boilers for a fraction of what other

electricians have been charging.

The big-hearted electrician might not be turning much of a profit, but he's finding himself rich in goodwill.

"I've received lots of invites from complete strangers to come back and use their showers," said Langone. "I still don't have hot water, but I've made a few friends."

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Shelter shocker

Homeless move into Carroll Gardens building

BY NATALIE MUSUMECI

A controversial plan to turn a vacant W. Ninth Street building into a homeless shelter became a reality last Tuesday night due to Hurricane Sandy.

About 120 homeless male veterans who were displaced from a Queens shelter during the storm are receiving temporary housing at the building between Court Street and Hamilton Avenue — where the lease-holder intends to set up a permanent 170-bed homeless shelter despite community opposition.

The Department of Homeless Services broke the news of the hurricane shelter to Community Board 6 district manager Craig Hammerman by letter last Monday, insisting it's only temporary.

"We were told this is going to be short term, they will be out in less than a month," said Hammerman.

The Institute for Community Living, which operates the storm-damaged Queens shelter, is in

charge of the temporary W. Ninth Street facility.

The arrival of the storm shelter comes after neighbors protested a plan by Housing Solutions USA, which holds the lease on the site and intends to open the contested, long-term shelter.

Carroll Gardens residents expressed compassion for the displaced homeless vets, but echoed their angst about the plan for a permanent shelter.

"For veterans on a temporary basis until their place is rehabilitated, we can do that. Neighbor can help neighbor, no doubt about it," said longtime Carroll Gardens resident Buddy Scott, 84, who is completely opposed to the possibility of a permanent 170-bed homeless shelter in the up-and-coming area in the shadow of the Gowanus Expressway.

"This is the weakest part of our neighborhood, which means we need to strengthen this part of the neighborhood, not weaken it,"

he said.

Neighbor Matthew Morettini doesn't want the temporary homeless shelter to become a permanent part of W. Ninth Street.

"I understand them coming in now since everyone was displaced with the hurricane, but I hope that doesn't mean a final decision has been made," he said. "Now it's just happening without any other input from the community."

The vets coming to W. Ninth Street — some of whom lost much of their belongings to the storm — hope their new neighbors will accept them.

"I hope the community understands that we served our country from Iraq and Vietnam," said Mike, a 53-year-old Army veteran who declined to give his last name because he doesn't want to publicize the fact he is homeless. "I don't want to be pre-judged — we are veterans and we deserve respect."

But other Carroll Gardens residents contend that the long-term



NEW NEIGHBOR: Curtis Lee, 45, is an army veteran staying in the W. Ninth St. shelter that is now holding 120 homeless vets who were displaced from their Queens shelter by Hurricane Sandy. Community Newspaper Group / Natalie Musumeci

proposal is unsafe for the kid-friendly neighborhood.

"It's going to definitely increase crime rates, reduce safety, and reduce the value of the neigh-

borhood," said Tarek Ahmed, a father of five-month-old twins.

The Department of Homeless Services did not return calls before press time.

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CHIPPING IN: (Clockwise from above) Charlotte Eichna of Crown Heights rakes up loose brush that Sandy left on Coney's shores. Teachers hand out hot coffee at a donation drive. PS 253 teacher Lauren Figari helps Brighton Beacher Rosa Montoya find a pair of shoes at the school's donations giveaway. Beach combers Carly Goldman and Katie Grossman of Prospect Heights pick debris off of the sand.

Photos by Cassandra Giraldo and Elizabeth Graham



VOLUNTEERS FLOOD CONEY AND BRIGHTON BEACH

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Thousands of volunteers poured into storm-battered Coney Island on Nov. 10 and put their sweat, muscle, and hearts into the relief effort.

The Parks Department had teams shoveling sand off of the Boardwalk and picking up trash on the beaches, while volunteers with the public-private partnership The Alliance for Coney Island helped residents and small business owners remove water-damaged furniture and interior walls.

The United Federation of Teachers gave out food, water, and clothes in MCU Park's parking lot on Surf Avenue between

W. 19th and W. 20th streets.

Organizers said they were amazed at the number of people who came out to help.

"It's really been a great turnout," said Elijah Hutchinson, who helped coordinate volunteers for the newly formed Alliance — which includes Deno's Wonder Wheel Park, Luna Park, and Gargiulo's Restaurant. "It's been wonderful to have so many people together, and being active in the community."

Meanwhile, in Brighton Beach, staffers at PS 253 — under the leadership of Principal Lisa Speroni, parent coordinator Gina Dacchille, and Parent-Teacher Association president

Claudio Escoto — gathered hundreds of bags of clothing, toiletries, and other necessities to give away to impacted families.

Dacchille said the model for the effort — which operated out of the school's parking lot on Ocean View Avenue between Brighton Sixth and Brighton Seventh streets — was "working in the community, for the community."

"Brighton Beach was hit hard, very hard, and it was of the utmost importance to assist our families in need. We had to do whatever we had to do to assist our community," said Dacchille, who said at least 500 people picked up supplies at the event.



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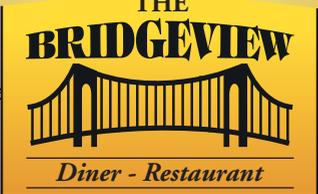
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Hakeem wins big

BY MOSES JEFFERSON
Hakeem's dream has come true.

Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Fort Greene) easily defeated his rivals to succeed retiring Rep. Ed Towns as the congressman representing Canarsie, Mill Basin, Marine Park, Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Bedford-Stuyvesant.



HEADING TO THE HILL: Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries won a seat in Congress. Photo by Cassandra Giraldo

The attorney and frontrunner locked up 90 percent of the vote with 99 percent of ballots counted, according to the New York Times.

Jeffries trounced GOP hopeful Alan Bellone and Green Party candidate Colin Beavan — just as he coasted past Councilman Charles Barron (D-Canarsie) in the Democratic primary.

"We're going to march for a more perfect union," Jeffries said at his victory party, according to Fort Greene Patch. "We are not going backward."

Bellone earned 8.8 percent of ballots, while 1.2 percent of voters were tallied as "other," the Times reports.

Cyclone

Continued from cover

Yet Luna Park inspectors say the violent tide Hurricane Sandy brought with it when it touched down in Brooklyn had no effect on the Cyclone's

foundations or hairpin turns that have been famous since the ride opened in 1927, Gallo explained.

"The Cyclone didn't suffer any damage like that," Gallo said.

The Cyclone is in the midst of a major overhaul that promises a safer,

smoother, and less rickety experience — a move some ride enthusiasts say will take the thrill out of the thrill ride.

The coaster's last major upgrade came in the mid-1970s, when the city saved the ride from demolition.

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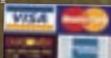
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So here's a very special Hurricane Sandy edition of Standing O, sending out a thanks a bunch to:

• **Walgreens** teamed up with the National Urban League and sent out the big wellness bus (normally used for medical screenings) full of supplies including blankets, hand warmers, wipes, bottled water, snacks, and a whole lot more. The magical, mystical supply bus, which was parked in the Neptune Avenue location on Nov. 8, also acted as a charging station for all those hand-held electric devices that we just can't live without. Residents lined up and were able to obtain supplies free of charge. Can you believe it? Absolutely, positively for free. The bus also made stops on Ocean Avenue in Sheepshead Bay on Nov. 9, Long Beach Boulevard in Long Beach on Nov. 10, and in Jersey City on Nov. 11. Again, thanks a bunch!

• **Kisses and hugs to God's Love We Deliver.** Its volunteers from across the river in a place called "Soho" biked and walked across bridges to deliver 8,000 meals and 2,300 "Sandy Bags" consisting of emergency food kits, to those left in the dark, cold, and hungry by that wicked old Hurricane Sandy. Working with nothing but flashlights, the dedicated team slogged through receding waters to come a'knocking on doors offering food and a shoulder to lean on. Nonperishable food and meals were supplied to Project Hospitality in Staten Island, the Bowery Mission, the Community and Food Pantry in West Harlem, as well as 750 of its regular stops.

• **Five gold stars to Assemblywoman Nicole Mallitokis** (R-Bay Ridge), whose district also covers parts of hurricane-ravaged Staten Island, for rolling up her sleeves and joining with staff from the Bay Ridge restaurant **Something Greek** to pass out gyros, spinach pies, and soup to residents and volunteers in New Dorp Beach, Staten Island. There's nothing like hot soup and a gyro when you're cold, hungry, and homeless to lift the spirits.

• **Rock out to all those SandyBagger**s who collected and delivered truckloads of necessities to the Rockaways, Staten Island, and Red Hook. What would we do without you?

• **Five Stars to ESquared Hospitality** for stocking its "Go Burger Truck" and delivering hot food to volunteers and residents in the city's hardest hit locations. Stops were made on Nov. 9 at Our Lady of Solace Church, in Coney Island; Nov. 10 at Visitation Church in Red Hook; and St. Mary Star of the Sea Church on Nov. 11 in Far Rockaway.

• **Deep-felt appreciation to the students and staff at Fontbonne Hall Academy.** The giving girls, under the direction of **Sister Dolo-**



GREAT EFFORTS: (Above) Rep. Nicole Malliotakis serves food on Staten Island. (Far left) The Walgreens Wellness bus gave out supplies on Neptune Avenue on Nov. 8. (Left) Fontbonne Hall Academy students collect uniforms that were donate to classmates Sandy left homeless.

cord to fill it up. Kacania was able to go out and fulfill her civic duty!

• **More Time Warner:** Time Warner also announced it will automatically credit many local residential and business

customers whose services were interrupted. It will also waive fees or penalties for equipment like set-top boxes or cable modems lost or damaged because of the storm. For those with service interruptions, Time Warner will provide credit on an individual basis. If you need assistance call (212) 358-0900 or (718) 358-0900. Business customers can call (877) 227-8711, or visit timewarnercable.com.

• **Owner of Casa Pepe and Tio Pepe** volunteer first responder Jimmy Sanz didn't have an ounce of electricity for more than a week, but that didn't stop him from getting together with fellow do-gooders John Phillipidis and Frank Cushner to load up trucks full of supplies and deliver them to those in need in Coney Island and Staten Island. *Me casa sua Casa Pepe.*

res Crepeau, collected uniforms and shoes, and other necessities for students who lost their possessions in the storm. Sister Crepeau helped more than 79 families in the Fontbonne clan who have been left homeless with resettlement issues.

• **Mille grazzi to Alice Sena, owner of Sposabella bridal shop in Park Slope.** She lost her home in Breezy Point, but it didn't stop her from volunteering her talents as a cook and helping to prepare meals for the Park Slope Christian Help, Women's Shelter, and Soup Kitchen in Park Slope.

• **Girl Scout Troop 2737** is hosting an ongoing collection for school supplies to be delivered to children in Coney Island, Rockaway, and Sheepshead Bay. Students in grades pre-K through junior high in Coney Island

have been displaced and are being re-routed to other schools in the community. Items requested include pencils, backpacks, crayons, notebooks, and binders. Every little bit helps. Get out there and pick up a marble book or two. Contact Bernadette at (347) 249-1788. Drop-off at Our Lady of Grace Church, 430 Ave. W — Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 8 pm.

• **Two donuts out to Time Warner Cable.** The company heard that **Kacania Taylor** was stranded in her apartment in Red Hook on Election Day with an electric wheelchair flat out of juice. With no way to power up the chariot, Kacania couldn't go out and vote. So along came the Time Warner team, headed by **Robert Levy**, with a portable generator, just like a knight in electric shiny armor, and hooked up her chair via a very long extension

customers whose services were interrupted. It will also waive fees or penalties for equipment like set-top boxes or cable modems lost or damaged because of the storm. For those with service interruptions, Time Warner will provide credit on an individual basis. If you need assistance call (212) 358-0900 or (718) 358-0900. Business customers can call (877) 227-8711, or visit timewarnercable.com.

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New York Harbor Watch



STYLIN': Members of the 101st Airborne Division's First Brigade tried on the new female body armor, which was recently named one of the best inventions of 2012 by Time Magazine.

Photo by David J. Kamm

Better designs for women's armor

HARBOR WATCH

An innovation that will leave female soldiers safer and more comfortable on the battlefield was named one of Time Magazine's "Best Inventions of the Year 2012."

A collaborative effort between the Natick Soldier Research, Development, and Engineering Center and Program Executive Office Soldier resulted in an improved outer tactical vest, designed specifically for women. The 101st Airborne Division's 1st Brigade will be the first unit to test the new female body armor in Afghanistan.

The new armor was designed to offer better protection and to prevent bruised hip bones that women experienced when wearing vests meant to fit smaller men.

Maj. Joel Dillon, assistant product manager, Product Manager Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment, PEO Soldier, called the Time story a motivator for those involved in the body armor's

development.

"I think it's great that it shows the American people that we're continuing to make sure that our soldiers have the best equipment in the world," Dillon said. "And so any word that gets out in that respect is great. It's a big boost for our team, because we work very hard to make sure that all of the equipment we develop and field is the finest that we can possibly obtain for the American soldier."

Dillon pointed out that in a head-to-head comparison with the current vest, the female version was chosen by all of the 101st soldiers who tested it.

"They provide a better, more secure fit for female soldiers," Dillon said. "I was down there visiting while the testing was ongoing at Fort Campbell (Ky.), talking to the soldiers, and it was just really obvious to me that the form, fit, and function are definitely what we were shooting for."

In a recent interview

Continued on Page 35

The passing of a hero

Air Force mourns its first African-American graduate

HARBOR WATCH

Chuck Bush, the first African-American to graduate from the Air Force Academy, passed away on Nov. 5 at his home in Lolo, Mont.

"The United States Air Force Academy is saddened to learn of the passing of one of our most notable graduates, Chuck Bush," said Lt. Gen. Mike Gould, Academy superintendent. "Our hearts go out to Tina, Chip, Kyra, Bettina, and all of the Bush family."

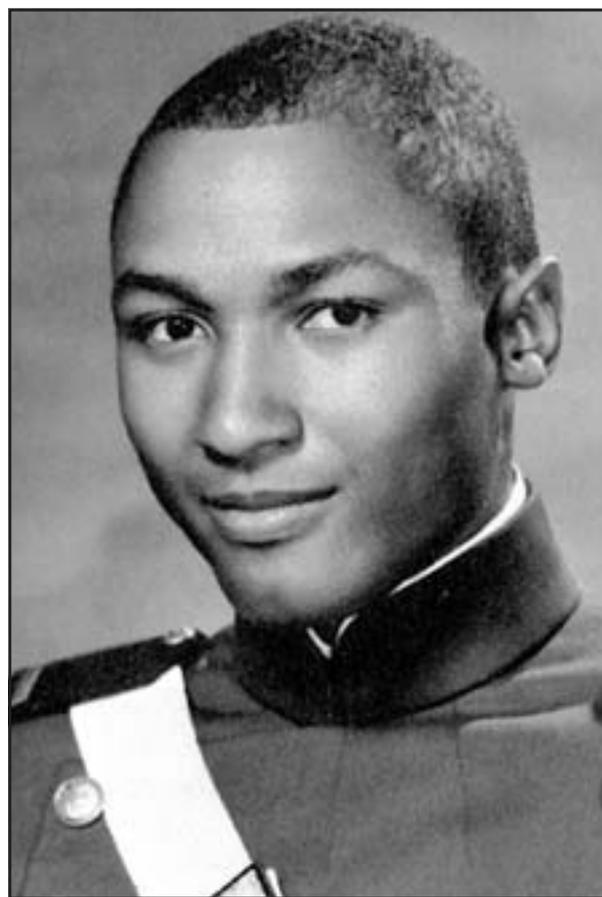
Charles Vernon Bush, Class of 1963, entered the Academy with his two African-American classmates, reporting as a cadet in June 1959.

He distinguished himself as a squadron commander, a member of the Academy's debate team, and a member of the Cadet Wing champion rugby team.

Having received academic course credits from Howard University, Bush was accepted into a special joint Academy-Georgetown University master's program, commencing with graduate courses in his senior year, which included his oral comprehensives in the Russian language.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1963, Bush received his Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Georgetown University in June 1964, and was inducted into the Georgetown chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society.

He then attended Air Intelligence Officers School, and served at Westover Air Force Base, Mass., where,



HISTORIC: Chuck Bush, the first African-American Air Force Academy grad, died on Nov. 5 in his home in Montana.

Courtesy U.S. Air Force

among his other activities, he taught undergraduate political science courses at American International College. After becoming fluent in the Vietnamese language at Sanz Language School in Washington, he was assigned to Vietnam in 1967 as an intelligence officer.

In Vietnam, he was responsible for the deployment and operations of six intelligence teams operating from a number of sites, including Saigon, Bien

Hoa, Nha Trang, Pleiku, Da Nang, and Can Tho. The teams were involved with significant intelligence operations, particularly involving the attack on Tan Son Nhut Air Base during the Tet Offensive of 1968, and the defense of the Marines and South Vietnamese at the Battle of Khe Sanh.

Returning to the United States in May 1968, Bush was again assigned to Headquarters Air Force Special Projects Production Facil-

ity, at Westover, as chief of the technical analysis division. He resumed teaching political science courses at American International College.

In 1970, Bush resigned his commission and then attended Harvard Business School, majoring in finance. He spent the rest of his professional career in numerous business enterprises, serving as manager and senior corporate executive in such companies as Merrill Lynch-White Weld Capital Group, Max Factor, and Hughes Electronics.

Included among his many distinguished business and academic activities, Bush was an Academy Falcon Foundation Trustee and a guest lecturer at the Academy's Department of Management. He was a diversity consultant for both the Air Force and Air Force Academy.

Bush received many accolades in both his military and civilian careers. While in the Air Force, he received the Bronze Star Medal, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

"A member of the Class of 1963 and the first African-American graduate, Mr. Bush's courage and commitment to enhancing diversity in the United States military will pay itself forward for many generations," Gould continued. "The Academy family is truly proud to call Mr. Chuck Bush one of our own."

New chaplain and assistant on board

Fort Hamilton is experiencing growing pains with addition of new employees

HARBOR WATCH

U.S. Army Garrison Fort Hamilton has experienced many changes during the past few months, and changes in faces mark the most substantial change.

It's widely known that the garrison has a new commander, deputy commander, and command sergeant major, which is almost half of the garrison military makeup there. But gaining more and more recognition is the other half of the garrison who also recently arrived.

Chap. (Maj.) Jamison Bowman and Staff Sgt. Fahemm Blount, chaplain and noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of religious services at the post, arrived practically back-to-back, and said they are prepared to mix things up a little, in a good way, that is.

"Though my job as a minister doesn't change,

the entire demographic dynamic changes here," Bowman said. "Despite Fort Hamilton's size, its uniqueness also includes being the largest joint installation I've been a part of. You don't have to understand the big picture where it's not only active duty here, but there are National Guard and Reserve, veterans, retirees, and a very large civilian population here as well."

A chaplain since 2004, Bowman was a pastor in Memphis for about five years before joining the Army and becoming a chaplain. He was the gospel service chaplain at Fort Carson Colo., and then went to Fort Benning, Ga., and worked with the contemporary service there before being deployed to Iraq in 2009. After that, he was stationed in Japan as the gospel chaplain for almost two years, then on to the Train-



NEW FACES AT FORT HAMILTON: Staff Sgt. Fahemm Blount, chaplain assistant, and Chap. Maj. Jamison Bowman discuss upcoming religious event at the post's chapel. Courtesy Fort Hamilton Post

ing and Doctrine Command until he was assigned to Fort Hamilton.

"For the very first time in my military career, I live very close to where I pastor," he said. "Compared to Fort Carson and other posts

where the communities are much larger, here, I live where my flock is and I can walk to work and around the whole post and see and greet parishioners that I usually see on Sundays."

Bowman said this is a

unique assignment in many ways. Though he was familiar with garrisons throughout his career while with armor, artillery, signal, and training units, this is the first time he's actually been assigned to a garrison where he's learning more about the administrative aspect of it.

Bowman's right-hand man is also new to the garrison. Enlisting a mere seven years ago this past September, Blount sought the advice and support of his then girlfriend, and now wife, Kendra, about choosing between becoming a chaplain assistant or a broadcast journalist.

"She said, 'Ask the man upstairs,' and I chose chaplain assistant," he said.

Blount was about 10 years older than the average basic training soldier. At 28, he was able to help influence and motivate

younger soldiers in their paths to successful graduations, which only served as a caveat to his duties as chaplain assistant.

"Because I am a chaplain assistant, I want to project a standard," he said. "Soldiers tend to look at me differently, so when they see that I'm squared away and trying to set the example, it allows me to mentor them and help them succeed over their short-comings."

Blount arrived at Fort Hamilton after a three-year stint each in Schweinfurt and Landstuhl, Germany. He initially applied to participate in the Active, Guard, and Reserve Program, but instead reenlisted for Fort Hamilton, which is home for the Bronx native.

Achieving the rank of staff sergeant sooner than seven years is rare for most military occupational specialties.

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BACK OF A C-130
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- Deric Walker, Ashford graduate

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Recruiters seeking future sailors

US Navy looking for youngsters interested in important new training fields

HARBOR WATCH

The Navy is seeking highly motivated sailors in pay grades E-5 and above to serve as Recruit Division Commanders at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Navy Personnel Command in Tennessee.

"Recruit division commanders are the single most important factor in preparing new enlisted sailors for a successful Navy career," said Chief Yeoman (SW/AW) Lakeshia Patterson, a shore special programs detailer at Navy Personnel Command.

Patterson and her fellow detailers are currently seeking sailors interested in filling Recruit Division Commander billets at training in preparation for the annual summer surge of recruits. Interested sailors should start by talking with their command career counselor.

"It's a good assignment for sailors looking to diversify their career and to improve advancement opportunity or simply to try something different," said Patterson. "The leadership experience of a Recruit Division Commander is unmatched in any other billet and, historically, they experience 22 percent greater E-6/E-7 advancement opportunity."

The tasks required are mentally, physically, and emotionally demanding, and require proven self-discipline and imaginative problem-solving skills, according to Patterson. Sailors assigned as Recruit Division Commanders must continually demonstrate superior leadership and motivational skills.

"It makes me feel good leaving my fingerprint on that many Naval careers," said Hospital Corpsman



CONGRATULATIONS: Capt. John Dye, commanding officer, offers his hand to the newest Recruit Division Commander at the Navy's only boot camp.

Photo by Lt. Liza Swart

1st Class (EXW) Larrissia Lackland, a Recruit Division Commander at training.

Recruit Division Commanders typically push recruits for one year and then move on to a facilitation mode for nine months to a year. Facilitation allows

them to work in a five-days-a-week day-job atmosphere, filling other key positions at training.

According to Patterson, E-5 sailors must have a minimum of six years active service with two years' time-in-rate upon application. E-6s must have a minimum

of six years of active service upon applying. There are no minimum years of service or time-in-rate requirements for chiefs and above. Applicants must be warfare-qualified, however, waivers may be granted on case-by-case basis. Sailors must have scored "good low" or higher in each category on the most recent Physical Fitness Assessment. The candidate must be able to perform and pass the run portion of the Physical Readiness Test before the screening is submitted. Waiver of the run portion of the test is not allowed.

A complete listing of eligibility requirements can be found in MILPERMAN 1306-954. Sailors who meet the requirements and would like to apply for the program should contact their rating detailer when entering their permanent change of station orders

negotiation window, nine months prior to their projected rotation date.

Sailors who qualify as Recruit Division Commanders are currently eligible for \$300 a month Special Duty Assignment pay; a supplemental clothing allowance rate of \$220 per year; no-cost dry cleaning; and may be awarded the Recruit Training Service Ribbon.

Four lengths are a minimum of 36 months after graduation from school. They are guaranteed their choice of coast for assignment after duty. The member must choose his coast at least three months prior to projected rotation date from duty.

For more on Recruit Division Commander duty and special programs contact the Customer Service Center at (866) U-ASK-NPC [(866) 827-5672].

Fatigues

Continued from Page

with National Public Radio, Lynne Hennessey, lead designer for the female body armor, related what she heard from soldiers during testing at Fort Campbell.

"Most of them, when they put it on, they were like, 'oh, my goodness, I need this right now. Can I have this? I could wear this all day. It fits so well,'" Hennessey said. "We actually took a picture of one soldier hugging her vest, like she was immediately in love with it."

Dillon said that more fine tuning is necessary, however.

"We are going to make some tweaks to the vest based on the feedback that we got from these female soldiers at Fort Campbell," Dillon said. "They had some comments about the location of the buckles on the shoulders and some other adjustability concerns, and we're going to make those modifications before we go out on our next contract."

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 Crew Cab, 4dr, 8cyl, auto, pwr steer/
 ABS/wind/locks/ htd mirrs/seats,
 A/C, AM/FM/CD, StabiliTrak, keyless
 entry, tilt, cruise, 17" alloys, 83,191
 mi, Stk#13786.

\$19,998*

2006 Nissan
PATHFINDER S 4WD
 4dr, 4cyl, automatic trans, power
 steering/ABS/windows/locks/
 mirrors, A/C, AM/FM/CD, tilt wheel,
 cruise, alloy wheels, rem keyless
 entry, 38,354 mi, Stk#1541.

\$14,495*

2010 Toyota
COROLLA 4DR LE
 FWD, 4dr, 4cyl, automatic trans,
 power steering/ABS/windows/
 locks/mirrors, A/C, AM/FM/CD, tilt/
 telescoping wheel, cruise, 38,733
 mi, Stk#13585.

\$11,798*

2010 Nissan
MAXIMA 3.5S
 4door, 6 cylinder, automatic, pwr
 steer/ABS/wind/locks/sunroof/lthr
 seats, A/C, AM/FM Stereo/CD, tilt
 wheel, cruise control, alloy wheels,
 25,047,463 mi, Stk#13772.

\$19,995*

2010 Dodge
CHALLENGER R/T
 8 cyl Hemi, automatic, pwr steer/
 ABS/wind/locks/sunroof/lthr seats,
 A/C, AM/FM/CD, Navi, tilt, cruise,
 rear spoiler, 18" alloys, 3,788 mi,
 Stk#1555.

\$29,995*

2009 Chevrolet
TRAVERSE LT
 AWD, 5door, 6 cyl, auto, pwr steer/
 ABS/wind/locks/htd mirrors/seat,
 A/C, XM/Radio/CD, tilt, cruise, alloys,
 remote keyless entry, rear parking
 assist, 21,143 mi Stk#13749.

\$21,998*

2010 GMC
TERRIAN SLT-1
 AWD, 5door, 4 cyl, auto, pwr steer/
 ABS/wind/locks/htd mirrors/seat,
 A/C, XM/Radio/CD, tilt, cruise, alloys,
 remote keyless entry, StabiliTrak,
 33,330 mi, Stk#1559.

\$23,998*

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Carmine can't wait for 'Il Centro' to open!

37

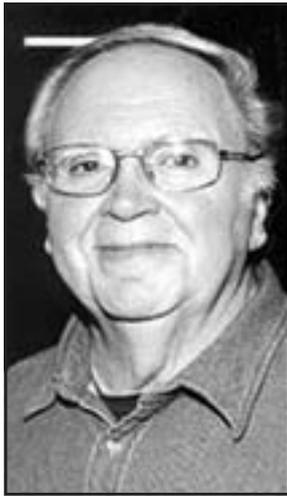
Nov. 15-21, 2012, COURIER LIFE

I'm madder than Dorothy Gale after she realized that all she had to do to go home the whole time was tap here heals together over the fact that sometimes it ain't that easy to get home — especially if you don't have one.

Now, you all know I'm talking about all those people who lost everything in this hurricane, and I can't tell you how sad I am every moment of the day that no matter what I do, I can't replace each and everything those people lost.

But while all this was going on, a good thing was happening on 18th Avenue in Bensonhurst — otherwise known as Cristoforo Colombo Boulevard — where the first-ever home of the Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn — otherwise known as "Il Centro" — was topped off just a week before the storm hit.

Look, I don't need to tell you that that was an event I wouldn't have missed if



BIG SCREECHER

Carmine Santa Maria

the storm was raging right outside my window at the beautiful Harway Terrace. Fortunately, though, that wasn't the case, and I was able to ride on over there atop my trusty steed *Tor-*

nado, who shepherded me to my front-row space next to all the dignitaries there to cheer this monumental achievement.

The new center comes 32 years after the Federation first graced Brooklyn with its presence — a time during which it has tirelessly devoted itself to serving the community. It is the first Italian-American cultural community center in New York City, and it will preserve the great Italian heritage, build ties with other cultures in the community, and encourage our children and proud citizens to become immersed in their own heritage. It will expand the many, services the Federation has expertly provided for free for three decades — and of course, those services include dance lessons taught by yours truly.

Okay, enough of the greatness of the Federation, let me take you to the crowded topping-out ceremony, which means

they reached the top of the building and it won't go any higher. As usual, my lovely wife Sharon got to our destination first, but *Tornado* successfully chugged me along Bath Avenue, dread-ing the extra weight he knew he'd have to carry after I partook of the refreshments at the after-party.

I actually had the best seat in the unfinished house. Congressman Michael Grimm was speaking when I arrived, followed by state Sen. Marty Golden, Councilman Vincent Gentile, Assemblymen Peter Abbate and Alex Brook Krasny. My boss Assemblyman William Colton was up next, and he proudly stating that his mother was Italian, which makes him Italian in my book. I missed Borough President Markowitz's proclamation ceremony, but I saw District Attorney Joe Hynes, Councilman David Greenfield, and this year Brooklyn Columbus Parade Grand Marshalls Nick Miraglia, Bill Guar-

anello, and Isabel DiMola.

Wow, while watching the ceremony and not listening to the speakers, I was recollecting my 20 years with the Federation. Remembering the two unforgettable trips Sharon and I took with its members to Sicily in 1994 and '96. I remember doing all that publicity for the Federation and the Columbus Parade, and of course meeting all those wonderful people. The late Dr. Parisi totally immersed himself in the concept of *Il Cento*, his associate, the charming Dr. Patel, also was as devoted to the Federation. The late Gaspare Valenti, a founding member, will always be remembered for his smile and enthusiasm.

If I were to mention the hundreds of wonderful friends we met through the Federation, it would be like a "Who's Who of great Italians in Brooklyn." You would think that the Federation has a staff of hundreds in its office, instead of just

Rita, Angela, Sarah, Mark, Jim Grundy, and Alma and Joe Rizzo working alongside director Nancy Sotile. But I gotta mention the Hon. Jack Spatola, chairman of the board and president Frank Nacarrato, two of the nicest and most efficient gentlemen you'd ever want to meet.

After the ceremonies with the Italian and American flags being raised on *Il Centro's* roof, I rushed to Brienza's Academic Advantage, where my Parkview Diner buddy Frank Capaldo greeted me and situated me and *Tornado*, smack-dab in the center of the office where the catered food from Frank & Sal's was waiting to be devoured.

All I can tell you is that *Tornado* was not a very happy camper with my added weight going home. I guess he wanted hay instead of the pizza I fed him.

Auguri IL Centro per cent anni!

Screech at you next week!

BR



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She's got a finger or four for Gershbein

To the editor,

Four more fingers!

And if the GOP doesn't nominate Gov. Chris Christie in 2016, Stanley Gershbein can add two hands and feet worth of digits to that number ("Stan has had it with polling," *It's Only My Opinion*, Nov. 8).

Most Republicans are in denial and just don't have a clue.

I am an ex-former non-admirer.

Shirley Ranz
Brooklyn

...

To the editor,

That raucous laughter emanating from hell comes from Marx, Lenin, Mao, and Stalin rolling with glee!

Their prediction of the U.S. becoming a one-party socialist state has come true. Millions of citizens have now turned over to government the power to dictate just about every facet of their lives.

Khrushchev is smiling too.

Even though his boast of "burying us" has not happened, in reality, we have buried ourselves!

Robert W. Lobenstein
Marine Park

...

To the editor,

Another election cycle has come and gone.

We must make some changes in our cycles to obtain elected office. The cycle is too long and costly.

Elected officials who seek other offices must be made to take leaves of absence. Some are campaigning for years on end and cannot serve their constituencies properly in the current positions they hold.

Then there are groups that become rebels with a cause.

A case in point is my union, the United Federation of Teachers. They get so involved in the election process that they neglect to serve the membership.

Many union officials will do just about anything to divert the minds of the membership of their failings.

I would love to see union officials work for lower class sizes, 600 schools for the unruly, and other matters in the same way that they're rang doorbells in Missouri for the re-election of the president. Apparently, few answered the doors there,

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

as Mitt Romney carried the state.

Ed Greenspan
Sheepshead Bay

Pleased to help

To the editor,

You published my letter about my insurance increase of 26 percent — a copy of which I sent the New York State Department of Financial Services, as well as to politicians, vocal friends, television tip lines, watchdog groups, and news programs. Just got notice of an increase of only 8.34 percent in a sour letter from Emblem Health.

Thank you for *Courier Life* for having helped me win this victory!

Justine Swartz
Sheepshead Bay

Puffed-up pols

To the editor,

Every time I hear the local politicians talk about affordable housing it just make me scream.

When a local group in Brighton Beach and Manhattan Beach fought the development known as Brighton-by-the-Sea — now Ocean Terrace — concessions were given for a handful of low-income housing. To my knowledge I don't think that ever took place.

Give a developer a big tax break and he will save any number of these types of housing. This is the biggest — and I mean the biggest! — lie I've ever heard. Please tell me what figure of income could be considered affordable. They sure talk big, but never once in my memory have I heard how much it would cost to rent an apartment.

I wish these same politicians would stop playing games with the lives of people and be honest and truthful for once.

Jerry Sattler
Brighton Beach

MTA on track

To the editor,

This past October 27th marked the 108th anniversary of the first New York City subway line.

The Interborough Rapid Transit company route ran from City Hall north to 42nd Street across 42nd Street to Times Square, then proceeding north along Broadway to 145th Street.

The original BMT (Brooklyn Manhattan Rapid Transit — today's B,D,J,M,N,Q, R and Z lines) and IRT (Interborough Rapid Transit — the 1,2,3,4,5,6,7, Franklin Avenue and Times Square shuttles) subway systems were granted franchise

agreements by the city.

They constructed and managed these lines by the private sector with no government operating subsidies. Financial viability was 100 percent dependent upon farebox revenues. They supported both development and economic growth of numerous neighborhoods in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens. As part of the franchise agreement which owners had to sign, City Hall had direct control over the fare structure.

For a period of time, owners actually make a profit with a five-cent fare. After two decades passed, the costs of salaries, maintenance, power, supplies, and equipment would pressure owners to ask City Hall for permission to raise the fares. This additional revenue was needed to keep up with maintaining a good state of repair, increase the frequency of service, purchase new subway cars, pay employee salary increases, and support planned system expansion. Politicians more interested in the next re-election (and subscribing to the old Roman philosophy of free bread and circuses) refused this request each year for well over a decade.

As a result, in order to survive, owners of both systems began looking elsewhere to reduce costs and stay in business. They started curtailing basic maintenance, delayed purchases of new subway cars, postponed salary increases for employees, canceled any plans for system expansion, and cut corners to survive. Does any of this sound familiar from the present?

In the 1930s, the city began building and financing construction of the new IND (Independent Subway — today's A,C,E,F and G lines). This new municipal system directly subsidized by taxpayers dollars would provide direct competition to both the IRT and BMT. Municipal government forced them into economic ruin by denying them fare increases that would have provided access to additional badly needed revenues. Big Brother, just like the Godfather, eventually made them an offer they couldn't refuse. The owners folded and sold out to City Hall.

In 1953, the old city Board of Transportation passed on control of the municipal subway system, including all its assets to the newly created New York City Transit Authority.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority was created in the late 1960s under late Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. He appointed four board members. Likewise, the mayor four more and the rest by suburban county executives.

No one elected official controlled a ma-

jority of the votes. As a result, elected officials have historically taken credit when the MTA or any operating subsidiary such as New York City Transit would do a good job. When operational problems occurred or fare increases were needed, everyone could put up their hands — "Don't blame me, I'm only a minority within the Board."

Decade after decade, city officials would all play the same sad song — "if only we had majority control of the Board, things would be different."

All have long forgotten that buried within the 1953 master agreement between the city and New York City Transit is an escape clause.

The city has the legal right at any time to take back control of its assets which includes the subway and most of the bus system as well.

Actions speak louder than words. If municipal elected officials feel they could do a better job running the nations largest subway and bus system and avoid any future fare increases, why not step up to the plate now and regain control of your destiny?

The MTA's services are still one of the best bargains in town. Since the 1950s, the average cost of riding either the bus, subway or commuter rail has gone up at a lower rate than either the consumer price index or inflation.

The Metro Card, introduced in 1996, affords a free transfer between bus and subway. Prior to this, riders had to pay two full fares.

Purchasing either a weekly or monthly pass further reduces the cost per ride. Many employers offer transit checks, which pay even more of your costs.

Like it or not, previously scheduled fare hikes in 2013, 2015, and 2017 are probably justified, if the MTA is to provide the services millions of New Yorkers on a daily basis.

Fare hikes are inevitable due to inflation along with increasing costs of labor, power, fuel, supplies, materials, routine safety, state of good repair, replacement of worn out rolling stock, upgrades to stations, yards, and shops — along with system expansion projects necessary to run any transit system.

In the end, quality and frequency of service is dependent upon secure revenue streams.

We all will have to contribute — be it at the fare box or tax revenues generated by different levels of government redistributed back to the MTA.

Larry Penner
Great Neck, N.Y.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Submit letters to: Vince DiMiceli, Editor, Community Newspaper Group, 1 Metro-Tech Center North, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or e-mail to editorial@cnglocal.com. Please include your address and telephone number for so we can confirm you sent the letter. We reserve the right to edit all correspondence, which becomes the property of Courier Life Publications.

Stan on Sandy, Libya, & other news

It's all over but the shouting, the whining, the quarreling, the rejoicing, the grumbling and the cheering and they go on and on and on. The aftermath: deep disappointment for some, elation and joy for others. Even with the results already in, Fox News Channel and the New York Post still push news and opinions about the Benghazi cover up.

"That damn Sandy. She pushed Benghazi off the front pages."

No, my friends. Benghazi was off the front pages weeks before Sandy arrived. If not for a few fair-and-balanced conservative journalists who kept it alive, we would never give the Libyan debacle another thought. Two real questions for many of us on both sides of the aisle is, "Why did Bill go along with Hillary taking the fall for the fiasco?" and "What were the Clintons promised?"

The left-wing newspapers that hid it on the back pages referred to it as a miscalculation, tragic circumstance and, at its worse, an error.

No!

I call it murder, and those in government that refused assistance from the very beginning when the ambassador in Libya asked for help all the way up to the attack are complicit.

...

Sandy did something else that may affect the political arena. I have a few friends that reside in New Jersey. After the storm I reached out to some of them to find out if they are safe. Our conversations segued from the damage caused by the weather to politics. Those on the right are disenchanted with Gov. Christie. Their conversations included the following words: traitor, turncoat, Benedict Arnold, and a few more that my editor, fine gentleman that he is, would never permit me to use in my columns. My friends on the left — yes! I do have friends on the left — are grateful to their governor for his efforts. One of them added, "My side can't trust him. Your side can't trust him. Is this the beginning of the end of Christie's political career?"

This newspaper reaches



IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

Stanley P. Gershbein

many of you who commute from the Garden State. Just curious. What's your thinking about him now? Has your opinion changed?

...

Many years ago state Sen. Howard Babbush, (god rest his soul) and I were pretty good friends. I remember him teaching me a few lessons about politics. One of them dealt with the campaign wars. He said that after the elections are over, the generals make peace but the ground troops fight on forever. America just finished with the most passionate and divisive presidential campaign in the history of the United States. Folks who have been friends for years, and found each other on opposing sides, got into what started off as mild debates. Hot-headed arguments which included nasty words were next. Now, many of them will never speak to each other again. Did I say divisive? The good senator was correct.

...

A few days before the election, in a campaign speech in front of several thousand supporters, Joe Biden gave us another of his forever famous "open mouth, insert foot" statements: "There's never been a day in the last four years I've been proud to be his vice-president."

I am StanGershbein@Bellsouth.net hoping that we will continue to be entertained by the unintelligent comments coming from the mouth of such an important man.

Bam's got a herd of voters

President Obama's first term was a bomb.

His wallet-draining domestic policies favored welfare programs and unfair wealth distribution — initiatives he squandered taxpayer dollars on at

a worse rate than if he was a gambling addict set loose on a Baccarat table. His international agenda was a bust, too.

It delivered low blows to our national reputation, endangered our lives, and emboldened our enemies. They were so cheesed off by his saccharine platitudes that they burned him in effigy in the streets and chanted "Death to the U.S."

Bam backtracked on his own pledges to form a transparent government with an incriminating set of cover-ups.

Those included pouring more than \$500 million into a solar panel company that went bankrupt and stuck taxpayers with the bill, and ordering gun sellers to hawk weapons illegally to criminals in Mexico — a failed program that caused the death of a U.S. border guard.

Then came the Sept.11 Benghazi terror attacks — mere weeks before Election Day.

Libyan Ambassador Christopher Stevens and American diplomats



A BRITISHER'S VIEW

Shavana Abruzzo

Sean Smith, Glen Doherty, and Tyrone Woods were killed by jihadists in a wave of deliberate violence that was denied and downplayed by the president, even when it surfaced that he — the most tech-savvy national leader of our time — was informed of the unfolding violence in real time.

Instead, he courted the Muslim vote by blaming the deadly assault on an anti-Islamic YouTube video, never expressing appropriate outrage over the murder of Americans by Islamo-thugs on the anniversary of our "worst day."

Obama's rush to non-judgement mocked our First Amendment and screamed his inability to defend his nation.

Yet his supporters responded to his ineptitude with cloth ears.

They forgave his abysmal administration because it was politically correct. Also, doing otherwise would have meant actually having to think critically about his failed leadership — a fate apparently worse than a case of everlasting hemorrhoids.

A forgiving media aided and abetted the mass oblivion, which apexed callously on post-Election Day when liberal pundit Chris Matthews cackled on MSNBC, "I'm so glad we had that storm last week because

I think the storm was one of those things. No, politically I should say. Not in terms of hurting people. The storm brought in possibilities for good politics." Huh?

Obama's re-election underscores the obvious — the majority of American voters possess a herd mentality, and the intellectual curiosity of boiled turnips.

This columnist conducted a random, after-election poll of 10 Bam voters and asked them, "Why did you vote for Obama?" The answers were the stuff of grave embarrassment. They ranged from an "I dunno," an "em," and a "because I like Obama."

The folk polled were all outwardly intelligent, yet the simple question stumped them all and exposed their disingenuous grasp on the past four years.

Hear the roar? That's President Obama doing the hula in gratitude to America's brain fog.

Follow *A Britisher's View* on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/#!/BritShavana>

Don't gobble up this last tradition

Retailers are turning Black Friday to Greedy Gobble Thursday with earlier openings on Thanksgiving Day.

Really?

So now, instead of heeding the tradition of kicking back after the last drumstick, opening up that last pant button, and enjoying another slice of pumpkin pie as we watch the game with the family, many will now be rushing through the meal, packing up the leftovers, waving "ta-ta" to the guests and rushing out of the house just to get a giant jump on mass consumerism in America.

According to a quick web search Target, Walmart, and Toys 'R' Us (to name a few) are pushing to open at 8 or 9 pm on Thanksgiving instead of waiting that extra few hours for Black Friday to actually begin.

Well, I think they call it "Black Friday" for a simple reason: it's on Friday, not Thursday.

As it stands, workers already have to get up in the middle of the night, jump out their warm beds and rush to the store, just so they can shop til they just can't shop no more. But that's not good enough, is it? No, no. Now workers are expected to



NOT FOR NUTHIN'

Joanna DelBuono

cut short their Thanksgiving meal, rush through diner, sop up that last bit of gravy and say so-long to that extra piece of pie, just so they can be ready, willing, and able to man the registers at 8 pm.

Come on now! Wake up America. Can't we have just one holiday that we can enjoy with our families without the pressure to shop. Can't we just be thankful for the food on the table, the time to cherish each other's company and think how for-

tunate we are? Do we really need to go out shopping at 8 pm on Thanksgiving night for those "must-have items" that we really don't need at all?

I'm sure there are many that disagree with me. They think it's "better to shop at 8 pm on Thanksgiving, so we can sleep in on Friday."

Well, why not cancel Thanksgiving all together. Let's just start the holiday shopping right after Halloween, kiss the turkey tradition *sayonara* and forget all about what we should be thankful for.

You know, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Ring a bell?

For the life of me, I just don't see the need for anyone to digest the last bit of white meat and head out into the evening to satisfy the greed of retailers. It's not enough that Christmas has turned into a consumer cash cow, but Thanksgiving too?

Not for Nuthin™, but I say, "Doorbusters be damned!"

I'd rather just bust out of my Thanksgiving pants in peace with family and have one more piece of pie instead."

Follow me on Twitter @JDelBuono.

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626 UNIT, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 09/25/2012. Off. Loc.:Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to THE LLC, Attention: Alex Nobile, 24 South River Street, Wilks-Barre, PA 18702. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Walker Media Group, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/05/2012. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Wilkela Joteka Walker, 881 Washington Avenue, Ste. #11, Brooklyn, NY 11225. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ABC PAINTING AND DESIGN LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/13/2012. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC, 2910 Fort Hamilton Pkwy., Ste. 2R, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: AK 615 LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/12/12. Office location: Kings County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 61-61 70th Street, Middle Village, New York 11379. Purpose: For any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: V3 NYC LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/27/2012. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Gregory D. Atkins, 1442 80th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: IRA GROUP LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/09/2012. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Igor Beylin, c/o IRA GROUP

LEGAL NOTICE

LLC, 241 Bay 34th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: M & R TRUCKING LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/26/2012. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Rawlings Khan, 202 East 42nd Street, Brooklyn, NY 11203. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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WHERE TO GO ■ WHAT TO DO
24 SEVEN
 ARTS ■ DINING ■ ENTERTAINMENT

A FEMUR FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Art project makes bones to raise money

By Danielle Furfaro

Throw them a bone!

Art and events space Observatory in Gowanus is inviting people to get involved in an art project to fund and publicize humanitarian efforts in Africa and Asia.

Part of the “One Million Bones Project,” the workshop will have participants make life-like bones from paper and wires to be displayed in the Washington National Mall and to raise money — a dollar a bone — to fund relief work abroad.

“We want to show people that they can get involved and use art to create something that is meaningful,” said Salvadore Olguin, a director of projects at the Observatory art space.

The Observatory is hoping to attract at least 50 people to the bone-making session, in the hopes of making at least 100 bones.

Each piece will contribute to a collaborative art installation in Washington designed to bring to light the millions of victims of genocides and humanitarian crises in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and Burma.

A foundation dedicated to bettering education for youths is also donating \$1 to for each bone made. That money will go directly to humanitarian efforts.

The project is also hoping to raise awareness among young people who are forming an appreciation for international politics.

“This is aimed at young adults and teenagers — people who are starting to get a sensibility about these kinds of issues,” said Olguin.

Olguin had planned to provide artists with clay, but Hurricane Sandy changed those plans by flooding the Observatory, causing all of the volunteers to scramble to get the space usable.

Now, participants will make the bones will paper and wire, he said.

“No matter what, the bones end up looking very real.”

Bone making at the Observatory (543 Union St. at Nevins in Gowanus, observatoryroom.org). Nov. 20, 6 pm, \$3.

To be or not to be: Observatory member Sal Olguin shows off a paper skull he made. The bones will be sent to the One Million Bones project meant to raise funds for humanitarian help in Africa.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Proteus Gowanus

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Beat juggling and bingo

Scratch if you've got an itch for a good time. Musician Eric San, better known as Kid Koala, is a renowned deejay who has spent the past 15 years honing his craft, but San loves performing for people who have no idea what "turntablism" — the art of manually manipulating a record player — or scratching is.

He embraces the challenge with nothing less than dancing girls, puppets, limbo, and even bingo!

"I want to do a show that even if you're a complete novice to this little demented world you can have a good time," said San, who's bringing his "12 bit Blues Vinyl Vaudeville" show to Music Hall of Williamsburg.

San and his crew are constantly thinking up unexpected ways to pair his beats with an equally fascinating stage performance — making this show not your typical deejay set.

"I got tired of going to shows where I have to stand and face one direction for three hours," said San. "I like breaking the fourth wall several



Turntable showman: Kid Koala dons a furry costume to rile up the crowd in his night of entertainment and beat juggling.

Photo by Emma Gutteridge

times in the show and getting the audience into it."

San, who has released several innovative albums, began studying classical piano at age 4, and started scratching when he saw the potential for raw creativity in the scene.

"You had to deconstruct and reconstruct and while you reconstruct you have to twist your own personality into it," said San. "You had to put that new, current spin on it — and that attitude was encouraged, not discouraged."

This show promises to be one of his most ambitious yet as his success has provided him with a lot of freedom to create a concert he would want to attend.

"When I have a chance to produce something with a little more vision and production behind it we tend to go all out. Have the most fun we possibly can and see what we can pull off," said San. "I imagine this is going to be a pretty fun gig."

Kid Koala's "12 bit Blues Vinyl Vaudeville" at the Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues, (718) 486-5400]. Nov. 21, 8 pm, \$20. — Eric Dryden

WHAT TO DO
WHERE TO GO
24 SEVEN

BEST BETS

Fat Tuesday on a Saturday

It's a pretty good mantra — "Joy now."

Conceived to celebrate Fat Tuesday by a group of musicians in Portland, Oregon, marching band MarchFourth bring the joy.

The massive band tours with 14 musicians, composed of a full horn section, five percussionists, and an electric bass and guitar. Integrating elements of the uninhibited celebratory spirit of Mardis Gras culture with funk, ska, jazz, and a vast array of other musical influences, the group has professional dancers and stilt walkers tour with them.

"We are a rock band with theatrical elements," said bandleader and bassist John Averill.

All performers don post-apocalyptic costumes that look like Hell's Angels commandeered a travelling circus. Their performance is utterly unique, from the sonic assault of the drum section to the dancers on stage to a number where the trumpet player teaches the audience Bollywood dance moves during a breakdown. The band is never staying put.

"To really find the groove together at any given moment you have to move and dance," said Averill. "We do a lot of stepping in rhythm dancing while you play to get an idea of what



March party: The members of MarchFourth are a talented bunch, managing to dance, play music, and even teach the audience some moves at their high-energy shows.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Sat.
11/17

the actual groove is as opposed to following one instrument."

Incredibly, in spite of the complexity of putting together a show with so many moving pieces, Averill changes the set list every night and provides lot of opportunities for members of the band to improvise in the songs.

In the end, MarchFourth wants every concert to be something new for everyone.

"No two shows have ever been the same in this band," said Averill.

The MarchFourth Marching Band at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets, (718) 963-3369, www.brooklynbowl.com]. Nov. 17, 6 pm doors, 8 pm show, \$10. — Eric Dryden

Mantis style, Brooklyn style

Your kung fu is strong — now taste my Tiger Style!

Bona fide Buddhists hailing from the legendary Shaolin Temple are flying to Brooklyn College on Nov. 28, to shower audiences with displays of their furious kung fu.

"They are masters of kung fu," said Shaolin Warriors interpreter Han Wanqiao. "They crush metal bars on their foreheads, they smash stone slabs on their belly, they lie on beds of nails, they thrust a spear on their throat, and bend the spears into a curve."

Aside from absorbing blows that would maim or kill lesser men, the Shaolin masters will exhibit their fighting prowess, displaying styles ranging from the famous crane mimic to more esoteric forms of battle.

"They will demonstrate chi kung, an inner strength exercise, allowing you to control your strength and make deadly movements," Wanqiao said. "Also, they mimic animals — eagles, tigers, scorpions."

The martial masters may be far from their home in the Pagoda Forest, but the monks do not allow their travels to infringe on their rigorous training — you can take the monk of the Shaolin Temple, but you cannot take the Shaolin Temple out of the monk.

"They are no longer in the Shaolin Temple, but

Sun.
11/25



Cirque du Soleil, with violence: The Shaolin monks will perform death defying stunts, perfected over a life time of training.

Photo by Brooklyn College

they still have their tradition. They do meditation everyday. They practice martial arts intensively, and during the tour they don't have much time, so they take 30 minutes before the show to warm up, leaping, jumping, stretching," said Wanqiao.

As powerful as they are in battle, the Shaolin monks are not — despite popular misconceptions — invincible, according to Wanqiao.

"They can be killed by conventional weapons, they are not immortal," he said. "They get the flu sometimes, like ordinary people."

Shaolin Warriors at Brooklyn College [2900 Bedford Ave. between Gleenwood Road and Avenue I, (718) 951-5000, www.brooklyncenteronline.org]. Nov. 25, 3 pm, \$30. — Colin Mixson

Neurotic vampire 43

Twilight fans rejoice — your vampire hunk Edward could have been a neurotic Jew named Shmoikel!

At least, that's the premise of "Shmoikel's Twilight," a mockumentary which reveals the secret history of the tween-film phenomenon "Twilight," in which Robert Pattinson was, in fact, the second actor cast to play the lead roll Edward, after Hollywood executives decided the self-described neurotic and Brooklyn filmmaker Keith Black might not be the right fit.

"I was the original pick to star in the 'Twilight' franchise," Black said. "I interpreted Stephenie Meyer's book as a Jewish allegory."

In the faux film, Black — who somehow managed to achieve complete creative control of the blockbuster film project — changed Edward to Shmoikle, a nice Jewish vampire from Brooklyn, and Jacob to Mordecai, who sells beepers in New Jersey

He was about 50-percent of the way through with his reimagining of the "Twilight" story, when Hollywood got their hands on the footage and realized the terrible mistake they'd made.

"I wanted to show if a vampire can be neurotic, we all can," Black explained. "Nobody can be perfect at everything!"

Realizing that Black's interpretation would do nothing for their teenage girl target audience, producers supposedly canned Black, hired Pattinson, and counted their losses, all the while keeping Black's project as hush, hush as humanly possible.

But the Jewish filmmaker dug up the old footage to prove to everyone that his reimagining of the vampire story had more in common with Woody Allen's "Annie Hall" than HBO's "True Blood."

"In a way, it's kind of like "Annie Hall" with fangs," said Black.

And Shmoikel the vampire isn't neurotic for nothing.

"[He] drives the waiters crazy, because he worries that they will put garlic in his food," Black explained. "I've really done that to waiters. I don't eat farm fish, only fresh-caught fish. One time, I kept sending this waiter back to the kitchen, like six times, and he eventually turned to me and said, 'What do want? A video of the fish being caught?'"

Black hopes the \$500 budget mockumentary will stand as a testament to his talents as a film maker, and prove an inspiration to middle-aged men, still hoping to break into the Hollywood spotlight.

"Their is a niche for a guy like me," Black said.

"I'm middle aged and I'm relishing it instead of fighting it. I'm optimistic and have the same energy as every 18 year old. If Hollywood puts me on the screen, millions will identify with that."

"Shmoikel's Twilight" at IndieScreen [285-289 Kent Ave. at S. Second Street, in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4306, www.indiescreen.us]. Nov. 16, 6:30 pm. — Colin Mixson

Fri.
11/16



The next Woody Allen?: Brooklyn-based film maker Keith Black plays Shmoikel, a neurotic, Jewish vampire.

Photo by Nate Mcgarrahan

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- RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED -

AROUND TOWN

BE KIND, REWIND, SIP WINE

DVD rental joint serves drinks, screens films

By Eli Rosenberg
One of Brooklyn's most beloved video rental stores has found a way to stay open despite waning interest in DVD rentals, investing in something that will never go out of fashion — alcohol.

Williamsburg's Videology has appealed to the borough's cinephiles for years, but says their rebirth as a bar with a screening room and — relax, DVD rentals — will continue to feed the borough's sophisticated film tastes while giving the store a potentially future-proof business model.

"I would be very surprised if booze got replaced by the internet," said Wendy Chamberlain, who opened the rental store on Bedford Avenue nine years ago with fellow film buff James Leet.

"We're hoping that we're going to end up being one of the last local places to rent videos and what we're doing here is going to help us."



Bar film: Waitress Barbara Alcazer will bring a beer while you watch a film in Videology's new screening room.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

The store's model based entirely around DVD rentals worked well until about three years ago, when people stopped renting as many films due to the rise of broadband streaming services like Netflix.

A year later, Chamberlain and Leet decided that if something had to give they weren't going to let it be their store.

"We started to realize we were going to have to do some-

thing different or we weren't going to be able to stay open forever," Chamberlain said. "I don't know if it's specifically a Williamsburg change as much as a 21st century change."

Cinephiles can relax knowing the bar's screening room — formerly a room full of racks of DVDs — will be dedicated to independent and obscure movies, the type of stuff you can't find on Netflix, owners said.

And the racks of DVDs aren't going anywhere — except downstairs.

The store plans on keeping its 30,000 title collection in the basement — where it can hold up to twice that amount — and having the catalog available on iPads upstairs for prospective renters.

And they'll have a full roster of theme nights, like action movie or shlocky horror film nights in addition to midnight movies on the weekends, and events like Twin Peaks bingo, and trivia, to pair with movie-inspired cocktails.

Videology joins bar and "gastroscreen" reRun at reBar in DUMBO, as well as nearby Nitehawk Cinema, as places to watch a movie and drink a beer at the same time in Brooklyn.

Videology [390 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468, www.videology.info], open 1 pm-midnight.

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Mill Basin Deli proves itself a good, old-fashioned Brooklyn deli

By Camille Sperrazza

Lean pastrami, piled high on rye bread. Homemade knishes. Deep bowls of cole slaw, macaroni salad, and trays of garlic and cucumber pickles.

Oh, there's nothing like a good, old-fashioned Brooklyn deli — The Mill Basin Deli, celebrating 40 years in the borough.

It'll hook you the moment you walk through the door. That's when you're hit with aromas that will get your mouth watering with anticipation. Don't try to determine the specific food item that has your stomach growling, as it's a potpourri of all your favorite flavors, available for the taking.

To the immediate left is a long deli counter, laden with roast beef, corned beef, homemade turkey, salami, and other much-loved meats. Enter, and be seated in the main part of the dining area, where the action is. Or, have a seat in the rear, where it's a bit quieter, in a room called The Peach Pit, appropriately named for its warm color scheme, the peach napkins that fan out of the glasses on the set tables, and the matching chair cushions.

This is no ordinary deli. In fact, it doubles as an art gallery, showcasing the work of professional artists. Owner Mark Schachner says he bought his first piece of art when he was 21 years old, and as his collection grew, he'd hang them on the walls of the deli.

"Soon, people were asking if the pieces were for sale," he says. So he and his wife became art dealers.

The walls are filled with colorful and unique pieces, adding to the enjoyment of the dining experience. Admire the view, but come for the food.

For sure, there's nothing better than "Jewish penicillin" to keep the chill of the season at bay. That big bowl of hot chicken noodle soup, with over-



(Clockwise from top) There's nothing like a good, old-fashioned Brooklyn deli — The Mill Basin Deli on Avenue T. Waitress Danielle Repetti shows a Mark and Donny Sandwich — pastrami, sweet pepper, and corned beef. The Mark and Donny sandwich looks delicious with a side of French fries. Joseph Corda enjoys a pastrami, lettuce, and tomato sandwich for lunch.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

sized dumplings, will warm your insides, both with its steaming goodness, as well as the memories it invokes. If your mother made chicken soup as good as this, she probably bought it here.

The thick split pea soup and the rich mushroom and barley blend are other homemade soups for which the restaurant is

noted.

Of course, the pastrami is the big draw of any good deli — and here, it's the best: lean and delicious. But don't just take my word for it. It was rated "the best in New York" by The NY Daily News in 2011, beating several of the big name Manhattan delis for the title. The Schachner family

takes great pride in this accomplishment, as they have been in the K kosher deli business for three generations. As a result, they know a thing or two about preparing the pastrami.

"It's all in the rub," says Schachner.

He's not going to reveal any secrets, but pepper seems to be a key factor.

He also says he steams the pastrami in the morning twice, a tactic that leaves the meat juicy and lean. Whatever the method, one thing is certain: that pastrami makes one heckuva good sandwich.

Mill Basin Deli makes its own brisket, too, another lean and tender treat. Drizzle it with gravy that's so homemade,

I'm sure I saw a lump or two.

The K kosher hot dogs are roasted so they snap when you take a bite. The pierogies can be enjoyed boiled or fried. Either way, they are smothered with fried onions.

Mill Basin Deli is noted for its potato pancake chips, which are crisp and delicious, served with a side of apple sauce.

Don't miss the enormous center-cut French fries. Tremendous and thick, they are crowd-pleasers.

More traditional fare includes derma, served with brown gravy; chopped liver; gefilte fish; and matzo ball soup.

But there's something for everyone here — grilled chicken, rotisserie chicken, meatballs, steak, Hungarian goulash, and even fajitas.

If you're looking to eat light, there are fresh salads and wraps, too.

Desserts include noodle pudding, black-and-white cookies, apple strudel, and brownies. The chocolate rugalah is fantastic, and is served warm on request.

With the holidays on the horizon, it's great to know that the Mill Basin Deli can cater any affair. The staff can bring the food to your event, or you can bring the whole family to them. The Peach Pit provides a pretty setting for any occasion — weddings, bar mitzvahs, bridal showers, corporate functions — and the menu can be customized to your liking.

Mill Basin Deli ships nationwide. It makes a wonderful holiday gift for those who might enjoy a taste of Brooklyn.

Mill Basin Deli [5823 Avenue T between E. 58th and E. 59th streets in Mill Basin, (718) 241-4910, www.MillBasinDeli.com]. Open Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am-9 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 am-10 pm; and on Sundays, 9 am-9:30 pm.

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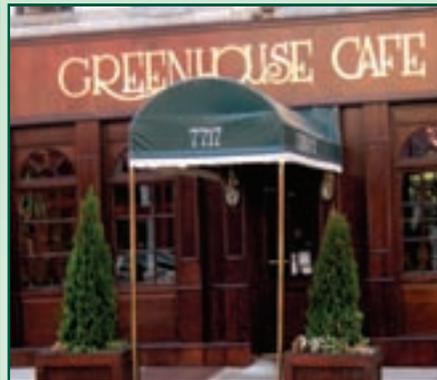
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Thurs.-Sun. Nights

Thursday, November 15 -

Max From Out Of The Blue - 8pm

Friday, Nov. 16 - Piranha Brothers - 9pm

Saturday, Nov. 17 - Frankie Marra - 10pm

Sunday, Nov. 18 - David Vann & Co. - 6pm

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CHOICE OF APPETIZER

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Lasagna Bolonese • Fresh Fruit Plate • Lobster Bisque

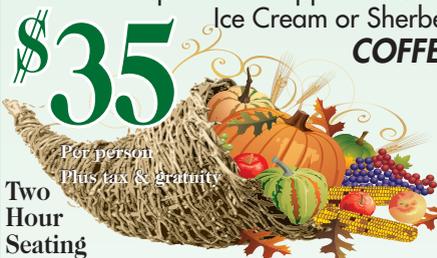
CHOICE OF ENTREE

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Cranberry Sauce and Gravy
Roast Loin Of Pork With Baconkraut And Dark Ale Gravy
Shrimp Scampi - Shrimp Sautéed with Crushed Garlic, White Wine, Lemon &
Butter Sauce
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Charging: Six-year-old Sam Esposito tests what types of metals conduct electricity at the New York Transit Museum's ElectriCity exhibit. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

THE ELECTRIC SLIDE

Interactive subway exhibit explains how it all works

By Natalie Musumeci

Patiently waiting for the subway, ever wonder what makes New York City's 108-year-old system run?

Well, it's electricity.

At a hands-on, interactive exhibit inside the New York Transit Museum, visitors get the chance to explore where that electricity comes from, and how that electricity is transmitted over gaping distances to power a subway system that moves over 4.3 millions riders a day.

"In the wake of Hurricane Sandy, understanding our dependency on power, how we get it, and how it can be disrupt-

ed is even more relevant than ever," said Gabrielle Shubert, the museum's director.

"This exhibit helps unlock some of those mysteries."

At the long-term exhibit entitled, "ElectriCity: Powering New York's Rails," museumgoers can spin a giant wheel that generates an electrical current and watch the spark scale up a Jacob's ladder.

Visitors can also manipulate solar panels and windmills to capture energy, test what types of metals conduct electricity, and learn how power is transferred from the third rail to the train's electric motor at other installations.

"The exhibit is wonderful.

It's very interactive for the kids and the experiments that they do are really simple and digestible," said museumgoer Nicole Cadoret Kensington, who brought her 5-year-old son Bennet to the museum.

Other visitors had a newfound appreciation for the exhibit as they toured it in the wake of the superstorm that crippled the city's transit system.

"I don't think we realize how much we rely on it until it's down and people can't get to where they are going and the whole city goes crazy," said Manhattan resident Rochelle Friedlich.

"This exhibit helps you appreciate all that goes into making it run."

And if the train-crazed youngsters can't wrap their head around the science of electricity, they'll have a blast flipping switches, cranking wheels, and building model motors.

"I'm learning about the subways," said six-year-old Sam Esposito of Cobble Hill. "The switches light up when you turn them on - it's cool!"

"ElectriCity" at the New York Transit Exhibit [130 Livingston St. between Schermerhorn Street and Boerum Place, (718) 694-1600, www.mta.info/mta/museum]. \$7 adults, \$5 children and seniors.

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The best reads
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WORD's pick: "Angelmaker" by Nick Harkaway

WORD favorite "Angelmaker" is out in paperback! It's hard for us to use our words, rather than just gush about how good "Angelmaker" is. Not just any author could build a thriller out of some gears, a forgotten Victorian art critic, and a son's dissatisfaction with his father, much less a thriller of these proportions. And very few authors can boast the combination of smarts and heart that defines Harkaway's work. It is the rare book that can return us to the experience of wonder that sets our collective path as lifelong readers from an early age — and "Angelmaker" is one.

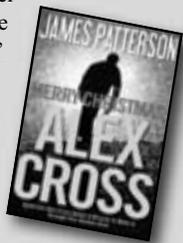
— Jenn Northington, WORD [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].



The BookMark Shoppe's pick: "Merry Christmas Alex Cross" by James Patterson

Patterson published his first novel nearly 25 years ago, and hit explosive popularity with "Along Came a Spider," introducing readers to character Alex Cross. Patterson's newest release, "Merry Christmas Alex Cross," brings back my favorite forensic detective in an all new mystery. As Alex Cross begins to celebrate the holidays with Mama Nana, Bree, and the kids, he is called in to a hostage situation. But this is no simple case and soon Alex Cross finds himself in danger of not making it back to his family. Perfect timing to get into a little holiday spirit, and a fast-paced thriller we come to expect from Patterson.

— Bina Valenzano, co-owner, The BookMark Shoppe [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].



Greenlight Bookstore's pick: "The Girl Who Fell Beneath Fairy Land and Led the Revels There" by Catherynne Valente

Valente's tales of a plucky Nebraska girl who finds herself in Fairyland are a bit like what would happen if Neil Gaiman wrote The Wizard of Oz, with a bit of Liz Lemon thrown in: a knowing, funny, ornately plotted, and deeply satisfying quest into the heart of the strange and wonderful. This volume, the sequel to "The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In A Ship Of Her Own Making," finds our heroine matching wits with her own shadow, who has become the dark queen of Fairyland Below. Trust me that it's an immensely enjoyable literary experience, especially for fans of smart fantasy.

— Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, co-owner of Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].



WHERE TO GO
WHAT TO DO
24
SEVEN

EVENTS

FRI, NOV. 16

READING, WHALE-ATHON: A weekend-long marathon reading of Herman Melville's classic whale-tale "Moby-Dick" is due to take over the city — 624 pages spread over Manhattan and Brooklyn — with a powerhouse roster of readers, including literary heavies like Jonathan Ames, Sarah Vowell, Lev Grossman, and Adam Wilson. **Free.** 5 pm–midnight. WORD Bookstore [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING": Shakespeare's light hearted comedy is presented by the Poly Prep Upper School students. All donations at the door will benefit the Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund. Cash donations. 6:30 pm. Poly Prep Country Day School [9216 Seventh Ave. at Poly Place in Dyker Heights, (718) 836-9800], www.polyprep.org.

WORKSHOP, ANTI-VIOLENCE WORKSHOP: The Alternatives to Violence Project of the Catskills and the Peace & Social Action Committee of Brooklyn Quaker Meeting invite the public to a workshop at Brooklyn Quaker Meetinghouse. The Alternatives to Violence Project provides a space for us to practice transforming conflict into win-win outcomes. **Free**, \$45 suggested. 7 pm. Brooklyn Quaker Meetinghouse [110 Schermerhorn St., corner of Boermer Place in Downtown, (347) 262-6975].

DINING, CARIBBEAN DINNER PARTY: Great food, conversation and new friendship await you as you dine and explore a superb nite of great food and fun in an intimate setting right here in Williamsburg Brooklyn. Come and enjoy a Taste of the Caribbean Flavors with this 4-5 course Dinner Party. \$50. 7 pm. TriniSoul at Mamas Food Shop [310 S. Fourth St. in Williamsburg, (347) 613-0976], www.decentmeals.net/caribbean-suppers.html.

ART, CARIBBEAN, LATIN AMERICAN SHOW: "Algo different group show" at Weeknights is pleased to exhibit work created by artists part of such a rich culture that has inhabited and influenced so much of the city landscape we co-exist in. **Free.** 7:30–10 pm. Weeknights [566 Johnson Ave., Studio #27 in Bushwick, (201) 953-4062], weeknights.wordpress.com.

SAT, NOV. 17

TOUR, CURRIER & IVES TROLLEY TOUR: Take an in-depth look at the iconic pair when historian Jeff Richman leads trolley tour with stops at the graves of Currier, Ives and other artists. \$15 (\$20 non-members). 1–3 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Green Wood Heights, (718) 768-7300], www.greenwood.com.

MUSIC, FREE "LA BOHEME": Regina Opera Company present a free fully staged performance of Puccini's romantic tragedy sung in Italian with English supertitles, and presented with piano accompaniment. The Conductor for this performance is Scott Jackson Wiley and Stage Director is Linda Lehr. \$25, \$20 seniors and college students, \$5 teens, children free. 3:00 PM. Our Lady of Perpetual Help auditorium [5902 6th Ave. in Sunset Park, (718) 259-2772], www.reginaopera.org.

MUSIC, MURDER MYSTERY CONCERT: Join the Brooklyn Conservatory Community Orchestra at the Brooklyn Museum for a performance of The Composer is Dead, a wildly imaginative piece that combines world class orchestration with classic murder mystery. \$15, \$10 for children under 12. 4 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln Place and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300 or email: rfrank@bqcm.org], www.bqcm.org.

MUSIC, DOO-WOP CONCERT: Original chart-stopping acts from the '50's and '60's. \$36-\$45. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [2900 Campus Rd., between Amersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951-4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org.

MUSIC, TEA, CAKE, AND JAZZ: Nioka Workman's Firey String Sistas! invites you to join A Scorpio Birthday Party for a sweet set of new music, chamber Jazz, along with a warm cup of tea and cake. \$20, \$25. 9 pm. Sistas' Place [456 Nostrand Ave. at Jefferson Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 398-1766], www.sistasplace.org.

ICKYFEST: The whole weekend is dedicated to all things icky, from cutting the cheese to blood and tears children discover their scientific and grossology side. Suitable for children of all ages. Free with museum admission. 10 am–5 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

READING, WHALE-ATHON (CONT'D): A weekend-long marathon reading of Herman Melville's classic. **Free.** 4 pm–midnight. Molasses Books [770 Hart St. between Knickerbocker and Wilson in Bushwick, (631) 882-5188].

SEA TURTLES: Biologist from Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research and Education leads discussion on this interesting creatures and what you can do to volunteer. Recommended for older children. Reservations required. Free with museum admission. 4 pm. Quogue Wildlife Refuge [3 Old Country Road in East Quogue, (631) 653-4771], www.quogeuwildlierefuge.org.

MEMORIAL MASS AND FUNDRASIER: Brooklyn Irish American Parade coordinators are hosting annual event at Holy Name with special mass and then followed by dining and dancing. Call for tickets. 5:30–11 pm. Holy Name Church/hall [245 Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 499-9482].

SUN, NOV. 18

MUSIC, BROOKLYN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Come hear our borough's orchestra play Mendelssohn and Beavers. \$20. \$10 for students. 3 pm. Church of Saint Ann & the Holy Trinity (157 Montague St., between Clinton and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights).

MUSIC, SUNDAY SCREENING: Farscape: The Way Station presents an introduction to one of science fiction's most compelling and creative TV shows. 5 pm. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (347) 627-4949], waystationbk.com.

MUSIC, FREDDY'S REGULAR: Out of Your Head is both a collective of improvising musicians in Brooklyn

as well as a regular free performance event at Freddy's Bar and Backroom. Bassist Adam Hopkins, originally from Baltimore, founded the NY chapter in January 2012 to help expand and unify the local creative music scene. **Free.** 9:30 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

STEP INTO THANKSGIVING: Step into: invites families to explore holiday celebrations with art, music, hands-on activities, food and stories. Recommended for children 2 years and older. \$5. 3–5:30 pm. Hannah Senesh Community Day School [342 Smith St. between First and Second place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 858-8663].

BARCLAYS CENTER, KELLOGG'S TOUR OF GYMNASITCS CHAMPIONS 2012: A national tour featuring Team USA's top performing gymnasts following the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Starting at \$37.20. 6:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (212) 359-6387], www.barclayscenter.com.

HOLIDAY DINNER: It's turkey day again. The third annual community event is sponsored by Friends Healing Ministries and will provide the real heroes of with turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, collard greens, bread and love. The tents will be open. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Surf Manor (W. 23rd St. and Surf Avenue in Coney Island).

MON, NOV. 19

BARCLAYS CENTER, LEGENDS CLASSIC: Georgetown, Indiana, UCLA, and Georgia will compete in the 2012 Legends Classic, which culminates with the Championship Rounds at Brooklyn's brand new Barclays Center. Starting at \$19.85. 6:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (212) 359-6387], www.barclayscenter.com.

WORKSHOP, THANKSGIVING COOKING CLASS: 14 spots are open for Prospect's pre-Thanksgiving Cooking Class, a few days before the big feast. \$60. 7 pm. Prospect [773 Fulton St. in Fort Greene, (718) 596-6826], www.prospectbk.com.

WORKSHOP, CAPOEIRA: Enjoy a free class! **Free.** 7:30 pm. Creative Arts Studio [310 Atlantic Ave. in Boerum Hill, (917) 940-9321], omulubrooklyncaopoira.com.

TUES, NOV. 20

SINGALONG: Come clap, dance, sing or just watch! \$2.50. 11:00. The Moxie Spot [81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710], themoxiespot.com.

CONCERT, MUSICAL: Metz, Yvette, and Bennio Qwerty at the Knitting Factory. \$10. 8:30 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Haver-meyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], ny.knittingfactory.com.

WED, NOV. 21

EDUCATION, COMPUTER SKILLS: Presented by the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled, Inc., the class is led by Aleta Fenty, who is deaf and teaches the course in American Sign Language. No previous computer experience required. **Free.** 1–4 pm. BCID [27 Smith St. between Livingston and Fulton streets in Downtown, (718) 998-3000 X301].

CLUB, FIRST DOLLS CLUB: For doll collectors. Meets the third Wed. of each month. No meeting in December and end of year luncheon held in June. **Free.** 2 and 4 pm. Chapter of the UF of Doll Clubs [301 Seabreeze Ave. at W. 5th Street in Brighton Beach, (718) 373-7990].

DANCE CLASS: The Federation of Italian American Organizations of Brooklyn (FIAO) is again spon-

soring a regular free performance event at Freddy's Bar and Backroom. Bassist Adam Hopkins, originally from Baltimore, founded the NY chapter in January 2012 to help expand and unify the local creative music scene. **Free.** 9:30 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

BARCLAYS CENTER, BOB DYLAN AND HIS BAND: Dylan will perform with Mark Knopfler. To be announced. 6:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (212) 359-6387], www.barclayscenter.com.

THURS, NOV. 22

MUSIC, BOWLTRAIN: Roots' drummer and noted vinyl-phile Questlove has a weekly residency DJing this party - one of the best in town. \$5. 11 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

FRI, NOV. 23

MUSIC, DR. WHO 50TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY: Dress as your favorite doctor. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (347) 627-4949], waystationbk.com.

BLACK FRIDAY: While the rest of the city shops and burns off the Thanksgiving feast, children can explore the museum the whole day. Free with museum admission. 9am–5 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

BARCLAYS, NBA BASKETBALL: The Brooklyn Nets take on the LA Clippers. Starting at \$15. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (212) 359-6387], www.Barclayscenter.com.

SAT, NOV. 24

MUSIC, JUAN LUIS GUERRA AND JUANES: Grammy Award winning artists and Latin pop icons Juan Luis Guerra and Juanes will perform in the first-ever Latin show at the state-of-the-art Barclays Center. Starting at \$70.85. 6:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (212) 359-6387], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, ABSINTHE DRINKERS: They spawn catchy, original pop, funk, rock, and whatever songs from works of literature ancient and modern. 10 pm. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (347) 627-4949], waystationbk.com.

QUILT SHOW: The 21st annual show features theme of Cool-whether it's a cold wintery season, and cool colors. \$3. Noon–4 pm. Lef-ferts Historic Homestead [452 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 789-2822], www.prospectpark.org.

ATLANTIC AVE SHOPPING: Kick off the holiday season with a day on the avenue. Carolers, Trolley Rides, refreshments and great deals abound. Presented by the Atlantic Avenue Business Improvement District. **Free.** 1–5 pm. Atlantic Avenue (Between BOE to Fourth Avenue in Downtown), www.atlanticavebid.org.

TASKS AND CRAFTS FROM THE PAST: Try your hand at needlepoint, play old fashioned games and more. **Free.** 2:30–3:30 pm. Leferts Historic Homestead [452 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 789-2822], www.prospectpark.org.

● 'We're trying to do good for all of Coney Island.'

—Railsplitters quarterback Javon Moore

● 'I want to be the best player to ever be at Poly Prep.'

— Defensive lineman Jay Hayes

Railsplitters battle back from Sandy's wrath

BY MIKE MCAVOY

The Lincoln High School Railsplitters took the first round of the Public School Athletic League's football playoffs by besting Campus Magnet High School 44-14 at Lafayette High School on Saturday — a victory the team hopes will bring a modicum of cheer to its Hurricane Sandy-ravaged school.

The super storm that killed seven borough residents hit the Coney Island school and its administration particularly hard: the school's basement was flooded, the team's three-year-old, state-of-the-art football field where the Railsplitters boast a 19-1 record was seriously damaged and can't be used, and nearly 15 Railsplitters still remain homeless. The school is also reeling from the death of Henry Sullivan, a beloved science teacher who drowned in his home as Hurricane Sandy hit the Rockaways.

But players say the tragedies the school's facing just emboldened them to win on Saturday.

"We're playing for everybody," said quarterback Javon Moore. "We lost Mr. Sullivan, and people are in distress. We're trying to bounce back as a whole team and cheer everyone up. We're trying to do good for all of Coney Island."

Moore sweetened the victory by rushing two touchdowns and sending a 22-yard strike through the air to Carlos Stewart. Lincoln High School was trailing Campus Magnet early in the game, but Railsplit-



LEG UP: Lincoln's Antoine Holloman, Jr. breaks a tackle during his team's big win on Saturday.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

ter Antoine Holloman Jr. turned everything around when he returned a punt 96 yards for a score — kicking off his team's 28-point run as the Lincoln High School squad settled into its replacement field.

"No matter what's un-

derneath us we know what we have to do," Moore said.

The Railsplitters won't know until Wednesday, after this paper went to press, if they will be able to use the field during the playoffs. If not, Lincoln will have to play at nearby Lafayette

or William E. Grady high schools as work crews repair the team's home turf — an unsettling reminder of Hurricane Sandy's wrath.

"The field looks like someone pulled on a carpet and created grooves in it,"

Continued on Page 53



DOIN' IT FOR HER SISTER: Long Island University graduate student Jessica Rice is playing to win a conference title for her injured twin Ashley. Courtesy of LIU Athletics

Twins hope to win volleyball crown

BY DANIEL MARTIN

Twin sisters Ashley and Jessica Rice, Long Island University women's volleyball team's double threat, have a chance to snatch a northeast conference crown this week — but injuries will be keeping them from playing on the court together.

Ashley tore her anterior cruciate ligament on Oct. 20 in a win over Sacred Heart. Ever since then, Jessica has been playing for both of them, the fifth-year grad student said.

"I definitely just think about her when I'm out there playing," Jessica Rice said. "I'm playing a lot for her, too. If she can't do it herself, I have to go out there harder every play, and play the best I can to help our team win."

Injuries have unfortunately been a part of the middle blockers' careers. Jessica, an All-Conference second team selection a year ago, was forced to redshirt in 2008 because of a knee injury and missed the entire 2009 season as well. Ashley, the confer-

ence tournament's most valuable player in 2009, missed 2010 with a knee injury, but rebounded with a strong 2011 season. Their history has put Jessica in a unique position to help Ashley through her current injury.

"She's been there and she's the only one who knows what it's like to miss a lot of time," Ashley Rice said. "Everyone says, 'You'll be OK,' but they don't know the mental toughness that it takes."

It's a special relationship coach Kyle Robinson has noticed during their time at the school. He sees how it extends off the court in this case and in general.

"They're connected," Robinson said. "Even beyond volleyball stuff, they support each other and they support each other on a level they can't understand."

Ashley is now providing leadership on the bench as Jessica, along with standout teammates right side hitter Annika Fiot and setter Vera Djuric are leading the Black-

Continued on Page 52

Hayes to fight for the Irish

Poly Prep junior defensive lineman to play for Notre Dame



BLUE AND GOLD: Poly Prep junior lineman Jay Hayes has committed to play at Notre Dame.

Photo by Priyanka Katumuluwa

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Poly Prep junior defensive lineman Jay Hayes has agreed to play football at Notre Dame.

Hayes, who had 53 offers from Bowl Championship Series schools, picked the Irish and coach Brian Kelly over the likes of Ohio State, Florida, Michigan, and Georgia.

The 6-foot-5, 270-pound Hayes, the ninth-ranked recruit in the country at his position by Scout.com, chose Notre Dame not only because it currently ranked

third in the nation and has a rich football tradition, but because of the academic opportunity provided by its business school.

"It's an opportunity of life time," Hayes said. "With a football program that is as good as that and the academics go hand and hand. It's sort of perfect."

Hayes plans to visit the school this weekend — just in time for the Irish's game against Wake Forest.

Hayes can be seen on Poly Prep's offensive line, but the player also prides

himself on his defensive ability. He joins in the footsteps of Blue Devils alum Eric Olsen, a center for the New Orleans Saints who started 31 games for Notre Dame.

Hayes hopes to surpass Olsen — as well as every other player who went to Poly.

"I want to be the greatest player to ever be at Poly," Hayes said. "I got this out of the way. I'm going to Notre Dame. Next year I just want to prove that I am the greatest player to leave Poly."

Twins

Continued from Page 51

birds into the postseason. Long Island University remains undefeated at 16-0

and 23-7 overall heading into this weekend's conference tournament.

The team will try to put last season's final loss behind it when it reaches this week's tournament.

Robinson feels this is a

special group that can get it done.

"This is the best team I've ever coached," Robinson said. "This is the best group of girls I've ever coached and had the pleasure of being with."



KICK STARTER: St. Edmund's Taylor Draxdorf takes the ball down the field as her team beat St. John's Prep 1-0 for the championship.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

Eagles get kick out of beating St. John's

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Sophomore soccer star Maura Bellone scored the sweetest goal of her career on Monday as she gave the St. Edmund Preparatory High School Eagles a title victory over St. John's Prep.

Bellone's opportunity came when junior Eagle Anfsia Gordeev sent a corner kick careening off the box during a heated match at the Aviator Sports and Events Center.

The sophomore dashed to meet it and, with a well-timed kick, sent the ball sailing over charging St. John's Prep keeper Ashley Rivera in what proved to be the game-winning goal eight minutes into overtime — giving St. Edmund a 1-0 victory in the finals over rival St. John's.

Bellone said she was ecstatic that her goal stood unopposed.

"I was thinking, 'Nobody else better make a goal' because I wanted to win this game for us and I did," she said.

The victory avenges last year's 3-1 loss in the title game to St. John's, and completes an unbeaten

season for St. Edmund (9-0-1). It's also helping coach Dan Mangano realize the title guarantee he made after the Eagles beat St. John's Prep in the final regular season match.

The winning coach is already planning on achieving the same results next year.

"We have a strong team coming back and we are going to guarantee another trip to the championship," Mangano said.

For all his confidence, however, the coach felt his squad could have played better, were it not for Hurricane Sandy.

Practices had become difficult to organize in the past two weeks thanks to the storm, which devastated Gerritsen Beach and left five players with damaged homes, if not damaged spirits.

But all the hardship and destruction served only made the victory that much sweeter, players say.

"It's amazing knowing how much all of us went through," said Gordeev. "Some kids lost their houses — everything."

Ida's got the winning NFL picks

The line at the Silver Star Meat Market wrapped around the block. The unseasonably warm temperatures in the late spring of 1987 had pushed the population of North Atlantic herring north, towards the polar cap, where the water was as cool as a glass of iced lemonade on a hot day, and the krill schooled in bounties. The fisherman, sun-beaten men of the sea, were feeling the heat, unable to answer for the once-common fish that they could not seem to net for the life of them this season — no matter how far north they traveled.

Nowhere could repercussions of this global herring shortage be more keenly felt than the line wrapping down Nostrand Avenue on an 102-degree June day. Babushkas fanned their foreheads; husbands doing their pre-Shabbos shopping waited dutifully, sweat dripping down their brows; and the few children who had been dragged along for what normally was an ecstatic romp around the culinary wonderland kvetched endlessly, tugging at their parents' sleeves as everyone wilted.

These good people did not know whether they would be able to snap up one of the few tins of smoked kippers once they entered the building, but in this heat, it had ceased to matter. A cold can of soda, perhaps some Mandelbrodt, any pick-me-up would suffice.

It made Ida remember the words of Brooklyn abolitionist Henry Ward Beecher:

"Never forget what a man says to you when he is angry."

Ida's picks:

Bills (-1.5), Rams (-3), Browns (7.5), Texans (-16), Bengals (-3.5), Falcons (-10), Buccaneers (-1.5), Raiders (4.5), Packers (-3.5), Colts (9), Bears (5), Ravens (3.5)

Breakouts:

Redskins (-3) over Eagles
Broncos (-7.5) over Chargers

Kryptonite lock of the week:

Ravens (3.5) over Steelers

Ida's record: 68-77-2

(Kryptonite: 4-6)



Tech beats Kennedy Knights, 36–0

Lincoln

53

Nov. 15-21, 2012, CORNER LIFE

BY JOE PANTORNO

Brooklyn Tech decimated the Kennedy Knights 36–0 at home on Saturday afternoon — engineering some payback against a team that beat them by a point on a goal line stand during the regular season.

Senior running back James Gales ran 15 carries for 159 yards and two touchdowns, a stellar outing that included a 92-yard sprint down the left sideline after breaking a pair of tackles six yards past the line of scrimmage.

The 7–2 Engineers also completed four passes — two for touchdowns — including a quick slant from backup Elijah Rueda to Jalen Smalls for a 38-yard score in the fourth quarter. Brooklyn Tech's defense also showed off its rock-solid skills, allowing the Knights just 122 total yards for the afternoon with three sacks and three turnovers.

“Our defense played really well,” Engineers coach Kyle McKenna said. “Kennedy did a lot of things different on offense since the last time we

played, but I was confident that we were going to get it done.”

The win helped the Engineers move up in the Public School Athletic League championships, but the players saw the victory as a way of evening the scales.

“During the hurricane we just looked at the schedule, saw who we were playing and we got excited,” Gales said. “The game that we lost was heart-breaking so we had to get this win.”

High school football fans expected the Engineers to be one of the league's best teams when the season began, but a 0–2 start removed the team from discussions about top-tier football programs that included Tottenville, Erasmus Hall, and Lincoln.

But the Engineers believe Saturday's victory proves that Brooklyn Tech should still be considered a threat.

“Not only do we get our first playoff win, but it was against a team we narrowly lost to,” Gales said. “It's definitely gratifying.”



OH YEAH!: Gray Abraxas and Deon Mash jump for joy after Brooklyn Tech beat Kennedy 36-0. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

Continued from page 51
said Lincoln High School athletic director Renan Ebeid. “Over by the opposing team's sidelines, it's just lined with grooves.”

Despite all setbacks the school and students have faced over the previous week, the entire team showed up for the first post-Hurricane Sandy practice, coach Shawn O'Connor said.

“As the storm was hitting us, I had kids calling, texting and e-mailing me about when we would be able to practice again,” O'Connor said. “It's what we all needed to get our mind's off of what happened.”

The team spent the majority of the practice cleaning out the flooded locker room, trying to find equipment that was still usable. Lafayette, Grady, and Fort Hamilton high schools all donated gear so the Railsplitters could play — and raise their classmates' spirits.

“It's just really nice to have an escape and see a football game,” Lincoln principal Ari Hoogenboom said.

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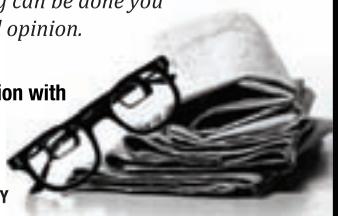
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► **HERE'S MY CARD**

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Professional Service • Low Rates
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2 Men w/Truck \$59/Hr. **4 Men w/Truck \$85/Hr.**
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US DOT #130966
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Specializing in Flat & Pitched Roofs
Hot & Cold Tar ☆ New Roofs
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WE DO: MOVING • YARDS • BASEMENTS
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& get... **Real Results!**

► OPEN HOUSES

To Place Your Ad
Call 718-260-2555

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

Bay Ridge CO-OP
OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 11/18, 12-2 PM
9201 SHORE ROAD
APT. A-502
WATERVIEW
PRICE REDUCTION
Bright, Sunny, Spacious
4.5 Room, 2 Bdrm Apt.
Mod Eat-In Kitchen & Bath,
Beautiful Hdwd Flrs, Full
Dining-Rm, Great Closets,
Premier Full Service 24/7
Doorman Bldg, Express
Bus, \$379,000.
AMBASSADOR
REALTY
718-836-8500

Bensonhurst Condos OPEN HOUSE

EVERY SAT & SUN
1-4 PM
2539 WEST 15th ST
NEW LUXURY CONDOS
FINAL C OF O!
1BR, 804 SF- 984 SF
2BR, 2 Bth 1097-1690 SF
3BR, 2 Bth 1153-1783 SF
C/A & heat, S/S applis,
granite countertops, hdwd
flrs, storage rms, balconies
or roof terraces, indoor
parking, tax abatement.
WILK R.E.
718-376-0606

BERGEN BEACH OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY 11/18
12-3 PM
7203 AVE U
(Corner E.72nd St)
FOR SALE BY OWNER
1 Family Semi-Det Corner
Property, 3 Bdrms, 2.75
Baths, Finished Bsmt,
3-Zone Hot Water Heat,
Prvt Drvwy, Front Porch.
Too Much To List!
Reduced \$539,000.
NO BROKERS, PLEASE

Bergen Beach

Sun 11/18/12 1-3 PM
1423 East 68th
Street-Ave N/Ave T
30x120 brick s/d 2
family, 6.5 duplex with
3 beds, 2 bths, new
granite eat in kitchen &
large terrace over 4.5
rm walk in with 2 bds,
1 bath & eat in kitchen,
garage, private drive,
low \$600s
Talk of The Town
Realty: 718-251-7400

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

Brighton Beach
OPEN HOUSE
EVERY SAT-SUN 12-4PM
2833 OCEAN PKWY
C of O! New Luxury
CONDOS FOR SALE!
1BR: 675-809 SF
2BR, 2 Bth: 868-1401 SF
Excellent construction.
Lrg soundproof windows.
High quality applis, high
ceilings. Italian kitchen,
organized closets, terrs,
balconies. Elevator, tax
abatement, parking.
WILK R.E.
718-376-0606

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

2265 Gerritsen Ave
Apt 5A
(Ave U and Ave V)
Sat 11/17 12-3 PM
Sun 11/18 12-2 PM
2 BDR COOP, Bright,
sunny, new bathrm, plen-
ty of closet space, swim-
ming pool, garage, clean
well maint. bldg, dog
friendly, Sub-Lease in
2 yrs. Asking \$159K
www.alexplotkin.com
917-544-8520
R.E.Associate Broker

CANARSIE OPEN HOUSE

SAT. 11/17 From 1-4 PM
1351 EAST 96th ST.
(Btwn Aves K & L)
Det 1 family ranch, EIK,
3 large BRs, 2 full baths,
new flrs & roof, nice bkyrd,
3-car parking. \$399,999



BEST SELLER
#1 PROPERTIES LLC
718-646-6900

Canarsie

OPEN HOUSE
SAT-SUN 11/17-11/18
12-4 PM
231 EAST 86th ST
(Corner Ditmas & Ave B)
Gut renov 1 family corner
semi-det brk w/ sunlight-
filled LR, granite kitch w/
SS applis, ceramic tiled
flrs, hdwd thruout, 3 baths,
complete fin bsmt, sep
entrance, yard, prvt pkg!
Vacant. Only \$349K.
Broker Mike
917-450-4341

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

CANARSIE
Sun, Nov. 18th, 1-4PM
73 Paerdegat 2
2 Family Semi -detach
brick beauty, 6.5 over
6.5 plus 3.5 hospitality
suite in M.I.C. Private
backyard, front drvwy
w/ garage & oak floors.
Full Vacancy
Guaranteed.
Owner Motivated!
ASKING: \$575K
Classic Home Sales
718-968-2222

East Flatbush

OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-3 PM
5112 Tilden Ave.
(E.51 & E.52)
Spacious, well kept semi-
det 1 fam 3 bdrm duplex,
1.5 bths w/semi-fin bsmt.
LR, FDR, lg EIK. Hdwd flrs
thruout. Wide shared
drvwy, det 1 car garage.
Clean MIC. Mid \$300's
Century 21
Homefront
718-252-6060

FLATBUSH Co-op

Open House
Sun. 11/18, 11^{am}-1^{PM}
1655 Flatbush Ave.
Apt# B210
Philip Howard
Building, 1 bdrm.
w/doorman & pool.
Near shopping &
transp.
Fin# 219101
Fillmore R.E
718- 253-9600

Georgetown

Sun 11/18/12 1-3 PM
6612 Ave M-E 66th St
& Bergen Beach PI
Beautiful 10yr young
s/d 1 fam duplex, 3 lre
bdrms, 2.5 tiled bths,
huge kit with sliders to
bkyd, plenty of closet
space, fin bsmt with
laundry area, skylights,
c/a & heat, alarm, pri-
vate 2 car drive
Talk of The Town
Realty
718-251-7400

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

Georgetown
Sunday 11/18/12
1-3PM
1256 East 68th
Street-Ave L & Ave M
Oversized income
producer, s/d brick, 6.5
over 6.5 over 4.5 over
finished basement,
built in garage, private
drive, **Owner Anxious**
Talk of The Town
Realty
718-251-7400

Gravesend

Sun. 11/18 12-2PM
367 Avenue S #2A
Updated bright
2 bedrm coop,
kitchen & bath with
windows, parq flrs,
pet/sublet OK,
Low maint,
near all
\$209,000
Talk of The Town
Realty
718-627-7500

Gravesend

Sun Nov 18
12-3 pm
2447 West St.
2 Family
semi-detached.
Featuring 3 bedrooms
over 2. Plus finished
basement
Priced to sell.
Won't last \$679K
Appleseed Homes
718-698-9797
Gaye 917-575-0583

MARINE PARK OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY 11/18 • 1-4 PM
1757 EAST 38th ST. (Ave R & Quentin Rd)
1 Family S/D 6.5 Rm Dplx Feat:
3 Bdrms, Formal DR, S/Mod
Kitch & Bath, Full Bsmt, Lrg Yard,
Drvwy/ Garage, New Boiler,
Only \$399,000.
AGENT ON PREMISES
JOE 646-522-1838
KINGSVIEW REALTY
718-692-4020

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

Marine Park
OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 1-3 PM
3322 AVENUE T
(E.33 & E.34)
1st Time on Market
Walk to Park- Spacious
& cozy 1 fam brick. 3 bdrm
duplex w/1.5 bths, semi-fin
bsmt. Central A/C. Front
porch w/view of park. Prvt
drive, garage, prvt yard.
\$529,000
Century 21
Homefront
718-252-6060

MILL BASIN

Sun. 11/18/12 12-2 PM
2732 MILL Ave
National Drive
2 fam brick duplex,
3 bdrms, brand new kit
with sep. laundry rm,
1.5 baths, Lg L.R./D.R,
parquet flrs, sundeck,
1bdrm walk in w/1 full
bth & EIK, fin bsmt sep
ent, \$600's
Talk of The Town
Realty:
718-251-7400

Mill Basin

Sun 11/18/12 1-3 pm
160 Whitman Drive
E66th St & Bassett
PRICE REDUCED! 1 fam
oversized 54X100 water
view dover split, 4 beds, 3
new bths, new granite EIK,
LG lr, formal dining rm,
fam rm, fin bsmt, new
hrdwd flrs throughout,
alarm, c/a, new roof,
private prking, garage,
A must see!!!
Talk of The Town
Realty
718-251-7400

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

Mill Basin
Sun 11/18/12 1-3 PM
267 Whitman Drive
Indiana & Bassett
PRICED TO SELL!!!
1 family detached
channel split, 3 beds,
2.5 baths, EIK ,den,
finished basement,
new roof and windows,
built in garage, **\$700's**
Great For
Builders!
Talk of The Town
RE: 718-251-7400

Mill Basin

Sun 11/18/12 1-3 PM
2723 East 66th
Street-56th Dr &
National Dr
DETACHED CUSTOM
40x100 Royal Manor 1
family, 4 bdrms, 3
gorgeous baths, large
gourmet kitchen, hard
wood flrs, plenty of
closets, sliders to patio &
lovely manicured yard, 1
car garage, 3 car private
parking
Talk of The Town Realty
718-251-7400

MILL BASIN

Sun, Nov. 18th, 1-3PM
1299 East 64th St
1st Time On Market
Det 1 fam home in mint
condition. This house
offers 2 beds, 2 baths,
new kit, full size LR &
DR, extra large fin
bsmnt, prvt drive, nice
grounds, Close to
trans, shops & schools
All offers considered!!
ASKING: 399K
Classic Home Sales
718-968-2222

Mill Basin

WATERFRONT
Sun 11/18/12 1-3PM
2428 National
Drive-56th Dr &
Arkansas Dr
Detached colonial, 6000
sqft, 5 bds, 3 bths, over-
sized EIK, extended fam
rm, frplce, maids quarters,
2 zone a/c, deck, garage,
A MUST
SEE!!!!\$1,749,000
DON'T MISS OUT!!!
Talk of The Town RE:
718-251-7400

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

SHEEPSHEAD BAY
Open House
Sat & Sun 12-4 pm
2285 Bragg St apt 2G
(crnr ave W)
Ring bell 114X or call
646-284-0498
BEST BUY! 2 Bedroom
co-op, Maint. \$783 incl.
G&E, Taxes. EIK w/win.,
24hr Security, Gym, Play-
ground. 1 block to buses
B3/ B31/ BM4 NYC
Xpress, shops on corner! 1
mile to Q train.
Asking \$99K
Cappadora RE
718-996-9628

► BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE

SHEEPSHEAD BAY
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY 1-3 PM
3903 Nostrand Ave.
#LL3 (Z/Voorhies)
THE SEA ISLE
Spacious Jr. 4 Co-op. Pos-
sible 2nd BR/ den off kitch.
Hdwd flrs thruout. Excell
MIC. All furniture included
in sale. Sublease OK after
2 yrs. Bldg has inground
pool, walk to bay. \$179,000
Century 21
Homefront
718-252-6060

WHY PAY MORE?

CALL NOW!

To Advertise Here
Call 718-260-2555

DEADLINE NOTICE

Due to Thanksgiving, the deadline for Classified ads will be **Monday, November 19** at 7PM for the November 22 issue. To avoid missing deadline, try to place your ads by **Friday, November 16**. Have a safe & enjoyable holiday!



► OPEN HOUSES

► **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

► **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

► **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

► **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

Tracey Real Estate

3619 Avenue S • 718-376-4994

www.traceyrealestate.com



CALL BOB FOR A FREE MARKET APPRAISAL 718-376-4994



MARINE PARK OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 11/18, 1-3PM
3603 Fillmore Ave.
Newly Renovated 3 BR Dup., 1 1/4 bth., new mod kit, (2 sinks), granite counters tops, s/s applis, all new windows & full semi fin. bsmt, shared drive. House in mint condition!
Show & Sell!
TB1103 \$420s



MARINE PARK OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 11/18, 1-3PM
1549 E. 34th St.
3 BR, Semi-Attached Frame, living room, dining room, 1 1/4 baths, finished basement, carport, yard.
PM1085..... \$420s

WE BUY HOUSES - ALL CASH!!

MIDWOOD OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 11/18, 1-3PM
1733 East 4th Street

6 Brand New 2 BR Condo, 2 full baths in each, cen/air, S/S app, LR, storage room, parking.
.....\$375K-\$430K

OLD MILL BASIN OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 11/18, 1-3PM
2034 East 54th Street

2 Family Brk, full bsmt (high ceilings), 5 BR, 2.5 bths, porch, terr, pvt drv, 5 spaces, parking, new cement work, brk pointing, new stoop, all new gates, C/A. Show & Sell! RG1102..... \$590s

MIDWOOD OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 11/18, 1-3PM
1348 East 35th Street

Extra Large 2 Fam, 3 BR Apt over 3 BR. Lg full basement, 2 car garage, hardwood flrs throughout! Will be delivered vacant! Don't Miss Out!
PL1089 \$690s

MADISON: 3 BR Attached Brick Duplex, brand new kitchen with stainless steel appliances, open floor plan with sunroom and deck, large master BR, full fin bsmt with 3/4 bath and separate entrance, garage, front porch.
GG1090..... \$560s

MARINE PARK: 3 BR, Det. Dup. on 35x100 lot, sliding doors to bkdy, deck and pool, pvt drwy, det. gar. and parking for 4 cars. PM1064 \$530s

MARINE PARK: Must Sell! 2 Fam. oversized 40x100 Lot! 2 BR over 3 BR with FDR, full bsmt with high ceilings, pvt drv, lg rear yard. PL1080 \$690s

MARINE PARK: Great Starter Home! Det. 2 BR Duplex - LR, FDR, EIK, lg rear yd, 28x100 lot. PL994 \$350s

MARINE PARK: 1 Family Semi-Detached, 3 BR Duplex, 1 1/2 baths, LR, DR, EIK, semi-finished basement, carpet. Needs TLC!!
TR1068 \$390s

► REAL ESTATE

► **BROOKLYN GARAGE RENTAL**

► **BROOKLYN GARAGE RENTAL**

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

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► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

APARTMENTS Very large, modern studio, 1, 2, 3 brs \$850 & up. Call R.E Broker 718-382-2573. Equal Housing Opportunity

Bath Beach- Spacious 2BR apt, 2nd flr prvt house. Front porch. Heat/water incl. No pets/ non-smoking. \$1800/mo. Century 21 Homefront, 718-252-6060

BAY RIDGE: Studio: \$900, 3rms/dog:1250, 5rm \$1700 Broker: 718-921-1200

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

BENSONHURST 2 Bedrooms. Eat-in Kitchen. No Pets. Non Smoking. \$1350 monthly. Near all. Owner 917-748-5251

BENSONHURST: 3.5 room apts, modern elevator building, near transportation, shop. 1 fare zone. No fee 718-449-8930 or 347-837-4785

BENSONHURST: 3rms \$850 4rms \$900 6rms \$1300 Agent 917-805-8324

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BENSONHURST: Bay 30's/ Bath Ave. 3 BR, Newer house, very modern, granite kit, ceramic flrs, 1.5 bath, lg 6 room apt. No Ref. No pets. No washer. Ask \$1800, Bay Parkway Realty 718-449-0881

BENSONHURST: Bay 40's/ Bath Ave. 1 BR, oak floors, freshly ptd, beautiful apt/ clean. Has fridge. No washer/ no pets. 2nd flr. Ask \$1100. incl. heat. Bay Parkway Realty 718-449-0881

BENSONHURST-Bay 46th/Cropsey- 6.5 Rooms Modern. Lots of extras parking available \$1800 718-996-2947owner

BENSONHURST: Bay Pkwy/ Bath Ave. 2 BR, Newer kit, EIK, parquet flrs, throughout, 3 ceiling fans. Has fridge, freshly ptd. MIC. Sm pet ok. 1st flr. Ask \$1350. incl. heat. Bay Parkway Realty 718-449-0881

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Canarsie: 2 bd FDR & FDL and EIK front porch. Asking \$1450 Unique Homes RE 718-941-1390

► REAL ESTATE

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

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B'Ridge-Shore Rd, 2rm, elev bldg, mod k+b, laundry rm, painted....\$1325
Dyker Hts-80s/10th Ave, studio, walk in, all renov, all util incl....\$1200
B'Ridge-80s/3rd Ave, 5rms, 2BR, 1st flr, mod bldg.....\$1800
Dyker Pk-low Bay Sts, 5rms, 2BR, hdwd flrs, w/d, sm pet ok....\$1400
Dyker Hts-70s/10th Ave, 5rms, 2BR, ref, hdwd flrs, pntd, 2nd fl, 2 fam....\$1400
Dyker Pk-low Bay Sts, 6rms, 3BR, mod, painted, 2 fam home....\$1600
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KINGS HWY/ E36th: 2 bedroom, elevator building. Large EIK + dining room. Two king-sized bedrooms. Parquet floors. Laundry room. Call for appointment. Metrostar Realty 718-338-8833

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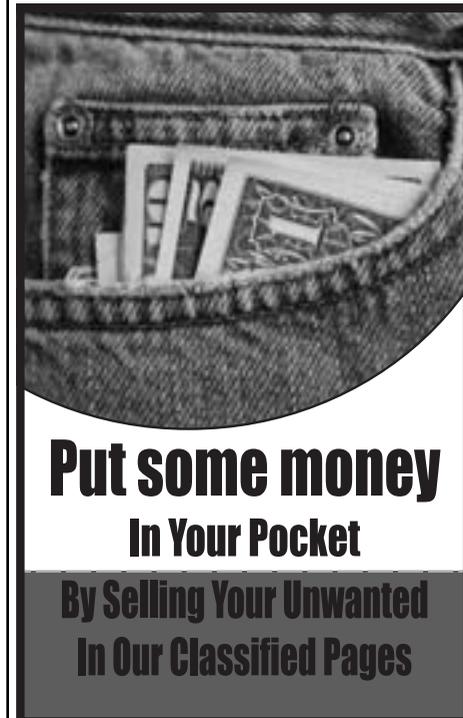
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Feeding Sandy victims

Red Hook Vendors gather to give out warm meals

BY NATALIE MUSUMECI

The *chalupas* and *tamales* are on us!

Red Hook's beloved food vendors were back on their home turf dishing out more than 1,000 complimentary hot meals on Saturday to residents in one of the neighborhoods hardest hit by Hurricane Sandy — and hungry Hookers lined up to get their free fill.

"It means a whole lot to come out and get a hot meal," Blee George, who has been without heat and power since the storm, said as she took a bite of a chicken *pupusa*, a traditional Salvadorian dish from the renowned Solber Pupusas truck. "It's a blessing."

And one that took an online community of neighbors helping neighbors to make happen.

Ten Red Hook food trucks were able to raise more than \$5,000 through an online campaign so they could feed the storm-ravaged residents.

Cesar Fuentes, the founder of the Red Hook Food Vendors organization, said that donations ranging from \$5 to \$500 rolled in from do-gooders



Hard-hit Red Hook residents (from left) Natalie Wilson, Monsey Rodriguez, Amalia Cordoba, and Carolyn Fortune were grateful to indulge in a complimentary warm meal from the Red Hook Food Vendors.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

all over the country — and the globe.

"Every \$5 feeds a person," he said. "It's amazing that we were able to provide this food, which actually comes from the many people who cared."

Residents whose lives were uprooted by Hurricane Sandy had their spirits lifted as they indulged in a warm, truck-cooked meal from one of the vendors sta-

tioned at the Red Hook ball fields on Bay Street.

"It's encouraging to see the community helping out," said Monsey Rodriguez, who was displaced after the storm-surge inundated her Van Brunt Street home. "I'm grateful that I'm still alive and for all the help that everybody has been giving us."

Fuentes added that he even delivered dozens of

trays to several community drop-off centers like the Red Hook Initiative and Calvary Baptist Church to ensure that residents who hadn't got word of the free food wouldn't go hungry.

"We just wanted to make sure that all the food we brought was just distributed and enjoyed at someone's house or apartment that has no light," said Fuentes.

Something Greek does something good

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

These Greeks are bearing gifts no one could be wary of.

The Mitilineos family — the family behind Hellenic Third Avenue hot spot Something Greek in Bay Ridge — has been trucking tasty Mediterranean treats across the Narrows to Hurricane Sandy-ravaged Staten Island ever since the storm hit.

Katerina Mitilineos said the idea to lend a hand — or a plate — to the recovery effort came from her mother, Pauline, upon witnessing the extent of the devastation that befell the neigh-

boring borough.

"A lot of people are hurt and we're trying to help," said Mitilineos, who lives on the Rock in mostly unscathed Bay Terrace with her mother and four brothers. "We've seen how bad it is. Staten Island was probably hardest hit, and nobody's gone down there, not the Federal Emergency Management Agency, not the Red Cross, and people there are hungry and cold."

But in spite of the destruction of homes and lives, the atmosphere at cleanups where Something Greek has visited — includ-



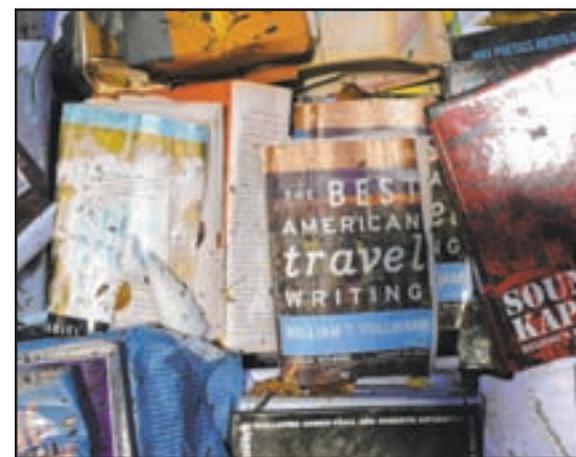
Tommy Mitilineos of Something Greek in Bay Ridge has been bringing food to Hurricane Sandy victims on Staten Island for weeks.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

ing a recent one in New Dorp Beach sponsored by Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-Bay Ridge) — have been surprisingly hopeful and upbeat.

"They're so friendly down there. You'd think they'd be in shock, but people are laughing," Mitilineos said. "They're all coming together."

Mitilineos knows from personal experience how cooking can bring comfort in difficult times: she says her family opened Something Greek near 76th Street in 2010 after her father passed away.



Books like these at powerHouse in DUMBO got soaked.

Community Newspaper Group / Eli Rosenberg

Cooperative lit

Bookstore helps its rival after Sandy damages shop and novels

BY ELI ROSENBERG

Hurricane Sandy brought everyone in the borough together — and that includes business rivals.

When the proprietors of Greenlight Bookstore in Fort Greene found out that the storm flooded nearby powerHouseBooks in DUMBO, ruining merchandise and shop infrastructure, they sprung into action.

"When I heard about their news I reached out to see if there was anything we could do to help," said Greenlight owner Rebecca Fitting, who lent the inundated shop — which is a competitor in Brooklyn's tight literary market — enough electronics to get the storm-damaged register system back up and running.

Fitting said her Fulton Street bookstore wasn't using the loaned equipment — which includes a credit card swiper, a bar code scanner, and a receipt printer from Greenlight's kiosk at the Brooklyn Academy of Music — but she claims she would have handed over the goods either way.

"If we watched our business, that we built from scratch, get beat up like that, I would hope someone would do the

same for us," she said. "Bookstores work best when they're friends, not competitors."

And it was not the only good deeds the small store has done in the wake of the storm.

After a week of booming business after the hurricane, Fitting and co-owner Jessica Stockton-Bagnulo donated 10 percent of sales — \$4,000 — to two funds addressing the recovery in Brooklyn: Occupy Sandy and the Brooklyn Recovery Fund.

The folks behind powerHouse, which sustained tens of thousands of dollars of damage after 28 inches of floodwater ripped through the store, said that the equipment donations were integral to their speedy reopening last Saturday.

"It saved us a lot of time and made it so we could continue to conduct inventory," said powerHouse owner Daniel Power.

The owners of Greenlight said they believe it's important to help local businesses in addition to giving support to individuals hit by the storm.

"Small businesses are owned by people," Fitting said. "Helping small businesses helps those people."

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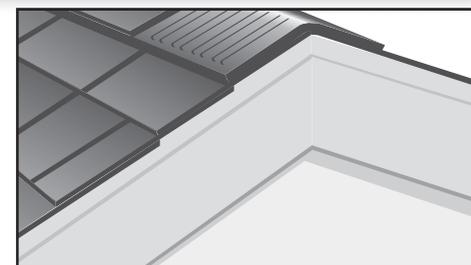
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(From left) Anne Welling, Charlie Gonzalez, his dog Jefe, and Kae Burke take the Green Bus to help cleanup operations around New York City. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Get on the magic, eco-friendly bus!

Gas rare, so green machine chips in

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

The Green Bus was tailor-made for Hurricane Sandy — and the fuel strapped borough it left in its wake.

With residents pining for a drop of petrol, Charlie Gonzalez's "mobile center for conscious living" — with its converted engine that can run on both diesel gas and cooking oil — became the best way to get Sandy relief volunteers around the city.

"With the gas shortage, nobody could get around," he said. "But the Green Bus runs off discarded cooking oil, and there's so much of it, it's ridiculous."

Gonzalez partnered with the House of Yes, a performance space in Bushwick. In the first week after the hurricane, he picked up a bus load of volunteers and took them to the hardest hit areas.

Since then, he's run a volunteer tour that leaves from the House of Yes every Friday.

"I've got other things going on full-time, so I have to balance," said Gonzalez. "But I want to take volunteers out as often as possible."

So far, Gonzalez has led cleanups in Red Hook, Coney Island, the Rockaways, and Staten Island.

He claims he never thought he would use the Green Bus for relief runs when he purchased it three years ago with the intention of running tours to music festivals and retreats — but he admits it's not a big leap from its initial purpose.

"It's meant to be a bridge to create sustainable infrastructures," said Gonzalez, who lives in Williamsburg. "We've lost our ability to interact with others."



Boardwalk sweeper

Tusi Sesera helps push wayward sand dunes off the iconic Coney Island Boardwalk.

Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

Construction crew fights to bring Coney Island businesses back

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Surf Avenue won't remain a washed-up disaster zone for long — not if Alberto Rodriguez has anything to say about it.

The display builder from Surf Avenue's Je T'aime Flower Studio and his trusty crew of furniture movers and demolition workers have taken it upon themselves to clean out water-damaged businesses along the amusement district's main drag — free of cost.

"For me, the best part is to see people's faces and the end of the day — to see people happy," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez had been creating intricate sets for Je T'aime flower arrangements for two months when Hurricane Sandy hit the People's Playground. The day after the storm of the century passed, Rodriguez showed up at the florist shop and was astounded at what he saw: water had destroyed most of the store's interior,



Contractor Alberto Rodriguez assembled friends, family, and local residents to help Surf Avenue businesses clean out the damaged buildings. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

and looters had come and picked off his tools.

Rodriguez quickly enlisted his brother and nephews to help him clean up the mess — but quickly realized Je T'aime wasn't the only business in desperate need of help.

"People in the neighborhood started asking, 'Hey,

can you help us out too?' And I said, 'Yeah, sure.'" Rodriguez remembered. "We're all one family here, one community."

In the next few days, Rodriguez and his eight-man team — which now included several Coney Island residents — hauled saturated mattresses and water-

stained shelves out of Lago Furniture, as well as Home Decor down the block from Je T'aime. They also gutted the interior of the children's party space Chill.

"We cleaned out Lago Furniture in seven hours, the girl there almost started crying," said Rodriguez.

Word quickly spread and Rodriguez took on more and more jobs — going as far as Gambinus Restaurant at the corner of Ocean Parkway and Brighton Beach Avenue to clean out of the basement and repair the eatery's damaged plumbing and electrical work.

Despite the back-breaking work, Rodriguez was buoyed by the fact that he was helping neighborhood businesses dig out the hole Sandy left them in.

"This is a disaster. We're not looking for money, we need to get the neighborhood back together," said Rodriguez. "Sandy didn't bring us down. We're going to come back."

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Registering for victims

Occupy's 'wedding registry' floods church with supplies

BY ELI ROSENBERG

A group of volunteers has collected something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue for Hurricane Sandy victims — by setting up an online wedding registry.

Three “Occupy Sandy” operatives working out of a Clinton Hill church have amassed 25,000 items worth more than \$650,000, and are distributing them in the Sandy-ravaged Rockaways and Coney Island — all thanks to an online hub they set up as an Amazon wedding registry on Nov. 3.

“We kind of tapped into this well of human empathy all over the country,” said John Heggstuen, 25, who moved to Crown Heights from Minneapolis three days before Hurricane Sandy hit.

Heggstuen, Alex Nordenson, and Katherine Dolan hatched Occupy Sandy’s soon-to-be-famous wedding registry and almost immediately began accepting deliveries to the church’s basement.

By the first few days of the next week, it was clear they were going to need some more space.



“I think it was when the four UPS trucks pulled up at the same time,” said Rev. Chris Ballard of the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew on where the wears were being stored.

The delivery trucks are routinely showing up full, five a day.

On a recent visit, church’s pews had been transformed into supermarket aisles of vital gear — batteries, blan-

kets, diapers, toothpaste — all organized by type.

“Within two days we had such a response it just expanded,” said Rev. Michael Sniffen, the church’s rector. “It was five pews, then 10 pews, then 20. And then the entire church!”

Stocks are dished out to Occupy coordinators and volunteers in affected areas in the Rockaways, Coney Island and Red Hook, where a ground team has been tracking resident-specific needs.

And as more things become needed, the registry is updated.

To help out, the United Parcel Service had donated the services of its trucks and drivers to haul loads out to the the Rockaways last weekend, Heggstuen said.

The church’s leaders said they were happy to have their house of god stuffed to the brim with volunteers and relief items, but the pews must be clear on Sundays.

“This is our worship,” said Ballard. “There was no hesitation on our part. The volunteers here are really amazing and have been really accommodating.”

To purchase goods



(Clockwise from top left) Volunteers for Occupy Sandy move relief supplies — purchased by do-gooders all over the world through an Amazon.com wedding registry — into the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew in Clinton Hill. Laurent Gabriel of Brownsville organizes supplies. The group transformed the church into a hub for supplies for hurricane victims — but they had to clear the pews before Sunday. Nicolette Carothers of Manhattan organizes supplies.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham

for the group’s relief efforts, visit [www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wedding/32TAA123PJR42/ref=cm_wed_vv_page_2?ie=UTF8&page=2&sort=st](http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wedding/32TAA123PJR42/ref=cm_wed_vv_page_2?ie=UTF8&page=2&sort=status)

Or, volunteer at the Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew [520 Clinton Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue in Clinton Hill (718) 638-0686, www.interoccupy.net/].

After Hurricane Sandy

Tips on filing home insurance claims after a disaster

Insurers will be dealing with a crush of claims in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, which inflicted billions of dollars in damages. Once homeowners can assess the extent of their personal losses, many will have to brace for another ordeal: navigating the insurance claims process.

Preparation and planning well before a storm arrives can help homeowners avoid potential pitfalls. But how they handle the details when it comes time to file can help ensure receiving an adequate payout. Here are five tips to weather the claims process:

Understand the scope of your coverage

Knowing what your insurance policy covers and what it doesn't is essential to getting through the claims process quicker.

You don't want to have to rely only on what claims adjusters tell you, especially as they go through the process of evaluating how much of a payout you're going to get.

When it comes to hurricanes and other major weather-related damage, it's important to remember that standard homeowners' insurance does not cover flood damage. And if you haven't purchased that separately, you will not be able to get reimbursed for dam-



Richie Bennick of Gerritsen Beach says he "lost everything" in Hurricane Sandy. When this paper asked him for his cellphone number, he replied with tears in his eyes, "I lost that, too."

Photo by Steve Solomonson

ages caused by flooding.

Flood damage is defined as water rising from the ground up, unlike, say, if you have a hole in your roof and rain is spilling in.

In addition, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and 15 other states let insurers include deductibles in their homeowners' insurance policies in the event of a hurricane.

Such deductibles vary from one to five percent of the insured value of the home. But each state makes its own determination on

whether a storm will trigger those deductibles, so check with your state department of insurance to see if that will be a factor in your coverage. You can find links to New York's insurance department at www.naic.org/state_web_map.htm.

Note damage and make short-term repairs

After the storm, once it's safe to move about, it's important to take photos of the damage right away. Comparing these photos to the ones taken before the

storm can be used to establish the value of items that are damaged or destroyed.

If holes have been torn in your roof or windows are broken, cover them quickly to prevent further damage, but don't make any permanent repairs. Take photos or video of the damage before you start working.

And don't throw out damaged furniture or other expensive items until an adjuster has seen them.

Contact your insurer right away

Call your insurer

quickly and get the claims process rolling, regardless of how much damage your home has sustained.

You can contact your insurance agent for information on how to file a claim. Or, if the agent can't be reached, contact the company directly via the Internet or phone.

Even if you've been evacuated and have yet to return to your home, but it's in an area that may be flooded or known to have been damaged in the storm, call your insurer and tell them, says Jeanne Salvatore, a spokeswoman for the Insurance Information Institute.

Doing so can help establish that you have to spend time in a hotel, something you may be able to get reimbursed for later.

Also, note the name and number of everyone you speak with during the claims process. That can help clear up any confusion that may arise along the way.

Be prepared to negotiate

Once insurance adjusters look over the damage, they will determine the size of your payout.

But if that figure seems too low, there are ways to voice your disagreement and try to work out a better settlement.

You'll want to ask the adjuster to show you the contract language and justify the proposed amount.

If you're still dissatisfied, get a second or even third opinion on the cost of repairs from independent contractors.

You can use that to ar-

gue for a bigger payout.

Ideally, you can work it out with the adjuster, but if not, you can try to make your case with someone at the company's regional or national office.

"You need to be ready for a fight and be tough working with your insurance agent," says Jeff Blyskal, senior editor at Consumer Reports.

Another option to help bolster your case for a better settlement is to hire a public insurance adjuster. They are experts on the insurance claims process and can assess the damage to a home and help build the case on behalf of the homeowner.

The insurance industry argues that public adjusters charge homeowners for services that homeowners can do themselves. Public adjusters typically charge 10 percent of the settlement amount.

Credited adjusters can be found at the National Association of Public Insurance Adjusters' website, www.napia.com.

Watch out for scam artists

Many homeowners want to immediately get started on repairing the damage to their properties. This makes them targets by unscrupulous contractors looking to overcharge for repairs.

"Con artists will demand large cash deposits, or push you to sign a contract that might not be in your best interest," Salvatore says. "Don't be rushed into anything."

— Associated Press

Tap House donates funds from beer sales

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

Make that one for my baby, and one for the hurricane victims!

The Brooklyn Tap House in Bedford-Stuyvesant is offering its customers a post-Sandy special that's bound to make beer lovers who want to make a difference buy a round for the house: for every beer sold, the owner will donate \$1 to the Red Cross.

"The other manager and myself wanted to help, but we are here all the time, so we started thinking about how we could help from where we are," said Brooklyn Tap House manager Stephanie Sabelli. "It turned out that the owners felt the same way."

The bar started collecting donations three days after the storm, and have so far raised more than \$2,500,

turning brew-lovers into philanthropists in the process.

"People come in here really excited," said Sabelli. "And when the transportation was down and they couldn't go anywhere, they were more than happy to come in and help out."

But you don't have to be a drinker to get in on the giving.

The Tap House also has

an ongoing food drive, and has collected hundreds of cans of food and delivered them to donation centers across the borough.

"It's great to see people being so generous," Sabelli said.

Brooklyn Tap House [590 Myrtle Ave. between Taaffe Place and Classon Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (917) 202-1801, www.brooklyntaphouse.com].



Every beer you buy at the Brooklyn Tap House results in a one dollar donation to the Red Cross.

Photo by Bess Adler

Pulling together disaster relief poses challenge

BY JOE ANUTA

The relief effort organized by the government is carried out by a vast network of organizations where well-intentioned neighborhood groups often prove hard to incorporate and sometimes hamper relief efforts.

Disaster relief is a complicated beast, according to John Berglund, who manages disaster relief efforts for The Salvation Army in New York and has experience running operations all over the world.

“Every disaster is different. They are extremely organic, which is part of the challenge,” he said.

In New York City, the mayor’s office and the city Office of Emergency Management take a lead role on how federal aid is used.

In addition, local officials have been helping direct where aid is needed,



A New York Cares volunteer drops off water to a table manned by a member of the National Guard outside the Hammel Houses.

Photo by Christina Santucci

while the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army work closely with all levels of government, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But the two nonprofits also have another network to draw from.

They currently preside over a coalition known as the New York City Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, which is comprised of organizations with special skills.

For instance, when a shelter in Manhattan’s Chinatown was in need of food, Berglund called on the Taiwan Buddhist Tsu Chi Foundation, whose regional headquarters is in Flushing, to deliver hot meals, one of its specialties.

Conversely, they can call on the Seventh-day Adventist Church, which specializes in warehousing and storage.

ing and storage.

But one aspect of relief that can never be properly planned for is the grassroots efforts of other residents.

Some groups will collect clothing or food and either try to distribute it to affected residents themselves or will drop it off at a sorting center, which can sometimes put an extra burden on volunteer workers, especially if the items are not needed.

“In some ways, they are actually hurting the process, and in some cases they could even be delaying the delivery of aid,” said Berglund.

He is aware that most of the donations are well-intentioned, but he would rather have donors give cash to fund the organized effort.

But elected officials like Councilman Eric Ulrich

(R-Ozone Park) blasted the Red Cross for its slow response to his district.

And state Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) and U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) complained that the city was not well organized in delivering resources to the coastal neighborhood.

In some cases, outside groups are forming effective chains of their own to pick up the perceived government slack. Occupy Wall Street has set up a distribution system of its own, called Occupy Sandy, using a network of social media and a vast organizing prowess to deliver aid to areas where the city, state and FEMA have been slow to respond.

Reach reporter Joe Anuta by e-mail at januta@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

Far Rockaway residents find help and hope after storm

BY STEVE MOSCO

The hardship rises when the sun goes down in Far Rockaway.

“It gets cold, real cold,” said Latesha Williams, as she dug through rows of donated winter coats in the parking lot of the Thrift Way strip mall, at 20-52 Mott Ave. “The floor feels like ice when the heat’s not working. It gets so cold it’s all you think about.”

Williams’ house in the seaside community was one of many still without power Saturday, when hundreds of residents lined up to browse through all sorts of donated items as young and energetic volunteers guided them through a maze of wares. Powerless in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, residents filled bags with paper towels, cleaning products, bathroom items, baby products, canned goods, children’s toys and clothes.

The event was organized by Reshma Saujani, the deputy advocate for Special Initiatives at the city public advocate office and executive director of the Fund for Public Advocacy, in conjunction

with We Care NYC, a city agency that helps people on public assistance. Donations came from New York Tech Meetup, I Love My LIFE, Flavorpill, Pencils of Promise and other nonprofit organizations, small businesses and advocates in the city.

“We’ve been spending a lot of time here in Far Rockaway checking on residents,” said Saujani, who handed out sandwiches with singer John Legend. “It’s been close to two weeks since a lot of these people had power — all that time with no heat and no hot food — so we are here to give them what they need.”

Aside from volunteer-donated household items and clothes, food trucks provided hot meals to the storm-weary residents. City Councilman James Sanders (D-Laurelton), along with U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) and Councilmen Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica) and Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans), listened to the plight of the people while dishing donated food.

“Far Rockaway caught hell in the hurricane, but what we gained from this is a new appreciation



Singer John Legend (second from l.) hands out sandwiches with City Councilman James Sanders and the Queens Borough Chamber of Commerce executive director in Far Rockaway.

Photo by Steve Mosco

for being alive,” said Sanders. “And we are seeing the American people pouring their hearts out to our community.”

Those visiting the community also expressed concern for business in Far Rockaway, with Jack

Friedman, executive director of the Queens Borough Chamber of Commerce, advocating for business improvement following the storm.

“Some businesses may never reopen following the storm and

we might have to think about starting over and supporting the future of the neighborhood,” he said. “We want this to be a viable area for business.”

Sandy’s sting is seen throughout the Far Rockaway neighborhood in shuttered businesses and debris-cluttered sidewalks. Streetlights on Mott Avenue remained dark as drivers cautiously navigated busy intersections manned by dedicated police officers.

But despite the daily challenges they have grown accustomed to dealing with, residents embraced the opportunity to stock up on supplies, fill their bellies with grub and dance with their neighbors in defiance of Sandy’s shadow.

“This is the best I’ve felt since the storm,” said Devon Ridgley, who went from resident in need to impromptu volunteer. “It’s good to see so many smiling faces under a bright sun and blue sky.”

Reach reporter Steve Mosco by e-mail at smosco@cnglocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

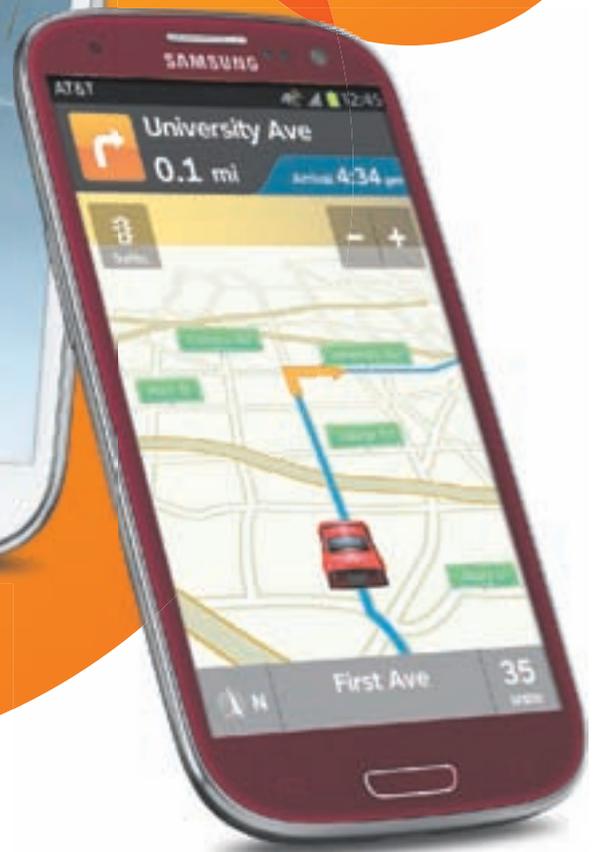
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