

Emmons face-lift near end

BY COLIN MIXSON

It only took 10 years, but the Emmons Avenue face-lift is nearly complete.

The Parks Department last week kicked off the final phase of its beautification of the bayside commercial district by planting a row of trees along the watery end of the avenue.

This new greenery, which lines the sidewalks west of Ocean Avenue, marks the beginning of the end for the project Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz began a decade ago. And phase three comes only four years after Cymbrowitz allocated \$460,000 to fund the project.

"It does take time," said Cymbrowitz. "A little longer than I would have liked."

The project began in 2003 with the installation of ornamental street lights along Emmons Avenue. Phase two started in 2006 with some much-needed sidewalk rehabilitation, new trees, and benches east of Ocean Avenue.

This fall, the sidewalks will be painted, new trash bins will be installed, and benches in the style of

Continued on page 9



The water's fine!

Manhattan Beach mademoiselles Gamze Tezer and Amanda Savchenko thought they couldn't get any hotter, until they went to Coney Island and basked in last week's searing 90-degree heat.

Photo by Paul Martinka

GATED BEACH FUNDS

Federal cash for private shore

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

They can have their beach and gate it, too!

The Army Corps of Engineers will spend \$30 million to restore the Hurricane Sandy-ravaged, private beaches of Seagate, a gated community on the western tip of Coney Island, and residents living on the other side of Brooklyn's Berlin Wall say the influx of taxpayer money means they should be allowed to cross the

border and take a dip.

"If you're using public funds, you need to grant public access," said Brighton Beach activist Ida Sanoff.

But Seagate representative Tami Maldonado argued that her neighborhood is entitled to the government groins, since neighborhood's beaches have melted away thanks to a 1992 project that created stony wharves to fight

Continued on page 9

Urine trouble!

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

Talk about taking a pee! A presumably latex-glove-wearing thief has stolen three soccer-themed urinal splash guards out of a Williamsburg pub's men's room during the past few months.

The urinal guards, which owners Conor Caro-

lan and Chris Keller bought off a novelty urinal cake website, feature a pair of miniature goal posts in the middle of a green field.

"A few months ago, one disappeared," said Carolan. "Since then, a few more have been taken."

Banter Bar, on Have-
Continued on page 9



Photo by Steve Solomonson

Michael Martell, 15, – was sad about the closing, but he did get to throw the final ball.

Final night at Maple Lanes

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Bowlers struggled to keep their spirits out of the gutter at Maple Lanes' last night on June 2.

Longtime league members and amateur rollers threw their final strikes at the 53-year-old alley — slated for demolition to make way for condos —

and remembered the place where they always felt like kingpins.

"A lot of people got emotional. It was hard for everyone," said Ashleighanna Lemmerman, who has bowled at Maple Lanes for the past two years. "Everybody thought of it as their second home."

Night manager Andy Colon — who worked at Maple Lanes for more than a decade and closed the place up at midnight — also had feelings to spare. Colon said he was sad to see some of the last old-school alleys in Brooklyn disappear, and feared that the warm

Continued on page 7

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STRONG STOMACH: Jamie McDonald revels in his victory at the Rocco's pizza-eating contest.

Thousands brave heat for festival

Bodybuilder shatters pizza-eating record

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

They might call it the Fifth Avenue Spring Festival, but it sure felt like summer!

The mercury neared 90 degrees on Sunday, June 2, at the 20th annual celebration of the Bay Ridge thoroughfare — which stretches from 69th to 85th streets — but that didn't stop thousands from coming out.

"It was a little too hot, but people stayed," said organizer Chip "Festival Guy" Cafiero. "It was never packed, but it stayed crowded, which is what I like to see."

Cafiero said the high temperatures didn't put many people in the mood for food, but plenty of people came thirsty.

"Anybody who sold any kind of drinks did very, very well," said Cafiero. "The bottled water, the pina



COOL OUT: Eight-year-old Alliyah Hopkins of Bay Ridge ate ice cream as the thermometer crept past 80 degrees.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

coladas, they had lines all day."

But some people brought their appetites.

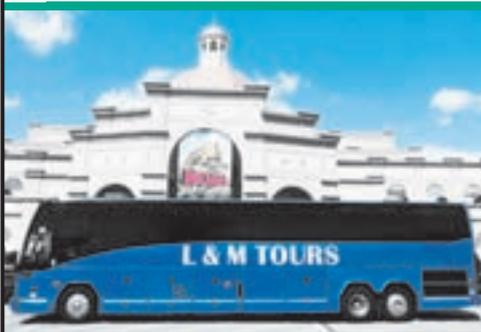
Competitors lined up in front of Rocco's Pizzeria be-

tween 78th and 79th streets for their Ninth annual pizza-eating contest. Jamie "The Bear" McDonald, a visitor from Connecticut, crammed down 30 slices — obliterating 2012 champ Pat Philbin's record of 23 and a half slices. Philbin, a native of Moonachie, N.J., managed just 16 and a half slices this year.

McDonald — who learned of the contest from friends in the competitive eating community — said he was assured of victory from the start, and plans to return to defend his title next year.

"I told the guys at Rocco's I was fairly confident I would win, and my goal was to set a new record. So when I passed the record, I just kept going," said McDonald. "It was a fun contest, and a great crowd, and the guys at Rocco's are great guys."

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Albanese: Thompson flip-flopped

Sal accuses rival of contradictory statements on NYPD mosque surveillance policy

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

A Democratic mayoral candidates forum in Manhattan Beach turned into a smackdown as two candidates clashed over the police department's controversial monitoring of Muslims in Brooklyn.

Tempers flared when former Bay Ridge Councilman Sal Albanese accused former Comptroller Bill Thompson of flip-flopping on the New York Police Department's policy of planting informants in mosques. Albanese claimed the Bedford-Stuyvesant native had denounced the program at a May 5 Muslim-American forum in Manhattan, but then changed his position to pander to the audience at the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center on May 29.

Albanese's attack came after Thompson said he supported the infiltration of Muslim houses of worship if the police had reasonable suspicions of terrorist activity within, but that he opposed targeting any group just because of its religious beliefs.



FLAME THROWER: Albanese caused a ruckus at a recent mayoral forum when he accused Bill Thompson of taking different positions on mosque surveillance before different audiences — a charge the former comptroller vigorously denied. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

“If they have legitimate leads, absolutely they should follow up on those leads,” said Thompson. “But when it comes to targeting a single community because of who you are

and what you believe, we are not going to do that under my administration.”

Albanese pointed to Thompson's robust denunciation of the program at the Muslim, Arab, and South Asian forum at New York University just a few weeks earlier. At that event, the New York Post reported that the ex-comptroller called the measure “disgraceful.”

“To single a group out, to follow people, to infiltrate mosques and bookstores, to be able to do all of those things — is it right? Absolutely not. Should it be done? Positively not. Would I allow it? Definitely not,” the Post reported Thompson as saying.

Albanese alleged that Thompson was trying to give the Muslim community the impression that he was against spying, and give the Orthodox Jewish community the sense he was for it.

“You have to say the same thing wherever you go,” Albanese said.

Thompson fired back immediately, yelling that the retired councilman had failed to listen to what he had said.

“You need to pay better attention at these panels!” Thompson said. “I said the exact same thing there I said tonight!”

Capital New York cited a video of the Muslim forum to note that Thompson had indeed modified his stance later that evening.

“I think we're all concerned, are people following legitimate leads? That's one thing,” Thompson said at the time. “They

were following nothing. There were no leads. There was no information. The NYPD, I'm sure at the direction of its commissioner, in fact, just infiltrated just because. They weren't following anything.”

But Albanese's own statement on the surveillance issue was hardly any different from the one Thompson gave that night, saying he would require the police to adhere to the guidelines of the Handschu Agreement, which bans indiscriminate spying by the NYPD, allowing monitoring only in cases of suspected criminal activity, and only with a warrant.

“In my administration, we're going to follow the law,” said Albanese.

The controversy over the NYPD's monitoring of mosques first broke out in 2011, when the Associated Press reported that the department was photographing and recording Muslims throughout the tri-state area, and was paying moles to report on activities in bookstores and mosques. The program failed to turn up any leads, but police Commissioner Ray Kelly and Mayor Bloomberg defended the practice.

Thompson isn't the first politician to be accused of flip-flopping on the police department's right to monitor mosques depending on where he was talking. Last October, state Sen. Marty Golden told a mostly Muslim audience he was opposed to the practice — just months after signing a letter praising Kelly's anti-terror efforts.

Weiner feted in Manhattan Beach

BY COLIN MIXSON

The Manhattan Beach Community Group took advantage of the democratic candidates coming to town for the community forum at the Jewish Center on West End Avenue to invite the old friend in council and congress Anthony Weiner for a visit at member Bunny Fleischer's snazzy Oriental Boulevard pad, where the group honored the candidate for his efforts representing Southern Brooklyn in Washington.

“This is to thank you for all your work as our councilman and congressman,” said civic president Ira Zalcman, as he presented Weiner with their Friend of Manhattan Beach award plaque, which the civic hands out to an honored friend once per year. Weiner, whose current

bid for mayor represents an attempt to revive his shattered political career that took an abrupt nose-dive after he accidentally publicly tweeted pictures of himself in his underwear he intended to privately send to a woman he met online, said the award is the first he's received since the scandal.

“This is a very significant thing to get, because in the course of being an elected official you accumulate a lot of plaques, but now I have to start fresh,” said Weiner, plaque in hand. “So, this is like my first one, plaque zero.”

Weiner, who arrived late for the casual award ceremony, made up for his tardiness by staying until well after the mayoral forum was scheduled to begin at the Manhattan Beach Jewish Center.



WEINER FANS: The Manhattan Beach Community Group honored Anthony Weiner for his work representing Southern Brooklyn in Washington. Group president Ira Zalcman and vice president Bunny Greene Fleischer present Weiner with the award.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

“I was more worried about him getting there on time than he was,” said Zalcman.

The candidate spent about half an hour on Fleischer's couch, discuss-

ing local issues with the civic members from his old stomping ground, the Knicks, and his bid for mayor, before he finally set off for the community forum.



Kick off

Former federal prosecutor Ken Thompson, who helped convict the NYPD officers who brutalized Abner Louima in 1997 and represented Nafissatou Diallo in her sexual assault suit against former International Monetary Fund head Dominique Strauss-Kahn, kicked off his run to replace District Attorney Charles Hynes with a rally on Sunday at Cadman Plaza in front of the federal courthouse. Ken Thompson

Scents fit for the County of Kings

Ranking Brooklyn's interesting odors to find borough's signature perfumes

BY JAIME LUTZ

It makes scents: the Barclays Center has its own signature smell — presumably custom designed by some of the most discerning noses in retail. But Brooklyn doesn't really need egg-headed poindexters to make our air smell different, because we've got some of the most interesting, homegrown, locally sourced, artisanal smells in the world.

Here's the top nine:

1. **"Combattere," "Brooklyn Spice," "Like a Latte," "Italian Steam," in honor D'Amico Foods**

The thick, nutty aroma of roasting coffee at this Carroll Gardens legend is so pungent the smell alone could stain your teeth, which has roused local residents to call 311 with complaints. Those people deserve a quadruple-shot black eye. The fragrant smell of good Italian anything — coffee, pastries, pizza — drifting from a neighborhood store is quintessentially Brooklyn. Have you noticed that all Starbucks stores smell like leather? That's not even real leather! If you don't like the smell of real coffee, move to Manhattan and surround yourself with chain stores like Subway, which, speaking of authentic scents, can sometimes smell like the actual subway.

2. **"Acqua Di ... whoah" in honor of the Gowanus, Coney Island Creek, Newtown Creek**

The borough is famous for its putrid waterways, but these three toxic-green streams truly stand out due to the likelihood that a few



NOSE CANDY: (From right) The Botanic Garden in the spring and summer offers a heady, almost ALIVE smell. The Gowanus Canal gives off one of the most infamous smells in Brooklyn. It's not pleasant.



innocent whiffs may cause physical damage. The trio of tributaries shares the standard moldy odor of urban rivers, but with an added twist that includes old wood, stray cats, and the sad, salty tears of a misguided dolphin.

3. **"Bodega Musk" in honor of that place with the incense near the intersection of Franklin and Atlantic avenues**

Where does that smell come from, and why? We can't find the name of the store online, but one of our reporters bikes through this area of Bedford-Stuyvesant frequently, and finds it the most noticeably incense-filled place in Brooklyn. Is it a yoga studio? A head shop? A secret passageway to India?

4. **"Disphoria" by Calvin Brine in honor of the Morgan stop on the L**

Top notes of feet; mid-notes of pot; basenotes of rat droppings. This place is a cesspool for the senses. Unless you're a dog. If

you're a dog who likes to smell of butt, it's a fragrant feast! But to us humans, even when it hasn't rained for days, this place smells wet ... or like a sweet onion chicken teriyaki on honey oat (sorry Subway).

5. **"Flowers and Sweat" in honor of The Brooklyn Botanic Garden and surrounding neighborhoods, in the summer**

Walking in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in the summer feels oddly tropical. Because it's surrounded by the city, the grounds are warmer than any natural woods, and the smell of pollen is vulgar. It's hard to separate the heat from the smell, because both feel dangerous. In nearby Prospect Lefferts Gardens, the air is humid enough that you're never quite sure if it's raining, and the petrichor mingles with the West Indian doubles and jerk chicken and sidewalk barbecue. Another theory about that mingle — all the stores seem to have fans here, so the cof-

fee shop pushes its air into the Italian vegan ice cream place and the hair salons and the gentrifying bar. Oh, and — while this isn't an article about Brooklyn's iconic SOUNDS — let us not forget that this neighborhood is steps away from the Prospect Park drummer's grove. This is the sexiest area in all of Brooklyn. If only there was a Prospect Park lead singer's grove.

6. **"Chat Pipi" in honor of Owl's Head Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The paper's Bay Ridge reporter says it smells, specifically, like "cat s---." Not human s---, we asked? "No, definitely cat s---," said Will Bredderman, who has apparently spent quite a bit of time familiarizing himself with subtle-yet-specific funk of a filthy litter box. Our house-expert on feline feces surmises that the stink might be a result of whatever treatment process the waste goes through.

7. **"Eau De Wiener" in honor of Coney Island**

The ocean, the hotdogs. Nowhere else does it better. But let's break it down a little bit, even if it's a cliché. The smell that draws you to Nathan's isn't the dogs at all — it's the French fries. French fries, like popcorn, are a cheap, but intoxicating smell, a smell that vacillates wildly between nauseating and alluring. The fries draw you in, but it's when you get close that you notice that meat smell. It's richer and rounder. You smell the vinegar from the ketchup, and the sting of the mustard, and the wild base of caramelized onion. So you buy a hot dog, and you get some flat coke, which smells exactly like tap water. Beer evaporates off the Boardwalk. You go to the beach. It doesn't smell like table salt — it smells like salt that is actually alive, salt that grew from a plant in the ground. And old Russians smoke. Enterprising young Russians sell knishes from towel to towel.

8. **"Bay Ridge Breeze"**

in honor of the Hookah Smoke at the Bay Ridge Avenue subway stop

There are three or four hookah bars near the Bay Ridge Avenue subway stop. So imagine tobacco. Then add any flavor you want: pistachio. Coconut. Apricot. Orange. The hookah smoke can be disorienting when you first smell it, because you wonder what kind of dessert is burning. Then you end up craving creme brulee.

9. **"Home" in honor of Greenpoint Bread Baking**

It's 3 am in north Greenpoint. You are walking off the Pulaski Bridge. The twinkling Manhattan skyline disappears behind a warehouse. It's the end of the day: drunk hipsters are stumbling home, sweating alcohol (which smells a lot like bacon and whiskey-infused pretentiousness). It's the beginning of the day: in Polish bakeries all across Greenpoint, bread is baking and it smells like home. Or Brooklyn.

Finally! Bike valet parking at Barclays Center

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

There's no longer a need to sit in an exhaust-spewing box to get to Barclays Center to see the National when now you can ride there in the open air and have your bike parked by a valet. Finally, the Barclays

Center will offer free valet bicycle parking to those riding to Prospect Heights to see Brooklyn hometown band the National on June 5, in a clear acknowledgment that indie rock and bikes go together like peanut butter and chocolate.

"We knew the National would draw a big Brooklyn audience and it's going to be nice out, so we thought we'd try something interesting," said Ashley Cotton, of Forest City Ratner Companies, which runs the arena. "We picked a show that seemed

like a pretty good fit."

Bike advocacy group Transportation Alternatives will run the valet at the Barclays Center bike parking lot, which holds up to 400 bikes.

The valet will essentially be run like a coat check.

Ticket holders pass off their bikes, locks, and helmets to attendants in exchange for numbered tickets, and then they will pick up their bikes when the show is over. Barclays Center will pick up the tab. Tipping, of course, is optional.

Transportation Alternatives runs bike valets at a variety of events around the city, including Celebrate Brooklyn concerts at Prospect Park, Movies With A View at Brooklyn Bridge Park, and most recently, Prospect Park's controversial Great Googa Mooga festival, yet another sign that Brooklynites are pedaling more than ever.



NEW PUSH: Ray Howell of the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation has teamed up with trolley-backing legend Bob Diamond to revive Diamond's long-envisioned plan to bring streetcars back to Brooklyn.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

ARE TROLLEYS COMING BACK?

Diamond, Quadrozzi, community group join forces

BY NATALIE MUSUMECI

A transit buff's quixotic two-decade-long quest to connect transit-strapped Red Hook to Downtown by trolley is *really* going to happen this time, the railway-loving legend claimed this week.

Bob Diamond, the frustrated streetcar advocate, who has failed to bring trolleys to the transit desert more times than we would like to remember, said his longtime dream of a Brooklyn bustling with trolleys will finally come true because this time he's partnered with concrete titan John Quadrozzi Jr. of Gowanus Bay Terminal, and the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp.

"I realized now that no man is an island unto himself and that there has to be a number of organizations to make this happen," said Diamond, president of the Brooklyn Historic Railway Association. "Instead of Bob Diamond trying to do it alone, now I'm building a grassroots consortium of other organizations whose

neighborhoods would benefit from the implementation of the streetcar project."

The Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp. will now take on the role of political and public outreach for Diamond, while Quadrozzi has helped redesign and enlarge his track route linking Downtown and the peninsula.

Diamond estimates that the implementation of the two-track streetcar project along with the excavation of the old rail tunnel under Atlantic Avenue he famously discovered in the 1980s would cost \$50 million, and he will be seeking that money through federal grants.

And Quadrozzi can't wait to get it done.

"It's absolutely necessary and desirable," said Quadrozzi, who has followed Diamond's efforts during the past decade.

The concrete titan said the plan makes a lot of sense considering Brooklyn's history with trolleys around the turn of the 20th century,

and with the limited access to Red Hook.

"This would be the best way to do it," he said.

Ray Howell, a member of the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corp., said it jumped on board after considering the economic benefit Brooklyn's only trolley would bring to the Hook.

"Mostly everybody believes that Red Hook needs transportation improvements in order to develop in a healthy way," said Howell.

Diamond has tried to create a trolley service numerous times since 1989, but each time he claims he was hampered by the city, and by accusations that he is difficult to work with. He successfully laid tracks in 1999 for a line in Red Hook then, only to see his dreams crumble after the city cut off funding for a larger network of rails. Then, in 2011, the Department of Transportation said that bringing back the old streetcars would be too expensive.



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Children's museum toasts to Brooklyn

BY KELLY HAIGHT
The Brooklyn Children's Museum awarded three of its major contributors, created an "indoor marketplace," and showcased Brooklyn businesses at May 29's gala, themed, "Ignite the Imagination."

Chancellor of the New York City Department of Education Dennis M. Walcott, award-winning author and illustrator Javaka Steptoe, and Fairway Market president William E. Sanford were celebrated at

gala — held at Three-Sixty in Manhattan — for their many contributions to the museum, children, and community at the gala.

"These three men have worked alongside institutions like ours to be able to really have a deep-rooted connection to what they do and the community, and it mirrors the principles that the museum stands for," said Rhea Smith, spokeswoman for the museum.

She said the gala helped the museum reach its fund-

raising goals, and with the funds and the continued work of the honorees, and others like them, they can further help "enable children to imagine a better life for their family, a better education and a better world."

Fox 5 New York anchor Dari Alexander hosted the gala as master of ceremonies, and the event showcased an "indoor marketplace" that featured several local businesses, including Pine Ridge Vineyards, Fairway Market, Bareburger,

Dinosaur BBQ and Golden Krust Bakery, among many others.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum encourages the importance of children using their imaginations for positive growth and change for a better tomorrow, which Walcott, Steptoe, and Sanford have all strived for in their work, said Smith.

The museum celebrated 114 years of education leadership, environmental stewardship, and community building.

FROM BROOKLYN: (Above) William Sanford, president of Fairway Market, received an award for his contributions to the Brooklyn Children's Museum at the museum's awards gala on May 29. (Center) Architects from Toshiko Mori, which is designing an addition for the museum, raise their glasses. (Right) Victor Hernandez holds one of his organic grassfed beef sliders. Bareburger was one of several Brooklyn restaurants that provided food for the event.

Photos by Elizabeth Graham



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Working out G train kinks

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

It's the G-fit!

Riders of the historically erratic G-train say they are using its predictable unpredictability to get themselves in shape — or at least they're joking about it in a new internet video.

Members of the Riders Alliance, which advocates for straphangers, have produced a tongue-in-cheek, minute-long movie that highlights the body-toning benefits of riding the beloved-but-slow Brooklyn Local in an effort to let the MTA know that they're tired of the train's hurry-up-and-wait service.

"We want people to see it and have a good laugh, but also understand that we are trying to bring about change," said Tolani Adeboye, who stars in the video.

The scene is set when a man, who says he's moved from Greenpoint, asks his friends how they keep their toned physiques. It then flashes to Adeboye getting a workout by running down a subway platform to catch a train, stretching to hold the ceiling when the train is too crowded to hold a pole, and walking miles out of her way when she arrives at the Greenpoint stop, only to find the G train is not running.

In real life, the 36-year-old Adeboye lives by the Myrtle-Willoughby stop in Bedford-Stuyvesant. She



TRAIN DASH: Dustin Joyce is sick of dashing to reach the four-car G train before the doors close, but at least she's getting a good workout. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

said the goofy video was dreamed up during a Riders Alliance strategy meeting, when members discussed their experiences sprinting for the train.

The Alliance says it has been urging the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to make changes to the crosstown line — the only subway line that never forces Brooklynites to suffer the indignity of traveling through Manhattan. Earlier this year, the group made a list of demands for an improved G train, including more frequent service and better communication about service changes. The group also wants free, above-ground transfers between the G train's Broadway stop and the J and M trains at Hewes Street, which shuttle commuters to Manhattan, and between the G's Fulton Street stop and the many trains at the Atlantic, Barclays Center, and Pacific stations.

Together with state Senators Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Martin Dilan (D-Bedford-Stuyvesant), the group convinced the state agency to study ridership on the G line and determine how it can improve service. The MTA said it expects to release the results in June.

In the meantime, the Riders Alliance wants to increase its membership. Hence, the video.

"They are going to have their press release and their report, and we want to make sure that the whole story will be told," said Matt Green, who also stars in the movie.

The video was first uploaded last week, the same time the group released the results of a four-question poll of G riders that the group claims determined that 60 percent of riders have experienced the "G-train sprint" to catch the four-car train.

— also a Maple Lanes employee — taught him to bowl.

"It was just going through my head 'my childhood is closing, what am I going to do?' It was really upsetting," said Martell.

Martell got to throw the final frame at Maple Lanes, in honor of the many years he spent there, and used his late father's ball for the final throw. Nine pins went down, and the seven was left standing.

Building owner John LaSpina — whose father's Peter opened Maple Lanes in 1960 — decided to sell the land to a developer last year, claiming it was worth more money than the value

of the business. Current plans have a 112-unit upscale apartment complex taking its place.

Brooklyn still has a fair amount of bowling alleys, but none come close to the 48-lane glory of Maple Lanes. For instance, Shell Lanes on Bouck Court in Gravesend has 16 fewer lanes, while the 34-lane Gil Hodges Lanes on Strickland Avenue in Mill Basin turned about half its lanes in 2003 to a gym. Melody Lanes in Sunset Park has just 20 lanes. And three years ago, the borough's bowling scene suffered a big blow when Mark Lanes on 88th Street in Bay Ridge was demolished and replaced with a parking lot.

Lanes

Continued from cover

relationships formed there would die with it.

"Bowling's been slowly going away as it is, and it was one of the biggest places around," Colon said. "Everybody treated everybody like family. And a lot of people, they only saw each other here, so they might not see each other ever again."

But one of the most affected was 15-year-old Michael Martell, who grew up at the bowling epicurium at 60th Street near 16th Avenue, where his mother worked his entire life, and were his deceased father



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Fans' donations rescue beloved Mermaid Parade

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Fans have thrown a lifeline to this floundering mermaid.

More than 2,300 backers helped raise \$100,000 on Kickstarter to make sure the Mermaid Parade will march down Surf Avenue in Coney Island on June 22 — seven months after Hurricane Sandy nearly washed the 31-year-old partially clothed cavalcade away.

“It’s my dream come true,” said Dick Zigun, founder of the fishy fanfare.

The superstorm’s surge smashed Zigun’s headquarters at the corner of W. 12th Street and Surf Avenue, destroying his famed freak theater and forcing him to sink hundreds of thousands of dollars into repairs. Little was left over to pay for permits, insurance, and security for the swimsuit-clad spectacle — so Zigun turned to the internet for assistance.

“That’s the way the people of Brooklyn, the whackos of New York City, people who care about alternative culture across America, that is how they contribute to things,” Zigun



File photo by Tom Callan

LITTLE MERMAIDS: Generous donations to save the Mermaid Parade kept beautiful creatures like these from going extinct.

said on May 3.

The campaign raised \$40,000 in its first three days, and reached its goal on May 30 — four days in advance of the June 3 deadline.

But the donors earned much more than the joy of seeing the pageant of par-

tial nudity proceed. Creative friends of the parade offered sweet mermaid swag to big-money contributors. Some 190 people who gave more than \$100 will soon receive limited-edition prints from famed album cover designer Frank Kozik. Twelve

others who gave upwards of \$175 will get to step into the Great Fredini’s Coney Island Scan-a-Rama — a three-dimensional scanner-printer that measures a person’s dimensions and creates a statuette in their image. And one generous

mermaid-phile who gave more than \$350 will get to spend a day with award-winning photographer Harvey Stein, publisher of the pictorial anthology “Coney Island: 40 Years.” Others will get prizes ranging from a tote bag and pasties

to getting to ride in the parade, and everyone who gave more than \$13 will have their name appear on a “Thanks” banner in the procession. And the two still-unnamed biggest donors will get to ride on Borough President Markowitz’s float.

Zigun thanked Markowitz and comic Judah Friedlander of “30 Rock” fame for creating video segments promoting the Kickstarter campaign.

“They took the time out in their busy schedules to film pieces for us,” Zigun said.

Zigun has bestowed the title of this year’s “King Neptune” upon Friedlander for his efforts. The funny man will ride on the “royal float” with this year’s “Queen Mermaid,” Carole Radziwill of the Real Housewives of New York — another partner in the parade.

Zigun said he and his staff were already making preparations for the aquatic event

“We’re going to stop complaining now and put on a parade,” said Zigun.

More police cameras set for Southern Brooklyn

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Smile, Southern Brooklyn — pretty soon you’ll be on NYPD camera!

Police announced plans to install 12 of its lamppost-mounted surveillance cameras in Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, and Coney Island during the next three years — to the applause of some and the confusion of others.

Two of the devices are scheduled to appear on Fifth Avenue at the corners of 72nd and 79th streets — where residents and neigh-

borhood leaders have long complained of drug-dealing and violence, and called for tighter security measures.

“We would know who has the drugs if we had the cameras,” said Community Board 10 member June Johnson at an April meeting. “Everybody knows about it, but what’s being done?”

A third in Bay Ridge will go up at the corner of 82nd and Fifth Avenue.

Business leaders in Bensonhurst, where the video

recorders will appear at Bay Parkway and under the El on 86th Street at 20th, 23rd, and 25th avenues, cheered the eyes in the sky, even though they said their business district didn’t have a crime problem.

“This is a good, safe area, but the cameras are good,” said Byzat Cansver, manager at Sweet Harvest Specialty Foods on 86th Street near the corner of 23rd Avenue. “If people see the cameras, maybe they get scared a little and decide

not to commit crimes.”

Another camera is scheduled to go under the F Train at McDonald Avenue and Kings Highway, where longtime stakeholders approved of the move, while also claiming the area is already safe.

“Once in a while, there’s burglars, but McDonald Avenue is mostly nice,” said David Douck, manager at Devine Kosher Bakery, which sits near the corner.

The announcement raised eyebrows in Coney

Island, which will see eyes-in-the-sky at Mermaid Avenue and W. 24th Street, and Neptune Avenue and W. Eighth Street. Pastor Harvey Von Harten of Saint Paul’s Lutheran Church, which sits on the latter corner, said that, aside from occasional car break-ins in the church’s parking lot, there are no serious problems on the block.

“I don’t know why they picked this area, but if you’re not doing anything wrong, you’ve got nothing



to worry about,” Von Harten said.

Councilman Domenic Recchia (D-Coney Island) took credit for the camera installations, and claimed the locations were chosen based on a police department analysis of crime rates and terrorism risks.



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Beach

connected beachfronts.

"The beaches are all one holistic piece, and when you reinforce in Seagate, you are reinforcing the whole Coney Island peninsula," said Ilan Kayatsky, a spokesman for Congressman Jerrold Nadler.

The money will let the Army Corps of Engineers construct four rock jetties at the tip of the peninsula — similar to the ones that jut out every few hundred feet from the Coney Island and Brighton Beach waterfronts — to capture sand in the sea currents and add

acres to the receding Seagate coast.

The Army Corps of Engineers confirmed that the project would strengthen the integrity of the entire landmass — but claimed it was not required to restore Seagate's sand.

"The work is primarily benefitting the original Coney Island project," said Army Corps spokesman Christopher Gardner.

Kayatsky said construction of the retaining jetties would begin later this year, and be complete inside of two years.

Continued from cover
erosion in Coney and Brighton Beach — a project Seagate opted out of because it would have forced the community to open its shore to the city's masses.

"That project took away our beach and it was not supposed to," said Maldonado.

And elected officials who helped allocate the cash for the project say the work on Seagate is necessary to keep up the integrity of the

Urine

cer games live.

Last year, when the owners first bought the goal-post splash guards, customers showered them with praises, among other things.

"They became the focal

point of the bathroom," said Carolan.

Carolan even believed patrons were so captivated by the guards, the bathrooms remained cleaner than they normally would be.

Continued from cover
meyer Street, is a European-style pub that opens early in the morning so customers can catch international soc-

Emmons

Ocean Avenue, leading up to Holocaust Memorial Park.

Locals are big fans of the beautification project, saying it's a far cry from the dreary, dystopian

strip of 1972.

"It's shaping up nicely," said Paula Mescall, a 20-year resident of Sheepshead Bay. "It's much better than in the '70s or '80s."

Continued from cover
those used in the 1964 World's Fair will be installed west of

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