

Flood zones swallow up more homes

BY COLIN MIXSON

Gerritsen Beach and 600,000 more residents now occupy the city's most dangerous flood areas, according to the new hurricane evacuation zones released by the city last Tuesday.

The new zones are now distinguished numerically, on a scale of one to six, to help residents gauge whether they should run for the hills.

Zone 1 is the most vulnerable to storm surges.

The Office of Emergency Management said that the zones don't correspond to any particular category of storm, and the city's decision to evacuate a certain number of zones will be based on a variety of storm factors.

"There's not a hard and fast breakdown. You can't correlate the zone to a storm's category," said a spokeswoman for the Office of Emergency Management. "Some of the variables they would take into account are the size, the track, and how far the winds radiate from the center of the storms."

One thing people living in Zone 1 neighborhoods can count on is that if anybody gets asked to

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IT'S TERMINAL: Gerritsen Beach resident George Broadhead says that this birch tree on Gerritsen Avenue has peeling bark that indicates it is suffering from terminal salt poisoning due to Hurricane Sandy. He fears that if it doesn't come down soon, someone will get hurt. Photo by Steve Solomonson

SALT KILLING TREES

Sandy's arboreal apocalypse

BY COLIN MIXSON

The treepocalypse has arrived.

Neighborhoods along Kings County's storm-battered coast are mourning the deaths of hundreds of trees, and experts blame the blight on the saltwater dumped on Brooklyn shores by Hurricane Sandy.

"I'm right now in the process of taking down a 50-foot white pine," said Carl Cahill, owner of Evergreen Tree Experts, during a job in Sea Gate. "The root systems are full of salt, and now that it's hot they're

all just drying out in the sun."

As summer heats up, property owners across Southern Brooklyn, from Sea Gate to Gerritsen Beach, are coming to realize that their cypress, pine, fir, and London plane trees are not going to get better, despite hopes that the browning trees would finally bud.

"My neighbor had two pines on his property and he was waiting for them to come back," said Manhattan Beach Neighborhood Associa-

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Home sweet hospital

BY NATALIE MUSUMECI

New York Methodist Hospital plans to demolish at least 15 buildings near the Sixth Street medical center to make way for new ambulatory centers, sources familiar with the project said.

The hospital plans to tear down a slew of old buildings — some from the 19th

century — that it owns on Fifth Street, Eighth Avenue, and Sixth Street and replace them with out-patient facilities that could be as much as seven stories high, said Tom Miskel, the chair of Community Board 6's transportation committee and a longtime Park Slope resident who said

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KEEPING HIS SEAT: Hot dog eating champ Joey Chestnut looks to break his record.

Hot dog champ seeks 7th win

BY SCOTT HANSEN

Can anyone beat Joey "Jaws" Chestnut?

The six-time champion of Nathan's Famous Hot-Dog-Eating Contest will look to defend his title and set a record of seven straight championships at Coney Island on the Fourth of July. He will also attempt to break his

record of 68 frankfurters, which he set in 2009, and tied last year.

Out of the many men and women competing to become the new hot dog eating champion, only one — Matt "Mega Toad" Stonie — seems to have the resume to challenge Chestnut. Stonie will compete this week in the

Boston Nathan's qualifier for a chance to face Chestnut for the first time since 2011, when he was blasted 62-34.

On the women's side, Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas is looking for her third-straight title and to break her record of 45 dogs.

Festivities will begin *Continued on page 7*

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HANDS ON HEAD: Williamsburg eatery Fatty 'Cue serves up half a pig's head – and encourages you to get some pork grease on your fingers.
Photo by Stefano Giovanni

PIG-HEADED

Williamsburg's Fatty 'Cue serves up Porky's face

BY WILL LEVITT

Only the strong-willed survive this style of eating.

A pig head served on a platter, snout and all, might seem more fit for a medieval feast than a night out with friends in Williamsburg. But this audacious dish at the recently reopened Fatty 'Cue on S. Sixth Street allows feasting diners to indulge their carnivorous side in a mess of smoke, meat, and sweet, sticky sauce.

Pork makes appearances throughout Fatty 'Cue's menu, as 'Cue bacon (\$14), maple glazed pork shoulder (\$18), and even pig ear with sea urchin (\$9).

But it's the half pig head (\$32, easily serves 4), dry rubbed, brine and smoke roasted, that showcases this restaurant's porcine ingenuity and takes the idea of "nose-to-tail" eating to a whole new level.

The first thing your server will bring to your table is a bowl filled not with sauce or sides but rather a pile of rubber kitchen



FRONT END: Believe it or not, one pig's head can easily serve four hungry Brooklynites.
Photo by Stefano Giovanni

steaming hot, accompanied by sliced pickles, a scallion salad, a stellar, smoky sauce of fish sauce and palm sugar, and a pile of pale white bao, the steamed buns commonly found in China. Which part or parts of the head you choose to eat are up to you. Everything from jowls (a favorite), to eyes, brain, and ears are up for grabs and perfectly good fodder for a true pork adventurer. The meat is smoky, fatty in many parts and laced with the sticky sauce, and best eaten in bits accompanied by small cracklings of the pork skin.

Along with the sauce and pickles, the various cuts of meat make for some of the best bao in Brooklyn. And with this dish, you can take credit for having a hand in it. Because this time, quite literally, you did.

Fatty 'Cue [91 S. Sixth St. between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-3090, www.fattycue.com].

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Here's the bling

New, brighter lights for Coney Island's Parachute Jump

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Now there's a reason to wear sunglasses after dark — in Coney Island, at least!

The neighborhood's iconic Parachute Jump came back to life in full glittering glory on June 21, as corporate leaders from Central Amusements International — the company behind Luna Park — and Brooklyn pols turned on the tower's new \$2-million lighting system.

Hundreds gathered to watch the 8,000 state-of-the-art diodes come to life, and send pulsing patterns up and down the steel frame structure popularly called “the Eiffel Tower of Brooklyn.”

Amos Wengler, the poet laureate of the People's Playground, performed his latest tune, “Coney's Coming Back,” with kids from PS 90 as the sun sank.

Finally, Antonio Zamperla, the founder of Central Amusements International, and Borough President Markowitz pulled the switch. The tower shone brilliant red and



MOMENT OF TRUTH: Parks Department commissioner Veronica White, Zamperla founder Antonio Zamperla, Councilman Domenic Recchia, Zamperla president Valerio Ferrari, and Borough President Markowitz throw the switch on the new Parachute Jump lights.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

blue. Markowitz — who has championed the plan to add “bling” to the 74-year-old former ride since 2008 — applauded the realization of his shimmering vision.

“The new-and-improved Parachute Jump will be as in-your-face and definitively Brooklyn as it gets,”

the beep said. “The Parachute Jump's new LED-lit swagger is the perfect meeting of an old-school Brooklyn icon with our trademark attitude.”

But not everyone was cheering. The People's Coalition of Coney Island — a group claiming that post-

Sandy recovery funds have unfairly focused on amusements rather than residents — protested what it perceived as another misallocation of precious funds.

“Where are our priorities?” one demonstrator's sign demanded, noting the levels of poverty and hurricane devastation in the surrounding neighborhood.

The Parachute Jump debuted at the 1939 World's Fair, and relocated to Coney's legendary Steeplechase Park two years later. In its heyday, jumpers would drift to the ground strapped to parachutes held open with metal rings and guided by wires. The tower saw its last leaper in 1965, and became a city landmark in 1988.

In 2006, the city hired designer Leri Schwendinger to install a \$1.4 million lighting system that kept the former ride illuminated on summer nights. The city determined it wasn't bright enough, and shut it off in 2008 for this year's rewiring.



RAZZLE DAZZLE: The new Parachute Jump lights can shimmer, pulse, and even appear to dance. The Coney icon dazzled when it was lit on June 21.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

30th Mermaid Parade floats down Surf Avenue

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Mermaids can't drown!

More than 800,000 visitors flooded Coney Island on June 22 to see the Mermaid Parade triumphantly resurface following its near-death experience in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Hundreds of marine-themed floats, half-naked revelers, and cavorting dance crews rolled down Surf Avenue and along the Boardwalk for the 30th year — all thanks to more than 2,300 donors who raised the \$100,000 necessary to resuscitate the event after last year's super storm.

The costumed cavalcade was left treading water after the October storm surge swamped founder Dick Zigun's headquarters at the corner of Surf Avenue and W. 12th Street, 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. Zigun knew it was sink or



FISHY FUN: (Left) Kat Sehmanes, Eleanor Hoffman, and Asia Cooper came from Bushwick. (Above) Parade founder Dick Zigun bangs a drum. (Right) The Anderejacks show its a family affair.

Photos by Paul Martinka

swim for his beloved fishy fanfare, and turned to the crowdsourcing website Kickstarter for a lifeline.

“That's the way the people of Brooklyn, the wackos of New



York City, people who care about alternative culture across America, that is how they contribute to things,” Zigun said.

The campaign raised \$40,000

in just six days, and reached its goal four days in advance of the June 3 deadline — meaning the wave of debauchery could wash over Surf Avenue once again. Zigun appointed “30 Rock” favorite Judah Friedlander and “Real Housewives of New York” star Carole Radziwill as 2013's “King Neptune” and “Queen Mermaid” in appreciation for their assistance in keeping the partially clothed procession afloat.

The self-proclaimed “Mayor of Coney Island” was in buoyant spirits after the event, reporting that his the scantily clad pageant went swimmingly — and calling it the largest and least problematic in memory.

“This was the best parade we've ever put on in three decades — no accidents, no arrests, just everybody smiling,” Zigun said.

Wildlife lovers clean up Prospect Park lake

BY NATALIE MUSUMECI

A group of nature-lovers got down and dirty in Prospect Park last Saturday to help keep the wildlife of Brooklyn's backyard out of harm's way.

Hazardous fishing line, barbed hooks, dumped barbecue charcoals, rusty soda cans, and even a dead rooster stowed inside a paper bag were some of the many harmful items that a bunch of do-gooders found in and around the green space's popular lake during a cleanup of the lake-side organized by Wildlife Interests, Learning and Development for Prospect Park.

Members of the group, along with some members of the Brooklyn Young Democrats and other volunteers, rolled up their sleeves, broke out the litter picker-uppers, and filled up more than 10 trash bags of improperly discarded waste at the afternoon cleanup. "We focus on the debris that's harmful to the wildlife, such as fishing line, fish hooks, and plastic bags, which we always find in the lake," said Mary Beth Artz, a founding member of the group.

The wildlife conservation group, formed in 2010 by a handful of like-minded community members who came together after federal agents slaughtered more than 250 geese in Prospect Park, has worked since its inception to clean up around the banks of the 60-acre lake during the warmer months.

"We find everything," said Artz, who added that at the June cleanup participants even pulled out algae-covered men's underwear from the lake.

One of the most dangerous items that Artz said the group finds all too often are barbed fishing hooks, which are illegal to use while fishing at the lake.

Fishing in the lake is legal with a license, and the park has bins for anglers to



LOST DRAWERS: (Above) Wildlife advocates Deb Siner, left, and Theresa Galvin pulled algae-covered men's underwear out of Prospect Park's lake. (Right) Ber Cummins, along with other members of the community group Wildlife Interests, Learning and Development for Prospect Park, helped clean up the banks of Prospect Park's beloved lake on June 22.

Photos by Stefano Giovannini

discard hooks and line, but Artz said that sometimes fishermen are careless with their tackle, and non-fish end up suffering.

"Barbed hooks are designed to impale flesh and keep the fish on the hooks," said the lifelong Windsor Terrace resident. "If it will keep the fish on the hook, it will also hurt humans or a dog."

Most recently a trio of swans living in Prospect Park's lake were saved by humans after getting stuck with barbed fishing hooks that were haphazardly tossed into the water.

"We have been very concerned by the numerous incidents over the past few years where birds and other animals at the lake-side needed rescue and rehabilitation because they were impaled by fish-



ing hooks or other litter," said group member David Karopkin, who also belongs to the Brooklyn Young Democrats.

Karopkin coordinated some members of the political group to come help out with the cleanup.

"I think both groups share a passion for taking an active role in making our communities better places, and in this case, our parks," he said.

Artz said that when the group goes out to scour the banks of the lakeside for hazardous materials, the cleanup doubles as an opportunity to educate park-goers and raise awareness about the plight of wildlife in the green space.

"Our whole focus is get-

ting people to understand — don't leave the hooks, don't leave the fishing line, because the birds will get strangled, ingest it, and die," she said. "If it doesn't get picked up, it's a danger to wildlife."

The Prospect Park Alliance, which manages the park, said it does not have the authority to enforce fishing regulations. But Wildlife Interests, Learning and Development for Prospect Park is doing everything it can to make people aware.

"Unless they know, they won't know, so we're trying to help everybody," Artz said.

The group's next lake-side cleanup will likely be in mid-July.



DO YOU FEEL LUCKY: Actors Liz Barkan and Len Rella star in a play inspired by video games at the Williamsburg Brick Theater this July.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Video game play goes apocalyptic

BY COLIN MIXSON

It's funny because you can always press reset.

A novel play inspired by the post-apocalyptic "Fallout" and dystopian "Bioshock" video games — which is coming to the Brick Theater in July, as a part of the Game Play Festival — sticks to its dark source material and has a morbid sense of humor.

"They're going to die, as far as you can tell, but we try to find a dark humor in this setting," said playwright and video game critic Charles Battersby, of the characters in the play. "Amusing things can still happen in the apocalypse."

Battersby's play "That Cute Radioactive Couple: A Post-Apocalyptic Comedy," focuses on Ray, an apocalypse prepper whose fallout shelter is ready for anything — that is anything, but love.

Not counting on getting married, Ray built his fallout shelter for one.

The writer and director first lifted the curtain on his video game-themed production in Boston at the Penny Arcade Expo, and previous incarnations were performed at last year's Game Play Theater Festival.

This year's rendition, however, has been expanded from a 15-minute skit to an hour-long performance, although the extra content doesn't come cheap.

In order to pay his actors — and not starve — Battersby has resorted to the internet revenue generator, Kickstarter.com.

"No one's in danger of not getting paid," Battersby explained. "The Kickstarter is to make sure I don't have to choose between paying my actors and buying that loaf of bread I've been eyeing."

But if he doesn't make his goal, don't worry. Battersby reckons he's logged about 400 hours playing "Fallout New Vegas," where he's learned to scour the wasteland for nourishing edibles.

"Hundreds of hours playing Fallout have taught me to scavenge for food," he said.

"*That Cute Radioactive Couple: A Post-Apocalyptic Comedy*" is playing at Brick Theater [579 Metropolitan Ave. between Lorimer Street and Union Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 285-3863, bricktheater.com] July 10, 9 pm, July 13 7 pm, and July 27, 5:30 pm.

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Mayor: Build high

BY COLIN MIXSON

The city is planning for a higher skyline.

The Department of City Planning has put forward a proposal that would allow property owners who now find themselves living in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's high-risk flood zones to raise their homes above the maximum height allowed in their zoning district without needing special permission.

But while both the city and FEMA are advising all home owners in the new flood zones to raise their homes, only new buildings are absolutely required to meet the new height standards, leaving Southern Brooklynites worried that any new structures will leave their neighbors in the shade.

"Architecturally, it's going to look like a hodge-podge, and some people are going to lose sun and light, which is very important to most people," said Ira Zalcman, president of the Manhattan Beach Community Group.

Following Hurricane Sandy, FEMA released updated flood maps that increase the standards for flood resiliency among many buildings located along Brooklyn's southern coast.

For many properties in Manhattan Beach, Gerritsen Beach, Sheepshead Bay, Mill Island, and Bergen Beach, these maps will require owners to raise their homes — in some instances by more than a dozen feet — or else face exorbitant flood insurance premiums come 2015, when the new maps are expected to take effect.

Furthermore, the city has already put an emergency rule into effect requiring any new structures built within FEMA's high-



HIGH STANDARDS : A proposed rule change would allow homeowners to raise their homes high enough to qualify for cheaper flood insurance — like Gloria Guy of New Orleans did after Katrina — without violating the city's strict zoning restrictions.

Associated Press

risk flood zones to meet these standards, according to the mayor's deputy press secretary Lauren Passalacqua.

"For new construction, the city is required to adopt the regulations in those maps," said Passalacqua.

So the Department of City Planning has proposed a Flood Resiliency Text Amendment, which allows properties located in FEMA's flood zones to be measured from the Flood Resistant Construction Elevation — their term for the height the lowest floor must be from the ground to be considered flood resistant — instead of from the ground itself for zoning purposes.

This means that if FEMA says you have to raise your bottom floor eight feet above the ground to be flood resistant, then you can raise the overall height of your building by eight feet without fear of a zoning violation.

The text amendment, if approved by the City Council this fall, would allow people to meet FEMA's height standards without sacrificing living space, while also relieving community boards from having to hold a hearing each time a hom-

owner wanted to build up to meet the flood standards. Normally, the city Board of Standards and Appeals requires a community review before exceeding zoned height limits.

"Without this, we would have to sit through BSA hearings from now 'til forever," said Community Board 18 district manager Dorothy Turano.

Also, going through the Board of Standards and Appeals review process is an expensive endeavor, often requiring the property owner to secure a lawyer and an architect to submit paperwork and appear at various hearings to plead their case, according to Turano.

"BSA applications are very costly," she said. "You have to get an architect, you have to get a lawyer, you have to go to hearings. It's very lengthy and expensive."

Folks living in Southern Brooklyn are sceptical that home owners affected by FEMA's new standards, many of whom suffered extreme property damage during the storm, will bother with the heavy expenses involved in raising their homes.

tact George Shea, and followed by a "death-defying" magic act.

The women's contest will begin at 11:30 am and the men's at 12:30 pm. Contestants will eat as many hot dogs as they can in a 10-minute time span. The con-

test will be broadcast live on ESPN2. Admission is free and open to all.

Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest at Nathan's Famous Restaurant (1310 Surf Ave., corner of Stillwell Avenue in Coney Island) on July 4 at 11:30 am.



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Chestnut

Continued from cover

at 9:30 am with a musical premiere that is promised to be "emotional and heart wrenching," according to Nathan's Famous press con-

SANDY MARKS 13TH BIRTHDAY

Cyclones mascot celebrates bar mitzvah

BY SCOTT HANSEN

Man, they grow up so fast!

The Brooklyn Cyclones' beloved mascot, Sandy the Seagull, turned 13 this year and, in keeping with his Jewish faith (he is named for Sandy Koufax, who famously refused to play on Yom Kippur, after all), began his journey into adulthood with a ceremonial bar mitzvah last Sunday at MCU Park.

The bar mitzvah of the century took place just before the game against the Hudson Valley Renegades on Sunday. The game, however, was delayed an hour because the Hudson Valley bus broke down en route to the game, giving Sandy and other Cyclones fans more time to celebrate the achievement.

Activities began as the gates opened at 3:30 pm, when fans helped lift Sandy into the chair as part of the horah, a traditional Jewish dance, was performed, followed by a baby-naming ceremony of one of the Cyclones' season ticket holders.

Sandy's bar mitzvah ceremony was then performed by Rabbi Steve Meltz, before the crowd was swooned with a performance by a local Jewish band.

The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by Meltz and 17 other rabbis, because the number 18 signifies life in the Jewish faith. The players then took the field wearing special uniforms that spelled out "Cyclones" in Hebrew.

The jerseys were auctioned off for charity after the game, which the Cyclones won 4-3.

It was an exciting end to an exciting ceremony, Sandy proud papa could not have been happier with his prodigy.

"It's been a great 13 years with Sandy," said Cyclones general manager Steve Cohen, who's been with the mascot since its birth in 2001. "It's great to have this night to celebrate Sandy."

We are not sure if Pee Wee, the Cyclones younger mascot by two years, will celebrate a bar mitzvah, but that bird, named for Pee Wee Reese, did not celebrate his holy communion or any other religious coming-of-age party — at least in public.



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Sandy's Rabbi Steve Meltz throws out the first pitch after bar mitzvah ceremonies. Before the game, fans and Sandy dance the horah. Finally, Dario Alvarez wears a Hebrew Cyclones jersey, and helps pitch the team to victory.

Photos by Steve Solomonson



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Rallying for LICH

Protestors call on governor to take action

BY MELISSA GOLDIN

More than 100 angry, screaming residents demanded that Gov. Cuomo reverse the closure of Long Island College Hospital's emergency room to ambulances during a June 22 rally outside the hospital on Henry Street between Amity and Pacific streets.

The rally was a response to state officials on Thursday violating a temporary restraining order with their illegal closure of the medical center's emergency room to ambulances. The restraining order prohibiting the closure of the Cobble Hill hospital had come from Supreme Court Justice Johnny Lee Baynes. He had ordered that the hospital stay open and continue to serve the community. In fact, when alerted of the plan a day before it was enacted, Justice Baynes said the state was in contempt of the order. The ralliers came out to persuade Gov. Cuomo step in and take action.

"We're out here to send Gov. Cuomo a message that he's got to save LICH, not close LICH," said Pete Sikora, a member of Parents for LICH, the group which organized the rally.

City Council Speaker



CALLING OUT CUOMO: Deborah Bingham of Brooklyn Heights was among 100 parents, children, doctors, nurses, elected officials, and other community members who came out protest closing the medical center.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) addressed the crowd, and spoke in favor of keeping the hospital open. Other speakers included Public Advocate Bill De Blasio (D), Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez (D-Sunset Park), state Sen. Daniel Squadron (D-Brooklyn Heights), Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope), Councilman Steve Levin

(D-Williamsburg), and various community members.

The speakers stressed that the medical center is extremely important because it's the only hospital in the area, and that Cuomo has a responsibility to take action.

"We want Gov. Cuomo to demonstrate the same kind of leadership that our local officials have, and to step up," said Liz Holden, a member of Parents for LICH. "He's ultimately the boss. He is the one that has the authority to stop all this."

The group then marched from the playground, along Atlantic Avenue and Court Street, to Brooklyn Borough Hall to listen to more speakers. Ralliers chanted loudly and passersby showed their solidarity with encouraging cheers — some even joined the march.

Gov. Cuomo's office did not reply for a request for a comment by press time.

Trees

Continued from cover

tion member Al Smaldone, "But, he eventually realized he had to take them down." Smaldone says many city and privately owned trees on his Ocean Avenue block have withered since the storm.

Cahill says, despite the October salt bath, some of the ailing plants may retain enough water to bud. However, tree owners can tell if a tree's condition is terminal when it begins shedding its bark, which normally carries nutrients throughout the plant.

"Once the bark comes off then you know they're dying," he said. "That's the only way the tree gets its nutrients."

In Gerritsen Beach, the

medium-sized fir trees across the neighborhood are visibly suffering from the salt exposure. Many people have already taken down their trees, or are considering it as they repair the damage to their homes, said George Broadhead, the president of the Gerritsen Beach Property Owner's Association.

"The firs are dying," he said. "It's something that a lot of people are dealing with."

Broadhead said even if the firs fall down, they don't pose much danger to people or their property. However, he said one tree off of Gerritsen Avenue in Marine Park, across the street from Olga's Garden, is in such bad shape that it could cause real trouble if the city doesn't take it down soon.

"There's a huge birch

tree, and its dead," said Broadhead.

In Manhattan Beach, some people have already spent big bucks getting rid of some big, dead trees. Yet, Smaldone is worried that people already socked with the cost of rebuilding might not have enough money to get rid of the hazardous foliage.

"There must be something done to help people get rid of these trees," he said. "My neighbor spent about \$1,500 to get rid of one tree."

In order to avoid damage, and to help the city in the massive task of removing all the ailing trees, the Manhattan Beach Neighborhood Association has plans to make a list of the ones that aren't looking too good — although when that chore will be completed, no one can say.

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Methodist

Continued from cover

he's sad to see the buildings, which are not landmarked or a part of Park Slope's enormous historic district, get knocked down.

"It's a shame that all of these brownstones have to come down," said Miskel. "But they have the right to do it."

The plans were previewed at a special June 19 meeting at the medical center between Seventh and Eighth avenues to a handful of community members, including Miskel. At the meeting, representatives from the hospital and the architecture firm handling the project went over the plan.

Most of the hospital-owned buildings on Eighth Avenue have been vacant for at least a year, according to neighbors. The hospital owns four 19th-century row houses on Fifth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues, said hospital spokeswoman Lyn Hill, adding that the hospital does not plan to demolish all of the buildings on the block. Renters currently occupy some of



COMING DOWN: New York Methodist Hospital plans to demolish at least 15 buildings near it to make way for new ambulatory centers.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

the Fifth Street buildings.

Hill wouldn't provide details on what she called "very preliminary" plans, but verified that there will be demolition involved, and some residents will be forced to move.

"The people who need to move have already been informed," she said, adding that the hospital will provide all displaced residents with "equal or better housing for the same amount of money."

Neighbors received a letter from the hospital last week notifying them of the construction project, adding that it won't begin for at least

a year. The letter invited them to a meeting at the hospital this past Thursday to discuss the construction project and "to exchange ideas about how any disruption to your block can be kept to a minimum."

But some neighbors who would be impacted by construction said they are concerned about the ambiguous plans.

"We are worried about building dust and noise pollution," said Fifth Street resident Philippa Garson, who lives in a condo directly across the street from the hospital-owned buildings.

Longtime Fifth Street resident David Goodman, who lives in the same building as Garson, said that although he views Methodist Hospital as an important part of the neighborhood, he is ready to put up a fight to stop it from tearing down the historic buildings.

Hill said that in order to get community input on the plans hospital representatives plan to make a presentation at a July 11 public meeting with Community Board 6 and the Park Slope Civic Council.

Evacuation map

Continued from cover

evacuate, they'll be the first.

"Zone 1 would be evacuated first," said the spokeswoman.

In Southern Brooklyn, Gerritsen Beach is now firmly within Zone 1. Under the previous system, the working class neighborhood had been in Evacuation Zone B.

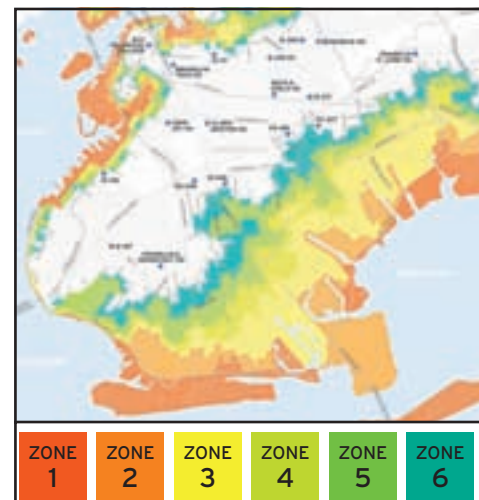
The city took flak from residents after hundreds of homes in that neighborhood were flooded during Sandy.

However, many residents feel that the only exodus anyone's likely to see out of Gerritsen Beach is of gas-powered vehicles, and that the biggest lesson learned from the hurricane was to not leave anything with a motor in a low-lying area during a flood.

"I'd say the majority of people will sit tight," said George Broadhead, president of the Gerritsen Beach Property Owner's Association. "The only thing people learned through experience was to move their cars to higher ground. Between 1,200 to 1,800 cars were ruined, and nobody wants that to happen again."

Only a few homes in Bergen Beach are now within Zone 1 — those located on streets directly bordering the coast, including portions of E. 69th Street and Bergen Avenue, and also Avenue Y.

Mill Island and the southern portions



ZONED OUT: This map shows the city's revised evacuation zones, with residents of Zone 1 being the most vulnerable to flooding from storm surges and the first to be ordered to flee to higher ground if another superstorm strikes.

New York City Office of Emergency Management

of Canarsie, formerly Zone B, are now in the roughly analogous Zone 2, despite portions of those neighborhoods sustaining heavy flood damage in Sandy.

Roughly a quarter of New York City's population may now reside in designated evacuation zones, but it would take a serious disaster for the city to call a general retreat, according to an OEM spokeswoman.

"It would take a very severe storm to mandate the evacuation of Zone 6," she said.

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