Coney Island community garden razed

BY WILL BREDDERMAN

Gardeners had hoped to bury Marty Markowitz’s planned Coney Island amphitheater — but instead got plowed under themselves.

Backhoes sent by a developer destroyed the Boardwalk Community Garden in Coney Island in the early-morning darkness on Dec. 28, in order to make way for a permanent home for the outgoing Beep’s summer concert series.

The gardeners said they had been on guard against the destruction of their vegetable patch next door to the landmarked Childs Building, which is slated to become a new music venue, since the afternoon of Dec. 26, when they said several men claiming to be construction contractors came and warned they were going to uproot the garden overnight.

The planters put up a tent in front of the garden and camped out in

Continued on page 15

MONTH OFF FOR ATLANTIC YARDS

Work stopped on box tower after first day

BY MEGAN RIESZ

Mega-developer Forest City Ratner has taken this whole winter holiday thing extra-seriously by stopping the installation of modular apartment units at the only Atlantic Yards building currently being built — immediately after the work started.

Three weeks have passed since the developer began the second phase of construction on the modular B2 skyscraper to great fanfare, but only three of the building blocks have been hoisted into the tower’s steel frame, despite claims that the operation would be around-the-clock, with eight apartment modules being plunked into place every day, the Ratner critic website Atlantic Yards Report first reported. Other long-time opponents of the project say they told us so.

“The delay in delivery and

Continued on page 15
RESOLUTION REVOLUTION
Prominent Brooklynites share their 2014 self-improvement plans

It’s that time of the year — the beginning — when people the world over vow to cut back on booze, lose that winter weight, and make the world a better place. We asked a cross-section of Brooklyn’s movers and shakers for their New Year’s resolutions, and what they came up with might surprise you.

Eric Adams
Borough President
Visit every neighborhood in the borough and speak to as many residents as I can.

Joe Lentol
Assemblyman (D–Williamsburg)
As some might know, we have an office cat named Brooke, she is our office mascot. Truth be told, I am a sucker for her meowing, purring, and begging, which often leads me to give her a few too many treats. So this year I am going to work on that. Sorry Brooke, but this year your treat intake is going to be reduced!

But I have serious ones too, the most important being to do the best I can to allow the residents of North Brooklyn to enjoy their days with as much peace and harmony as possible.

Linda Mariano
Co-founder, Friends and Residents of Greater Gowanus
1) Focus on several research projects started last year.
2) Go to law school and get a law degree in order to sue developers and politicians.
3) Upgrade my cellphone and not be afraid of technology.

Dick Zigun
Self-proclaimed Mayor, Coney Island
To exaggerate Coney Island’s charms less — while I personally enjoy Coney Island’s charms more! In 2014, the new Coney emerges as a reality that can stand proud on its own — so I plan to work on my suntan.

Jennifer Schork
Co-founder, Preservation Greenpoint
My resolution for 2014 is to learn a new skill. More specifically, to buy an instrument (or crafting supplies), tell everyone how I plan to take lessons (and practice), never get around to it, spend more time talking to friends about how I can never find the time, and finally tuck that mandolin under my bed next to the sewing box and brewing supplies.

On second thought, I think I’ll just resolve to swear less next year.

Paul Basile
President, Gowanus Alliance
We resolve to find ways to make our community cleaner, safer, more productive, and different from other communities that succumb to greed and filtered life!

Steve Hindy
Owner, Brooklyn Brewery
My New Year’s resolution is kind of selfish. I want to sell a lot of my new book “The Craft Beer Revolution,” which is coming out in April.

Dale Talde
Owner, Talde restaurant in Park Slope
Lose weight, drink less, and exercise more.

Tom Wentworth
Activist, Fort Greene
My New Year’s resolution is to spend less time interacting on social media and more time meeting face to face, especially with those local leaders with the influence to Turf the Slab and build a home field for youth sports in Fort Greene.

Paul Kermizian
Owner, Barcade in Williamsburg
Drive less.
**Fun to remember**

Relive a wild year before leaving it in history’s dustbin

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**January**

Atlantic oddity: Scientists discovered a 20-foot-long metallic “anomaly” below Atlantic Avenue, adding fuel to the rumor that a 19th-century steam locomotive is buried inside a long-abandoned tunnel. Engineering consultants detected the peculiar finding near Hicks Street, deep inside a half-mile tunnel built in 1844 as part of a planned route to Boston.

**Turn off the park:** The city forced community board chairs to give up their decades-old parking permits, making them pay for metered parking or bike or ride public transportation like the rest of us. District managers, the boards’ paid administrators, got to keep parking on Easy Street.

**February**

Sour deal: Famed chocolatier Jacques Torres gave Dumbo residents a toothache by relocating his manufacturing operations to Sunset Park’s Brooklyn Army Terminal. He sugar-coated his exit by announcing that he planned to keep his retail storefront in the cobbled-street neighborhood.

**March**

Hinsch’s flinches: Egg-cream fans shrieked, “Agita!” upon learning that Staten Island soulvakis sovereign Mike Moudatsos was taking over the iconic, 65-year-old soda shop on Fifth Avenue. Faithful patrons fretted he would radically redesign Hinsch’s the way he did a classic A&W car-hop on the Rock. Moudatsos promised to keep the old flavor mostly intact.

**Swimming with the fishes:** A stranded dolphin was no match for the toxic Gowanus Canal, which gobbled up the beast in its mucky shallow waters between Union and Degraw streets before rescuers could jump in. Later in the month, a baby cetacean washed ashore on the beach in Coney Island.

**Goop scoop:** The feds proposed digging up toxic sludge from the Gowanus Canal and using it to extend the Red Hook coastline as part of their half-billion dollar Superfund scrub-down of the icky estuary, delighting the developer who owns an adjacent industrial park. Not everyone was on board — some Red Hookers fretted the muck could be a health hazard and invite flooding.

**Land grab:** The state announced plans to shutter the 155-year-old Long Island College Hospital, kicking off a still-ongoing legal dispute. Opponents of the closure say the state just wants to cash in on the prime real estate the hospital sits on.

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**April**

More Di Fara’s: The home of peerless pizza decided to revive the full menu it retired a decade ago to make room for the snaking lines that were as iconic as Di Fara’s flavorful pies. Aficionados cheered the return of meatballs, chicken Parmesan, and other much-missed favorites — in addition to some promised new menu items. They will be hawked out of a takeout store a few doors down from the legendary Avenue J pizzeria.

**How sweet it could be:** Developers of the shuttered Domino Sugar factory promised a candy-coated comeback for the ex-largest sugar maker in the world. First-peek renderings showed a sumptuous sprawl of mixed-use skyscrapers resembling the futuristic skylines of Dubai and Shanghai, including a high-rise sculpted like a giant zero, another one featuring a donut-hole ringed by offices with apartments, a third dotted with terraced dwellings, and pair of svelte structures linked by a bridge that — at 598 feet and 55 stories — could become the borough’s tallest edifice yet.

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**May**

**Turf floors:** The Brooklyn Cyclones made the switch from grass to artificial turf at MCU Park. The minor league Mets affiliate claimed synthetic sod at the Coney Island stadium would weather superstorms better and accommodate more off-season events. The team’s hated rivals, the Staten Island Yankees — whose stadium on the Rock was also flooded — are sticking with grass.

**Fin-draiser:** Brooklyn bohemians were all shook up to hear that the popular Mermaid Parade on Surf Avenue might go extinct because of Hurricane Sandy. But a tidal wave of donations poured in to help ice princesses, crusty pirates, and scantily clad sirens wig out again at the nation’s largest art parade.

**June**

**Strike-out:** Maple Lanes is dead wood. Bensonhurst’s beloved bowling kingdom closed its doors permanently to make room for condos, much to the sorrow of diehard kingpins who had patronized the neighborhood fixture for 53 years. When Maple cast its first strike, John F. Kennedy was president, the Pittsburgh Pirates were the World Series champs, and Elvis Presley topped the charts with “Stuck On You.”
Review

Continued from page 3

You.”

Slicks ahoi: Rats, poop, oozing cancerous chemicals, and gonorrhea did nothing to deter the daredevil boaters who took to the Gowanus Canal — and lived to tell the tale. Dozens of kayakers, canoers, and rowers — some decked out in hazmat suits — earned major bragging rights when they paddled the Lavender Lake for the Gowanus Challenge, a 2.5-mile, non-motorized watercraft race, designed to draw attention to the federal Superfund site.

July

Dirty dozen: Southern Brooklyn spas were offering patrons more than a back rub, said cops after raiding a dozen massage parlors in Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, and Bensonhurst. Police arrested 19 people on a slew of charges, including prostitution, worker’s compensation violations, and practicing massage without a license. The alleged Dirty Dozen were operating in crumbling buildings that were dangerous to be inside, the city said.

Holy rollers: The Jehovah’s Witnesses unloaded a parcel of prime real estate in Dumbo, including the iconic Watchtower building and several factory-style structures, for the ungody price of $375 million. A Manhattan real estate firm snapped up the holdings, which are zoned for business or manufacturing use. The sale dismayed condo owners or manufacturing use.

Hospital on life support: The state Department of Health approved a plan to shutter Long Island College Hospital and state officials said they would ignore a court order demanding that no moves be taken to reduce service at the hospital. The news prompts staffs and politicians to take to the streets. Ten blocked traffic and got arrested, including Councilman Brad Lander (D–Cobble Hill).

August

VM-A-Zing: The MTV Video Music Awards touched down at the Barclays Center, bringing traffic headaches, police checkpoints, and A-to-Z-list celebrities to Prospect Heights. We covered the pandemonium from all angles on our live-blog, checking in with the likes of Richard Simmons on the red carpet, chatting with the enterprising sidewalk sellers out for the occasion, and keeping an eye on the blow-out’s impact on the surrounding neighborhood. While the crowds cleared and the internet turned its attention to dissecting Miley Cyrus’s spastic stage show, neighborhood bodega Dubai Mini Mart tried to cash in on the frenzy by auctioning a roll of red carpet on eBay. The sale did not get any takers.

Atlantic Yards goes public: Four-fifths of the stagnated mega-development at the borough’s crossroads went on the auction block. Developer Forest City Ratner claimed that it will continue to control the project even if it owns less than half of a stake.

Flip of the LICH: A judge tried to turn the tables on the state by issuing a bombshell court order demanding that the State University of New York relinquish control of Long Island College Hospital and calling its handling of the hospital possibly driven by a “sinister purpose to seize [the hospital’s] assets and dismantle” it.

September

Sunny’s rises: The year was full of triumphant returns — and tearful farewells — for businesses swamped by Hurricane Sandy, but few had the oomph of the comeback for beloved Red Hook bar Sunny’s. The reopening came 10 months after the superstorm soaked the saloon and 123 years after the waterhole first cracked its doors.

Primary colors: Two Council races, meanwhile, saw high drama, with upsetCarllos Menchaca unseating incumbent Sara Gonzalez in Sunset Park and former Diana Reyna aide Antonio Reynoso taking his boss’ seat and effectively sticking Duncan Menchaca unseating incumbent Sara Gonzalez in Sunset Park and former Diana Reyna aide Antonio Reynoso taking his boss’ seat and effectively sticking.

Chopped: A daredevil aircraft whiz who loved to fly state-of-the-art remote-controlled helicopters was killed when his whirlybird spun out of control and hacked off the top of his head in Calvert Vaux Park. Roman Pirozek, 19, was performing a heli-trick at the green space, near the corner of Shore Parkway and Bay 44th Street, when the chopper spiraled earthward, killing him instantly.

October

Rot in our backyard: The city rolled out a pilot curb-side compost-pickup in Greenwood Heights and Windsor Terrace, the first in the borough. The sanitation department was eager to get people signed up for the voluntary program, but residents we spoke to said that they were not eager to add another bin to their trash regimen.

Tragedy on Prospect Park West: Samuel Cohen Eckstein, a 12-year-old boy, was killed by a van on Prospect Park West, three years after the city replaced a lane of car traffic with a two-way bike path in an effort to slow drivers.

Signed, sealed, and dredged: The Gowanus Canal’s half-billion-dollar federal Superfund clean-up became the law of the land. The Environmental Protection Agency stuck to its guns in the final plan, mandating that the city build massive, $78-million, underground holding tanks to stop millions of gallons of raw sewage from polluting the waterway. The city claimed the project was unnecessary because poop was the least of the canal’s problems. The plan’s authors dismissed the pleas as hogwash, claiming the tanks were essential to avoid future recontamination.

GoogaMooga gone: The city booted the controversial music and food festival that wrecked Prospect Park for two years in a row, stating the weekend-long Great GoogaMooga forced the Nethermead to close for costly clean-ups and infuriated park patrons who felt...
Markowitz leaves work to be done

BY COLIN MIXSON

Oh, what Marty could have done with another year.

During his tenure, Borough President Markowitz has achieved many of his visions for the Borough of Kings — not least bringing the Nets, Ikea, and a succession of cruise ships to Brooklyn. But the Beep’s ambitions for the borough were as big as his personality, so inevitably some dreams must be deferred.

Many of the projects he championed have been completed during his term, but others — such as the Loews Kings Theater renovation that got under way this year — will not be finished until Markowitz’s successor has taken the throne.

“When I am proud of what I have accomplished as Borough President, there are several projects that I will not get to see completed under my tenure,” said Markowitz.

“I will be the Borough President Emeritus when this ‘wonder theater’ reopens its doors for the first time in this millennia.”

His vision for a Coney Island amphitheater in the Childs building is also on its way with the near-unanimous blessing of the Council in its last vote of the year. The initiative made its first concrete progress early on the morning of Dec. 28, when backhoes cleared out a community garden in the venue’s footprint.

Other pet projects remain on the drawing board, but Markowitz is nevertheless optimistic that he will one day see their completion. But for all his tireless cheerleading, Markowitz will admit that even his best efforts could not always yield the desired results.

“There are several projects that were simply beyond my control,” he said.

Markowitz has long dreamed of returning Brooklyn to its industrial roots, and hoped to lure high-tech electronic manufacturers to the working-class neighborhoods of Brownsville and East New York. But alas, that task will be left to his successors.

“We cannot give up on bringing manufacturing back,” said Markowitz. “Our communities want to work, and we must provide them with good-paying jobs. I am disappointed that I was unable to accomplish this, but I have high hopes that the next administration will.”

Markowitz’s other dreams include a casino in Coney Island and bringing the world’s sport — professional soccer — to the borough that is a crossroads of the world.

“What better place than Brooklyn for a soccer stadium and a team to call it home?” Markowitz said.

Ultimately, the outgoing Beep is certain that no matter what he has achieved, Brooklyn is the greatest city in the world, and if its citizens were smart enough to elect him three times in a row, he says, they are smart enough to achieve anything.

“The future of Brooklyn is boundless potential. We have the greatest dreamers anywhere, and I’m sure there is plenty of excitement to come,” he said.
These hospital activist-actors have got the blues and they cannot be satisfied, so they are combining their passions by staging a play about late blues legend Bessie Smith inside a beleaguered Bedford-Stuyvesant hospital.

The New Brooklyn Theater is putting on Edward Albee's play "The Death of Bessie Smith" at Interfaith Medical Center, which has been in the process of closing for nearly a year but just got a few-month lease on life thanks to a cash infusion from the state. The faltering healthcare facility is the perfect venue for dramatizing the plight of the hospital and the mostly uninsured people of color who make up the bulk of its patient base, say the play's organizers.

“If Interfaith were to close, that would be, in public health terms, a racist and classist outcome,” said Jeff Strabone, a board member of the Cobble Hill Association and the theater troupe board's chairman.

The play, written and set in 1959, tells the story of the blues singer Bessie Smith being severely injured in a car crash and dying after being refused admission to an all-white hospital. The story was widely believed for decades and, though Smith did die as a result of an auto wreck, scholars have proved the racist element of the story apocryphal.

Strabone has gone to great lengths as an activist opposing the closure of Interfaith and Cobble Hill’s Long Island College Hospital, including getting arrested alongside mayor-elect De Blasio at a demonstration. So it comes as no surprise that he went the extra mile to contact Albee, the elderly playwright of “Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf” fame, to get permission to stage the Smith play.

The show has not been performed in New York since 1967, but when Albee heard about the possible closure of Interfaith, he agreed immediately, with the stipulation that the actors volunteer their time and the company make admission free. The result will be a lively community forum on the normally wonky topic of hospital management and funding, the activists hope.

“This is not just for entertainment, but it’s a vehicle for discussion,” said Claudette Brady, who is on the board of the theater company and is organizing post-play panel discussions.

Strabone was worried about what would happen to the production if the hospital closed in January, but now that the hospital has won a temporary reprieve from the state, the show is back on track.

The few-month service extension is not enough to satisfy him, though.

“We have a saying in the theater that the show must go on,” said Strabone. “But society doesn’t feel the same way about hospitals and health care, and that has to change.”

“The Death of Bessie Smith” at Interfaith Medical Center (1545 Atlantic Avenue at Albany Ave. in Bedford-Stuyvesant, www.newbrooklyntheater.com). Jan. 9–12 and Jan. 16–19, 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, 2 pm on Sundays. Free.
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No blotter?

Missing your local blotter? The long-standing tradition of station houses giving local reporters access to incident reports for blotters was ended a month ago by NYPD headquarters. Only three of the 13 precincts we cover are now providing crime report information. If you would like your local precinct to resume cooperating with our reporters, you can make your views known to your precinct’s community affairs officer or attend its next community council meeting. Contact community affairs to confirm when the next meeting will be.

60th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Dep. Inspector James Rooney
Community Affairs: (718) 627–6847
The 60th Precinct Community Council meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the 60th Precinct station house at 2951 W. Eighth St.

61st Precinct
Commanding Officer: Captain John M. Chell
Community Affairs: (718) 627–6847
The 61st Precinct Community Council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Sephardic Community Center at 1901 Ocean Ave.

63rd Precinct
Commanding Officer: Dep. Inspector John Rowell
Community Affairs: (718) 258–4444
The 63rd Precinct Community Council meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month at 8 pm in the Kings Plaza Mall Community Room.

69th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Captain Norman Grandstaff
Community Affairs: (718) 257–6205
The 69th Precinct Community Council meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7 pm in the 69th Precinct station house at 2951 W. Eighth St. or Saint Albans’ Church at 9408 Farragut Rd.

78th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Dep. Inspector Michael Ameri
Community Affairs: (718) 636–6410
The 78th Precinct Community Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Church of the Ascension at 122 Java St. (auditorium entrance).

76th Precinct
CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL-RED HOOK
Pipe dream
A bandit ran off with copper pipes and a drill from a construction site on Warren Street around 9 pm and stole a chop saw, circular saw, and tool kit, along with 18 copper pipes and a heavy-duty drill, cops reported.

Christmas surprise
A burglar stole two televisions and a stereo system from a woman’s apartment on Bond Street sometime between Dec. 23 and 25, cops said.

84th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Captain Maximo Tolentino
Community Affairs: (718) 875–6850
The 84th Precinct Community Council meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The location varies, so contact the precinct’s community affairs officer.

88th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Dep. Inspector Scott M. Henderson
Community Affairs: (718) 636–6526
The 88th Precinct Community Council meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. The location varies, so contact the community affairs officer.

90th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Dep. Inspector Mark DiPaolo
Community Affairs: (718) 963–5309
The 90th Precinct Community Council generally meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at each month at 50 Montrose Ave., in the community room.

94th Precinct
Commanding Officer: Captain James B. Ryan
Community Affairs: (718) 383–5298
The 94th Precinct Community Council meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Church of the Ascension at 122 Java St. (auditorium entrance).

Police officer shines light on the blotter blackout

BY NATHAN TEMPEY
The police department’s blotter blackout is a month old and someone at police headquarters finally admitted there has been a drastic change in its media policy following week after week of denials.

The police precincts that have reported this problem are too powerful to stay quiet forever. The public information office at One Police Plaza repeatedly refused to acknowledge that such an order exists, much less explain why, until a sergeant there shed some light on the situation.

“The daily papers got mad because the weekly papers had so much access [to police precincts],” said Sgt. Jessica McRorie. “The big papers always wanted a piece of that and they got cranky when they didn’t.”

In response, top cops cut off all access to the crime reports, according to McRorie. The records are the basis of the weekly police blotter in this paper.

The scenario the sergeant outlines jibes with a report by the news website Gothamist that quotes a community newspaper editor anonymously, saying that the source of the headache at the daily newspapers was the combination of precinct- and headquarters-level access maintained by news websites.

“Sometimes when there’s a problem, the simpler solution is to shut everything down,” the editor reportedly said.

DNAinfo’s managing editor Michael Ventura declined to comment.

Follow-up inquiries to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information were met with silence, but spokespeople there insisted in weeks past that the key to ending the embargo lies with the precincts, despite the continued barring of beat journalists from all but three of the 13 precincts this paper covers and local commanding officers deferring to headquarters.

“They want us to refer everything to [the public information office],” said Captain James Ryan of Greenpoint’s 94th Precinct again this week. “We are the most transparent agency. They are just vetting everything. We’re not trying to not let you know anything.”

A lawyer at the front desk of Brooklyn Heights’ 84th Precinct concurred.

“Requests have to go through official channels, I guess,” said an officer Degennaro.

The public information office has also refused to respond to requests for comment from a letter. Sheepshead Bay’s Community Board 15 sent demanding reporters be allowed back into the precincts.

The New York Civil Liberties Union has predicted that the blackout will end with the installation of Bill Bratton as police commissioner this week. One longtime reader said he sure hopes that is the case.

“When Bratton comes in during 2014, an election year, he’ll reinstate the reporting of crimes,” said Windsor Terrace legend Tom Prendergast. “If not the NYPD logo should be converted to ‘NYKGB.’”

— with Megan Riesz, Will Bredderman, and Danielle Furfaro
Activist blames lawsuit fail on baby

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

Anti-development activists in Greenpoint missed a crucial deadline to file a lawsuit that could have halted two big waterfront developments in their tracks after one prominent foe of the projects left the fray to tend to his new baby.

Stephen Pierson, the former Council candidate who announced this summer that he would lead the charge to sue to stop Greenpoint Landing and 77 Commercial Street, said the final date passed in mid-November because other activists dropped the ball when he ducked out to take care of his newborn daughter Meha.

“At this point, it is not happening,” said Pierson, the professional-poker-player-turned-literary-magazine-publisher who lost to incumbent Steve Levin in September’s Democratic primary race for the 33rd District Council seat. Pierson already had Nishka, right, when Meha was born in November, prompting him to put his anti-Greenpoint development activism on indefinite hiatus.

The study the developers relied on for their zoning variance bids is eight years old, but the point is probably moot because, in addition to the lawsuit window closing, the Council green-lighted both developments in December.

Pierson laments that he left his fellow activists with everything they needed to sue, introducing them to an attorney and outlining the steps, but no one followed through.

“I left the ball in their court,” he said.

The problem was not lack of interest, it was lack of funds, say Pierson’s comrades.

“It came down to money,” said activist Colin Miles, who is also a founder of the anti-Domino Sugar factory development group Save Domino. “It cost a lot of money to hire a lawyer and we did not have it.”

Pierson said the fact that he lost the Council race and that he lives in Brooklyn Heights, not Greenpoint, also played into the decision to make the handoff.

“It’s still an issue I care about,” said Pierson. “But it did not seem prudent for me to be the face of this.”

Miles said his anti-development cohort in Greenpoint will continue brainstorming ways to turn back the waterfront tower town.

“We have got to do something,” he said.

Hands Full: Stephen Pierson already had Nishka, right, when Meha was born in November, prompting him to put his anti-Greenpoint development activism on indefinite hiatus.

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Carriage driver charged with animal cruelty

On December 20, the NY Times reported that a carriage driver had been arrested for animal cruelty after a police officer saw the driver working a visibly injured horse. Police Officer Brian Coll noticed the horse struggling under the weight of the carriage, approached the driver and learned of the horse’s four-day-old injury.

The carriage trade responded that this is an anomaly and is trying to distance themselves from the driver. But the driver and horse are from Clinton Park Stables, touted by the trade as being their “jewel.”

Animal rights advocates say that drivers are inclined to overload their carriages with too many passengers, make illegal u-turns, or ignoring a lame horse when no one is looking. Police officers are typically not familiar with the specific laws and generally look the other way. The ASPCA is giving up humane law enforcement on December 31, but they were rarely active in Central Park so would not have seen something like this.

Elizabeth Forel, president of the Coalition to Ban Horse-Drawn Carriages, the group that started this hard fought campaign in 2006 and is responsible for getting the first bill to ban horse-drawn carriages introduced in the City Council, has a number of unanswered questions: “Why wasn’t the owner of the horse with cruelty as well as the driver? Why didn’t stable hands or other drivers report a horse that is limping? And why didn’t the customers notice or say anything? We hope Mayor-Elect de Blasio will shut down this trade quickly.”

A an easily prevented condition called Thrush was the reported cause of limping. “Thrush is easily prevented,” said Forel. “It is an easily prevented condition.”
BY DANIELLE FURFARO

They got scrooged.

Williamsburg’s Swing Sixties Center got a big dose of bah humbug on Christmas Eve in the form of an eviction notice from its new landlord, according to activists. The paperwork, dated Dec. 19, gives the hundreds of kids and seniors who use its services until the end of January to clear out and center leaders say the timing of the delivery shows a calculated meanness best encapsulated by Dr. Seuss’s famous green grump.

“He knew what he was doing when he served these papers on Christmas Eve,” said Community Board 1 member Jan Peterson of building owner Victor Einhorn. “He’s a grinch.”

Peterson spent the late 1960s and early 1970s working to open the center, finally succeeding in 1974, and is also a member of its board.

Einhorn purchased the three-story Ainslie Street building last month with his son Harry and, three weeks ago, raised the rent by a third, prompting supporters of all ages to rally to save the place.

Peterson is convinced that the Einhorns plan to demolish the community center and build condos.

“They are trying to tear down a place that is an institution,” she said.

Current zoning allows for a six or seven-story residential building to go up on the lot.

Center supporters say there is no way the Einhorns will be able to get the daycare, after-school, and senior operations out so quickly, given that the programs have received city funding for decades.

“There’s absolutely no chance that they will kick these seniors and toddlers out in 30 days,” said Saint Nick’s Alliance spokesman Greg Hanlon. “We are confident they will be there for years to come.”

A lawyer for the center said there is a lot working against the landlords, including their consciences.

“We believe that the city’s investment in the property, as well as its agreements with the prior owner, not to mention moral mandates, obligate the new owners to maintain this property as the home of the day care and senior centers that have occupied it for some 40 years,” said Marty Needelman, a lawyer working on behalf of the Conse- lyea Street Block Association, which runs the center.

The hub has been without a lease for more than a year. Peterson said she plans to continue getting city politicians on board to fight for it and to organize those who use its services to launch letter and phone campaigns.

The building hosted Community Board 1’s meetings until mid-December, when the panel decided to cut and run ahead of the feared eviction.

The Einhorns and their attorney did not return calls for comment.

IRS building tear-down could mean more condos

BY JAIME LUTZ

Apartments are coming to Downtown’s office complex—technically, anyway.

The seven-story building at 10 MetroTech Center — which is actually located on Fulton Street, a 10-minute walk from its namesake office tower compound — is undergoing a $8.2-million demolition to make way for a residential development, mega-developer Forest City Ratner said in a quarterly shareholders conference call.

“We are currently demolishing the building and will then evaluate our options,” said company spokesman Michael Rapfogel, when asked about the future of the space.

The Ratner-owned building previously housed a double-whammy of bureaucratic dread in the form of offices for the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The tear-down started on Nov. 29 and workers have cleared out much of the building’s interior. The structure’s Continued on page 13

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Weeknight Service Changes

10 PM to 5 AM, Mon to Fri, Jan 6-10

No G trains between Bedford-Nostrand Avs and Church Av
Free shuttle buses and F trains provide alternate service via Jay St-MetroTech

Travel Alternatives:
Free shuttle buses operate between Bedford-Nostrand Avs and the Jay St-MetroTech F station making stops at Classon Avs, Clinton-Washington Avs, Fulton St, and Hoyt-Schermerhorn Sts.

- Transfer between G trains and free shuttle buses at Bedford-Nostrand Av.
- Take the F for service between Jay St-MetroTech and Church Av.
- Transfer between free shuttle buses and F trains at Jay St-MetroTech.
- A service is also available between Hoyt-Schermerhorn Sts and Jay St-MetroTech.

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Review

Continued from page 4

The big-ticket event and its rowdy, booze-soaked crowds did not belong in Brooklyn's backyard.

Ba-chalk Obama: President Obama made a whirlwind visit to the borough and inadvertently shined the spotlight on Mayor Bloomberg's controversial school co-location program in the process. The president kicked off the stop-over with a dramatic entrance, landing by helicopter in Prospect Park, just blocks from where he lived as a twenty-something. A visit to Crown Heights' Pathways for Technology Early College showcased the school, and the mayor's policy of shoehorning schools into existing ones, and the commander-in-chief rounded out the tour with a trip to Junior's Restaurant to pick up cheesecake with then-mayoral hopeful Bill DeBlasio. The pairing came one week ahead of the citywide election and could not have hurt the progressive favorite DeBlasio's chances.

November

Serious signage: Protesters strung fake 20-mile-per-hour speed limit signs along the length of Prospect Park West as part of an effort to demand a slower cap for cars in residential neighborhoods citywide. Samuel Cohen Eckstein's parents joined the push for a lower limit, testifying before the Council and broadcasting the message that the law would have saved their son far and wide.

Brooklyn first: Brooklyn was the clear winner in November's general election: Bill DeBlasio, the former public advocate and Park Slope councilman, was the first Democrat in 20 years to win the mayor's race — and at 6-foot-5, the tallest mayor in living memory! Fort Greene Councilwoman Letitia James, the new public advocate, became the first African-American woman to hold a citywide position, and Borough President-elect Eric Adams and incoming District Attorney Ken Thompson were the first African Americans elected to their respective posts in Kings County.

Rock 'n roll murder-suicide: A musician shot and killed three fellow musicians and himself. The gunman Ali Akbar Mahammadi Rafie, 29, and victims Ali Eskandarian, 35, and brothers Arash and Soroush Farazmand, 28 and 27, were political refugees who fled the Islamic theocracy in 2009 after appearing in a film about its forbidden underground music scene.

Narwhal no more: All year, Flipper was dying to visit Brooklyn. Borough

Hands of time: (From left to right) The city put the kibosh on the grass-ruining Great Googamoga fest. President Obama bought cheesecake at Junior's Restaurant with Bill DeBlasio. An Iranian indie rocker killed three fellow musicians and himself.

File and AP photos

Continued from page 4

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residents shed a tear for yet another dead dolphin after it swam into Coney Island Creek, never to see the open ocean again. The death marked Kings County’s fourth dead dolphin for the year.

December
Going Whole hog: Whole Foods snipped the ribbon on its first store in Brooklyn, bringing a rooftop bar and a bevy of green features to a stretch of Gowanus land that was once home to a lumberyard, an auto repair shop, and an oil company. Opening day marked the end of an eight-year saga — and the beginning of another drama.

Council loves development: The Council green-lighted a slew of controversial developments ahead of a changing of the guard at City Hall, including outgoing Borough President Markowitz’s Childs building concert venue in Coney Island, the Domino Sugar factory project in Williamsburg, and the Greenpoint Landing tower town planned where the Newtown Creek meets the East River.

Blotter-ed out: The long-standing tradition of station houses providing reporters access to crime reports for weekly police blotter articles came to an abrupt end at the beginning of December due to pressure from NYPD headquarters, prompting a series of weekly articles seeking to get to the bottom of the blackout. The New York Civil Liberties Union insists that the information blockade will come to an end with the arrival of a new administration at One Police Plaza this week, but only time will tell.

Condos
Continued from page 10
skeleton still stands at 625 Fulton St. near Flatbush Avenue and contractors are now ripping out plumbing and partitions, according to Department of Buildings records.

Under the lot’s current zoning, it could become an office tower, an apartment high-rise with ground-floor retail, or a hotel, and a real estate expert says the latter two are the more lucrative options. “The best and highest use for the space is a hotel, or residential and retail if permitted,” said Chris Havens, a commercial broker with aptsandlofts.com.

Forest City is currently in default on a $40-million mortgage for the building, but it is not in immediate danger of foreclosure. It has two years to pay back the lender, which it might do with the cash it brings in from redeveloping the lot. When the complex goes non-commercial, it will be the latest in a long line of Downtown facilities to make the switch from office space to retail or luxury residential digs, including the Municipal Building, the bottom two floors of which are now being leased to stores, and the former Board of Education building at 110 Livingston St., which is now apartments with the Issue Project Room’s performing arts venue on the ground floor.

Adrian Rodriguez, Bushwick
“I like the Nets because they’re the underdogs.”

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Michael Rapogel on Thursday, saying that the plan was always to start slotting the apartment pieces in mid-January. But Rapogel’s explanation flies in the face of what his colleague, head of construction Robert Sanna, told us at the inaugural block drop-in.

“We’ll be erecting the mods now through the summer, when we’ll go into the period of on-site work,” Sanna said back then.

Another Atlantic Yards foe says he is worried about the noise of constant truck traffic when the units finally do start arriving.

“Forest City Ratner Company has made a huge gamble on modular without ever bothering to consider how it might impact their project’s neighbors, who now may end up bearing the brunt of its omission,” said Gib Vecconi, member of the activist group BrooklynSpeaks, which sued Forest City in 2009.

The developer has stressed that the prefabricated building method requires fewer deliveries than conventional construction.

B2 is supposed to boast 363 rental apartments, half of them renting for below-market-rate, and is the first of 15 planned towers in the development.

The Chinese-government-owned developer Greenland finalized an agreement to buy a 70-per-cent stake in Atlantic Yards — not including the Barclays Center or B2 – for about $200-million in mid-December. The companies expect to seal the deal in 2014, but need the sign-off of the federal Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, a federal national security agency.

The Chinese-governed giant is supposed to rise to 32 stories at the corner of Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue, but the media event that showcased the installation of the second block on Dec. 12 was never supposed to signal the beginning of a new period of construction, claimed Ratner spokesman Opendik.

“I got here in time to watch it all unfold. They tore the garden apart.”

Workers caged the 20 chickens living in the garden, but the dozens of seed-sowers returned without official sanction. Hurricane Sandy soaked the spot and buried it in sand, but the gardeners dug their way out and replanted last spring.

The earth-moving machinery was sent by iStar Financial, which owns the Childs Building. The plan is for the city to pay $53-million to buy the 90-year-old Boardwalk icon and have the developer renovate the space into a music hall and restaurant, turning the Boardwalk Garden and two parcels along W. 23rd Street into seating and a sprawling, landscaped lawn.

The developer will then operate the facility at a profit until 2025, before turning it over to the city.

The gardeners successfully lobbied Community Board 13 to vote down the amphitheater plan in September, but failed to prevent the project from breaching through the City Planning Commission and the Council.

The gardeners insisted they were not opposed to the Childs Building project, but said they wanted the city to provide a replacement lot for them to use. Coney Island Holdings, an iStar subsidiary, pointed out that the city has offered the gardeners a stake in another space on W. 29th Street and Surf Avenue, which the company called “under-utilized.”

But the planters complain that the proffered parcel is paved, smaller than their current spot, and already home to two-dozen other gardeners.

“It’s a concrete jungle over there,” said Opendik.

“It’s not a pleasant place to be, and it’s not a comfortable site for growing vegetables.”

The gardeners said they are considering a lawsuit to stop the project, pointing out city documents that show the space mapped as parkland, which would require state approval for a private lease.

“All options are on the table,” said Aziz Dehkan of the New York Community Gardens Coalition, which is providing the Boardwalk horticulturists with legal advice and support.

Markowitz says he thinks community gardening is generally a good idea, just not where he wants a music venue built.

“I think having the garden is good for the community,” the outgoing Beep said. “We found a location for them, and I think it’ll work.”
The American Psychiatric Association publishes a Diagnostic and Statistic Manual of mental illnesses (known in the trade as, ‘Are You Crazy?’). Up until 1973, homosexuality was listed as a mental illness. In 1973, it was dropped from the list.

“I’m sorry, sir. We can’t issue you a gun permit. You’re on the list. Background check, you know.”

“But, but, but...”

“Wait. Just a minute. My assistant is trying to tell me something.”

(“Psst, psst, psst. They changed their minds? Are you sure? Psst, psst, psst.”)

“Good news, sir. There’s been a change. How do you want us to spell your name on the permit?”

Now, 40 years later, gays have learned that, although they aren’t crazy anymore, they are still sinners and, along with people who have sex with animals, cheat on their spouses, and eat meat and milk at the same meal, they can’t get into the kingdom of heaven and have to spend eternity in either Arkansas or the Bronx, whichever is closer.

I know. I know. This is not a laughing matter. A men’s fashion magazine interviews a duck about where mankind will spend eternity and the whole world, or at least the left half of it, is in an uproar. Not a laughing matter. Serious business...Oy!

Take my poultry...please.

Dr. Finger practices medicine (Otolaryngology) in Brooklyn. He ran for Congress in ‘06 on Libertarian and Republican lines. Visit our blog at: www.ThePointingFinger.Blogspot.com

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Difficult financial times have forced many people young and old to alter their lifestyles in order to stay afloat financially. Though unemployment has garnered most of the headlines as the economy has struggled the last several years, it’s not just those of working age who have felt the pinch.

In a 2010 study from the University of Michigan Law School, researchers found that people age 65 and older are the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population seeking bankruptcy protection. There’s no single culprit, but the state of Florida could offer valuable insight as to why the nation’s older citizens are increasingly filing for bankruptcy.

Many retirees call Florida home, and in the past, could tap into their home equity whenever they began to struggle financially. However, like most of the country, Florida’s housing market is depressed, making it less viable for seniors to tap into their home equity to solve their financial problems. In fact, according to a study by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, bankruptcy filings increased by 118 percent in states where the home price index decreased.

For many seniors fearful of financial struggles, living on a fixed income can be a helpful way of ensuring their future does not involve filing for bankruptcy.

Once you have an accurate figure of both income and savings, write down all your monthly expenses, including all expenses, no matter how minute they may seem. From here you can determine just how much you can spend each month.

- Make an honest assessment. Write down any sources of income, including Social Security payments, pension payouts, investments, etc. Then write down how much money you have in savings.

- Prioritize spending habits. Some expenses, including medications and monthly utility bills, will always remain a top priority. However, those who must begin living on a fixed income need to prioritize how they spend their discretionary funds. For instance, a membership at the local country club can cost several thousands of dollars per year, whereas the local public golf course only charges players each time they play.

- Find it for free. People pay for many services each month that they could very well find for free. Instead of paying a monthly subscription cost, visit the local library and read the magazines there for free. If the local library does not have your favorite periodical, the content could very well be available for free online.

For more on living on a fixed income, visit the AARP at www.aarp.org.
More and more adult children are welcoming their aging parents into their homes. Such living situations have led to a growth in in-law suites. In fact, in 2010, the National Association of Home Builders found that 62 percent of builders surveyed were working on home modifications related to aging.

In-law suites are often created by converting a room, such as the basement or even a garage, into a livable suite. Such suites can benefit elderly relatives who may not be able to take care of themselves anymore, as well as younger homeowners who want to see their parents more.

But before building an in-law suite in their home, homeowners might want to heed the following tips.

• Be sure it is legal. Making changes to your home may require a permit, particularly if it will be an entirely new addition. Contact your local zoning board to ensure the project is within your rights as a homeowner.

• Consider the health of your relatives when making plans. Many in-law suites are occupied by aging relatives who might not be able to get up and down stairs as easily as they used to. That makes accessibility of the suite a top priority. Typically, it’s best to locate in-law suites on the first floor.

• Don’t overlook privacy. Just because your parents or in-laws will be moving in doesn’t mean they don’t still value their privacy. Choices are your relatives will initially feel as though they are invading your space and your privacy, so be sure the suite affords adequate privacy to all members of the household. It might be best to build the suite so it has its own separate entrance from the rest of the home. The suite should also have its own full bathroom.

• Tailor certain amenities to the elderly. Install grab bars in the shower and bathroom, easy-open drawers, and make sure the suite has ample lighting.

• Remember to install safety features. Safety features like fire, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are a necessity. Make sure the alarms on each of these detectors are loud enough so elderly resident can hear them without issue. Make sure all walkways leading to the in-law suite have motion-detecting lamps at night to reduce risk of falling. Also, if the suite will be a separate building from your house, such as a converted pool house or detached garage, install an intercom system in case of emergency.

In-law suites are becoming more popular as a greater number of older adults are moving in with their adult children.

New York Methodist Hospital Helps Seniors Fight Liver Cancer

The average age of patients receiving a liver cancer diagnosis is 63, and fighting the second-deadliest type of cancer just as a senior’s golden years begin is no average challenge. However, continuing advances in technology have enabled a customized approach to liver cancer treatment, ensuring that seniors with malignant liver tumors have the best chance of beating the disease.

“If a patient has cancer in the liver and it has not spread to other parts of the body, we know one thing: there is some way to remove that cancer entirely, and limit the chance of a recurrence,” said Smruti Mohanty, M.D., chief of gastroenterology and hepatology at New York Methodist Hospital. “However, the challenge is finding the best treatment, or combination of treatments, for that patient’s cancer.”

If a patient’s tumors are relatively small, and have not extensively damaged other parts of the liver, ablation techniques to destroy tumors may be the ideal option to eliminate liver cancer without surgery. “A technique called microwave ablation (MWA) allows us to insert a small antenna deep inside a tumor, and then 'broadcast' microwave energy to kill the cells from the inside out,” said Leonard Berliner, M.D., chief of vascular and interventional radiology at NYM. “MWA allows us to treat multiple cancer tumors at once and kill cancer cells quickly.”

One in three patients with liver tumors are candidates for liver resection—the complete surgical removal of the tumor and the affected area immediately around it. Liver resection procedures are complex and are highly dependent on individual cases, because they require the removal of enough of the liver to rid it of a tumor while ensuring that the liver is still sufficient in size to carry out its normal functions. However, liver resections can usually be performed in seniors just as safely as in younger patients.

If cancer has destroyed too much of the liver for it to function, there may only be one option: replacing the liver entirely through transplantation. As a member of the New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System, New York Methodist Hospital serves as a transplant referral center, assessing patients as candidates for a liver transplant and remaining closely involved in their care before and after the procedure. The wait time for a liver transplant can be lengthy so once hepatologists have determined that a patient with liver cancer needs a transplant, the goal becomes “bridging” the patient to the transplant with careful monitoring of the disease.

“Over 20,000 American seniors were diagnosed with primary liver cancer in 2013, and a multi-pronged, ‘custom’ approach to treating their disease is crucial in evening the odds,” said Dr. Mohanty.

To find a physician affiliated with New York Methodist Hospital’s Center for Liver Diseases, please call the Institute for Digestive and Liver Disorders, 866-DIGESTI (866-344-3781).
The importance of the health care proxy

By Joanna R. Leefer

Want to know how to insure an aging friend or relative receives the best medical care? Answer: Become her health care proxy. A health care proxy, also called a health care agent, is a person who is legally permitted to make medical decisions for another when the friend is no longer able to speak for herself.

As your friend’s health care agent, you can approve or refuse medical treatments and make health decisions on all types of care. You can sit in on her medical meetings, decide on surgical treatments, approve all diagnostic tests and treatments, approve all meetings, decide on medications and make health decisions for another when the friend is no longer able to speak for herself.

The health care agent has the authority to make decisions on more than medical procedures. You can insure the health care staff treats your friend with respect and dignity. You can stay in the room when your friend is being bathed or dressed in a nursing facility or at home. In fact, as your friend’s advocate, it is often a good idea to occasionally stay in the room when an aide is attending to her. In this way you can note if your friend is developing bedsores or bruising, and if so, that they are reported and treated.

A friend can appoint you as her agent by filling out a legal document called a Health Care Proxy. The only major requirement is that two adults must agree to know how your friend feels about such important issues as artificial nutrition and hydration and life support.

The Health Care Proxy is one of the easiest documents to obtain and activate. It can be downloaded for free from the New York Department of Health’s website. You do not even need a lawyer. The only requirement is that two adults must witness you and your friend signing the form.

Once the proxy is signed, you should make several copies. You should keep one copy, give one to your friend, and others should be distributed to all your friend’s physicians and lawyers. If your friend enters a hospital, the attending physician and nurse should be given copies, and if she is assigned to a nursing home or rehabilitation facility, the staff of that institution should have copies as well.

The health care proxy is one of several documents categorized as Advanced Directives. These directives refer to any instructions about health care. Two other important directives include living wills, and financial power of attorneys. A living will outlines specific medical measures that are to be taken under specific circumstances. It can indicate a person’s medical preference even though it cannot possibly cover all questions. The financial power of attorney appoints a person to oversee financial, legal, and other matters. The health care proxy is only good for medical situations.

If no one is appointed as an agent, state law determines who can make health decisions. Many states, including New York, allow a hierarchy of decision makers to determine who to consult. It usually starts with a court-appointed guardian if one has already been assigned to an incapacitated adult. Next in line is the spouse or domestic partner, then a child over 18 years old, then a parent, then a sibling over 18, and finally a close friend or relative.

Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor who has been working with seniors and their families for 10 years. Visit www.joannaleefer.com.

“We had my stroke, I was afraid life would never be the same.”

New York Methodist is one of the only hospitals in Brooklyn with the latest technology to treat and reverse strokes.

Speedy diagnosis and expert treatment are crucial when dealing with a stroke. Should you ever experience one, you’ll get the fastest, most qualified care possible at New York Methodist Hospital. The latest drugs, and the most sophisticated technology are tools used by our highly trained neurosurgeons to remove blood clots and reverse stroke effects up to twelve hours from the onset of symptoms. Permanent damage can often be prevented and a full recovery is possible.

We fixed that.

Emergency Department

506 Sixth Street, Brooklyn www.nym.org
ER Pedestrian Entrance corner of Seventh Avenue and Sixth Street
An emergency cash transfusion was just what the doctor ordered for ailing Interfaith Medical Center, which returned to business after Albany performed fiscal CPR to revive worried workers and activists (“Interfaith saved temporarily by 11th-hour cash infusion,” online Dec. 24).

Around $2 million in state funds will keep the hospital from flatlining at least until March 7, said sources, providing an unexpected tonic for patients who thought the Central Brooklyn institution, whose slogan is “A New Beginning,” would close permanently this week.

Our commentariat debated Interfaith’s health online.

The most important part of Interfaith is the clinics and the emergency room. People are wasting time and money in trying to save a hospital that doesn’t provide a lot of services to begin with.

They should be focused on saving all those clinics, the psychiatric service, and the emergency room. There has to be somebody willing to continue the needed care for the most in need.

Clarke

Do we just shut down any hospital that is mismanaged by its execs? Wall Street execs mismanaged lots of things, but they were bailed out and saved. Communities are important to the core of a thriving city to allow them to fail. Why shouldn’t our most important community assets be saved like Wall Street was?

Why are we expected to accept that the regular people must give up their most important community assets and just get over it? H.H. from BKlyn

As an employee, management has been told thousands of times what the problems and issues were, and still are, and how to save dollars, but the advice has fallen on deaf ears for years. If somebody listened, then perhaps the hospital would still have a chance. Perhaps, this is the reason nobody was listening. What a shame.

Hospital lover from Brooklyn

The hospital is the worst of the worst. It’s really bad there. They should shut down all operations. The care there is really bad and it’s nasty and filthy there. The employees have bad nasty attitudes.

They have you waiting for hours in the emergency room, and its not a safe hospital, as anyone can sneak into it, and rob or come up to your floor and room, and kill you and get away.

John Brown from Brownsville

Can’t ObamaCare fix this?

Curious from Want to Know

It’s disgusting that instead of firing the executives who irresponsibly mismanage our hospitals and run them into the ground, and taking our hospital away from an irresponsible, corrupt management, the state just closes the hospital, and the guilty executives get to walk away with full pockets.

The only ones suffering the consequences brought by those mismanagers are the people who depend on those hospitals, while the mismanagers move on to bigger and better things, and get richer.

Disgusting.

Lock’emUp from Brooklyn

Look like the Medicaid waiver will come through, and the state will get lots of dollars. Some of the hospital — outpatient, psych, ER — must be saved.

Marsha Rimer from Brooklyn

The main thing is saving the medical services for the community. If other medical services may take over the hospital’s many outpatient clinics, including its ambulatory care center, dental clinic, and outpatient psychiatric clinic, the services will still be available for the community, so what’s the problem?

Couldn’t the staff be reassigned to whoever takes over the services? Couldn’t the remaining hospital beds be transferred to any of the other three hospitals in Central Brooklyn?

Or get Downstate to stop playing games with Brooklyn and let those patients into LIHC?

Confused from Carroll Gardens

Everybody’s waiting for the Medicaid waiver millions, but did Cuomo ever say he was going to put any of that money to hospitals that he’s been trying to shut down?

Watch: Fighting to save our hospitals, Brooklyn elected officials and citizenzens will be the ones who get that money back to the state finally, and dollars to doughnuts won’t see a significant penny of it given to the hospitals we’re trying to save.

When that money comes in Cuomo is going to owe Brooklyn. The rich get richer, the poor get more, and the rest of us get told to go to Manhattan and get over it. Governor good for nothing.

A.J. from Park Slope

Why shouldn’t our most important community assets be saved like Wall Street was? Why are we expected to accept that the regular people must give up their most important community assets and just get over it?

We’re fighting with you, don’t give up!” I agree.

Barbara Ruether from St. Vincent’s, Greenwich Village

What a waste of state taxpayers money. The union workers will suck up those dollars in a second. A full-time union nurse easily makes $100,000 in Brooklyn. I don’t hear them taking a pay cut to help keep the place open.

Bay Rider from Bay Ridge

Cuomo pulled a classic, stupid, publicity stunt with this eleventh hour BS. They couldn’t have done this earlier? Sure they could have! Does he think it will add a sense of urgency to the waiver application? Sure he does!

Will Brooklyn see a penny of that money if it comes through? Fugged-about it!

It will all go upstate, m’friends, all upstate to hospitals that don’t need it and leave a Medicaid deficit in our hospitals for years.

Then another Republican governor (get real, that’s what this loser is!) will blame the lack of money on mismanagement.

Stop Cuomo from wrecking Brooklyn health care!

Paul from Ft. Greene

Having spent time watching family members will away in a few hospitals in New York City, I can tell you from first-hand experience that the nurse’s salary listed above seems like a bargain.

So why should they be expected to take a pay cut?

Joe from Bay Ridge

Get rid of the workers they are the worst!

Peaceful Soul from Bedford-Stuyvesant

Library sellout

To the editor

The most valuable real estate up for grabs in Brooklyn is where Cadman Plaza Library is located. The going rate for newly built condominiums there have a price tag of $6-$8 million, with penthouse condos selling for at least $30 million.

The real estate moguls will be realizing hundreds of millions dollars, perhaps a billion, in profits from the sale and rental of living space to the wealthy, and from numerous businesses.

The Brooklyn Public Library, in a frenzy to sell the Cadman Plaza library by the first quarter of 2014, is already pleading poverty and planning cutbacks on library days and hours.

“The library is aiming to keep the new branch open seven days a week, but the extra day would be contingent on money from an ever-shrinking citywide library budget,” stated its spokesman in your paper (“Library bookmarks Brooklyn Heights branch plans,” online Dec. 13).

There is no guarantee the Brooklyn Heights Library will be open even five days a week. In 1980, it took a library protest by hundreds of patrons, walking with signs and chanting over the Brooklyn Bridge to City Hall, to keep the library open six days a week.

Justine Swartz
Brooklyn Heights

Welcome Carmen

To the editor:

The Council of School Supervisors and Administrators is delighted with Mayor DeBlasio’s decision to appoint Carmen Farina as schools chancellor.

Carmen is universally recognized as one of the great educators in this city. Without a doubt, she is an educator’s educator — something that we have not had for 15 years.

Carmen understands the need to restore the respect educators deserve. Her plan to reduce reliance on high-stakes testing at the expense of innovative instruction is a welcome change. Carmen’s commitment to working with parents and all community stakeholders will restore a sense of optimism and trust in our schools.

We look forward to working with her and helping her as she guides our schools forward.

Ernest Logan

The writer is president of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators
Public hospitals and libraries are community-based institutions that should not be judged by profit and loss statements and should not be diminished by the city to revenue centers when these properties are sold.

We have seen some of the deleterious effects of closing hospitals around the city — with large areas of Brooklyn underserved as well as tony neighborhoods like Greenwich Village.

And we have witnessed the plans over the past six years to downsize libraries — a horrible idea when our city is experiencing fast-growing inequality, a downward-spiraling education system and a shrinking of resources for the elderly and the unemployed.

In 2007, the city sold the Midtown Manhattan Donnell Library on 53rd Street, a place where I spent numerous hours as a teenager in high school. The new plan is to shrink by at least two-thirds the new library and create the oxymoronic “bookless library.”

What? A bookless library sounds like a futuristic idea that misses the forest for the trees. Even in a digital age where books are being scanned and catalogued, there are still many in our society who prefer to gain knowledge from ink on paper and we should not disregard them. Also, many of the poor and elderly don’t have access to the Internet or can’t afford to buy books for a Kindle or iPad.

There is one group in New York, Citizens Defending Libraries, which has been fighting the good fight the last three years and has been successful in slowing down the Central Library Plan and the rush to monetize and shrink libraries in Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Led by the dynamic husband-wife team of Carolyn McIntyre and Michael White, this group has protested, and served lawsuits against the New York Public Library and the city. Perhaps most importantly they have educated elected leaders about this problem and last summer received the support of Bill De Blasio, the new mayor.

In the thick of the mayoral campaign in July, De Blasio wrote a letter as public advocate to Mayor Michael Bloomberg, decrying the NYPL renovation plans and the sale of two midtown libraries.

Here is a brief excerpt from that letter from De Blasio:

“The city’s three public library systems are critical public cultural institutions and have served our city well — supporting scholars and independent researchers, providing resources and services for immigrants and job seekers and serving as an intellectual home and refuge for lifelong learners and avid readers.

“Over the past 12 years, these institutions have faced budget cuts and public divestments, struggled to meet operating costs, been forced to reduce hours and services, and suffered from hundreds of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance on aging air conditioners, boilers, computers and roofs. But these fiscal challenges are not a rationale to engage in drastic measures — if anything, they underscore the need for prudence, frugality and caution.”

Amen.

It looks like Citizens Defending Libraries stalled long enough to get a new mayor who is extremely sympathetic to their cause. I suspect and hope that De Blasio will show equal passion for saving libraries as he has with hospitals.

Public libraries are one of the great equalizers in our society and at this stage of growing inequality, we can ill afford to lose any. In fact, we should find money from the city and state budgets to expand hours and grow the library system further. And not lose any more books in “bookless libraries.”

It may not be the sexiest public policy issue, but kudos to Citizens Defending Libraries and the candidate who supported its cause.

Tom Allon, president of City & State NY, was a Republican and Liberal Party-backed mayoral candidate in 2013 before he left to return to the private sector. Reach him at tallon@cityandstateny.com.

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Saying ‘thanks’ at Be Proud’s gala

Proud Foundation in appreciation of her adopted homeland.

“Whatever I have I want to share with everybody,” she said. “I want to give back to the country and the community.”

Raisa delivers a special salute to cops, sharing that when her mother died, a Finest from the 61st Precinct in Sheepshead Bay showed up to help her get through a tough time.

“He saw I was upset, and he stayed with me until my husband and children came home, so I want to say. ‘Thank you,’” she said.

Standing O pal Raisa is also quick to defend the Finest.

“We blame the police for everything, even things that are our own fault,” she said. “But God forbid something happens, they are the ones that are there for us, and I think it’s important that we thank them.”

Raisa stood by her words when her group hosted a dinner at Signature Restaurant in Sheepshead Bay, honoring Deputy Inspector Charles Scholl, Sgt. Anthony Caggiano, and members of the 60th Precinct Community Affairs Team.

Her own work has been recognized. Former comptroller John Liu presented Raisa with an award for her patriotic service.

Thank you Raisa, Standing O is proud of you!

Be Proud Foundation [2805 E. 26th St. at Shore Parkway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 788–7773].

Midwood

All that jazz

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts is seeing green! The organization received a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to help fund its April presentation of the Smithsonian Jazz Masterwork’s Orchestra’s “A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.”

The program will include many of the Queen of Smooth’s original big-band arrangements by Billy May, Count Basie, Van Alexander, Billy Strayhorn, and Benny Carter.

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts [2900 Campus Rd. at Hillel Place in Dyker Heights, (718) 951-4600].

Dancing for the Stars: First Lady Michelle Obama enjoys a performance by Flatbush’s Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy during a program awarding the organization in Washington.

Flatbush dancers sashay down to DC

FLATBUSH

Hip, hip, hooray to the Ifetayo Arts Cultural Academy for creating a buzz on Capitol Hill for the holidays.

First Lady Michelle Obama presented the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award to the Flatbush arts institution for its unique and diverse kids’ programs, and then watched some of the talented tappers take to the stage.

Aspiring dancers Isoke Senghor, Jahi Smith, Alexa Menua, Jean-Daniel John, Sonji Gaul, and Jahniah Kefentse, along with instructor Dr. Angela Gittens, and Ifetayo founder and C.E.O. Kwayera Archer-Cunningham, had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to perform in the nation’s capital in November and meet the First Lady.

The academy was one of a dozen programs across the country selected for the coveted award, much to the delight of students and staff.

“I am proud and overjoyed to be a part of the creative process which is all about how our youth represent the principles of the Ifetayo Cultural Arts Academy,” said Dr. Gittens, who teaches at Poly Prep Country Day School in Bay Ridge and choreographed the DC program.

Standing O adds its own congratulations!

Ifetayo Arts Cultural Academy [629 E. 35th St. at Foster Avenue in Flatbush, (718) 856-1123].

Dyker Heights

Twinkle on...

Brightly lit Dyker Heights is a shimmering national treasure, after being named one of America’s “Twinkliest Towns” by “Every Day with Rachel Ray” magazine.

“These towns turn the twinkle factor up so high, you’ve got to see them with your own two eyes — but maybe wear shades,” stated its website.

Standing O alerts readers: “Yule be in for a treat if you pass by Dyker for the next few days before the lights switch off until the next holiday season.”

Borough Wide

Checkmate!

Cheers to Edward R. Murrow High School student James Black, Jr., for acing first place at the Chess in the Parks Festival in Central Park. The 13th annual competition, hosted by Chess in the Schools, featured more than 100 games for budding Garry Kasparovs to test their skills, including “Chess-er-cize” that used oversized pieces in a giant chess game.

Standing O pal James successfully attacked the competition, earning himself the top trophy — and Standing O bragging rights!
FRESHMAN FIFTY

Comedians perform their first joke of 2014 at this annual tradition

By Jaime Lutz

Any other time of the year, you would need a lot of money, a lot of caffeine, and probably a time machine to see 50 comedians in one night. But not in early January.

That is when comedians John F. O’Donnell and Sachi Ezura host an annual tradition for New York’s comedy scene — a performance of the first joke more than 50 comedians have written for the year, all told within the span of two hours.

“The first year of it, it was like, ‘Oh, this can be a fun celebration of the comedy scene here,’” O’Donnell said of the show, which has now been going for eight years. “We didn’t know that it was going to keep going and take off and be such a popular thing.”

The line-up of this year’s show, which will be held at the Bell House on Jan. 3, includes both wild successes and hidden gems in the comedy world — look out for Aparna Nancherla, Ben Kronberg, Jermaine Fowler, Lukas Kaiser, and more. All of them have two minutes to tell the first joke they wrote in 2014, surrounded by fans and 49 of their peers. With that many comedians in one place, the atmosphere is joyous.

“It is all of your friends. It’s everyone that you like and think of funny,” said Ashley Brooke Roberts, who is performing at the show for the second year on a row. “It feels like a little bit of a reunion, it feels a little bit like a party. It gets a great crowd.”

Not to mention that the audience gets a lot of bang for its buck.

“Most shows, it’s like five comedians,” Roberts noted.

With several weeks of frustrating holidays behind them, these comedians have plenty of fodder. But the comedians said most punchlines do not revolve around drunk uncles and crappy gifts — the jokes are typically incredibly diverse.

“With 50 comedians, there is a big wide range of styles,” said Emmy Blotnick, who, like Roberts, is back at the show for a second year.

“So I look and I see this guy nodding leeringly at me. So I processed that. But then I saw it was like this big white guy with full cornrows in his hair, and I realized "Oh, he just doesn’t understand ethnic boundaries. He’s like a walking experiment in identity — just throwing things out into the universe and seeing what sticks. A work in progress, if you will. Carry on, sir. I wish you luck on your journey.”

“The 8th Annual 50 First Jokes” at the Bell House [149 Seventh St., between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510, www.thebellhouseny.com]. Jan. 3 at 8 pm. $10 advance, $12 at the door.

The last jokes of 2013: Comedians share their final funnies for the year

By Jaime Lutz

These comedians would not tell us their first joke of 2014 — but they did share the last one they wrote in 2013:

**Aparna Nancherla**

So I got called a lot, but maybe it’s winter so people are stepping down their game. I was walking in Union Square, and I just hear this yelled with provocative enthusiasm: “NAMASTE!” And (I’m Indian so) I thought “No way, there’s no way that was for me. But I will just look over in that direction to see what’s going on.” So I look and I see this guy nodding leeringly at me. So I processed that. But then I saw it was like this big white guy with full cornrows in his hair, and I realized “Oh, he just doesn’t understand ethnic boundaries. He’s like a walking experiment in identity — just throwing things out into the universe and seeing what sticks. A work in progress, if you will. Carry on, sir. I wish you luck on your journey.”

**Ashley Brooke Roberts**

My boyfriend’s from New Jersey and he just took me to see Bruce Springsteen. I’m pretty sure he thinks we’re married now.

**John F. O’Donnell**

Have you ever beat somebody at pool who brought their own stick, and you don’t even own your own stick, because you’re normal? That feels awesome. Because their internal monologue is, “Okay, I’m going out tonight for the sole purpose of playing and winning at pool. I’ve invested hundreds of dollars in this stick, which is slightly different from the free sticks that will already be there. And I certainly don’t plan on losing, especially to somebody who didn’t bring their own stick, because I equate way too much of my self-worth with whether or not I win at pool.” And then your internal monologue is, “Oh look, a pool table. Maybe I’ll play pool.” And the best part is that after you beat them, they have to do that unwind of shame with their stick and then put the two sad little pieces into their sad little flute case and walk out.
HAVE TRUCK, WILL TRAVEL
Photography show captures a unique perspective on Mexican carpoolers

By Samantha Lim

This photography show will make you think twice before complaining about New York rush hour.

“The Car Poolers,” currently on display at United Photo Industries in Dumbo, features photos of commuters headed to work while lying on hard wooden planks in open-air trucks. Dominican-born photographer Alejandro Cartagena spent a year capturing the images on the southbound Highway 85 in Monterrey, Mexico, where he now resides.

Taken from a high-angle, the photos give viewers the unique sensation of hovering above vehicles speeding down a highway. And in a way, they are — the audacious artist achieved this effect by dangling from an overhead bridge.

“I found a pedestrian bridge crossing the busiest highways in the metro area and stuck half of my body out to be able to shoot straight down,” he said.

Cartagena was invited to present the solo exhibition at United Photo Industries after winning the jury award in the gallery’s annual photography contest. But if his photos already look familiar to you, it may be because “The Car Poolers” received a significant amount of media attention when it opened at a Los Angeles gallery in early 2013, garnering write-ups from the likes of the New York Times, ABC News, and the Guardian, among many others.

Although the photos are from Mexico, the striking images address an issue that should resonate with many Americans — urban sprawl. In Monterrey, Cartagena explained, suburbs are being built at great distances from urban centers, causing longer commutes and higher fuel consumption.

“It is a very local issue but something we inherited from the American dream of suburban home ownership,” he said. “The cities and country didn’t pay attention to the problems that suburbanization would introduce and now everybody is paying for it. Monterrey’s metropolitan area is one of the most polluted and has one of the highest car crash rates in Mexico.”


Lights! Camera! Live-action! BAM Cinema screens ambitious Chekov play in real-time

By Megan Riesz

Forget NBC’s “The Sound of Music Live.”

A daring director is taking the same concept as the recent hit TV event — filming and screening a live theater production — but applying it to a much more challenging work: Anton Chekhov’s 1878 play “Platonov.” Each performance will be screened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music as it is staged, shot, and edited in real-time from a theater in Manhattan on Jan. 9, 16, and 23.

“I was really interested in taking some of the cultural capital of the movies — some of our understandings of how events are portrayed in movies — and bringing that onto stage,” said director Jay Scheib, who won an Obie award for his 2012 production “World of Wires,” and was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2011.

The live event will take eight actors, six designers and technicians, and one single editor to pull off. The team is set to film and edit at the Kitchen, an experimental arts space in Chelsea, with two cameras and a five-second delay — less time than the NBA has to edit during games, Scheib said.

“Without them, I would have no chance,” Scheib said of his collaborators. “This has a lot of moving parts.”

But Scheib will not be out of his depth. He has already directed about six other live cinema productions, including Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni’s “This Place is a Desert.” The ambitious artist said he decided to tackle Chekhov’s unfinished “Platonov” — which follows an embittered teacher and a band of anti-heroes who use vodka and sex to cope with the disappointment of life — because it is one of the Russian author’s longest and unfinished plays.

“I have this passion for the early works of major writers,” he said.

Scheib, a professor for music and theater arts at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has also produced several contemporary operas and musicals — including “punk songspiel” “Addicted to Bad Ideas: Peter Lorre’s 20th Century,” and Evan Ziporyn’s opera, “A House in Bali.” But despite his lengthy theater resume, Scheib said his true love is the big screen.

“I have a huge passion for the cinema,” Scheib said. “I grew up with it, like all of us.”

“Platonov, or The Disinherited” at BAM Rose Cinemas 30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Green, (718) 636–4100, www.bam.org, Jan. 9, 16, and 23 at 8 pm. $7–$13.

Hail to the King

Rockabilly band throws a birthday bash for Elvis

By Meredith Deliso

This is a tribute fit for a king.

Elvis Presley would have turned 78 years old on Jan. 8. So to honor the late icon’s birthday, new venue Radio Bushwick is hosting the “Elvis Birthday Tribute Extravaganza,” with performances from four live bands, plus Elvis-themed dance, costume and trivia contests.

Headlining the show will be Brooklyn-based rockabilly band Screamin’ Rebel Angels. Frontwoman Laura Rebel Angel has been throwing an Elvis tribute for the past five years as a way to celebrate the man and his music.

“Besides loving Elvis as the amazing performer and icon that he is, I find that these shows are a great way to introduce a larger audience to the current genre of rockabilly that is happening in New York City, and Brooklyn in particular,” said Angel, who is christening Radio Bushwick, the neighborhood’s first professional concert hall, with its first rockabilly show. “Early Elvis is the gateway drug of rockabilly, and we’re trying to give the audience a taste and hope that they get hooked.”

To that end, Screamin’ Rebel Angels and the three other bands on the bill — the Bothers, Sean Coleman and the Quasars, and the Raw Dogs — will each be performing a handful of Elvis songs — both classics and more obscure tunes — alongside their own originals. Angel said her band will take on Elvis’s treasured tracks “Hard Headed Woman,” “Hound Dog,” and “One Night of Sin.”

The night’s festivities will also give audience members the opportunity to channel the King themselves. SlapBack, a vintage boutique in Williamsburg, will host a costume contest and award prizes for three different Elvis-related personas — “Rockabilly Elvis” (think vintage blazers and skinny ties and pocket squares, or gabardine shirts with neckerchiefs), “Crazy Vegas Elvis” (jumpsuits and sunglasses will do the trick), and ‘1960s Priscilla Presley” (“We will be looking for the giant hair, heavy eyeliner, and bombshell dresses,” said Angel).

Additionally, an “Elvis Pelvis Dance-Off” will award those with the best hip-swinging moves, while the trivia contest will give attendees the chance to prove they know their “Blue Suede Shoes” from their “Moody Blue.”

“The Elvis Birthday Tribute will be filled with so many opportunities for audience participation,” said Angel. “It’s more than just a rock ‘n’ roll show.”


By Samantha Lim

Photography show captures a unique perspective on Mexican carpoolers

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Lights! Camera! Live-action! BAM Cinema screens ambitious Chekov play in real-time

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AROUND TOWN

SHOWCASE TAKES ROOT

‘Fiddling poet’ gathers roots musicians for Red Hook variety show

By Meredith Deliso

This is one music show where you can really find your roots.

On Jan. 9, the Jalopy Theatre in Red Hook is hosting a variety show that starts and ends with Appalachian string-band music and throws in Irish sessions, country, bluegrass, and even some percussive dancing in between.

“You can get a whole education in one night,” said Ken Waldman, who is also known as “Alaska’s Fiddling Poet,” and will bring together more than 20 artists for the roots showcase.

Though based out of Alaska, Waldman has spent the better part of the past decade on the road. Along the way, he has made friends across the country, many of whom will be in town for the Association of Performing Arts Presenters conference, taking place in Manhattan Jan. 10-14. For the past five years, Waldman has been putting together variety shows in conjunction with the annual conference, and the Jalopy show—dubbed “From Red Hook to the Real Alaska”—marks his second in Brooklyn.

Waldman will kick things off with his unique mix of Appalachian string-band music and original poetry. From there, the night will also see sets from the likes of out-of-towners Wild Carrot, a Cincinnati duo that combines bluegrass, country, Celtic, swing, and modern folk; and Brian Vollmer’s Old-Time Music Party, an old-time string-band based out of Ithaca. Several Brooklyn locals will also take the stage, including fiddlers Stephanie Coleman and Caitlin Warbelow.

Warbelow, a fellow Alaskan who now lives in Greenpoint, is putting together a group specifically for the Jalopy show. The line-up will feature musicians from her album “Manhattan Island Sessions,” a compilation of live recordings of traditional Irish music sessions from around the city.

“People hear a lot of Irish music these days, but most of the commercial stuff is very different than the actual traditional reels, jigs, and songs,” said Warbelow. “The idea behind presenting session-style music is to expose audiences to the experience of hearing ‘real’ traditional music in a performance context while still retaining the amazing drive and energy that makes people head out to pubs to hear this style of music.”

A highlight of the night is sure to be Ken’s Class Party, a big jam session in the middle of the showcase that will feature a series of collaborations from all of the musicians on hand that night.

“It’s an experiment, but they’re all great ingredients,” said Waldman.


Hungry horticulture: Carnivorous plants take Crown Heights

By Colin Mixson

The Brooklyn Children’s Museum is turning into a “Little Shop of Horrors.”

As part of its “Icky Fest 2014” weekend—a celebration of all things creepy, crawly, and covered in slime on Jan. 11–12—the Crown Heights museum is hosting a talk by an expert on meat-eating plants, who will bring his carnivorous collection with him.

“My interest in carnivorous plants was always about role reversals,” said Jonathan Kui, and Sheephead Bay resident and the owner of plant nursery Midtown Carnivores. “Usually, you have animals eating plants, but the plants I’m bringing have found interesting ways of catching and digesting animals.”

Most people have heard of the Venus flytrap—a flower-producing plant that comes equipped with a few vicious bulbs for ensnaring hapless bugs and then digesting them in a spicy enzyme bath. But Kui believes that the Venus flytrap has received enough press, and he is more interested in teaching kids about lesser-known bug-eating vegetation.

“I always wanted to give back to the community, by teaching children that there’s more to carnivorous plants than the Venus flytrap,” he said.

Kui’s favorite plant, for instance, is the very rare, very odd-looking Australian pitcher plant, which snags unfortunate bugs in its pit-shaped leaves, before devouring them at its leisure.

“It’s really gnarly looking,” he said.

Every kid in attendance at Kui’s two Icky Fest seminars will receive a pot and the seeds of a South African Cape sundew plant to take home, so they can grow little carnivores of their own.

“It’s a fantastic beginner plant and I can’t recommend it enough,” he said.

And parents, don’t worry about the safety of your little ones around the plants. Kui said he has not lost anyone yet.

“No, I haven’t lost any fingers,” he said. “These plants can’t crash or hurt people, even very small people.”


Start the year off right, with a night in Bay Ridge

By Will Bredderman

Welcome back to Bay Ridge Nights, showing you where and when to party in the nightlife capital of southern Brooklyn.

Hopefully you have had time to rest up after a wild welcome to 2014. If you are looking to start the year off on a quieter foot, swing by Pipin’s Pub [9701 Third Ave., at 97th Street] on Friday at 9 pm, to hear the acoustic stylings of Chris Decker. He will be covering songs both classic and contemporary, and taking your requests.

After your nerves have relaxed and your hangover faded, you should be ready to dance at Cafe Remy [7110 Third Ave. between 71st and 72nd streets]. DJ Camilo starts spinning house music and R&B favorites at 6 pm and goes all the way ‘til 4 am, so don’t worry about being late.

On Saturday, be prepared to rock out to the sounds of Backseat Love Affair at the Monk [9510 Third Ave., between 95th and 96th streets]. The band is coming all the way from Jersey City to bring the Ridge hard rock tunes dating back as far as the late ’70s and as recently as 2013. The show starts at 11 pm.

Got a suggestion for Bay Ridge Nights? Contact Will Bredderman by emailing wbredderman@cnlocal.com or by calling (718) 260-4507.

Feed me, Seymour: Carnivorous plant expert Jonathen Kui says he has never lost a finger to his Venus flytrap. Photo by Steve Solomonson
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WED, JAN. 8

AFTER SCHOOL ICE SKATING: Children ages 5–7 learn the basic elements of ice skating through instruction and individual instruction. Free. 4 pm. Lasker Pool & Rink [110 Malcolm X Blvd., Central Park

THURS, JAN. 9


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St. Edmund can’t hold off Springfield Gardens

Eagles’ lead fizzled under defense’s intense pressure

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

St. Edmund kept its composure against Springfield Gardens for three quarters, and even took a seven-point lead into the final frame — but the lead didn’t last, thanks to Springfield Garden’s pressure defense.

Victory ultimately eluded the Eagles in a 46–43 defeat in non-league boys’ basketball at Aviator Sports Complex last Friday. The St. Edmund team, which lead by 11 early in the second quarter, saw a 15–2 Springfield Gardens run put it in a 46–41 hole with 1:07 left to play in the game.

“We weren’t mentally tough enough in this game to hold the lead,” Eagles coach Dan Wiatre said. “It was disappointing. Our guys are better than that.”

His club turned the ball over against Springfield Gardens’ pressure in the fourth quarter and was rushing their offense instead of meticulously running sets like it had earlier in the game. Nick Tsatsis (eight points) took a charge after Freddie Gavitt made two free throws to get St. Edmund (4–5) the ball back down 46–43 with 23.1 seconds to go.

Star forward Altine King, who struggled for the first time this season, threw an errant pass in traffic on the ensuing possession. A desperation heave from the Eagles in the closing seconds fell short. Junior Travis Raynor scored 12 points to pace Springfield Gardens, one of the Public School Athletic League’s top Class A teams.

“The first three quarters, our offense was flowing, they weren’t really pressuring,” King said. “Once the defense pressured the ball, we just got nervous and careless with the ball.”

There were some bright spots early on. The Eagles excelled in the second quarter even with King (12 points) on the bench with three fouls. Sharpshooter Chris DeCapua got hot in the third thanks to King drawing the Springfield Garden’s defense to him on drives to the paint.

DeCapua connected on consecutive three-pointers during a 10–2 spurt to close the frame that put St. Edmund up 34–27 heading into the fourth.

“He’s our best shooter. It’s not even close,” Wiatre said. “He is the only guy who has the green light from the three-point line. He did a good job in the third quarter stepping up and hitting a couple of big threes.”

His team has struggled to find consistency early in the season both within each game and between them.

“This season has been win one, lose one,” King said. “We can never string two wins back to back.”

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Danielle Patterson is a different kind of freshman.

The Medgar Evers girls’ hoops star sure doesn’t carry herself like one — on or off the court. The 6-foot-4 wing, arguably the best player in the city in her class, is already averaging 19 points and eight rebounds in Public School Athletic League Class AA play, and she has her eyes on earning her Associates Degree before graduating from the Francis Lewis Winter Ball on Dec. 21. Patterson struggled in the first half, scoring just three points. She watched good shots off strong moves fail to drop. Patterson didn’t get down. She shook it off and excelled after the break.

“I have to say to myself I’m going to miss shots,” Patterson said. “Not every shot if going back on defense to keep my team going. I didn’t want them to get their heads down.”

Pick it up she did.

Patterson, also a vocal leader, scored 12 of her 15 points in the second half. She connected on a step-back jumper.

Continued on page 33
All-Boro football honors

Undefeated city champion Abraham Lincoln sweeps player and coach of year selections

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Brooklyn was again the place for premier high school football in New York City — including some of the nation’s best players.

Penn State-bound defensive lineman Thomas Holley helped lead Abraham Lincoln to its second undefeated Public School Athletic League City conference football title. Ohio State-bound running back Curtis Samuel and Erasmus Hall reached the semfinals and Fort Hamilton enjoyed a resurgent season.

A South Shore took the city championship. The Railsplitters’ top receiver to perfection this season. No grab was bigger than his 61-yard score in the fourth quarter. Nursing two hurt ankles, Moore threw for 1,428 yards and 13 touchdowns, including five against Truman. He added two picks, a fumble recovery and 61 tackles on defense.

QB: James Esposito, Bishop Ford

Esposito, a junior, had a monster year in his first season as the varsity starter. Adding an aerial attack was a big reason why Ford got over the hump and reached the Catholic High School Football League’s Class AA playoffs. Esposito earned the league’s AA offensive player-of-the-year award after throwing for 1,932 yards and 21 touchdown passes.

DL/OL: Jay Hayes, Poly Prep

The Notre Dame-bound lineman continued to be a dominant force on the gridiron. Opponents continually ran their offensive plays away from Hayes, who is an excellent run stopper. On defense he provided key blocking that


Unbelievable: Abraham Lincoln’s Javon Moore threw four touchdown passes in the school’s game against Erasmus Hall on Oct. 18.

Ham Lincoln

The Railsplitters’ maturity into a championship was a two-year process for O’Connor. He molded this group from a young and inexperienced team a year ago, into an unbeaten juggernaut that rolled through opponents this season.

RB/DB: Jaleel Brown, New Utrecht

The senior was one of the title game. The Railsplitters’ top receiver to perfection after Jamiek Davis transferred. The senior had 47 catches for 887 yards and nine touchdowns to help Lincoln to a perfect regular season. No grab was bigger than his 61-yard score in the fourth quarter of the city’s most explosive runners. His play on both sizes of the ball was a big reason for the Utes’ success. Brown rushed helped Poly achieve the dynamic running game that became its signature.

Continued on page 33
GOOD HANDS: Bishop Ford’s quarterback James Esposito hands the ball to running back Rodney Gonzales during the team’s game against St. Francis Prep. Photo by William Thomas

Honors

Continued from page 32

DL/OL: Thomas Holley, Abraham Lincoln

This was only Holley’s second season playing football, and you can see the improvement and his potential begin to be realized. The Penn-State bound lineman had seven sacks, 68 tackles and recovered a fumble to help make the Railsplitters one of the toughest defenses to run on this season.

RB: Antoine Holloman, Abraham Lincoln

The senior running back put together another superb and versatile season. Holloman rushed for 1,436 yards and 23 touchdowns as the lead back of the Lincoln running attack. He also had 183 yards receiving and two touchdowns to go along with his ability as a productive kick returner.

QB: Chris Parker, Poly Prep

Parker is one of the city’s most underrated players. The undersized junior doesn’t look like much until the ball is snapped. Then he can beat with his arm and his legs, something the did often this season for the Blue Devils. Parker’s best performance was 228 yards of total offense and four touchdowns in a win over the Hun School.

DB/WR: Darin Peart, Erasmus Hall

There may not be a more efficient player in New York City. The senior was all over the place on defense. He made 23 tackles and collected five interceptions. Peart also had seven catches for 191 yards and four touchdowns to help keep defenses honest against the Erasmus running attack.

RB: Khalil Lewin, Erasmus Hall

Lewin continues to be one of the city’s most productive runners. The senior has the ability to stay low, be physical, and get the tough yards up into the heart of a team’s defensive line. He rushed for 1,459 yards and 19 touchdowns and added an 82-yard kick return score for the Dutchmen.

RB/DB: Curtis Samuel, Erasmus Hall

There isn’t a more physically gifted player in the five boroughs’ period. The Ohio State-bound Samuel could turn every time he touched the ball into a big play. The two games Erasmus loss Curtis Samuel did not finish because of injury. He scored 21 total touchdowns and rushed for 1,451 yards.

RB/DB: Hollis Superville, Boys and Girls

The senior is the epitome of a do-it-all player. Superville was the stand out in the Kangroos multi-back offensive attack. He recorded 824 yards of total offense and nine touchdowns. Superville also had 23 tackles on defense, a sack, an interception and two fumble recoveries for Boys & Girls.

Red Rover: Boys and Girls running back Hollis Superville makes his way past Clinton players. Photo by William Thomas

Flying High: Lincoln’s Desi Rodriguez makes a slam dunk during the game against Brooklyn Collegiate on Dec. 14. Photo by Steve Solomonson

Desi decides on future

Will join teammate Isaiah Whitehead at Seton Hall

By Joseph Staszewski

Desi Rodriguez saw no reason to wait, even though he knew his recruiting stock could go higher.

The Abraham Lincoln senior wing verbally committed last week to play basketball at Seton Hall next season after a coming-out performance of sorts in front of Pirates assistant coach Fred Hill at the prestigious City of Palms tournament. Other scholarship offers from top colleges would have likely been on the way after his strong overall play—including 25 points against the nation’s top-ranked team, Montverde (Fla.).

But Rodriguez didn’t want a school that jumped in late.

“I felt like it was important to commit now because I didn’t want to get caught up in the excitement with all the school calling for me and make a decision that I would later regret,” Rodriguez said.

He will join Railsplitters teammate Isaiah Whitehead a possibly coach Dwayne “Tiny” Morton at Seton Hall. It was reported back in September when Whitehead committed that Morton would join Seton Hall head coach Kevin Willard’s staff next season, but no official announcement has been made.

Rodriguez said that he and Whitehead, who have a close bond off the court as well, did talk before he made his decision. They wanted to keep up their partnership that led Lincoln to a Public School Athletic League Class AA city title last season.

“I felt like it was important to do it together and why not do the same thing in college,” Rodriguez said.

Seton Hall is getting one of the city’s most versatile and improving players.

Patterson

Continued from page 31

Patterson later spun into the lane and dropped in a floater. They are moves not usually seen from someone at her age and size. Patterson said her father Lamont made sure she learned how to handle the ball and shoot. She did not get buried in the post despite being 5-foot-10 in sixth and seventh grade.

“She can dribble,” Medgar Evers senior point guard Kailyn Richmond said. “She can breakdown a defense. She can get into the paint and grab rebounds. That’s the great part. She is an all-around player.”

Patterson’s skills have already drawn interest from colleges like St. John’s, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio State, Louisville, Wagner, Kentucky, and Seton Hall among others. She is only going to get better as she works to improve her ball handling.

“There is room for growth,” said Medgar Evers coach Janice Carter. “She is only a freshman, but you can see the potential in her.”

Her teammates appreciate both the skills and the attitude she comes in with, but Patterson’s good nature still has her playing in the victory over Thomas Jefferson at Madison Square Garden.

“He is a team that likes to get out and run and I think I could fit in with that perfectly with my athleticism,” he said.

Rodriguez fit in well after transferring to Lincoln as a junior from Fredrick Douglass Academy III, which played in the Public School Athletic League’s Class B division. He is a big reason the Railsplitters are the defending city champs and a favorite to win again this season. Rodriguez scored 16 points and grabbed 18 rebounds in the victory over Thomas Jefferson at Madison Square Garden.

He now joins a Seton Hall recruiting class including Whitehead, Bishop Loughlin star Khadeen Carrington, four-star recruit Angel Delgado, and Ismael Sanogo that is expected to help turn the program around. It a position Rodriguez is happy to find himself in.

“I’m very excited to be a part of Seton Hall because I think the players that I will be there with next year can put a whole lot on the table,” Rodriguez said.

The 6-foot-7 Rodriguez can score inside and out and is dynamic in transition and a workhorse on the boards. He is averaging 25.5 points and 13.7 rebounds over five league games this season. Rodriguez feels Seton Hall plays a style that will bring out the best in him.

“We are a team that likes to get out and run and I think I could fit in with that perfectly with my athleticism,” he said.

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PJC RESTAURANT, LLC, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/30/13. Office location: Kings County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to C/O Pierre Cournot, 200 Mercer St., Apt. 1-C, NY, NY 10012. General Purpose.

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