

## Dogs have their day at 'Stroll'

BY MAX JAEGER

Could your pooch be America's Next Top Mongrel?

The Third Avenue Summer Stroll is looking for a few good dogs for its first-ever doggie talent show on July 18. Canine contestants don't exactly have to save Jimmy from a well, but they should at least know how to work a crowd, one organizer said.

"I'm not looking for super dog, I'm looking for a dog that would make the crowd laugh," said Debra Capone, who owns Third Avenue's Debra Rose Beauty Supplies and is organizing the show.

The competition promises prizes and glory for precocious pups who put on a good performance, Capone said.

The talent show is the latest addition to the ever-growing Bay Ridge street fest, which started in 2011 and has picked up steam in recent years, another organizer said.

"It very quickly has become an institution — even though it's only in its third year," said Robert Howe, president of Merchants of Third Avenue. "We have a higher  
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# DINO-SAURING INTO BARCLAYS



**LEADER OF THE PACK:** A group of Utahraptors — named for the state where they were discovered — get ready to mount a hunting campaign in "Walking With Dinosaurs" at Barclays Center.  
Photo by David Scheinmann

## Pre-historic 'bots take over arena

BY MAX JAEGER

Hold on to your butts!

A pack of 20 life-size, animatronic dinosaurs will rampage through the Barclays Center starting July 16 as part of "Walking With Dinosaurs — The Arena Spectacular," a live-action take on the eponymous British Broadcasting Network series.

Audiences can gaze on the mighty Tyrannosaurus Rex, the gentle Brachiosaurus, and the fearsome Utahraptor — as well as a number of other species — as they parade through the arena in the 90-minute look into the lives of these long-dead lizards. And because the prehistoric creatures range from a few feet to a dozen yards tall, there isn't a bad seat  
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## Lovers: Payback time

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Paper doesn't carry the same weight as prison.

So say some of the couples who lost around \$1.8 million when Jason Stevens, owner of the Dumbo gastropub Rebar, closed the venue after they had booked their weddings there, and who aren't

happy with the latest details of a deal cut by the attorney general's office mandating that he pay them back and banning him from owning restaurants. The spurned lovebirds say that if he has any money, he is hiding it, and that the only true justice  
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**IN THE DARK:** Designers Alex Garkavenko and Adelle Lin created a role-playing game about historic preservation.  
Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## Lighting up Dumbo's past

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

It is "History Detectives" meets the historic district.

A high-tech game will hit the cobblestone streets of Dumbo on July 18, where participants posing as a team of detectives will comb the area for clues that will help build a case for historic preservation. The

free role-playing fun is intended to get people looking at their surroundings more closely, said one of the designers.

"It's all about how to get people interested in space again," said Adelle Lin, who developed the game with fellow designer Alex Garkavenko. "We're really

interested in gentrification and our game is a playful take on this thing that's happening everywhere."

In "Who's That Loft," players will carry ultraviolet torches and scour a portion of the neighborhood looking for markings made with invisible ink. When  
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# A night of Crosby, Stills, and Crash!

## Tree-branch-on-car collision sours folk night

BY NATHAN TEMPEY

A pair of Park Slope folk-music fans got a rude surprise on Tuesday night when they returned from a concert in Manhattan to find a massive tree branch lying atop their car.

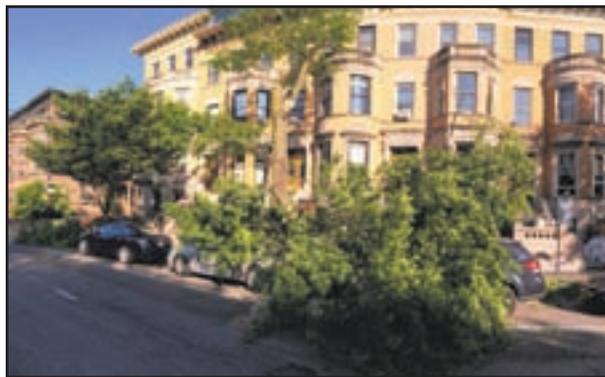
The Prospect Park West couple, both media professionals, arrived back at their home near Seventh Street from a Crosby, Stills, and Nash concert at around 11:45 pm to discover half of the top of the tree sitting on, and sticking through the windshield of, their Subaru station wagon.

"We just came home and there was a car on top of our tree," said a stunned Beth Petescia.

Her husband Chris gently corrected her.

"Vice versa," he said.

The tree limb apparently came down during the brief rainstorm that swept through Brooklyn around 10:40 pm. A neighbor said he heard Fire De-



**TIMBER:** The wind of a July 8 squall apparently brought down two big chunks of trees on a block of Prospect Park West, one of which crushed two cars. Beth and Chris Petescia

partment personnel using a chainsaw on the block around 10:45 or 11, but an FDNY spokesman said he could not locate a record of what transpired there.

Tree parts came down across the city, but no one was injured, the spokesman said.

The worst aspect of the incident was that it was avoidable, Chris Petescia said.

"The funny thing is there were two spots open, and had we taken the one further back, the car wouldn't have gotten hit," he said.

A Hyundai sedan also sat in the imprint of the fallen branch and, a block towards Bartel Pritchard Square, another tree limb lay across the bike path, posing a hazard to night riders.

## New harbor seal at Aquarium

BY VANESSA OGLE

A harbor seal pup is making a big splash in Coney Island.

The pup, born in late-May at the Wildlife Conservation Society's New York Aquarium, is only the second seal born at the aquarium in the past 15 years — and he is already showing his personality.

"He has already made an impression on visitors and staff," said Jon Forrest Dohlin, the vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The seal, which has yet to be named, will live in the Sea Cliffs environment with penguins, sea otters, sea lions, walruses, and



**SEALED AND DELIVERED:** New York Aquarium's newest harbor seal was born on May 27 and announced to the public on June 30, but is waiting on a name. Photo by Julie Larsen Maher

other harbor seals, and may help distract from the closed-off areas in the aquarium, which is still undergoing repairs from Hurricane Sandy and construction for its upcoming shark exhibit.

Dohlin said the pup is a delight to everyone who sees him at the aquarium as it continues its renovations.

"He is a delightful addition to the aquarium and a treat to everyone who comes through the facility while we work to recover from Hurricane Sandy and toward the opening of 'Ocean Wonders: Sharks,'" said Dohlin.



**GROWING IT OUT:** John and Kim Scala started the New York Shaving Company from their home in Bensonhurst — now they have a shop and factory in the neighborhood and two shaving parlors in Manhattan where they sell their high-end wares. Photos by Elizabeth Graham

## Whisker and reward

### Hurst company shaves beards, grows biz

BY MAX JAEGER

A Bensonhurst business is bringing back a lost art.

The New York Shaving Company makes hand-blended shaving soaps and colognes, classic safety razors, and high-end lather brushes from a storefront on 20th Avenue in Bensonhurst and operates two shave parlors in Manhattan. Despite the parlors' location across the river, the service is totally Old Brooklyn, according to one of the company's founders.

"It goes back to the days that dapper guys sought out a close shave in a more masculine environment," said John Scala.

Scala and his wife started the company in 2008 on a wing and a prayer.

"We sold my engagement ring for the last \$10,000 to open," said Kim Scala. "I did it because I knew this was his life-long dream."

Six years later, the company has three stores, employs about 10 people, and is getting some tall orders.

In a major first for the business, mail-order grooming-goods supplier



**BARE CLUB FOR MEN:** The New York Shaving Company sells high-end shaving implements and hand-blended soaps and colognes. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Birchbox placed an order for 5,000 shaving kits that the husband-and-wife team just filled on July 2, Kim said.

"It's really exciting, we've never been in a program like that," she said.

The company started out of the couple's Bensonhurst home, but they quickly found they needed a dedicated space, so they leased a corner shop on 20th Avenue and 73rd Street down the street from their home.

Now the pair owns two parlors in Manhattan that offer tonsorial services — a fancy word for an

even fancier shave — as well as shaving instruction and razor sharpening. With decor that looks like it was lifted from the set of HBO's "Boardwalk Empire" and barbers who look like they might be named Sal or Mack, these parlors are the real deal. And the guy shearing your stubble is guaranteed to be a master barber — a designation only attainable after 1,500 hours of school and an 18-month apprenticeship — and John said he only hires masters with at least a decade of experience.

"It's a 200-year-old craft — it's something that you can't pick up over night," he said.

The company may even open a parlor on Brooklyn's trendy shores — most likely in Park Slope or Prospect Heights, because the demographics could support the niche operation, John said.

Kim said she's fine with reinvesting in expansion rather than getting another ring, because she's confident Jon will replace it one day — with one little caveat.

"It has to be worth double," she joked.

# Activists: State's LICH deal racist

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

The deal to sell the Long Island College Hospital campus is almost done, but accusations of racism are dogging the final steps of the process.

The State University of New York signed a contract last Tuesday with the real estate developer Fortis Property Group to sell the complex that formerly housed Long Island College Hospital for \$240 million. Activist litigation to save the hospital has fallen dormant, but previously silent pols and activists are now wading into the fray, claiming the hospital closure and the state's torpedoing of talks with two minority developers amount to a racist affront to the minority residents of Cobble Hill and the surrounding communities. One African-American firebrand and longtime political figure said the closure of the hospital at the hands of the Gov.-Cuomo-controlled university system calls for drastic measures.

"I'm on my way to Albany, and when I get there I'm going to make a citizen's arrest of the governor," said former Councilman Charles Barron, at a press conference on the steps of City Hall in late June.

No reports suggest that Barron tried to make good on his claimed plan, but nevertheless, he was steamed at the state's executive.

"He is violating the human rights of our people," Barron said. "We don't want a medical facility — we want a full-service hospital."

The sale still needs to be approved by state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, and now members of the state Assembly's Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Caucus, along with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, are calling on the white DiNapoli to reject the deal.

The coalition is also demanding the attorney general open an investiga-

tion into why two racial-minority-owned development companies — Peebles Corporation and Brooklyn Health Partners — were passed over despite scoring higher than Jewish-owned Fortis in a process created by a court settlement. The settlement ended the lawsuit brought by community groups seeking to keep the hospital a hospital.

"We ask for a full investigation as to why these negotiations were conducted in a manner that is both not consistent with the [request for proposals] process and also contravenes the state's diversity objectives," wrote the caucus chairman, Assemblyman Karim Camara (D-Crown Heights), in a letter to the state university's board of trustees.

In a letter response to Camara, university chairman H. Carl McCall, himself a black man and political ally of Peebles Corporation's black executive Don Peebles, defended the board's decision to scuttle

talks with the firms, saying negotiations with each had reached dead ends.

"If we reach an impasse over critical issues such as provision of health care or the ability to fund the transaction or meet requirements of the RFP, we must move on to the next proposer as was directed by the court," the letter says. "We reached those immovable obstructions with both of the top two proposers."

McCall also included the letters sent to the respective developers, outlining the state's reasons for rejecting their proposals.

The state said it killed the Brooklyn Health Partners plan when it could not secure adequate funding, though the firm contends the state sabotaged negotiations and never showed real grounds.

The Peebles deal fell through because it asked to conduct environmental evaluations of the site prior to the sale and requested that the state split the cost



Photo by Steven Schillbe

**RAISING HIS VOICE:** Former Councilman Charles Barron claims state officials were racist in their handling of negotiations with minority-owned developers looking to purchase Long Island College Hospital.

of environmental remediation, the state said. It also asked that its medical partner North Shore-LIJ be allowed to operate the emergency department under the state's license for six months or longer, which the state says it didn't like.

Barron claimed Peebles should have been given a fairer shot, pointing out that negotiations ended before the prescribed 30-day talk-time expired.

"It's racist to jump over qualified corporations," he said. "This is not affirmative action. This is a quali-

fied project corporation ready to do the job."

Activists contending that the hospital's closure had a racist outcome point to Red Hook, which Long Island College Hospital served and which is 83 percent non-white, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

"Red Hook has a per-capita shortage of health services," said Jeff Strabone, a Cobble Hill Association board member, at the rally. "If you close Red Hook's hospital you exacerbate that racist health inequity."

*Continued on page 10*

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# Abandoned dog gets second life

## Residents are rallying to save sick terrier

BY VANESSA OGLE

An abandoned dog is melting hearts in Mill Basin with its puppy-dog eyes.

Customers at the Mill Basin Bagel Café found the adult Yorkshire terrier tied up outside the Avenue N eatery on June 27. The dog had no tags and was in sad condition — its matted fur spattered with urine and feces — so the noble nosers whisked the Yorkie across the street to the Mill Basin Veterinary Clinic.

There the matted muffin got a bath, a haircut and a check-up courtesy of Dr. Amy Lipnicki, a veterinarian at the clinic, who lamented that this poor pooch was the second abandoned pet she has seen in the neighborhood in the past few weeks.

“Some people just don’t go about it the right way,” said Lipnicki. “These poor little guys don’t deserve that.”

The check-up gave a clue as to why the dog may have been abandoned — Lipnicki discovered that the terrier needs surgery to remove a bladder stone, plus additional blood tests, and medication for a heart murmur.

Lipnicki dubbed the cuddly canine Aloisius and set up a page on the fund-raising site fundrazr.com to gather donations to cover the \$1,500 cost of his blood work, medications, and surgery.

Lipnicki also noted that Aloisius — described on the fund-raising page as an “intact male” — needs fixing in another way too, but she said that would be handled during the bladder surgery.

The Mill Basin Veterinary Clinic is offering dog lovers who donate \$50 or more a free nail trim and ear cleaning for their own pets.

After Aloisius has surgery, the sensitive sweetie will still need a special diet — something Lipnicki is



**CUDDLY CANINE:** Veterinarian Amy Lipnicki from the Mill Basin Veterinary Clinic cradles Aloisius, a Yorkshire terrier the clinic staff found abandoned outside the Mill Basin Bagel Cafe.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

taking into consideration. She’s reaching out to a specialty dog food company in the hope of securing a small stockpile of food for the dog’s future parents.

Also, Lipnicki said that any money collected in excess of the \$1,500 needed for the immediate treatment will be set aside to help cover future medical costs to make life easier for Aloisius’s new family.

“It’s hard to take on an adult dog with a medical condition,” said Lipnicki.

Aloisius is downright elderly, in fact, estimated to be about 8–10 years old — or 56–70 in dog years — but Lipnicki hopes some family in the area will open their hearts to the tired terrier.

In the meantime, Aloisius is in foster care — show-

ing that years of apparent neglect haven’t dimmed the dog’s affection for people.

“He’s always right by your foot,” said his foster mother, Marquita Leys. “Whenever you turn around, there he is.”

Leys said Aloisius is actually quite well-socialized, and friendly with both kids and adults. And she said that even though Aloisius isn’t a puppy anymore, he still deserves lots of loving.

“Older dogs need love too,” said Leys.

*Donations for Aloisius can be made online at <https://fundrazr.com/campaigns/co3B8?psid%3D95fb0366cfbf4315b6c2d6f5c6d3209f>, or sent to the Mill Basin Veterinary Clinic, 6315 Avenue N, Brooklyn, NY 11234.*

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**A BROOKLYN BIRTHDAY:** This year's Independence Day spectacle included fireworks launched from the Brooklyn Bridge itself, the first time in nearly 20 years the span has been a part of the show.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## Brooklyn celebrates Independence Day with a bang

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

It came back with a bang.

Brooklynites reclaimed their front-row seats for the Fourth of July fireworks show last Friday night, lining the waterfront and packing rooftops across the borough for a glimpse of

bombs bursting in air over the East River for the first time in five years.

This year's show included a special centerpiece — the Brooklyn Bridge — but the pyrotechnic barges were moved from between it and the Manhattan Bridge to the harbor-side of the

city's most famous span due to concerns about a rip current, police said.

More than 40,000 elegant explosives were shot off for the occasion, from the barges and the bridge. It was the first time in 19 years that the Brooklyn Bridge has been a part of

the show, which Macy's first staged for the nation's bicentennial in 1976.

A special musical score created for the 25-minute show celebrated the 200th anniversary of "The Star-Spangled Banner." It included a rendition of the national anthem recorded by

Idina Menzel, best known for singing the "Frozen" song "Let It Go," which was written by a couple of Park Slopers during a flight of fancy in Prospect Park.

The show's return to the East River was long anticipated. The display decamped for the Hudson

River in 2009 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of that distant river's discovery. Local pols pleaded with the retail giant and the city to bring it back to the borough with the strongest link to the Revolutionary War the following year, but were not heard until now.

## The Jaws of 'wife': Gurgitators ready to tie the knot

BY NATHAN TEMPEY

Will you marry meat?

That was the question popped by hot-dog-eating legend Joey "Jaws" Chestnut on Friday when he proposed to girlfriend and fellow competitive eater Neslie Ricasa less than an hour before scarfing down 61 wieners and buns in 10 minutes to win his eighth straight Nathan's Famous Hot-Dog-Eating Contest in Coney Island.

Ricasa said "yes" and Chestnut beat out upstart and fellow Californian Matt "Megatoad"

Stonie after breaking away in the final minute of a neck-and-neck competition. Chestnut said it would never have been close had it not been for the rain.

"I could never find my rhythm, so it was just a dog-fight the whole time," Chestnut told the television cameras after falling way short of last year's record of 69.

Stonie stalled in the closing moments, finishing at a mere 56 hot dogs and buns after match-

ing Chestnut frank for frank for most of nine minutes.

Audience members who braved the rain to watch the gladiatorial gluttony cheered the feats, though one got ill thinking of having to foot the bill for Chestnut's intake.

"I'm just glad I don't have to take him to lunch," said Frank Concerto, a Chestnut fan.

Others in the crowd said there was nowhere more patriotic in the country to be.

"It's not much more American

than that," said Dan Mills, who traveled from Washington, D.C. to see the scarf-off.

Chestnut's fiancée Ricasa downed just 10 dogs, trailing the pack in the women's division, which was rocked by an upset when Miki Sudo put away 34 dogs and buns to defending three-time champ Sonya "The Black Widow" Thomas's 27-3/4.

The defeat must have been hard for Thomas to swallow after cramming in a record 45 last year. — *with Vanessa Ogle*



**HOT-DOG BREATH:** Joey Chestnut and Neslie Ricasa celebrate the beginning of their next great adventure.

Photo by Paul Martinka



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# WHAT A DUMP!

## Finally! Hipsters open 'restaurant' in a garbage bin

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

Industrial decoration and outdoor seating are all the rage in the restaurant world, so it was only a matter of time before someone decided to host a gourmet dinner inside a dumpster.

The six-course meal in Williamsburg was organized on June 28 and 29 by a graduate student who charged eager gourmands \$50 a head for the privilege, as the website Pixable first reported. The dumpster dinner was meant to raise awareness about the amount of perfectly edible food that gets tossed every day, its organizer said.

"This was an interesting, boots-on-the-ground way to inspire people and engage them in a conversation about wasting food," said Joshua Treuhaft.

To drive the message home, the food on offer was made of ingredients that were bruised, stale, or overripe, donated by stores, or bought at a deep discount.

The dumpster had previously been used for construction and not household trash, but it was still far

from pristine, so Treuhaft built a deck over the floor, he said.

The space inside the trash bin was narrow, so Treuhaft had to build a custom table. Naturally, he assembled it from salvaged wood.

Some diners were apprehensive about eating in a giant trash receptacle, but in the end they had a blast, one attendee said.

"Cars kept stopping to look at us, and one guy climbed through his sunroof to take a picture," said Bill Gordon, who was one of Treuhaft's professors at the School of Visual Arts. "It was truly a unique experience."

The menu included heirloom tomato gazpacho, carrot-green pesto on stale bread, and pickled kale stems.

The chef scrambled to come up with the menu because she did not know until a few days before the meal what the ingredients would be, she said. Treuhaft had the dumpster delivered to the street in front of her house so that she could prepare the six-course meal upstairs.

"There was no way we could have

done any prep or cooking inside that dumpster," said Celia Lam, who agreed to make the food in exchange for Treuhaft agreeing to donate the proceeds to the charity Culinary-Corps.

Since Treuhaft did not have a liquor license, he invited all of the diners up to Lam's apartment to enjoy a cocktail before the meal.

"While we were eating, some cops came by and told some people who were sitting nearby on their stoop what to do, so it is a good thing we were not drinking," Gordon said.

The dinner was part of a series of one-off dinners called the Salvage Supperclub, which Treuhaft said are an extension of his thesis on city gardening and his campaign to reduce food waste.

"We want to get our guests to stop being so snobbish and judgmental about the food they eat," he said.

This was the first dumpster dinner and Treuhaft said it may be the last.

"It is a lot of work doing it inside a dumpster," he said.



**TOSSED SALAD:** Foodies feasted on salvaged dishes in the repurposed construction dumpster that still looks very much like a normal dumpster.

Josh Treuhaft



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# Dinosaurs

Continued from page 1

in the house, an organizer said.

“Really anywhere you are you have a chance to be eye-to-eye with a dinosaur,” said spokeswoman Terey Summers, who said some of the robo-reptiles stand nearly three stories tall.

The show promises to be a mix of spectacle and education. A paleontologist emcee takes the audience through three periods—the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous—to show how the once-kings-of-the-earth lived and interacted, Summers said.

The million-dollar monsters are a feat of engineering and puppeteering, and many of the biggest beasts require three puppeteers to control, Summers said. The dino wranglers wear gadgets on their wrists called “voodoo controls” that allow them to dictate the beasts’ movements with a wave of their hand, she said.

“It’s like ‘The Wizard of Oz,’” she said.

Smaller predatory dinosaurs are actually played by hyper-athletic actors in



**I'M THE BABY, GOTTA LOVE ME:** A Tyrannosaurus Rex and her baby share a tender moment during the “Walking With Dinosaurs” show. Photo by David Scheinmann

100-pound suits, said Matt Olver, who leads a team of six suited puppeteers.

The show has been roaring through towns worldwide for years, but hasn’t toured the U.S. since 2007, and Summers said dino designers have updated their replica reptiles to jibe with the latest scientific findings. The once-leathery lizards have taken on a more

avian appearance after scientists found evidence dinosaurs may have had feathers, Summers said.

“Walking With Dinosaurs — The Arena Spectacular” at the Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, [www.dinosaurlive.com](http://www.dinosaurlive.com), (917) 618-6100]. July 16-20. Tickets start at \$38.20.

# Stroll

Continued from page 1

level of merchant participation, and we have a heightened sense in the community looking forward to the Summer Stroll evenings.”

For four Friday evenings each summer, portions of the avenue are transformed into a European-style pedestrian mall where locals and visitors can shop, dine, and take in some culture.

The avenue will be closed between 69th and 80th streets on July 18 and 25, and 80th and 90th streets for Aug. 8 and 15, but cars will still be able to cross the avenue at cross



**SINGING IN THE RAIN:** Linda Detuch and her dog Lex braved the rain at last year’s Summer Stroll to hear tunes from “Les Miserables.” Maybe this year Lex can entertain folks with a song and dance routine.

Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

streets, Howe said.

Indeed, the prospect of car-less streets gives local merchants a run for their money as the top draw for attendees, he said.

“You can play in the middle of the street,” Howe said. “People enjoy taking back their neighborhood.”

**Doggie Talent Show** (corner of 77th and Third Avenue, in Bay Ridge) July 18 at 6 pm. **Summer Stroll** (Third Avenue between 69th and 80th streets, in Bay Ridge) July 18 and 25, 6 pm. Free. (Third Avenue between 80th and 90th streets, in Bay Ridge) Aug. 8 and 15, 6 pm. Free. To register for the dog talent show, e-mail [debracapon@gmail.com](mailto:debracapon@gmail.com).

sity Langone Medical Center, takes control.

The deal will enable the state to wash its hands of the hobbled Cobble Hill emergency facility without a complete stoppage of services, a state spokesman said.

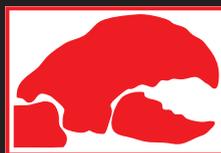
“We look forward to

completing the sale of the LICH complex and this is an important step forward as all parties work to ensure SUNY can responsibly exit the property while vital healthcare services will continue to be available to the Brooklyn community,” said David Doyle.

# LICH

Continued from page 4

The latest redevelopment arrangement has the university continuing to operate the emergency room at the site until Fortis’s health partner, New York Univer-



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## Rebar

Continued from page 1

would be if he was prosecuted for bilking them and ruining their wedding plans.

"It's one big slap in the face to us," said Christian Pascarella, who had a wedding booked at the space and has been organizing the scorned couples since it closed on May 9. "The fact that he's not being charged with anything criminal is disgusting. I want to see him punished."

Stevens pleaded guilty on June 12 to five felonies for not paying taxes and pocketing sales taxes over the course of four years, and faces as many as 10 behind bars, but the disgruntled customers insist that District Attorney Ken Thompson should charge him over the raw deal they got, too. Thompson's office called the matter a civil-court issue two weeks after Rebar closed.

The attorney general's court order spells out how much Stevens owes to the couples and the state for walking away from his business without any notice and pocketing deposits left by the to-



**STAND-UP COUPLES:** Stephanie Kutch and Christian Pascarella are helping organize the 150 couples who were affected by Rebar's sudden shuttering.

be-weds. When the order was drawn up the Attorney General's office had identified 73 couples, and calculated that Stevens owed \$1,156,753.36, including state-imposed penalties. The office said it has identified an additional 20 couples since then, which brings the total up to \$1,296,002.65, and that there are probably a total of 150 couples out there owed \$1.8 million. Couples will have 120 days to show proof Stevens took their money after the court logs the state's paperwork, an attorney general's office spokeswoman said.

If Stevens does not have

the money, or if the state cannot prove that he does, the deal says that the state could seize his money and property as he acquires it.

But some couples say he would never let his assets make it onto the books.

"If he comes into money, he's never going to put it in his own name," Pascarella said.

The order also bans Stevens from owning or operating a restaurant or catering hall in New York state for the rest of his life. But Attorney General Eric Schneiderman does not have the power to stop him from doing it somewhere else.

"He'll just go and open a place in Jersey," said Pascarella.

The aggrieved Romeo said investigators had to have been aware that Stevens was taking their money, but that they only cared about him stealing the state's.

"They knew he wasn't paying his bills, but they did nothing to protect the consumer," Pascarella said, adding that he is now considering a lawsuit against Thompson's office for its handling of the case.

Stevens's sentencing is scheduled for July 21.

## Game

Continued from page 1

the special light uncovers one of the stamps — which might be placed on building walls, on interesting architectural elements, or even on the ground — players snap a photo of it on their phone.

Each uncovered marking represents a clue about the history of the site, which will help to convince a fictional developer to preserve it, explained Lin.

"They've hired us investigators to find the history and the characteristics that make the place unique," she said.

After collecting all the clues in a given area, players go to the game organizers, receive a puzzle piece, and move on to the next area. The puzzle pieces fit together to form a photograph of an actual Dumbo building, with some historic facts on the back.

Lin hopes the game will make people notice details

about the neighborhood, to understand what makes it special.

"We want to draw attention to the fabric of the neighborhood," she said.

"Who's That Loft" is part of the Come Out and Play festival, a night of innovative street games and outdoor video games that will take place beneath the Manhattan Bridge archway and at other locations around New York City. Other games at the Dumbo site will include "Musclebound Glory," in which participants compete to come up with the best '80s action movie-style zingers, and "EXO: Arena," where players can use their iPhones to play laser-tag — minus the lasers.

The amusements at the festival are intended to bridge virtual and physical worlds to create new kinds of experiences, and new ways for people to have fun.

Lin sees her game as doing just that.

"A lot of times game



**SHEDDING LIGHT:** The designers hope "Who's That Loft" will get people better appreciate their neighborhoods as they search for ultraviolet stamps like this one.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

designers are focused on creating an intimate experience with a screen," she said. "We want to make one with a physical space."

"Who's That Loft" at the *Come Out and Play Festival* (beneath the Manhattan Bridge archway off Anchorage Place between Pearl and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, [www.comeoutandplay.org](http://www.comeoutandplay.org)). July 18 at 7 pm. Free.

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