

New lid for Ridge library

BY MAX JAEGER

The Bay Ridge Library is getting a new roof!

Borough President Adams and Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) have allocated money from their capital budgets to re-top the Ridge Boulevard literature lender.

"If it's a good day for cultural institutions, and it's a good day for libraries, and those cultural institutions and libraries happen to be in Brooklyn, then it's a good day for Brooklyn. I'm really excited about the new roof we're putting here at the Bay Ridge Library," said Gentile.

The borough's booster-in-chief bequeathed \$500,000 to the bibliotheque, and Gentile kicked in another \$200,000 from his capital budget.

Adams and the Brooklyn Public Library worked together to identify capital projects the Beep could fund, a Borough Hall spokesman said.

A library has existed on the site since 1896, but the current building was erected in 1960.

In 2004, the library under-

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LIGHT NURSES FIGHT FOR JOBS

Back to court for the state

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Former staffers of shuttered Long Island College Hospital have taken the state back to court—and temporarily halted the sale of the valuable medical campus—saying they aren't getting promised jobs in a remaining freestanding emergency department.

A judge pressed pause on the complicated sale last Wednesday after staffers unions sued, saying new-owners-to-be New York University Langone Medical Center and Lutheran Healthcare have violated a court settlement regarding the sale. Maintaining medical services at the Cobble Hill site was a main feature of the agreement that ended a lawsuit by activists and workers seeking to stop the

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First-day excitement

Dexter Moscarello is excited to start kindergarten at PS 10 in Park Slope on Sept. 4—the first day of classes in city schools.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

G'Wood gropings

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

There is a groper on the loose in Greenwood Heights, cops said.

Police are looking for a man who they say sexually assaulted two women in separate incidents near the Prospect Avenue R station last month.

A 28-year-old woman re-

ported she had left the Prospect Avenue R train station at 11:30 pm on Aug. 5 and turned onto 17th Street toward Fifth Avenue when a creep came up from behind, grabbed her buttocks underneath her skirt, and took off running towards Fifth Avenue.

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DON'T WANT NO BUGS: The MTA treated 16 subway cars for bedbugs this year—14 in August alone.

Pols push bedbug-alert law

BY VANESSA OGLE

Bedbugs have been reported on at least 21 subway cars in the past month—including Brooklyn's N train—and a Bensonhurst assemblyman wants the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to sound the horn whenever the dreaded pests are found on a train

or bus, but the state agency says there is no need to inform the public of when creepy crawlies are hitching a ride.

But with the school year starting, one local said parents need to know if they should check their children's backpacks and clothing.

"The mothers should know," said Vincent Sampieri, who lives in Gravesend. "They could check kids' clothes when they come home."

Two local elected officials are pushing for a new state law to require a public announcement of bedbug

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Whip it good!

Exhibit features vintage Coney rides

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

The People's Playground is coming to the people's burying ground.

An exhibition opening Sept. 7 at Green-Wood Cemetery will celebrate one of the resting place's most amusing permanent residents — William Mangels, who manufactured and invented some of the world's most quintessential amusement park rides right in Coney Island. The German immigrant made a lasting impression on the masses that reached far beyond Sodom by the Sea, according to the cemetery's historian.

"His legacy is fun and thrills," said resident history buff Jeff Richman. "People relate to his creations because they're part of their experience. It's universal."

Mangels came to Coney in the late 1800s as a teenager, when the area was awash in park and rides. He soon opened a machine shop that manufactured parts for shooting galleries, and by the early 20th century, he was making all manner of amusing mechanics in his West Eighth Street factory.

"He dedicated his life to making these machines," Richman said.

Some of his most famous inventions include the Ticker, the Whip, and the Human Roulette Wheel. But he is also credited with innovating the carousel, adding the up-and-down motion that mimics a horse's gallop.

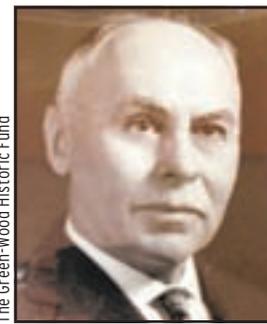
Mangels' company, which was run by his descendants until 1983, made rides for parks all around the world, but many of his customers were close to home. And some are even still in use today, such as the Fire Engine and Pony Cart rides in Deno's Wonder Wheel.

"His rides were all over Coney Island," Richman said. "But they were also all over the country. And all over the world."

The Green-Wood exhibit will feature pieces of original Mangels-made machines, including a fire engine car, a



Photo by Steve Solomonson



The Green-Wood Historic Fund

FEELING THE PULL: The inventions of (left) William Mangels are still giving kids thrills, (above) like 3-year-old Jazelyn Tovar riding the Pony Cart Ride at Deno's Wonder Wheel Amusement Park in Coney Island recently. One of Mangels' more adventurous rides (below) was the human roulette wheel, which spun riders to edges of a giant rotating circular platform.



Whip car, and a speed boat. It will also include drawings of his inventions and videos of his rides in operation. The Coney Island History Project is a co-sponsor of the event, and Green-Wood raised \$18,509 to help fund the exhibit with a successful Kickstarter campaign.

"William F. Mangels: Amusing the Masses on Coney Island and Beyond," which is being displayed in the cemetery's historic chapel, will also include an operating antique shooting gallery — but unfortunately, visitors will not be

able to give it a shot, Richman said.

"That's where we draw the line," he said. "There's stained glass behind it, that would be a problem."

"William F. Mangels: Amusing the Masses on Coney Island and Beyond," at Green-Wood Cemetery [500 25th St. at Fifth Avenue in Greenwood Heights, (718) 210-3080, www.greenwood.com]. Sept. 7-Oct. 26, noon-6 pm. \$5. Free for members of the Green-Wood Historic Fund and the Brooklyn Historical Society.



SCHEMING ON A PLAN AND IT GOES ALL WRONG: A group of activists descended on the Lightstone Group construction site on Bond Street to protest the development – and the new art surrounding it.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Artists clash

BY NOAH HUROWITZ

It's lipstick on a pig.

So argue a group of Gowanus artists and activists who crashed a party last Wednesday celebrating the installation of an art exhibit outside the under-construction 700-unit Lightstone Group development on Bond Street. More than a dozen protesters decried the attempt to beautify the development that they say will crowd neighborhood schools and subways, cause traffic jams, stress already over-taxed sewers, and drive away creative types.

"We wanted to raise awareness that there are already artists living in Gowanus who are going to be priced out by Lightstone," said Lisanne McTernan, a 20-year Gowanus resident who lives nearby on Bond Street.

The art project covers part of the sidewalk shed along Bond Street between First and Second streets and features work by nine local artists. The initiative was organized by ArtBridge, an arts organization that works with developers to adorn construction fences around the city.

The Gowanus event gave artists a chance to speak to passersby about their work, and Lightstone sprung for food trucks to hand out free grub, an organizer said. But free eats and spruced-up scaffolding did not sway McTernan and other neighbors, who showed up last Wednesday night wearing dust masks with the words "Toxic Plan" painted on them, and handed out anti-Lightstone flyers. Several hundred people attended the event in all, according to organizers, but one protester



PLUMAGE: Bibiana – just Bibiana – is an artist from Sunset Park who has work on display outside the Lightstone Group site, including this peacock.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

said few were actually interested in the creativity on display.

"Most people just came for free food. What a joke," McTernan said.

The director of ArtBridge tried to distance himself from Lightstone while defending the art installation.

"This project has nothing to do with Lightstone or whether or not that development happens," said Stephen Pierson, who lost last year's Council race to represent a nearby district. "Lightstone provided the fence and paid for costs, but the project is autonomous. As long as the development is happening, I don't see a downside to empowering local artists."

ArtBridge has been at it since 2008, but Pierson said this is the first time one of the group's projects has been dragged into a neighborhood battle over development. Pierson also rejected the idea that beautifying construction sites serves as propaganda for developers and said it felt weird

Continued on page 11

It's upward dog

Yoga Pole Studio gets students above comfort zone

BY CARLA SINCLAIR

In a neighborhood full of yoga, one studio climbs high above the rest.

Yoga Pole Studio, on Schermerhorn and Court Streets in Brooklyn Heights, melds the ancient practice of yoga with a structure that carries less traditional connotations — the pole.

"Our slogan is 'take your yoga to new heights,'" said owner and instructor Carolyn Chiu. "It's not your usual yoga with [the positions] downward dog and child's pose. Here you do downward dog on a pole."

The studio opened a year ago and focuses on teaching "inversions," or headstands, as well as handstands and forearm-stands, with students using the pole to steady themselves. In other words, the workout is not exactly what most associate with poles.

"Anytime anyone hears the word 'pole,' they bring up stripping or ask if you are training to become a stripper," said Lauren Myzwiniski, Chiu's student since 2011. "Think of the pole as a prop, the best prop you have ever experienced, reaching muscles you normally wouldn't achieve on the floor."

There are two types of yoga pole: cobra style and monkey style. The former sticks close to the ground and is geared towards beginners. Monkey style is just what it sounds like.

"It's more advanced stuff, like holding the pole with your arm, hip, thigh or leg," Chiu said. "You can climb the pole, swing around it, hang off your arms, and use your toes and your fingers. Just like a monkey."

Chiu developed the idea over years of attending yoga classes throughout Brooklyn, and in 2013 felt like the time was ripe for a new kind of yoga.

Yoga pole sessions have small class sizes, five max



BALANCING ACT: (Above)

Yoga Pole Studio Owner Carolyn Chiu, in pink, and student Rachel Guerreau demonstrate the Arm-Balance pose on and off the pole. (Right) Chiu demonstrates the Eagle pose on the pole.

Carolyn Chiu Yoga Pole Studio

at her studio, as opposed to the common practice of packing in as many yogi hopefuls as are willing to pay, she said.

"In that setting, where the mats are all military-style row by row, your shoulders are bumping into your neighbor's, and someone's butt is in your face and the guy next to you kind of smells strange," Chiu said. "I figured I want to create something that wasn't shoulder-to-shoulder, something more comfortable."

The studio also appeals to students' vanity.

"I take pictures of students in their poses. It's good for them to know how they look, and what needs to be realigned," Chiu said. "Students brag about their pictures, like



what they did, and they post it on Facebook or Instagram, and through that, their friends go, 'Where did you learn this?'"

These days the operation is fully off the ground and holding steady, with classes full most of the time, Chiu said. Whether that's due to the fascina-

tion around the pole is anyone's guess.

"It's a really typical stigma, but it doesn't bother me. It's just a pole," Chiu said. "I don't know why people get very excited about it. I guess it's because you don't see yoga studios like this too often."

Booze cruise ban?

Pol declares war on S'head Bay party boats

BY VANESSA OGLE

A local politician fighting for reelection is fishing for votes by proposing to ban the so-called “booze cruises” that depart from Sheepshead Bay, claiming the docks should be reserved for boats offering rods and reels, not drinking and dancing. But party-boat skippers suspect a darker motive.

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay) said at a candidate forum on Aug. 27 that he is drafting legislation to outlaw nautical excursions that emphasize catching a buzz over catching bass, saying they disrupt life on the bay.

But one party-boat captain, who has been in the business for more than 40 years, said he thinks the real reason the mostly white waterfront community wants to lose the booze cruises is because of the race of much of his clientele.



BYE, BOATS: Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz said at a candidate forum on Aug. 27 that if he is reelected, he will ban booze cruises, which he said disrupt the neighborhood.

Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

“A lot the people that come here are black people — they’re from the Caribbean and inner city,” said Joe Lind, the captain of the party vessel Golden Sunshine.

But Cymbrowitz, who faces Ben Akselrod in the

Sept. 9 Democratic primary, insists that the partygoers’ race is not the issue — but rather it is the disturbances the visitors cause that is the problem.

“Before people get on the boat, they’re drinking in their cars, they’re urinating in the streets,” said Cymbrowitz.

According to one longtime local who is helping Cymbrowitz draft his legislation, when the pier was remodeled in the 1990s by the Economic Development Corporation, the pier was intended strictly for fishing charter boats.

“That was the intent of the pier and that was a deal that was made in a handshake,” said Steve Barrison, the president of the Bay Improvement Group. “This was never supposed to be for dinner boats, or party boats, or whatever you want to call them.”

But Lind said he is sim-



SAVE OUR SHIP: Joe Lind, the 72-year-old captain of the Golden Sunshine vessel, said if a law banning the booze cruise boats is passed, he doesn’t know how his business will survive.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

ply providing a sought-after service. He said many of his parties are subdued family affairs — and he said noise complaints about nighttime nautical voyages are non-sense.

“Right now I’m going down there for a Jewish 80th birthday,” said Lind. “My boat is completely en-

capsulated — the music doesn’t go out.”

Some locals say the parties’ antics carry over to the shore, even if the music doesn’t.

In 2011, a man shot at another man on Emmons Avenue, after a tussle near the Golden Sunshine. No one was injured but Barrison said the

incident upset locals.

But Lind maintains his parties are not rowdy and he said his boat, which he claims brings business into the neighborhood, is his life.

“I work very hard — very hard — to make the community proud,” said Lind. “If you take my boat away, what do I got?”

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Cabs clog Sheepshead Bay Rd.

BY VANESSA OGLE

You can never find a taxi when you want one, but in Sheepshead Bay, locals are finding cabs where they don't want them.

The green outer-borough taxis illegally idling and parking in the no-standing zones outside the Sheepshead Bay Road train station are causing chaos for locals, who say the congestion is crowding the bus stop and preventing drivers picking up passengers from the train from pulling over out of the traffic lanes.

One local leader said the cabs have already received plenty of warnings to move, and the next step should be a ticket crackdown.

"The solution is not to push them away — it is to walk there with a ticket book," said Theresa Scavo, the chairwoman of Community Board 15. "If they're sitting there, they get a ticket."

The Taxi and Limousine Commission said there are specified areas for the cabs to wait for fares, such as taxi stands and vehicle-for-hire stands, and the drivers



STOP RIGHT THERE: Cabs illegally idling and parking in a no-standing zone are clogging Sheepshead Bay Road, forcing residents to dart in between the vehicles. Photo by Steve Solomonson

should not be waiting where they are on Sheepshead Bay Road.

"That is obviously against the rules," said Allan Fromberg, a spokesman for the Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay) said he has reached out to the Taxi and Limousine Commission and wants them to ticket the drivers, instead of expecting police officers to handle it.

"The solution is what

we asked the TLC to do — to give out summonses to those cabs that are illegally standing there," said Cymbrowitz. "You have everybody just waiting there and the TLC has not been very responsive."

Fromberg said the Taxi and Limousine Commission will assess the situation soon.

In the meantime Scavo worries that the congestion will cause more than an inconvenience.

"It is an accident waiting to happen," she said.

Groper

Continued from page 1

Two weeks later a 25-year-old woman said she left the same station at the same time and was at the door of her apartment near the corner of Prospect and Fourth avenues when the pervert grabbed her buttocks, then took off running, officers stated.

Police describe the suspect standing between 5-foot-6 and 5-foot-9 and weighing 130 pounds.

The pair of incidents recalls a string of similar attacks in 2011, and another



SUSPECT: Police are looking for this man in connection to a pair of gropings in Greenwood Heights last month. NYPD

pair last year. Police made arrests in both of those cases. The rash of assaults in 2011 included 13 separate attacks, one of which was a rape. They took place over the course of eight months in Park Slope, Greenwood Heights, Windsor Terrace, Sunset Park, and Bay Ridge, putting area residents on edge and sparking outcry against police who many said weren't doing enough.

The NYPD asks those with information about the latest incidents to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-8477, go to www.nypd-crimestoppers.com, or text-message tips to 274637.

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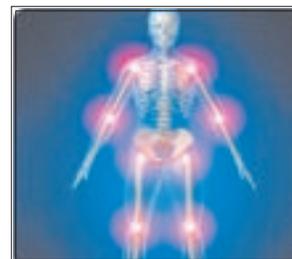
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Thousands turn out for West Indian Day Parade down Eastern Parkway

BY NOAH HUROWITZ

Hundreds of thousands of revelers flocked to Crown Heights on Sept. 1. to shake a tail-feather and scarf a jerk-chicken leg or five as part of the annual West Indian American Day Parade.

Borough President Adams presided as grand marshal and Mayor DeBlasio and his family marched down Eastern Parkway among dancers, dragons, and the many flags of the Caribbean. The first family took a moment mid-march to reprise their “Smack-down” group dance routine, the palm-licking, ground-slapping number first unveiled at last year’s parade in the run-up to the 2013 election. Gov. Cuomo was also spotted hoofing it with the procession and pressing the flesh along the barricades just eight days ahead of this year’s Sept. 9 primary.

The West Indian Day Parade tradition began in Manhattan in the 1920s and moved to Crown Heights in the late 1960s, where it has remained ever since. It regularly draws upwards of a million participants and spectators, and features the costumes, street food, and booming music of numerous Caribbean islands and countries on the Caribbean coast of South America.



ON THE MARCH: (Top) Mayor DeBlasio and his family demonstrate their patented dance, “The Smackdown.” (Top right, above, above center, above right) Participants dress up in colorful regalia inspired by a host of Caribbean cultures and locales. (Right) Harmony Williams and her cousin Maya Webster wave Guyanese and American flags. Photos by Paul Martinka



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180 New York minutes

Bay Ridgite to sing New York City songs for 9-11 tribute

BY MAX JAEGER

A Ridge crooner is marking the 13th anniversary of the 9-11 terror attacks with song.

Martin McQuade will belt out three hours of tunes about New York at Hunter's Steak and Ale House on Sept. 11 as a rousing tribute to the city that withstood

the unforgettable disaster. McQuade's shows often follow a theme, and for the solemn anniversary, he knew he had to do something special, he said.

"I thought it would be appropriate to do a show that was not trivial — something uplifting," he said.

The performance will

be rife with classics. McQuade is drawing on the Great American Songbook — tunes penned before the 1960s — for most of the material, he said. Not every song will have New York in the title, but each will have a connection to the city that resonates with its cultural history, McQuade said.

"Moon River" for instance — in the movie 'Breakfast at Tiffany's,' it's sung from a New York fire escape," he said.

Brooklyn will make a special appearance with songs such as Guy Lombardo's "Give Me the Moon over Brooklyn" and "Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland," which McQuade said is a reference to the famed Coney Island amusement park.

McQuade and his pianist plan to belt out more than 40 songs about the City That Never Sleeps, said accompanist and Marine Parker Peter Sokolow. And don't expect the spotlight to

only hit McQuade.

"I'll sing a couple, too, and there may be a special guest," Sokolow said.

McQuade said he hopes to tap some of the energy that pervaded Bay Ridge the night of the terror attacks.

"There was such a raw nerve mood in Bay Ridge that night," said McQuade, who saw the first tower collapse from the 69th Street Pier in Bay Ridge.

The pair said preparing for the prestigious evening was a breeze, because both have been performing the songs for decades. Three hours of New York material is nothing, Sokolow said.

"I know a hell of a lot of New York Songs," he said.

Martin McQuade performs songs about New York at Hunter's Steak and Ale House (9404 Fourth Ave. between 94th and 95th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-8899, www.hunterssteakhouse.net). Sept. 11 at 7 pm. Free.



PATRIOTIC PLAYERS: Singer Martin McQuade and pianist Pete Sokolow will croon through three hours of tunes about New York at Hunter's Steak and Ale House on Sept. 11. Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

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Guy steals lady's walker

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN
No respect. None.

A cold-hearted crook took a woman's walker as she bent down to pick up a dollar bill at the intersection of Smith and Schermerhorn streets on Aug. 17, the authorities said.

The 55-year-old woman told police she was at the intersection at 8:35 pm

when she saw a dollar on the ground a few feet away. She left her walker for a moment to get the loose bill, and when she turned back around the device was gone, according to a police report. Adding insult to injury, her wallet was in the walker's pouch and had a credit card inside, the report says.



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Driver discord

Flatbush drivers flout new left-turn ban at Myrtle

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Talk about a hard left.

The Department of Transportation tried to take a page out of the New Jersey play book last week by instituting a jug handle traffic pattern where Flatbush Avenue Extension hits Myrtle Avenue coming off the Manhattan Bridge, banning left turns towards Fort Greene and requiring motorists looking to head that way turn right into a horseshoe-shaped MetroTech Center service road instead. But a visit last Friday showed barely anybody paying attention to the new ban on left turns, with only a handful taking the boomerang right as a steady stream lined up for the left every signal cycle. That afternoon's mass motorized disobedience coupled with a shortened



RIGHT TO WORK: The new jug handle traffic pattern the city implemented at the intersection of Myrtle Avenue and Flatbush Avenue Extension looks good on paper, but at first most drivers ignored it.

Department of Transportation

left-turn light, meant to be for buses only, created long backups in the left lane.

The jug handle scheme

is common in the Garden State but unheard of in Kings County, until now. A local business booster said that she anticipates a learning curve.

"It'll take some time for drivers to get used to it," said Meredith Phillips Almeida, executive director of the Myrtle Avenue Brooklyn Partnership.

The problems are not for lack of signage. A temporary electronic sign announces the traffic pattern change a block before the intersection; the new left-turn lane says it is for buses only; and signs just in front of and at the intersection spell out the restriction again.

A Department of Transportation spokeswoman said the agency is working with the Police Department to figure out how best to enforce the



THEY DON'T GET IT: A steady stream of cars came made the newly forbidden left onto Myrtle Avenue heading towards Fort Greene Park on Friday.
Photo by Stefano Giovanni

new rules.

Complaints about difficulty crossing the street at Myrtle Avenue and regularly backed-up traffic on Flatbush Avenue Extension precipitated the change, according to the

roads agency. The department also said the intersection is dangerous, having seen 110 injuries from accidents between 2008 and 2012.

Another visit on Tuesday morning ashowed the

city has apparently taken note of the driver discord as a traffic cop was stationed in the roadway. On Wednesday, a transportation department worker was handing out flyers about the change.

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Nurses

Continued from page 1

closure of the hospital so it could be sold to a residential developer. A lawyer for the New York State Nurses Association says the transition has ignored the rehiring that is a key component of the package deal, and of the redevelopment proposal that won out in a settlement-mandated process.

“Those entities have aggressively and blatantly walked away from a core material component of their bid — the hiring of current Long Island College Hospital registered nurses,” wrote lawyer Richard Seltzer in a court filing.

New York University Langone Medical Center was set to take over the

emergency center on Monday, but the judge's order pushes that back until the hiring issue is settled. A rep for the Manhattan hospital denied wrongdoing, saying it has been recruiting former Long Island College Hospital staffers as it is supposed to.

“We have been interviewing and hiring qualified nurses and staff — a number of whom work for or previously worked for LICH — to fully staff this facility,” a spokeswoman said. “We strongly disagree with NYSNA's allegations.”

Developer Fortis Property Group specifically promised to seek out union help in staffing the operation.

“This will help maximize the number of NYSNA nurses continuing to work

at LICH and thereby help preserve the legacy of excellent care provided at LICH,” it wrote in its redevelopment proposal.

A spokeswoman for the union said only one Long Island College Hospital nurse has been hired and affidavits filed by a number of nurses state that they have not been informed of any future job opportunities.

The state has agreed to continue operating the healthcare center until the handoff is okayed. Beyond that, a spokesman would only say that negotiations are ongoing.

“SUNY has always been committed to ensuring a smooth transition to the new healthcare operators at the LICH site and will continue to maintain current patient services,” said State University of New York spokesman David Doyle.

Fortis declined to comment on the lawsuit. Its \$240 million dollar bid got the stamp of approval on July 1.

The plan for the former hospital site is a residential development — the details of which have still not been made public — with some medical services provided by New York University

Langone Medical Center and Lutheran Healthcare. Services at the complex will include a freestanding emergency department, observation beds, primary and preventative care offices, nine specialty departments, an ambulatory surgery center, and a human immunodeficiency virus clinic, according to the developer.

Activists who opposed the closure of the 156-year-old hospital argue an emergency room with no attached hospital is little more than a glorified walk-in clinic. Fortis Property Group and New York Uni-

versity have refused to outline what treatment is and will be available at the emergency center, but it currently does not admit patients overnight and ambulances will not take people there. A pedestrian hit by a car within shouting distance of the hobbled hospital on Tuesday was instead taken to Lutheran Medical Center in Sunset Park, five miles away.

A man who got jumped by three goons on Smith Street in July had his face stitched up at the emergency facility, though it is unclear how he was transported.

Art

Continued from page 3

to be protested.

“It's not comfortable for me to be on this side of it. I'm sort of used to being on the progressive side of things,” he said.

One participating artist said she understands the protesters' gripes, but echoed the argument that the construction site's new skin has nothing to do with the massive luxury housing complex coming together inside. The development will sit on a bank of the Gowanus Canal, a federal-government-certified toxic nightmare that floods with sewage during heavy rains.

“The art brings something positive, even if what is going on behind the fence

is negative,” said Joelle Shannon, a Cobble Hill artist who contributed three paintings. “I think people rightly feel that it is crazy to build a 700-unit development on a Superfund site, but I don't feel implicated.”

The Lightstone Group has fought hard to develop the site on Bond Street, which lies on the banks of the Gowanus Canal. Neighbors have complained of noise and noxious smells during construction, and say its elevated foundation will send additional flood water from the fetid inlet into the surrounding area during the next Hurricane Sandy.

The company counters it has received every government go-ahead it needs and that an environmental study shows no effect on flooding.



ON THE FENCE: Carroll Gardens artist Joelle Shannon's work adorns the sidewalk shed around the Lightstone Group construction site. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

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Coney eye-land

Farewell party for Cyclops

BY VANESSA OGLE

Keep an eye out for this party!

The vintage Spook-A-Rama Cyclops statue from Deno's Wonder Wheel Park is leaving on an extended vacation. So to say goodbye, the Coney Island History Project is throwing it a bon voyage party on Sept. 7.

This will be the last time locals can see the eye-conic piece until 2016. After the bash, the Cyclops — affectionately known as Cy — will head off on a tour of museums around the country as part of the exhibit "Coney Island: Visions of an American Dreamland," which shows off kooky Coney culture pieces from the past 150 years.

"The sculpture is unique, one-of-a-kind — a throwback to the handmade craftsmanship and creativity that made Coney the center of the amusement

universe," said Charles Denson, the director of the Coney Island History Project.

The statue was originally a feature of the still-operating Spook-A-Rama ride, but was inducted into the Coney Island Hall of Fame in 2011, and has been on display at the History Project ever since.

Denson said the Cyclops — whose eerie eye glows red and moves back and forth — was built to imitate popular 1950s monster movies. It is a throwback to an era when people didn't need fancy college degrees to become artists, he said.

"The Cyclops represents the creativity of Coney Island's artisans and visionaries," said Denson. "In the past, anyone with a vision could create a fantasy, and you didn't need formal artistic training to create a work of art."

Those who come to bid Cy farewell can get a free souvenir photo taken with the wide-eyed idol, and the first 500 guests will also be able to toast his departure with "ghoulade" and eyeball cookies.

But don't get teary-eyed



WANDERING EYE: The Cyclops statue from the Spook-A-Rama at Deno's Wonder Wheel Park is about to join a touring Coney Island exhibit — the eye-conic Cy will be back in 2016.

Coney Island History Project

— Denson says he foresees a big bash when it returns.

"We'll have a big welcome back," said Denson.

Bon Voyage Party for Spook-A-Rama Cyclops at

the Coney Island History Project [3059 W. 12th St. near the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (718) 372-2592 www.coneyislandhistory.org]. Sept. 7 at noon-6 pm. Free.

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Bugs

Continued from page 1
sightings within 24 hours, using the existing system for announcing train delays.

"I am introducing legislation which is going to require the MTA to notify the public by the means they already have available when they have subway diversions or delays," said Assemblyman Bill Colton (D-Bensonhurst). "The law requires it — it is not going to be in the discretion of some bureaucratic agency making a decision

whether it is important or not."

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority counters that it removes trains from the system as soon as there is a bedbug sighting, so there is no need for a formal protocol for alerting riders.

"Why would there be?" said Adam Lisberg, a spokesman for the authority. "As soon as we get a report that a bedbug might have been spotted anywhere in the MTA, we immediately take the train out of service."

Councilman Mark Treyger

(D-Coney Island), who is sponsoring a Council resolution supporting Colton's bill, pointed out that dealing with a bedbug infestation at home can cost thousands of dollars, and many of the people who rely on mass transit aren't able to afford the costly process.

"Let's be clear — the working class families ride the subways and the buses," said Treyger. "They can't afford to bring bedbugs back into their homes and replace their furniture and bedding and clothing every single time they ride the train."

Library

Continued from page 1
went a \$2.4 million renovation, but the last time

the roof was replaced was 1994 a Brooklyn Public Library spokeswoman said.

"According to BPL's Capital Budget Manager, the period of probable use-

fulness for a roof replacement is typically 15 years, so planning to replace it after 20 years is routine," library spokeswoman Emma Woods said.

Brooklyn kids get their sea legs in handmade boats

BY NOAH HUROWITZ

Float on!

Youngsters took to the water at Brooklyn Bridge Park last Thursday morning, sailing on boats made by a hardworking group of kids from Red Hook.

"I'm really excited," said

Micah Fisher, 10, shortly before he put his landlubber days behind him. "It's really cool that kids made them."

The boats were the product of the after-school program BoatWorks, which teaches kids carpentry skills and then puts them

to work at building their own small, completely functional sailboats. The program, founded in 2005, teaches life skills, confidence, and the satisfaction of seeing a project through, an organizer said.

The boats are in ship-

shape, and that is pretty much all the kids' doing, administrator Allyssa Ringler said.

"We make sure students are on task and that the boats are seaworthy, but the kids really do 95 percent of the work," she said.

Only one student from the program made it out on Thursday to launch the boat he made, but a group of other kids, some with parents connected to the program, got to take the vessels for a spin around the inlet at Pier 4 Beach in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

"Looking at the city from the water like that gives kids a new perspective of the city," Ringler said. "Even for the kids who didn't build boats, knowing that people their age build boats that actually float is really empowering."



FREE AT LAST!: (Above) The Boat Works Armada sets sail for distant shores. (Right) Ayk Hekinian of Clinton Hill hangs out in a sail boat.



Photo by Elizabeth Graham



READY: Oliver Parker of Red Hook prepares to set sail.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT

The Pearl Room celebrates 10 years as Bay Ridge's Culinary Gem

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Pearls are called "the queen of gems" — and the Pearl Room restaurant in Bay Ridge is surely the queen of Kings.

The reign has been ongoing for 10 years now. The restaurant has been recognized by Michelin, Zagat, and Wine Spectator.

"We're the most awarded restaurant in the borough," says Anthony Rinaldi, executive chef and owner of the Pearl Room.

Rinaldi has personally earned many acclaims, too, most notably being named one of the top 25 chefs in New York when he was just 24 years old. It was this recognition — and his delicious wine pairing dinners that he created for Manhattan venues — that led the Canarsie native to the Pearl Room. The restaurant, under previous owners, wanted to hire him as executive chef. Former Borough President Marty Markowitz also helped recruit him, appearing with Rinaldi on the "Today" show.

"We need an award-winning chef in Brooklyn," Markowitz said. We got him.

Dining at The Pearl Room is a culinary adventure. You eat with your eyes — and your eyes will be dazzled by what they see. Even bread is served with something distinctive — a roasted pepper, white bean, mayo, and garlic dip.

There are rose petals on the tables, crisp white linen table cloths, and lighting

that contains a blue hue. A Zen-like waterfall sculpture has been added to the back of the restaurant, an addition to mark the 10-year celebration.

A new appetizer is a scrumptious shrimp jalapeno in a citrus-reduction sauce, served with guacamole and chips. All are freshly prepared to order, including the chips. The presentation is such that shrimp seemingly dance atop the dip. The sauce is so flavorful, the citrus infusion so tasty, you'll scoop every drop. Ole!

A summer fig salad arrives on a breathtaking white square dish, a beautiful blend of color and combination of flavors. Greens are decorated with blueberries, strawberries, sliced figs, and goat cheese. Stunning — and a healthy, refreshing way to begin a meal.

One of the signature appetizers is the pasta purse that is stuffed with four cheeses — boursin, goat, explorateur, and brie, dressed in a creamy truffle sauce. A balsamic reduction is scribbled across the top, adding color and design to the arrangement. Enjoy the meal with a wonderful Cupcake Cabernet, available by the glass. Don't be fooled by the name. It's dry, with hints of blackberry and dark cherry flavors.

Entrees are elegant and delicious, like the velvety Portobello risotto with lobster,

cooked in a wasabi butter sauce. Fresh asparagus protrude from the mound of risotto, and strips of red pepper adorn the top.

Fillet of flounder is cooked in a lemon-butter sauce, lightly dusted with homemade garlic and oregano bread crumbs, so the natural flavors of the fish are present. It's served with Swiss chard and butternut squash risotto.

Now through the end of the year, the Pearl Room marks its 10-year anniversary by treating you to money-saving specials. Come for dinner on Mondays, and get a complimentary house bottle of Cabernet or Pinot Grigio with the purchase of two of more entrees. On Tuesdays, buy one entrée and get the second free. Wine Down Wednesdays means wine from the award-winning list is half price. On Thursdays, happy hour lasts until 10:30 pm, and there's karaoke with Dawn Michaels.

Eat at the bar, Mondays through Fridays, from 3 to 7 pm, and enjoy \$6 house Cabernet or Pinot Grigio, \$5 cocktails, and half price appetizers. You pay only \$25 for a two-course prix-fixe meal, Mondays through Fridays, from noon to 7 pm. Choices include a starter like the tempting eggplant stuffed with cannellini beans and spinach, cooked in a light marinara sauce. Entrée options are numerous, perhaps a Prosciutto-wrapped port tenderloin

with roasted pine nuts and yellow raisin chutney, sautéed Swiss chard, sundried tomatoes, and infused whipped potatoes. Or, chicken with grilled Portobello mushrooms, mozzarella, and Prosciutto potato croquettes with a Balsamic fig reduction. If you prefer, have a main course with a dessert instead of an appetizer, and revel in vanilla crème brulee or Tiramisu.

Rinaldi's desserts are works of art. The ice cream s'mores arrive with a huge charcoal-darkened marshmallow, still flaming, surrounded by berries and whipped cream rosettes. You won't have to build a campfire to remember how good these are.

The outside of the restaurant beckons with blue lights that are tangled around the tree in front of the place, a hint of the special beauty that lies inside. There's a huge, wood bar, and high-booth seating at the first part of the restaurant, following by a dining room in the back that provides outdoor views. Service is superior and servers are knowledgeable, like Donna, who has worked at the establishment since it opened its doors. Rinaldi's mom, Nancy, is at hand to make sure all guests are satisfied.

Three other rooms are available for parties. Up to 150 people can be accommodated, and the Pearl Room has hosted many intimate weddings here. The Pearl Room has achieved another level of fame —



the television program, "Mob Wives" has filmed here.

The Pearl Room [8201 Third Ave., corner of 82nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-6666, www.ThePearlRoom.com]. Open Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays Wednesdays, noon-10 pm; Thursdays, noon-11 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, noon-11:30 pm. Available for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served Saturdays and Sundays, noon-3:30 pm for \$12.95.



Shopping break.

A perfect moment to talk about alcohol.

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