

Feds: No \$ for storm barriers

BY JULIANNE CUBA

The plan for a Southern Brooklyn storm break is broke.

Federal officials from the Army Corps of Engineers revealed the ugly truth for its multi-billion-dollar coastal storm barrier project, which includes a massive flood gate, to make Southern Brooklyn more resilient in the five-year aftermath of Hurricane Sandy — there is no money.

But the news was just the latest let down in the years that have passed since the devastating storm, and it dried up the last bit of hope that the coastal neighborhoods will ever get protection from the ocean, said a Southern Brooklyn environmental activist during a resiliency town hall at the Coney Island YMCA on June 1.

“I call that flood gate the ‘when-pigs-will-fly flood gate’ because pigs will grow wings and fly before that flood gate is built,” said Ida Sanoff, who lives in Brighton Beach. “Hurricane Sandy flooded all of us. It’s been five years since, what do we have? Nothing. How many meetings have you been to, five meetings,

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SIGHT OF MUSIC

Artist paints public piano

BY LAUREN GILL

Brooklyn is getting all keyed up!

More than a dozen brightly painted pianos popped up across the borough this week, inviting anyone to tickle the keys as part of the Sing for Hope public art project. The artist behind one eye-catching instrument in Sunset Park says that she designed her piece to draw people in so they would fill the air with music.

“I wanted to create something really quirky, something that people will stop and look at, and with all the bright colors, say ‘Hey this looks really cool’ and just take the time to play it,” said Manon Casimir.

The Canarsie artist experiences synesthesia — a condition that lets her see sounds — and her piano painting reflects her visual perception of music. One segment, decorated with purple and black swirls, represents the sine waves that she spots in tunes, and the various colors — purple, yellow,

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COLOR THE KEYS: Artist Manon Casimir shows off the piano she painted for the Sing for Hope project. The instrument will sit ready for people to play it in Sunset Park until June 25.

Photo by Jason Speakman

BQE fix sought

BY LAUREN GILL

Call it a fury road.

State lawmakers must pass legislation to speed up the reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway by three years and save the city \$300 million before the legislature lets out for summer in June, of-

ficials demanded at a press conference in front of the crumbling roadway on June 2.

A bill in the state Assembly would authorize New York City to use a streamlined process called “design build” to speed up

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Photo by Erica Price

READY TO GO: Caroline Spivack went to new realities on the WindstarZ.

New ride out of this world

BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

It’s *virtually* the next level!

Thrill seekers can take one of Luna Park’s high flying rides to the next level with virtual reality headsets. The WindstarZ already lets riders soar above the Boardwalk as if they were hang gliding

above the People’s Playground, but the newfangled tech puts adrenaline junkies at the helm of their virtual adventure, said a rep for Luna Park.

“You’re able to create your own experience,” said brand manager Angie Mooris. “It’s interactive, so de-

pending on how you push the lever in front of you, you can fly up and down and it will help you navigate this new world.”

It’s a cutting-edge thrill that could be the future of amusement park rides. In fact, last summer neigh-

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Eric Jacobsen

FELLOW CELLOS: (Left) Cellist Erik Robert Jacobson, who frequently busks at Brooklyn subway stations, is often mistaken for Eric Jacobsen (right), a professional who has played Carnegie Hall.

Yo-yo ma-stake

Like-named cellists create dis-chord

BY COLIN MIXSON
It's a classical music caper!

Straphangers in Brooklyn subway stations continue to mistake a busking cellist with a pro who has played national stages, because the two musicians' names are nearly identical — and the confusion creates problems beyond keeping commuters' attention as trains rattle by, according to the underground maestro.

"This woman started screaming at me, 'You're not Eric Jacobsen,'" said below-ground busker Erik Robert Jacobson, who was accosted by his fellow cello player's aunt. "I said, 'I am Erik Jacobson!'"

Jacobson, a Windsor

Terrace resident, has performed on "Late Night with David Letterman," at Carnegie Hall, and with the Brooklyn Riders string quartet, and Jacobson — who hands out business cards while playing in stations that include Grand Army Plaza, the Atlantic Terminal, and Borough Hall as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Music Under New York program — said being mistaken for his de facto rival can cost him valuable gigs.

"People have contacted the other Eric Jacobsen a number of times thinking he was me, and vice versa," Jacobson said.

The greatest insult dealt

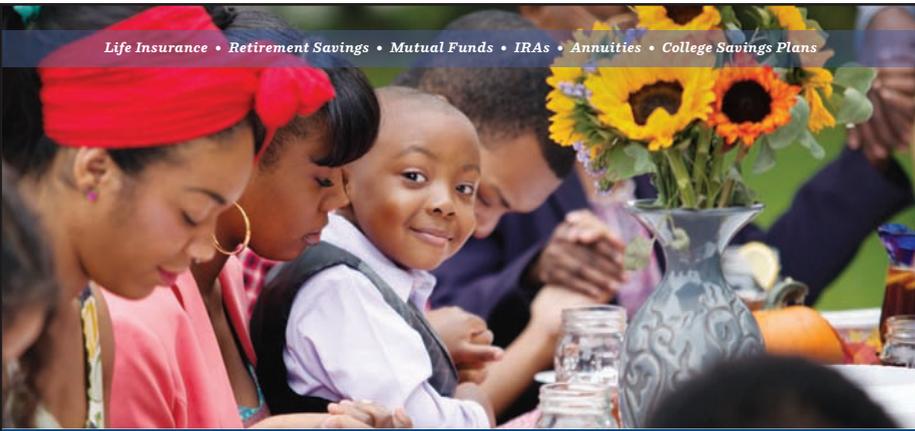
to the busker was when someone booked him for a performance and then canceled it upon realizing he was not the pro.

"Somebody hired me for a job that paid pretty well, and then the person said, 'Oh, we want the other guy,'" Jacobson said.

The case of mistaken identity is so bad that Jacobson uses his full name to distinguish himself, but a Google search for "Erik Robert Jacobson" still lists Jacobson's website as the first result.

The more acclaimed Jacobsen may not lose jobs to his like-named busker, but he said fans of his fellow cellist send him messages

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PIANO

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low, black, pink — represent different frequencies in songs, she said.

Casimir normally paints on linen, canvas, and wood panels, but this is the first time she has applied her brush to a musical instrument. She has been playing the piano for two years, but the experience of painting each section of the device gave her a new appreciation for its complexity.

"It was definitely challenging," she said. "It's

so funny, because I normally play the piano — but I never really knew how many parts there were until I did this."

The Sing for Hope program creates opportunities to play piano for those who might not have access to the pricey instrument. The 14 devices scattered across Brooklyn include several painted with tributes to local scenes, including an homage to the subway on an instrument in Willoughby Square Downtown, and scenes from the People's Playground painted on a piano parked on the Coney Is-

land Boardwalk.

The pianos will be kept in place until June 25, when they will be transported to public schools across the city.

Casimir, who titled her artistic instrument "Loud, So Hope Can Hear It," wants people to play her piano unabashedly while they have the chance, and to use the music to escape from everyday frustrations.

Sing for Hope piano by Manon Casimir in Sunset Park (near the flagpole, 41st Street at Sixth Avenue in Sunset Park, www.sing-forhope.org). Through June 25. Free.

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Let's hear it for the ladies

We celebrate strong, selfless women who help make Brooklyn great

BY JAMES HARNEY

Like the borough they're from, the Brooklyn Women of Distinction Class of 2017 are a tapestry.

Community News Group honored 25 of Kings County's most worthy women during a June 1 awards gala at Sirico's Caterers in Dyker Heights, the accolades celebrating ladies that were profiled in our 2017 Brooklyn's Women of Distinction magazine.

The awardees included top borough judge Kings County Supreme Court Justice Katherine A. Levine, Marine Park's "Ice Cream Lady," Anastasia D'Amato, and Katie Lusso, the News12 Brooklyn reporter whose "Bravo! Brooklyn!" segments spotlight do-gooders across the borough.

Certain women were honored because they are synonymous with community service in their neighborhoods, including Aileen McKinnon of East Flatbush, Candace Woodward of Park Slope, and Lola Star of Coney Island. And others — like Grisel Amador, Violetta Livshiz, Frances Schwartz, and Pauline Yeung-Ha — were recognized for their selfless giving to senior citizens.

Some Women of Distinction are ladies of the cloth, including the Rev. DeVanie Jackson, who brings healthy food and dietary practices to needy neighborhoods, the Rev. Amy Kienzle, who opens the doors of her missionary church to all in Greenpoint, and the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Butler, whose Bedford-Stuyvesant ministry mixes activism and community outreach.

"There are only two kinds of people in the world; those who live in Brooklyn, and those who want to live in Brooklyn," Butler said, reciting a favorite quote.

And while this year's awardees may have taken different paths to "Distinction," they are united in their



WOMEN WE ADMIRE: 1. Keynote speaker Katie Goodman — an award-winning musical comic, actress, and social activist — treats guests to a hilarious song about aging. 2. Volunteer, right, Marina Trofimova and Raisa Chernina of the Be Proud Foundation. 3. Bed-Stuy Farm founder and "food justice" crusader Rev. DeVanie Jackson is all smiles accepting her award. 4. Businesswoman Kim Moore poses for the camera. 5. Elite Academy Principal Yelena Sokolin thanks her loved ones. 6. The 2017 Brooklyn Women of Distinction. 7. Brooklyn Supreme Court judge, center, Hon. Katherine Levine was joined by family and friends.

Photos by Jordan Rathkopf

fondness for their borough.

"I am proud to call Brooklyn home," said honoree Tonya Ores, the executive director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn. "Its leadership is strong, its communities are strong, and its vision is limitless."

The event gave important recognition to the service each woman performs in her community.

"The night celebrated 25 outstanding women in Brooklyn who go above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities to make their neighborhoods and communities a better place. They are often the unsung heroes who see a problem, organize their friends and family, and tackle the issue," said CNG President and Publisher Jennifer Goodstein.



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HEALTH TIP: Golden's constituents called on him help the New York Health Act finally get a vote in the state Senate. Photo by Mike Beitchman

It's a Golden opportunity

Locals demand state Sen. Golden back bill for universal healthcare

BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

Southern Brooklynites rallied in front of state Sen. Martin Golden's Bay Ridge office on May 31 demanding the legislator support a single-payer, universal healthcare bill that's stalled in the state Senate.

The New York Health Act aims to replace New York's multi-payer system with a program that would universally cover state residents. But the legislation is tied up in the Senate's health committee, and locals are calling on Golden (R-Bay Ridge)—a committee member — to use his role to bring the act to a vote before the legislative session ends on June 21.

"Golden is on the committee that the bill has historically been stuck in, and

we weren't even calling on him to vote for it, we just want him to get it out of committee," said Bay Ridgeite Mallory McMahon, an organizer with Fight Back Bay Ridge who attended the demonstration. "We just want it to have a chance."

If passed, the act would replace the state's current system in which individuals, businesses, and government institutions pay public and private insurers for healthcare.

A system dubbed the "New York Health Plan" by legislators would foot the bill for medically necessary care, including doctor visits, hospitalization,

prescription drugs, and a slew of other treatments. It would be financed by a progressive increase in payroll taxes and new taxes on capital gains and dividends.

The act was originally proposed by Assemblyman Richard Gottfried (D-Manhattan) in 1992 and has passed in the Assembly for the third consecutive year, yet it never manages to make it to a vote in the state Senate. But this year, support for the bill is gaining steam — partly because of the uproar over the house's passage of the American Health Care Act, which would leave millions uninsured and skyrocket insurance costs for those with pre-existing conditions.

It's an issue that hits home for many Southern Brooklynites who would

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Ridgite saves man in London attack

BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

A brave Bay Ridgite studying in London sprung into action during last Saturday's terror attack when a wounded man stumbled into the pub where he was eating and collapsed.

Mark Kindschuh, the quick thinking 19-year-old, darted out from safety and wrapped his belt around the man's gushing head wound to quell the bleeding. It was selfless instinct, said his father.

"He thought of nothing other than stopping the bleeding," said Dr. Mark Kindschuh, director of Coney Island Hospital's emergency department. "Mark didn't know if he had been shot or stabbed or what. He was injured and needed help — it was real simple math for Mark."

The Boston College junior and friends were having dinner at The Wheat-sheaf, just a few minutes from London Bridge, when



LOCAL HERO: Bay Ridgite Mark Kindschuh sprung into action when a man injured during the June 4 London terror attack stumbled into The Wheat-sheaf pub where he was having dinner.

Dr. Mark Kindschuh

chaos erupted and frantic locals streamed into the pub for safety. A man, covered in blood, collapsed just inside the entrance and Kind-

schuh rushed to help him.

Cradling the man's head in his hands, Kindschuh's emergency training as a lifeguard kicked in as he fumbled for the wound, pressing down to stop the bleeding and desperately trying to keep the man awake, said the teen's father.

"Mark did everything to keep him conscious, talking about sports, soccer," said Dr. Kindschuh. "But there came a point when he realized that wasn't going to be enough."

The recent U.S. Army recruit whipped off his canvas belt and tied it around the man's head. When he couldn't find a doctor in the pub he dashed out into the street to find help — running into the thick of the terrorist hunt.

"He went out that door — and that's where I take pause — that's to me where it's *really something*," said Dr. Kindschuh. "That's self-sacrifice, because

what was outside that door, he didn't know. He just knew he needed help."

Law enforcement officers armed to the teeth shouted for Kindschuh to get back inside. Seconds after the bartender pulled him back in and locked the door, one of the terrorists crashed up against the glass and bullets began flying, described Dr. Kindschuh.

"What separated my son from tragedy and heroism, I don't know," said his father. "It's a blessing. We're so very, very proud."

Shortly after, emergency responders were able to rush the injured man to the hospital.

The selfless teen joined the Army less than two months ago, and will be a Second Lieutenant when he graduates and begins four years of active duty. Afterwards, he has his sights set on Law School, according to his father.



GROOVY: Spike Lee grooved with the Beautiful Ones dance crew at his Prince party on Saturday — several days ahead of the late musician's birthday on June 7. Photo by Bob Krasner

Day purple reigned

BY COLIN MIXSON

It was a party fit for a prince.

Brooklyn-born filmmaker Spike Lee hosted a massive celebration in Bedford-Stuyvesant last weekend in honor of His Royal Badness, the artist eternally known as Prince — and it was very purple, according

to a friend of Lee who attended.

"Spike wanted everybody wearing purple," said Maija Garcia, the filmmaker's Director of Movement, who worked with him on the 2015 film "Chi-raq" and the upcoming Netflix series "She's Gotta Have It."

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READY TO ROLL

Vintage pinball games return to Coney Island

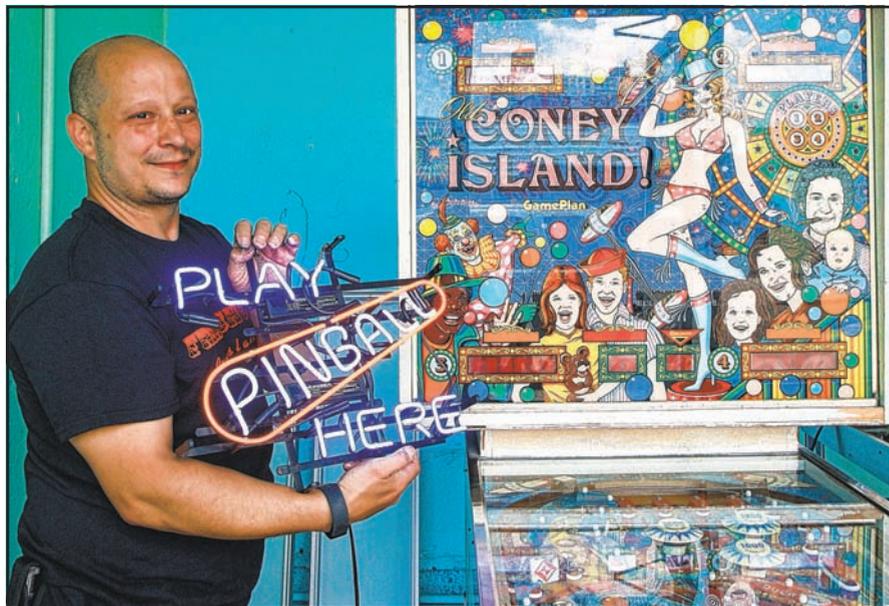
BY CAROLINE SPIVACK

The People's Playground is flipping out!

A vintage pinball arcade is rolling into the Coney Island Museum and Freak Bar this weekend! Flipper fanatics can test their skill on 10 of the old-school arcade games — but the machines, each decorated with images of sideshow performers of the past, are works of art that should be admired as well as played, said an organizer of the pinball gallery.

“The point is to be a living museum,” said Dick Zigun, sideshow impresario and head of Coney Island USA. “We are dedicated to curating selections based on the art, the theme — we want them to not only be seen as fun and games, but as art.”

For the next year, six Coney-themed games will dazzle silver ball players at the Coney Island Museum, while another four occupy the Freak Bar downstairs. Each of the 1970s and '80s-era gizmos was chosen to complement the Sodom by the Sea setting. For instance, the “Mystic” game is painted with fortune tellers, levitating women, and a shackled Harry Houdini — who used to perform at Coney. Another game celebrates the daredevil motorcycle stuntman Evel Knievel, while the “Old Coney Island” device features a beach bombshell, a Ferris wheel, and plenty of excited visitors to the People's Playground.



PINBALL WIZARD: Flipper fanatic Dennis Catylfumo teamed up with the Coney Island Museum to share his collection of vintage pinball machines. Photo by Erica Price

The pinball machines all come from the collection of one silver ball aficionado, who got the ball rolling after spotting an “Old Coney Island” machine stationed in the Coney Island Museum.

“I remember playing it and it just brought it all back. I started collecting a few and then it just snowballed,” said Mill Basin resident Dennis Catylfumo, who repairs games at El Dorado Arcade.

Catylfumo began collecting and repairing vintage pinball machines, and partnered with the museum so that the public could appreciate the authentic, old-school devices.

“I asked a co-worker if he liked pinball, and

he said, ‘Oh yeah, I have a pinball app.’ Those are the kind of reasons that make me want to share it with the masses,” he said. “It’s real, something you can feel. And now there’s an interest for it again.”

The elevation of pinball as art marks quite a change for the machines, which were once outlawed in New York City. In the early 1940s, pinball was considered a form of gambling, and the machines were regarded as insidious nickel stealers that unfairly gobbled up kids’ lunch money. In 1942, mayor Fiorello La Guardia banned the games, raiding candy stores, bars, and theme parks for the contraband devices and destroying them in dramatic fashion — with

a sledgehammer.

But pinball made a comeback in the '70s and now supple-wristed ball bashers hunt for the vintage games.

“It’s the triumph of youngsters, full of terrible American habits, pursuing their own way,” said Zigun.

If the machines strike it big with beach-goers, the museum hopes to spice up the selection with a few more games and to host a tournament for pinball wizards to duke it out.

Play ball at the Coney Island Museum [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159, www.coneyisland.com]. Open Fri, Sat, noon–6 pm; Sun, 2–6 pm. Museum admission \$5 (\$3 seniors). Freak Bar admission free.



NEW HEIGHTS: Luna Park’s WindstarZ has been upgraded with virtual reality headsets that let park-goers feel like they’re soaring through another world. Photo by Erica Price

RIDE

Continued from page 1

boring Deno’s Wonder Wheel Amusement Park jumped on the futuristic bandwagon with similar gear in the XD Dark Ride, which puts park-goers in the thick of a post-apocalyptic battle between zombies and raiders.

The WindstarZ makes a more lighthearted use of the graphics and lets riders steer their way through a whimsical town, caverns, and waterfalls all while shooting for coins in a vaguely “Super Mario World”-esque reality.

This reporter had a vague idea of what to expect from trying out 3D zombies shooters. But I quickly learned that flying through the air with a virtual reality headset strapped to your head is a whole new ball game — you are peering into another world while your body becomes a whirling dervish. It’s a surreal sensation.

And if you’re a pro at multitasking this ride is for you. Pilots must steer through the virtual sky with a lever that affects how high or low you go in the real world, too, while tapping the side of your headset to shoot

rainbow balls at coins — and you aim with the subtle shifts of your noggin.

It was a bit disorienting at first, and all the moving parts made me feel like I was soaring in a high-flying contraption out of “Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.” But once I got the hang of it, it was quite a spectacle, though the roar of the wind drowned out most of the sound effects.

Call me old fashioned, but I’m partial to watching the world spin by rather than entering a new one in the air. But if you’re looking for a new twist on an old classic, this might be up your alley.

At the moment, WindstarZ has six of its 24 seats equipped with Samsung headsets that sync to each two-seat hang glider.

The park plans to roll out the remaining headgear throughout the summer and has its sights set on incorporating engrossing graphics into other rides like the heart thumping Thunderbolt roller coaster.

“WindstarZ” at Luna Park [1000 Surf Ave near Surf Avenue in Coney Island, lunaparknyc.com, (718) 373-5862] Times vary. \$5. Must be at least 12-year-old.



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Re-branded: Developer in disguise

Brooklyn Heights 'Watchtower' complex debuts plans, ditches 'Kushner' name

BY LAUREN GILL

Necessity is the mother of re-invention.

The development team once led by Jared Kushner (below) — who earlier this month was named a focus in the FBI's Russia investigation — revealed plans on May 31 to transform the Jehovah's Witnesses' Brooklyn Heights headquarters into a swanky office complex, along with a new name that bears no trace of Donald Trump's son-in-law.

The development — marketed as Panorama — is owned by builders Kushner Companies, LIVWRK, and investor CIM Group, who ditched their individual identities for the joint name Columbia Heights Associates in announcing it.



But having the president's controversial advisor's name tied to the complex likely will not drive away businesses looking to sign a lease, according to one broker.

"I don't think it's going to be an issue for most tenants, that's a really hard one to speculate on," said Jakub Nowak, a commercial broker for Marcus and Millichap. "I don't see it being a big factor."

But some companies already have shown aversion to setting up shop in a Trump-associated office.

News outlet The Guardian made headlines when it scrapped its plan to move into Dumbo Heights — another Kushner Companies



HEIGHTS AT NIGHT: A rendering of the Panorama office complex that is set to open in Columbia Heights.

Columbia Heights Associates / Volley Studio

and LIVWRK-owned office complex in the old Jehovah's Witness printing plant — after journalists objected to writing in a building owned by Kushner.

And a rep for e-marketplace Etsy, which rents there along with the co-working space WeWork, told this paper it had not considered its landlord

would rise to become President Trump's right hand man when it signed a 10-year lease in 2014.

Kushner and his partners marketed Dumbo Heights under their individual names, but their re-branding as Columbia Heights Associates is just protocol, not an attempt to distance the Panorama proj-

ect from the Kushner name, according to a spokesman.

Kushner — who is married to Ivanka Trump — stepped down from his role as the chief executive of Kushner Companies in January, but refused to divest himself from certain assets, including Panorama.

He and his partners paid \$340 million in August for the two-city-block-sized building and three neighboring Columbia Heights properties that they plan to turn into a skyway-connected campus for roughly 5,000 workers and retail space.

The complex is located in an area known for attracting tech start-ups and drawing talented graduates from nearby New York University Tandon School of Engineering and the New York City College of Technology.

The owners seek tenants that include creative econ-

omy firms and traditional companies, according to a spokesman, although the head of LIVWRK said he wants one major international tenant to fill the space, magazine Fast Company reported.

The location and floor plans of the complex's buildings will appeal to the types of creative businesses developers hope to attract, according to Nowak.

"It's ripe for any type of technology, advertising, media, or information tenancy," he said.

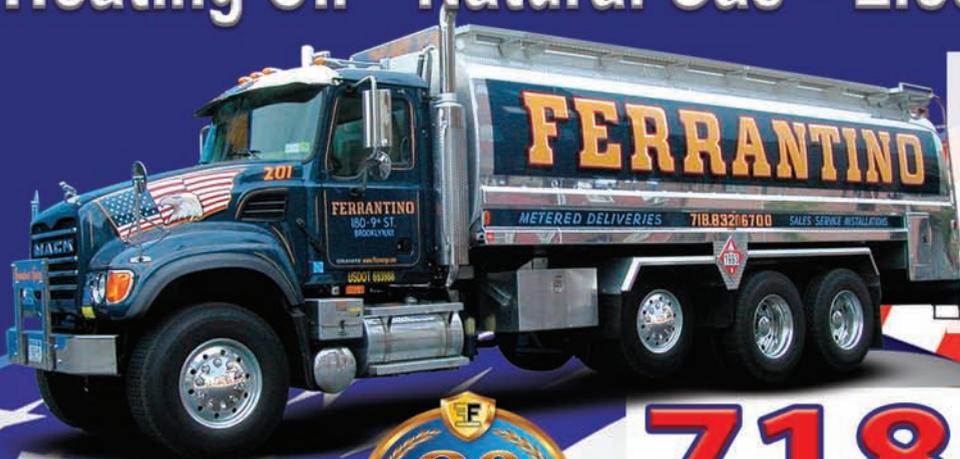
"The buildings' wide open floor plans are what creative tenants are looking for."

Workers are hacking away at the interior of the old Witness headquarters, according to a spokesman, and the complex should be ready for tenants sometime next year.

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SPEAKING OUT: Bay Ridgites gathered near State Sen. Martin Golden's Fifth Avenue office on May 31 to advocate for the New York Health Act. Photo by Mike Beitchman

GOLDEN

Continued from page 4

lose access to vital care if the Affordable Care Act is dismantled, said the lead organizer behind the rally.

"What we're facing, and what millions of Americans are facing, is that our whole world is turning upside down," said Bath Beach resident Sarah Zorn, whose husband has a chronic bowel disease that crippled his life for nearly 13 years until he was able to afford insurance. "I'm almost more afraid than before, because I know what our life could be when he's healthy and I'm so scared of losing that."

Zorn's husband requires a \$58,000 monthly infusion, for which the couple pay a \$15 copay through the Affordable Care Act, but if a lapse in coverage caused him to miss a dose, the drug would lose its potency in his system and he would have to go back to the daily struggle of managing his symptoms, according to Zorn.

But the New York Health Act could be a lifeline for the Zorns and other New Yorkers faced with

life-altering ultimatums, she said.

"This act would be a tremendous salve from what we're facing in Washington, and I think if New York State has the chance to take the lead on this it should," said Zorn. "I'm a food writer, this is all new to me, but I've kind of made it my mission to educate people that this bill exists. That was kind of the thrust of the rally."

More than 150 Southern Brooklynites gathered near Golden's office waving signs that stated "Patients Before Politics" and chanting "We need a hero, Marty Golden. It could be you." Demonstrators donned spandex and capes as "healthcare heroes" to encourage the state senator to step up to the challenge.

But Golden did not make an appearance — despite a trio of activists meeting with him on May 25 and inviting the lawmaker to discuss the bill with his constituents — because he believes it is not the state's responsibility to take lead on the issue.

"Healthcare, universal healthcare, is something that is a national is-

sue, not a state issue," said Golden, whose biggest critique of the bill is how to deal with those who work in New York but live in another state. "You cannot have a state go out and do national healthcare. I'm sorry, single-payer healthcare system, it doesn't work."

Yet New York isn't alone in trying to establish a statewide program. Last week in California, the state Senate approved the measure to establish a universal healthcare system, which is now moving on to its Assembly.

And Southern Brooklynites remain cautiously optimistic about the New York Health Act's chances, feeling it could be a catalyst for healthcare on a national level.

"If New York and California take the lead, my instinct is other states will follow, and eventually we will end up with a federal-payer system," said Mallory McMahon. "For me it's not enough that I'm covered, and that my friends and family are covered, if we don't have everybody in this country covered, we have a huge problem."

CELLISTS

Continued from page 2

confusing him for his underground counterpart.

"I do get e-mails sometimes, and I didn't understand why until a friend of mine sent me a picture of

Erik busking," Jacobsen said. "I said, 'It's me — but it's not me.'"

Jacobson, a member of Brooklyn's underground music scene since 2011, said he would not advise a career in busking, but that he will not give up on his dream of playing

for the New York Philharmonic or another orchestra.

"Don't try this at home," he said. "Getting into a major symphony orchestra is always the goal, but each passing year you wonder if it's even a remote possibility."

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Little Park Slope school of horrors

BY COLIN MIXSON

They were red scared.

Department of Education detectives terrified seven students at Park Slope Collegiate school when they interrogated them during an investigation into principal Jill Bloomberg's alleged "communist activity" without telling the teens why they were being questioned, or revealing they could refuse to talk — a violation of the agency's policy.

Three of the students questioned spoke at a protest on May 31 outside the department's Manhattan headquarters that drew school parents, teachers, students, and faculty who listened as they described the frightening experience.

"When the guidance

counselor pulled me out of class and took me to the office, I was terrified," said Alex Stevens, an eighth grader at Park Slope Collegiate. "She didn't tell me I was being questioned, nor did she offer me to contact my parents."

The education department's investigators do not have to tell parents before students are questioned, according to an agency spokesman, but they encourage students to notify their parents after the fact. Investigators are required to inform students before they are interrogated, and to tell them why they are being questioned and that they have the right to walk away.

Stevens told the crowd she was led to a room with three strangers who ques-

tioned her about her father, a city teacher and a member of the Progressive Labor Party who demanded transcripts from his daughter's session with detectives in a speech at the protest.

"I want the transcripts from that d-- meeting," Adam Stevens said. "I want to see every note, every question they asked, every scribble on their little fascist sheets of paper."

The city's education department began investigating Bloomberg, a firebrand activist with a history of pointing out segregationist policies at its schools, after she cried favoritism for Millennium High School, which shares space with Park Slope Collegiate and other schools inside the John Jay Cam-



INTEGRATE, DON'T INVESTIGATE: Parents, students, and teachers at Park Slope Collegiate rallied outside the Department of Education's Manhattan headquarters in support of racial integration — and Principal Jill Bloomberg, who's being investigated for promoting communism in the school.

Community News Group / Colin Mixson

pus on Seventh Avenue and has nearly twice as many sports programs as the other schools.

Bloomberg — who denies being a member of the communist party — and her supporters see the

city's investigation as an attempt to silence her activism through tried and true McCarthy-era tactics.

"This investigation is not a surprise to me," said Suzette McLeod, a mother of two Park Slope Collegiate

graduates. "I've seen what a difference our principal has made for the school, and I sat down to myself one day and said, 'You know they're gong to try and force this white woman out, because

Continued on page 14

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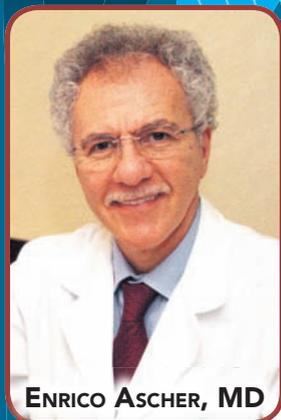
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Dr. Dominick I. Golio says, "A growing number of people flock annually to be examined due to these symptoms. There are many different causes for these problems. Age, Arthritis, the use of certain drugs to lower blood pressure, meds to treat allergies, parkinsons & nerves may increase the chances of dry eyes exposing them to recurring infections & other serious conditions."

Not everyone can reduce or stop using meds or drops of artificial tears and antibiotics are not enough for many. Dr. Golio explains, "A test that all patients with these symptoms should take in front a mirror, lower the lower eyelid with the index finger and hold it in this position for five seconds. It is important not to blink for this test. Typically, the lid returns to its normal position in a second. We often see patients with such sagging eyelids that after taking this test their eyelids do not return to their position within 7 to 10 seconds."

A simple procedure that does not require hospitalization, removes a small amount of skin from the edge of the eyelid restoring

the position thereof. "It's like pulling the rope of a hammock that has withered with time," says Dr. Golio.

If this situation is not corrected, eyes that are exposed outdoors for longer periods of time may have increased symptoms and incidences of infections.

Flabby eyelids occasionally veer inward and the lashes touching the eye causing even more irritation. This procedure that corrects a sagging lower lid is done under local anesthesia by removing excess skin, aligning the eyelid to the outer eye while removing excess fat by pulling the eyelid down. There is no pain or patches needed, you return home the same day and the stitches fall out on their own within one or two weeks.

The same day of the surgery you can watch television, read a book, warm up your own food as well as wash your face permitting the stitches to get wet. In short, you will be able to fend for self the same day of procedure.

Private insurances and Medicare will cover the procedure when it's done to correct the excess flab, symptoms of tearing, recurrent infections or inversion of the eyelashes. This procedure should not be confused with under-eye bags that are considered a cosmetic concern and therefore is not covered by any insurance.



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SANDY

Continued from page 1

10 meetings, 20 meetings? Here is the bottom line, we need something done now.”

Of the \$5 billion Congress signed off on in 2013 for all Hurricane Sandy-related resiliency projects from Virginia up to Maine, only about \$1 billion is left, Army Corps project manager Daniel Falt told attendees of the multi-agency meeting.

And on the heels of President Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement — a 195-country pledge to curb greenhouse emissions and slow the effects of climate change — the imperative to fight for the nearly \$4-billion project, which would minimize the risk of rising sea levels, is even more critical, said Councilman Mark Treyger (D-Coney Island).

“Earlier today, the president of this country detached our nation from an agreement that really matters a lot to us, should matter a lot to us — an agreement that commits this country to reduce our carbon footprint in the world, to reduce or to try to slow down the rate of climate change,” said Treyger, who



NO TIME TO WASTE: Brighton Beach activist Ida Sanoff demands answers and action for ensuring the resiliency of Southern Brooklyn.

CNG / Julianne Cuba

chairs the Council's committee on recovery and resiliency. “The Army Corps I think is very much aware that there's a shortage of funding for that project. We need to make our case and we need to make it very clear that we deserve the same level of protection as anyone else in New York City.”

Picking up the pieces and rebuilding right after the 2012 storm was crucial, but now it's time to prepare for the future — and it takes believing in the sci-

ence of climate change to do so, said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-Coney Island).

“The transition we need to make is where we can eventually get to a point where we can strengthen the resiliency of all of the neighborhoods along the Coney Island peninsula,” said Jeffries. “Particularly in recognition of the fact that the climate, despite what the 45th President of the United States may think, the climate is changing, global warming is real, sea level rise is occurring. And we know that because we experienced it on Oct. 29 when super-storm Sandy hit.”

The Army Corps study initially only included Queens, but Jeffries and Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-Park Slope) fought hard to get Brooklyn in the plans, and now the proposed \$3.8-billion project includes the massive hurricane barrier extending from Queens to Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, concrete floodwalls, reconstructed seawalls, sand dunes, and jetties. Just the hurricane barrier for Floyd Bennett Field alone would cost a whopping \$1.5 billion, said Falt.

Back in October, there was still about \$3.5 billion left, but now that number has shrunk

by more than half, and there are still a number of other projects ahead of this one in the pipeline that may dry it all up before the Corps plans to break ground in Coney Island in 2019, said Falt.

Congress will have to go back to square one and allocate more cash, said Falt.

“What we have for this system is about \$4-billion of proposals, so you can see that's a significant problem we face,” he said. “But if we could get this authorized we would just simply need to get additional appropriations from Congress.”

But to hopefully see some action soon, the Corps is looking at what smaller parts of the project — such as sand dunes and planting more grass — can be done quickly from the money that's left before it's gone, he said.

“We are going to use that money we have to build some of the elements of the project, we're not going to build half a gate — interim protection, some sort of dune, grass planting, that's an easy solution,” said Falt. “And shame on us for not doing it already, we are trying to get something done as soon as we can.”

Jeffries attributed the snail's

pace of the project to the change of hands in the White House, but promised to fight to move it along.

“We can try to push for this to be done as quickly as possible, and I understand your frustration and everyone's frustration with the long-term process,” he said. “But we are talking multiple administrations. We did have President Barack Obama, now we have President Donald Trump, it's a change in administration, that's challenging — multiple billions of dollars at stake and multiple jurisdictions, but we are trying to work through it as quickly as possible.”

One glimmer of hope might be President Trump's promised \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, some of which could be steered toward to Southern Brooklyn's resiliency, according to the congressman.

“To the extent that Congress comes together to pass a major transportation infrastructure initiative for our nation, there will be opportunity to get these projects funded,” he said in an e-mailed statement. “However, absent any major infrastructure initiative the likelihood of securing additional funding is challenging.”

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BQE

Continued from page 1

the project by combining the bidding for design and construction, as opposed to the current practice of giving contracts to separate firms for each phase. And there's no time like the present to do so, according to local pols.

"It's time for the state to authorize design build in order to streamline the City's construction process and save both time and money to rebuild the BQE triple-cantilever and other critical infrastructure projects," said Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon (D-Cobble Hill).

The city is paying \$1.9 billion to fix the 1.5-mile stretch of the decrepit expressway between Atlantic Avenue and Sands Street, and kicked off the project with a series of public meetings last summer. In those sessions, the transportation department's commissioner said design build would accelerate the revamp of the 70-year-old span, which is scheduled to begin in 2024 and end in 2029, but could start as early as 2021 and finish by 2026 if the process is approved.

The approach is cheered for its ability to speed up and shave money from big projects. And if there are



NEEDS AN UPDATE: The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway's beloved - and dangerous - triple cantilever needs to be fixed.

any mistakes, there is one person to complain to, instead of separate contractors.

Opponents of design build argue that the process could make it easier for private contractors to cut corners in pursuit of profits, and claim the approach limits a client's involvement in the design phase and encourages contractors to operate outside their areas of expertise.

The state has authorized design build for several of its own projects, including the new Kosciuszko Bridge, but never for a city-led job. And the expressway revamp is such a massive project that no entity

would dare to try it without streamlining the process, according to the transportation department head.

"The BQE is overdue for rehab — critical and complex work that no one in the world would take on without design build," said commissioner Polly Trottenberg.

The bill is sponsored by state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) and would grant New York City the right to use design build on seven other projects across the city, in addition to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

But the clock is ticking to approve it, as the legislature lets out on June 21.

PRINCE

Continued from page 5

Thousands of fans gathered on Saturday to celebrate the late musician's birthday, which is June 7. The event raged for six hours as Lee, dressed in head-to-toe violet, engaged

the crowd with sing-alongs and Prince-related giveaways, including albums, shirts, and purple tulips.

Dancers from troupes across the city got down as Qool DJ Mary spun classic tunes by the Prince of Funk, including "Little Red Corvette," "Cream,"

and "Kiss," before playing the grand finale of, naturally, "Purple Rain," which blasted as purple confetti fell onto an exuberant crowd.

"The party ended with a finale of 'Purple Rain' and we had this beautiful purple confetti falling from the sky," Garcia said.

SCHOOL

Continued from page 10

she's standing up for black kids."

Councilman Brad Lander (D-Park Slope), who supports Bloomberg, sent a letter to the education department's attorney that criticized the investigators for insisting to

speak with students even after they said no and telling the teens they must "maintain complete confidence" about the interviews. His statement also

quoted the agency's Bill of Student Rights, which states "students have the right to be accompanied by a parent and/or representative at conferences and hearings."

A second student fought back tears as she spoke to the crowd about her interrogation and the fear it inspired.

"It was very uncomfortable," said Kastia Colon, a Park Slope Collegiate senior. "Every time I come to class, I think my teachers might not be there next year. It really upsets me."

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