

Steamed readers!

Library cooling system fails

BY COLIN MIXSON

Call them burned bookworms.

Visitors to the Brooklyn Public Library's Flatbush branch were heated after a broken air conditioning system forced the book lender to cut its hours for the rest of the season on July 24, flaring up those who use the facility as a cool escape from the summer sun.

"I thought, 'What am I doing here? Why did I come?'" said patron Jesenia Sealy. "I thought it was supposed to be somewhere cool and it's the opposite!"

Library officials are working with the city's Department of Design and Construction on a \$1.5-million project to replace the location's heating and cooling systems, but there is no set date for repairs to begin, a spokeswoman said.

The shortened schedule is intended to protect visitors and staff from extreme heat, according to the book lender's rep, and massive fans were installed in lieu of air conditioners to help curb the branch's temperature.

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THE PILOT LIFE



SETTING SAIL: Pilot owners Miles and Alex Pincus enjoy their new floating restaurant.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Floating bar makes debut

BY LAUREN GILL

It's about time!

A floating restaurant aboard a historic schooner lowered its gangplank to visitors on Thursday night, just off Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6. The much-anticipated opening of Pilot gives Kings County residents a new waterfront spot to drop anchor and chow down.

The floating eatery serves a seafood-focused menu that includes oysters, lobster rolls, and a soft-shell crab po' boy. It also boasts two bars, serving \$15 craft cocktails, and several sit-down tables.

Pilot is owned by Alex and Miles Pincus, the team behind the popular Manhattan restaurant-on-a-boat Grand Banks.

The schooner was only recently decked out for an upscale dining experience — the 1924-built vessel enjoyed a previous life as the "Highlander"

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Ferry good idea!

BY JULIANNE CUBA

They've got all hands on deck!

An armada of local pols stood with Coney Island and Canarsie residents on the steps of City Hall on Aug. 8 to demand that Mayor DeBlasio act quickly to bring the city-

wide ferry service to their seaside neighborhoods. The recently launched water-borne transit option celebrated its 1-millionth rider last month, but several outer-borough, transit-starved neighborhoods have been left behind in

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ALL WET: Ridgite Josephine Beckmann wants this troublesome stairway fixed.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

A tale of two stairways

BY DANIELLE KOGAN

An outdoor staircase in Bay Ridge that gained viral-video fame on social media when last week's rains turned it into a waterfall is really just the ugly stepsister of a similar staircase a couple of streets over, according to residents.

Beyond the poor drainage, the crumbling staircase abutting a dead end at 76th Street near Colonial Road is covered with rust and graffiti, and overgrown with plants, making an awkward contrast with the well-kempt stairway on 74th Street, both of which are the

responsibility of the Department of Transportation.

"The Department of Transportation seems to have no interest in compromising or doing any work on the area. The work they do is shoddy," said resident Bert Halliday, "and this is

Continued on page 6

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A bombshell report!

Experts: Brooklyn Heights weapon dates to Revolution

BY LAUREN GILL

It's a blast from the past!

Workers found a cannonball outside a home in the Brooklyn Heights historic district last month that's likely a relic from the American Revolution, according to local history buffs.

"There's really no way of knowing exactly where it came from or how it got there, but I'm sure it does date back to the Revolutionary War," said borough historian Ron Schweiger.

Someone found the softball-sized cast-iron orb while digging a trench in the backyard of the house on Middagh Street at least two years ago during its initial demolition, and workers discovered it sitting on a table at the job site when they started new construction late last month, according to the project manager, who did not want his name used because his client hadn't authorized him to speak.

And while historians said they couldn't pinpoint the ammunition's exact origins, they offered a few educated guesses based on a major battle that occurred nearby.

There was no combat in the Heights during the war, but the nabe was home to the Americans' main defense during the Battle of Brooklyn, the first major fight after the United States declared independence in 1776.

The bulky dark gray shell could have belonged to either army — it's hard to say because the Americans used many of the same weapons as the British — and may have landed there after it was shot from

afar or accidentally discarded by passing troops, Schweiger said.

"It could've just been a leftover piece that may not have been fired," he said. "There's no way of knowing if it's something that was fired and missed its target or dropped there accidentally during retreat or advancement."

The ball — which has a hole on top that may have been packed with gunpowder so the weapon would explode — looks like ammo used during the Revolutionary War, according to another expert, who said it probably would have been fired from a small cannon.

Its discovery is particularly noteworthy because not many cannonballs have been found in the Heights, where many plots have not been dug up due to their homes' historic significance, she said.

"It's not super common because the houses in Brooklyn Heights and brownstone areas are older, and they haven't been deeply excavated the way the high-rises have," said

Julie Golia of the Brooklyn Historical Society.

The houses on Middagh Street are the oldest in the Heights, Schweiger said, and the residence where the cannonball was unearthed is believed to have been built between the 1820s and '30s, the project manager said.

Artifacts discovered on private land are allowed to be kept by property owners, but anyone who finds an explosive device is urged to call 911, a Department of Buildings rep said.



Hit-and-run driver still at large despite employer's cooperation with police

BY LAUREN GILL

The city still hasn't identified the garbage truck operator who hit and killed a cyclist in Greenpoint on July 22, even though a rep for the business that employs the driver said records can trace workers to its trucks on that night.

"Action Environmental Services continues to cooperate fully," said rep Ken Frydman. "We have records of our employees, the NYPD is conducting the investigation."

The driver was traveling on Franklin Street when he

or she turned onto Noble Street at 12:30 am, striking and killing 27-year-old Nefataly Ramirez, who was pedaling home from work at Paulie Gee's pizzeria.

Police on July 25 told the website DNA Info the truck belongs to Action Carting, a New Jersey-based service that collects garbage from more than 16,400 private businesses across the city, a fact that was confirmed to the Park Slope Courier by police after Frydman called other reports of his company's involvement "speculative."

But Frydman wouldn't

explain why no arrests have been made even though he said Action has records of where and when its employees were driving trucks in the city that night.

He also bashed journalists for expecting cops to identify the driver within weeks of the collision.

"I know you guys are in a frenzy to convict someone in the court of public opinion," he said.

A police spokesman did not answer questions on why it is taking so long to identify the driver, citing the ongoing investigation.



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BIG CROWD: Some party boat passengers broke out into a fight late at night on Aug. 6.

Photo by Mark Mellone

Left in the dock

Politician takes aim at party boats

BY JULIANNE CUBA

Talk about troubled waters.

After a brawl that broke out in the street after hundreds of passengers disembarked from one of Sheepshead Bay's party boats late at night on Aug. 6, Councilman Chaim Deutsch (D-Sheepshead Bay) is drafting legislation to crack down on the notoriously noxious nautical nuisances.

Locals have been complaining for years about the loud noise, excessive traffic, public urination, and piles of trash left behind by passengers on the weekends, but little has been done to address the quality-of-life issues — and now enough is enough, said Deutsch, whose bill would require the so-called booze cruise skippers to provide parking for their passengers. Because parking is so scarce in the area, the effect would be a de facto cap on the number of party boats.

"It would require a sufficient amount of parking, and they would have to come up with that amount of parking for the party boats," said Deutsch. "In Sheepshead Bay, you're already strapped with parking, so if someone can come up some parking lot and some place where they could put cars, things could work out."

Police say they have no report of last Sunday's 4 am fight, but video and photos show a group of about 10 men breaking into a fight and running down Emmons Avenue, while police cars with flashing lights and officers attempted to stop it.

Several social media users left behind racially-charged comments on the video that was posted to Facebook — which speaks to a larger concern brought up repeatedly before that those fighting against the boats are only doing so because most of the passengers are black. But Deutsch says it has nothing to do with that, it's simply an issue of keeping everyone safe, including all of the party-boat goers.

"This is not about people coming in,

this is strictly about safety issues and quality of life issues," he said.

Deutsch isn't the first Sheepshead Bay pol to attempt legal action for a calmer bayside — Assemblyman Steve Cymbrowitz floated legislation in Albany back in June to completely ban the booze cruises from the Parks Department-owned piers, but the bill is dead until the Assembly reconvenes next year.

Deutsch said he supports Cymbrowitz's bill, but doubts he could propose a similar measure in the city to completely nix the boats. Instead, requiring parking would hopefully reduce the problems plaguing the neighborhood and ensure everyone's safety, he said.

"I don't know if I can make a bill to ban them completely. People are entitled to have a good time, but having something in this magnitude is unacceptable," said Deutsch. "And something this large, I will not tolerate it. I will do everything I can to make sure people are safe and people's quality of life doesn't get affected."

Deutsch also held a meeting with several city agencies on Aug. 8 — including the Parks Department, Fire Department, and Police Department — along with community residents, local business owners, and boat captains to discuss the issue. He suggested that the Parks Department look into the legality of cutting back on the number of permits it gives out, both this season and the next, if people's safety is at risk — similar to a nuisance abatement, he said.

"Everyone at the meeting agreed that it needs to be reduced. We need to have less people at the bay at the same given time. No one should be at risk," Deutsch said. "If it's a safety risk, I asked them to legally look into reducing the amount of permits."

The Parks Department did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but Deutsch said department officials agreed to look into it.

TRASH TICKET

City issues a summons for a pile of garbage that it told neighbors to dump

BY JULIANNE MCSHANE

Neighbors are outraged that the city tried to fine a Bay Ridge woman \$100 for letting other residents' garbage bags pile up in front of her 94th Street home — after it ordered residents of a nearby private street to leave them there for pick-up.

Earlier this year, the Department of Sanitation ordered residents of four private streets to start hauling their trash to the nearest public street corner to be collected, and the irony that the agency is now penalizing their neighbor for the pileup shows how flawed that new policy is, one resident said.

"Because of the change of policy, [the agency has] created a sanitary condition and is now going to penalize people for a condition created by its policy change," said Bill Larney, who lives on Barwell Terrace, one of streets affected by the change.

The department has since withdrawn the July 26 summons, and claimed the ticket was a mistake. In fact, according to an agency spokeswoman, department staff was warned not to cite certain violations in the area, to avoid just such ironies.

"The Department of Sanitation instructed its enforcement personnel not to issue summonses for certain infractions at these locations," said Kathy Dawkins. "Unfortunately, a summons for storing plastic trash bags placed out on a public sidewalk on a non-collection day was issued to that address in error."

The city told residents of Barwell Terrace, Wogan Terrace, Hamilton Walk, and Lafayette Walk back in March that they would have to start bringing their trash out to the curb of a public street for collection, ending the nearly 80-year practice of sanitation workers walking down the private



RELOCATED REFUSE: Because of a change in the city's trash-pickup policy, residents of four private streets have to drag their household garbage — and even bulk items — out to the public streets and dump them in front of their neighbors' houses. One woman on 94th Street has already gotten a ticket for other people's trash.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

walkways to pick up trash from the homes, according to Community Board 10 district manager Josephine Beckmann.

"These four locations are unique in that they're off a main public street, and the manual collection was designed for that reason," she said.

On June 5, the Department of Sanitation's director of community affairs, Harry Ehrhardt, sent a letter to CB10 explaining that sanitation workers would no longer collect trash from the private streets due to safety concerns.

And on June 26, residents of the four private streets responded by filing suit against the city and Department of Sanitation seeking restoration of service.

A resident who also lives on 94th Street between Hamilton and Lafayette walks said he does not want to pay a price for the new policy because he lives in front of a newly designated trash drop-off area.

"I'm completely against the policy because I don't want everybody else's garbage piled out on my sidewalk, and I know I would be liable for it," said Joe Sokoloski, who has lived in his home for 18 years and is a petitioner in the lawsuit the residents filed. He said the 32 homes that are on and between Hamilton and Lafayette walks can create a "mountain of garbage" on the curbs on trash-collection day.

Larney and Beckmann said that the new policy is also a violation of the city's Health and Administrative Code, which states that "a person may not ... place his/her refuse in front of a premises other than the building in which he/she resides or works," according to the Department of Sanitation rule book.

The petitioners' court date is set for Aug. 18 in Kings County Supreme Court, according to Stephen Harrison, the attorney representing the residents.



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GOING UP?: The fate of two towers proposed for Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park remains uncertain after the judge originally presiding over the case ruled on Aug. 4 that a new justice will take it over.

ODA / RAL Development Services / Oliver's Realty Group

VERDICT IS UP IN THE AIR

New judge put on Pier 6 case as building proceeds

BY LAUREN GILL

Talk about a deep bench.

The court case over two towers planned for Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park is being assigned to a new justice after four months of arguments that were supposed to conclude this month, and construction on the high-rises can proceed in the meantime, the judge originally presiding over the case ruled on Aug. 4.

Justice Lucy Billings began hearing the Brooklyn Heights Association's arguments against the development at the foot of Atlantic Avenue in April, but was instructed to give up the legal battle after being recently assigned to oversee asbestos litigation, she said.

The new judge, Justice Carmen Victoria St. George, will now decide whether to accept or reject the civic group's claim that building the towers at Pier 6 violates the terms of a 2006 agreement that mandates park honchos only erect as much housing in the green space as is needed to maintain it.

But construction on the high-rises, which got underway last month, will be allowed to continue as long as nothing is built that can't be undone, the outgoing judge said in re-

sponse to the Heights Association's demand for an injunction halting work until the court rules.

The civic group's injunction request followed its attempt to get Billings to stop construction in an emergency hearing last month, which she denied because she did not find the activity to be unlawful. But the judge guaranteed the Heights Association that the final ruling would not be influenced by how much work is complete, telling lawyers for the park, "I can't see anything that can't be undone."

More than 400 steel beams are now being driven into the ground as part of the project's first phase, which will be followed by concrete pouring. Developers RAL Development Services and Oliver's Realty Group need to decide whether it is worth going ahead with additional construction given they may need to pay to undo it, but a rep for the green space said the builders will move forward without delay.

"Today's outcome does not affect our progress and construction will proceed as planned," said spokeswoman Sarah Krauss.

Now that the case has been reassigned, its tran-

scripts and filings will be passed onto St. George, who will read them and decide whether she can make a ruling or needs to call the litigants back into court.

The documents will include the Heights Association's argument as to why at least one of the towers should be blocked, which reasons that because the high-rise will contain below-market-rate housing, it does not uphold the 2006 agreement's terms that development parcels within the park must be used to make money.

The neighborhood group's attorney said he was happy with the proceedings.

"We're pleased with the outcome of the ruling, which demonstrates the court has taken the BHA's claims very seriously," said Richard Ziegler. "The preliminary injunction ensures when the case is finally decided the fact that construction will proceed in the meantime won't affect the final ruling."

St. George was appointed to the state Supreme Court bench in June after working as an associate for Weitz & Luxenberg, a firm known to fight for plaintiffs or "the little guy."

Jury convicts Martin Shkreli

BY JULIANNE CUBA

Sheepshead Bay's least-favorite son — "Pharma Bro" Martin Shkreli — was convicted of fraud on Aug. 4, but the "Most Hated Man in America" still left the Brooklyn federal courthouse smirking, since the 12-person jury threw out most of the eight charges, including the most damning.

"This was a witch hunt of epic proportions, and maybe they found one or two broomsticks, but at the end of the day, we've been acquitted of the most important charges in this case and I'm delighted to report that," Shkreli said outside the Cadman Plaza courthouse after the verdict was delivered.

The former hedge-fund manager gained infamy, and several of his nicknames, when he jacked up the price of a drug for AIDS patients from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill overnight in 2015, trolled a journalist and the popular hip-hop group Wu Tang Clan on social media, and made plenty of other crude comments across social media — none of which he was on trial for.

Prosecutors charged Shkreli with eight counts of fraud for a Ponzi-like scheme, and the case kicked off at the end of June.

The seven-woman and five-man jury began deliberating on July 31, and after asking the judge for just a few clarifications on the law on Aug. 1, they were

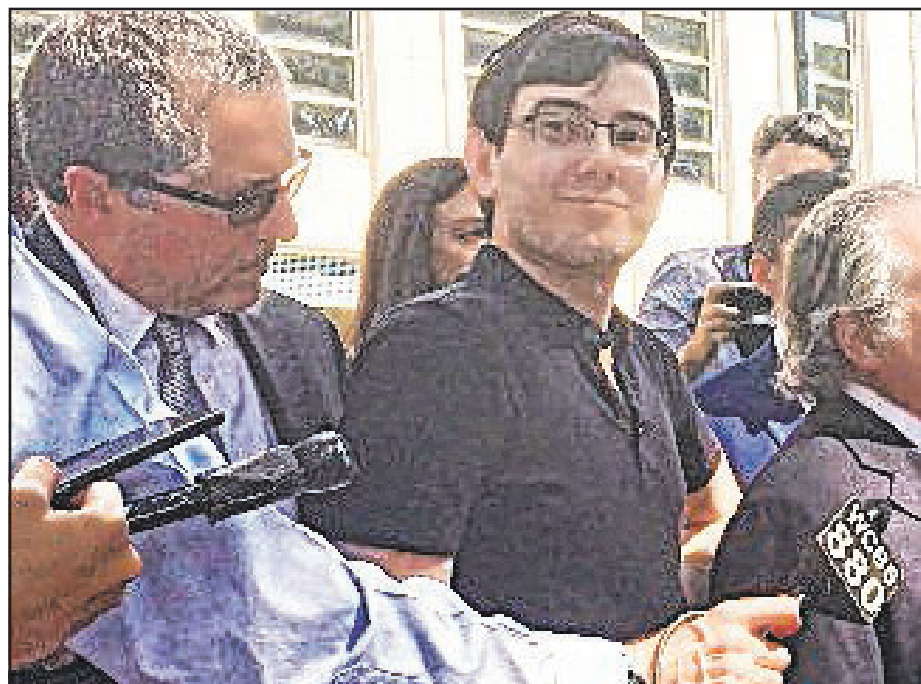
relatively quiet until reaching the verdict.

The federal jury, kept anonymous, convicted the Sheepshead Bay-born-and-bred 34-year-old on three of the eight fraud counts — he was free to walk on \$5 million bond, and faces up to 20 years in prison, but no sentencing date has been set yet, and he's suspected to walk away with a much lighter sentence.

Shkreli took to his live You Tube channel just about an hour after leaving court — with a cold bottle of IPA in hand — talking out his case with viewers.

He's delighted, he told them, but still hopes he doesn't have to spend much time in the slammer.

"No jail time would



EVADES TOUGHEST CHARGES: Martin Shkreli's still smirking even after his conviction, because he was acquitted of the most serious charges.

Community News Group / Julianne Cuba

be definitely ideal," said Shkreli, who also said he's still extremely wealthy but doesn't think he wants to manage a hedge fund again.

And Shkreli isn't buying his title as the "Most Hated Man in America" — as he

told one of the viewers who asked him if he believed he still fits the name.

"I don't think it's me, if it was me I'd think I have a few black eyes," said Shkreli, who famously auctioned off a chance to punch him in the face to

raise money for the family of a recently deceased friend.

The government is still pleased with the jury's verdict. "Justice has been served," said Acting United States Attorney Bridget Rohde.

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THE 'BIG' SHOW

Immersive cinema in Bushwick takes on the Dude

BY ALEXANDRA SIMON

The show abides.

A high-flying film series in Bushwick will celebrate the cult classic "The Big Lebowski" at two immersive screenings filled with music, eye-popping visuals, and aerial performances. Little Cinema's "The Dude," at the House of Yes on Aug. 15 and 16, will be the company's final show of the season, and the popular stoner film is the perfect choice to take it home, said the founder of the screening series.

"We love this movie, and this summer edition is our last show before we take a small break. We wanted something fun and happy and also thought-provoking," said Jay Rinsky, who lives in Williamsburg.

The movie is a timeless piece of work, and filled with imagery that Rinsky has long wanted to use in the show.

"Beyond fundamentals and pop culture, the film has a lot of really creative visual components," said Rinsky. "'The Big Lebowski' is a political film



YOU REMIND ME OF THE BABE: A performer embodies David Bowie's Goblin King in "Labyrinth," at a previous Little Cinema show.

with a lot of fun in it. It's one of my personal favorite films, and something we wanted to do for a long time.

Over the last 18 months, the Little Cinema series has created immersive shows for 33 different movies, including cult classics "The Fifth Element," "Donnie Darko," and "Labyrinth." Each show immerses the audience in the world of the film, with actors dressed as the characters interacting with the audience, re-mixed visuals

and music, and dance numbers inspired by the action on screen.

For "The Big Lebowski," the entertainment will involve 20 performers, with dancers dressed as nihilist Germans, flamenco music, and drink specials on White Russian cocktails. There will also be a drinking game for guests who can spot a flying rug, which really ties the room together, said Rinsky.

"It's a fusion of a live music, live circus dance, and immersive effects and

a whole lot of crazy while film plays," he said.

It may seem over-the-top, but that's just, like, your opinion, man.

"Through live music and video, we are going to recut our own visuals and costumed and aerial dancers will be flying above people's heads while other things happen around them," said Rinsky. "Expect one surprise after another, and expect beautiful and psychedelic and skillfully impressive aerial dancers, and the Dude flying above your head in a dream sequence."

The performers often interact with the audience, but socially anxious viewers who, like Donny, find themselves out of their element can choose to sit in a "safe space zone," where they watch the show and take it easy, said Rinsky.

"Little Cinema: The Dude" at House of Yes [2 Wyckoff Ave. between Jefferson and Troutman streets in Bushwick, (347) 469-9882, www.houseofyes.org]. Aug 15-16 at 7 pm. \$30-\$45.



PRISTINE: Locals think of the crumbling stairway on 76th Street as the ugly step-sister of the one on 74th Street.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

STAIRS

Continued from page 1

an aggressive and callous disregard for the community. It's offensive."

Halliday and a group of families dealing with cancer have been doing their best to maintain the stairs on their own, in part as a make-shift memorial for Halliday's son Ryan — who died of leukemia in 2014 — and other locals lost to cancer.

"Ryan used to talk about how he wanted to buy a house on that block because he loved the view from the stairs. Him and the dog used to take walks down there and watch the sun set. So it became a place we identify with Ryan and wanted to take care of on his behalf," said Halliday. "But it's not safe and we just want it to be a priority for the city to fix."

Halliday said all the city has done is patch a few problem spots — and often carelessly dumping excess cement over the hand rail onto the embankment — and that work is undone every year when the stairs are kept salted all winter.

Even the sewer drain at the foot of the stairway is chronically clogged with trash, so even rains

not strong enough to turn it into a waterfall can create a lake at the bottom.

Getting the 76th Street staircase fixed is one of the top-five priorities for Community Board 10, according to district manager Josephine Beckmann, but the city doesn't feel the same way.

"For the fiscal 2017-2018 year, we submitted a list of 31 capital priorities to be considered for the new budget," said Beckmann, "this is number five on the list. The DOT responded saying it's not a capital priority."

The city put the cost of rebuilding the staircase at \$9 million, but Halliday warned that could rise to as much as \$20 million if the work is put off for another five years.

Local pols have been working together to mobilize funding for the job.

"Making necessary repairs to this staircase has been an issue that was around even before I took office," said Assemblymember Pamela Harris (D-Bay Ridge), "and I've continued working to ensure the repairs can be made. I was able to secure \$500,000 for this project."

The Department of Transportation did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

PILOT BAR

Continued from page 1

Sea," which guided visiting ships safely into Boston Harbor, and later sailed around the world as a research vessel.

After being acquired by the Pincus brothers, it was re-purposed at Gowanus Bay Terminal in Red Hook, where damaged planks from the



A SHORE THING: Diners aboard the boat can sample from the seafood-focused menu while enjoying killer views.

Photo by Jason Speakman

hull were removed and replaced to accommodate the bar, kitchens, and freezers.

It will remain docked on the north side of Pier 6 until October.

Pilot at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6 (Atlantic Avenue and Furman Street in Brooklyn Heights, www.pilotbrooklyn.com). Mon-Fri, 3 pm-midnight; Sat, Sun, 11 am-midnight.



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Name changes get stonewalled!

Army won't alter Ft. Ham streets honoring Confederate generals

BY ALEXANDRA SIMON
They want to let bygones be bygones.
The U.S. Army is refusing to remove the names of Confederate commanders from streets at its Fort Hamilton base — because, well, that whole Civil War thing was so long ago, and changing now would just upset people.
“After over a century any effort to rename memorializations on Fort Hamilton would be controversial and divisive,” said Army spokeswoman Diane Randon in a July 20 letter addressed to a Brooklyn congressman pushing for the change.
Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-Flatbush) petitioned the Department of the Army to change the names of General Lee Avenue and Stone-

wall Jackson Drive on the grounds of Fort Hamilton back in June, along with fellow members of Brooklyn’s congressional delegation, Jerrold Nadler, Nydia Velázquez, and Hakeem Jeffries. The base’s street names became controversial in 2015 after a racially motivated mass shooting in a church in Charleston, S.C., sparked a nationwide movement to remove Confederate flags and other memorials from public spaces.
In the Army’s response, Randon said the streets will remain named after the rebel generals to honor their role in American military history, and not their political beliefs.
“Streets on our military installations are often named for a soldier who



holds a place of significance in our military history,” she said in the letter. “The great generals of the Civil War, Union, and Confederate are an inextricable part of our military history. The men in question were honored on Fort Hamilton as individuals, not as representatives of any particular cause or ideology.”
Both Lee and Jackson

were stationed at the base earlier in their careers, and served with distinction in the U.S. Army before resigning to take up arms for the Confederacy. But Rep. Clarke said the Army’s response is a let down, and that its refusal to make amends ignores how that way of thinking affected minorities.
“I am disappointed



NOT SMILING NOW: Rep. Yvette Clarke says the Army must rename two Fort Hamilton streets honoring Confederate generals. File photos

that the Department of the Army will not even consider renaming these streets honoring Confederate generals who waged war against the United States,” she said in a press release on Aug. 7. “The department claims that the streets were named ‘in the spirit of reconciliation.’ But that reconciliation was actually complicit

by the North and the South to ignore the interests of African Americans and enforce white supremacy, effectively denying the result of the Civil War for generations.”
Clarke dismissed the excuse that changing the street names would be controversial, saying the real outrage is that the Army is honoring defenders of slavery on a base where so many African American soldiers serve their country.
“The department describes any possible renaming of these streets as potentially ‘controversial.’ Nonsense,” she said.
“These monuments are deeply offensive to the hundreds of thousands of Brooklyn residents and members of the armed forces stationed at Fort Hamilton whose ancestors Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson fought to hold in slavery.”

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Meet the 'mayor'

Masked man who played Hizzoner at event speaks

Crown Heights residents invited Mayor DeBlasio to a town hall at Dr. Gladstone H. Atwell Middle School on Aug. 2, where they hoped to question Hizzoner about his controversial scheme to fork over their nabe's publicly owned Bedford-Union Armory to a private developer. But the mayor chose to attend a separate event on the distant island of Manhattan instead. His absence did not stop the local activists from hosting their meeting, however, at which a neighborhood resident stood in for the missing pol. The unknown actor in a cheap DeBlasio mask brought the house down with his impression, according to an event organizer. "He was hilarious the way he answered questions," said Vaughn Armour, a leader of anti-development group Our Armory. DeBlasio's doppelgänger, Stephen Lurie, spoke to the Park Slope Courier after the event about his portrayal of the 6-foot-5-inch pol.

Colin Mixson: Are you an actor? Activist? Horribly disfigured? Tell me, who is behind the mask?

Stephen Lurie: I'm a researcher at a criminal justice organization, and am involved in the movement against the armory deal through the Democratic Socialists of America. I've lived in Crown Heights for two years, and I'm a normal looking guy. I think...

CM: Everyone is raving about your performance last night. How

did an unknown actor with virtually no experience get this job?

SL: I have a lot of friends who are performers in New York and I thought I'd be able to find a tall man to do it. I talked to some people, but ultimately the meeting didn't work with their schedules. So I was conscripted to fill in.

CM: How tall are you? Did you ever feel you weren't fit for the role, physically speaking?

SL: I'm 6-foot-1-inch, so the mayor has four inches on me. I wouldn't say I felt too short for

the part, partially because we were sitting, but if there was a podium I might have needed a box to stand on.

CM: What did you do to prepare?

SL: I watched speeches on YouTube and listened to comments the mayor has made about the armory. I tried to find his speech pattern — he's got a nasally thing going on, and he pauses sometimes.

CM: What did you hope to achieve with your answers?



CHANNELING BILL: Unknown actor Stephen Lurie exploded off the stage and into glory on Aug. 2, when he brought the house down with his impersonation of Mayor DeBlasio at a public meeting on the Crown Heights Armory that the mayor didn't attend.
Colin Mixson / Community News Group

SL: I wanted to make it apparent that I was not the mayor, but that I was, to a certain extent, portraying the way he has approached the issue. He has prioritized developers and the wealthy in private, which contrasts with his public persona as an advocate for the progressive policies that people voted for and the fair housing policy that his

residents need.

CM: Will you be taking your act on the road?

SL: I promised my friends that this would be the only time they'd see me doing a DeBlasio impersonation. I'd like to keep that promise, but who knows? If the moment calls for it, maybe the "mayor" will come back.

— Colin Mixson

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Putting a price on history

BY LAUREN GILL

Call it a landmark argument.

Historic districts are thwarting economic diversity in some Brooklyn neighborhoods because their buildings' real estate value has risen so high that it prices out all but the wealthy, according to a Brooklyn Heights resident and economics professor.

"There's a cost to landmarking that falls on third parties," said Sandy Ikeda, who teaches at the State University of New York Purchase. "The mistake people make in preserving historic districts is they forget it imposes a cost, usually on people they don't see — people who because of higher real estate prices would be unable to live in that neighborhood."

Ikeda published an article in March on how preserved areas limit new construction in certain neighborhoods, making

them off limits to those who can't afford to live in historic homes — which, unlike most older houses that often sell for lower prices, only increase in value as they age.

He focused on his own nabe of Brooklyn Heights, which is almost entirely a historic district and was the city's first. The inaugural designation was made in 1965 to protect residences that date to the 1820s from being demolished to pave the way for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

To protect the character of the tony enclave, homeowners must get approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission to alter the exterior of their houses — a process that includes appearing before the community board and commission, and is required for property owners in any of the city's historic districts.

And the designation

makes it almost impossible to build new high-rises that would increase the city's housing stock and lower area real estate prices, making the neighborhood only affordable for the wealthy, Ikeda argues.

"Whatever restricts the supply of housing while the demand stays the same tends to raise prices," he said.

The protected swaths further stifle economic development because many mom-and-pop shops can't afford to pay their hefty rents, and are replaced with banks, drug stores, or converted luxury apartments, Ikeda said. For instance, the independently owned Brooklyn Heights Cinema closed in 2014 and is being converted into condos.

But the professor is not saying that all historic districts should be bulldozed. He praised the landmarking process for pre-

serving storied buildings that might otherwise be knocked down, and noted that several factors limit the city's stock of affordable housing, including strict zoning regulations that restrict how high developers can build.

He doesn't think historic districts should stop being named either, but suggested the Landmarks Preservation Commission tighten its standards, approve fewer buildings, and stop greenlighting large portions of naves for protection.

"We're seeing more and more of these neighborhoods being converted into landmarks and that's a serious problem," Ikeda said.

But the city already has slowed in designating the districts, said one expert.

"There are so many neighborhoods out there at the moment waiting to be landmarked that the LPC hasn't designated,



BLASTING THE PAST: Brooklyn Heights resident and professor Sandy Ikeda says historic districts may be impeding growth in New York.
Photo by Jason Speakman

it's stunning," said Simon Bankoff, the executive director of Historic Districts Council, an advocacy group for the protected areas. "It has slowed down immensely under the De Blasio administration."

He agreed that other factors suppress cheap housing, including the city's zoning regulations and the lack of laws that protect small businesses from be-

ing priced out. But blaming historic districts isn't the answer, he said, as costs of living in the city are spiking whether people reside in them or not.

"Prices have risen in Brooklyn Heights proportionally to all of the other brownstone neighborhoods," he said. "Land costs continually rise, which is the case for almost all of New York City."

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FERRY

Continued from page 1

its wake, and it's high time they get the same opportunities, said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-Coney Island).

"These are wonderful communities, but communities that have been deprived of legitimate mass transportation options in terms of the day-to-day commute," said Jeffries. "The people of Coney Island and Canarsie work hard, pay taxes, play by the rules, and contribute to the vitality and well being of this city — they deserve a transportation system that will allow them to have a reasonable commute to and from work, to and from school, to and from Manhattan."

Mayor DeBlasio promised a roomful of Canarsie residents last September that a ferry to their neighborhood was "on the table," but since then, he's taken no steps to make it happen — but locals aren't content to wait, they've started petitions demanding Hizzoner seriously look into the idea, and they rallied on the steps of his office this week.

The need for alternative transportation options to subways and buses in the wake of the unfolding Metropolitan Transportation Authority crisis is now even more dire, said Councilman Mark Treyger (D-Coney Island). It often takes Coney Islanders who



SEAS THE DAY!: Councilman Mark Treyger speaks out for ferry service to Canarsie Pier and Coney Island at City Hall on Aug. 8. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

live in the west end as much as two to three hours to get into Manhattan, and the crucial L train will soon stop short of shuttling Canarsie straphangers across the East River.

"It is not acceptable for residents of our city to commute over two hours. The lack of a ferry system and the lack of additional transportation options are holding back neighborhoods like Coney Island and Canarsie," he said. "We're calling upon the Mayor and his administration to focus on solutions that are in the city control. We have the resources — we have the capacity to get this done."

Canarsie was omitted from the city's 2013 ferry feasibility study, which did include Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, Sheepshead Bay, and Coney Island, though none was considered a viable option at the time.

The current South Brooklyn ferry route sails

from Bay Ridge to Sunset Park, Red Hook (with a weekend detour to Governors Island), Brooklyn Heights, and Dumbo before heading to Manhattan, and the Economic Development Corporation, which oversees the service, is continuing its rollout of other routes later this month and next summer — so advocates will have to wait until that's complete to see any action in their neighborhoods, said a spokeswoman for City Hall.

"There are six confirmed routes on the new NYC Ferry system, which will have all launched by 2018," said Olivia Lapeyrolerie. "While those lines do not have stops in Coney Island or Canarsie, we look forward to engaging with communities to determine whether additional ferry stops and routes are viable once our initial expansion is complete."

A handful of advocacy groups also joined the rally.

LIBRARY

Continued from page 1

The new operating hours, from 8 am to 1 pm on weekdays and from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays, will remain in effect through Oct. 2.

A learning center attached to the library at 22 Linden Blvd. adopted a similar schedule as a result of the busted air conditioning, except for on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when it is open from 12:45 to 8 pm.

But the fans and reduced hours are not enough to stop locals who rely on the branch from sweating bullets when they visit, according to a regular.

"It's definitely not opti-



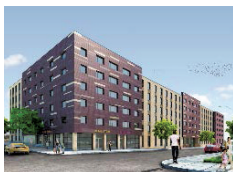
FIRE UP: Library users Mysterie Sylla, left, and Ray Alexander are among the locals who will be put out by the shortening of its operating hours. Photo by Jason Speakman

mal," said Ellee de Baun, a Prospect-Lefferts Gardens resident who uses the library to study. "It's disappointing, because it's really hot."

Readers who seek a

more comfortable experience should visit nearby locations, including the Windsor Terrace, Crown Heights, and Cortelyou branches, the spokeswoman said.

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This building is being constructed through the Extremely Low & Low-Income Affordability (ELLA) program of the New York City Housing Development Corporation and the Supportive Housing Loan Program (SHLP) of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Supportive housing is permanent, affordable housing with on-site support services to serve the needs of the most vulnerable New Yorkers, including the formerly homeless and disabled. Sixty percent of units in supportive housing are set aside for low income or formerly homeless individuals or families with special needs, who are referred by city agencies. The remaining 40% of units in the building are made available to the public through lottery. The units listed in this notice are only those made available to the general public.

Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria. Applicants who live in New York City receive a general preference for apartments.

- A percentage of units is set aside for applicants with disabilities: mobility (5%) and vision/hearing (2%).
- Preference for a percentage of units goes to:
 - Residents of **Brooklyn Community Board 16** (50%)
 - Municipal employees (5%)

AVAILABLE UNITS AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS

50% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS					
Unit Size	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available		Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ (Minimum – Maximum) ⁴
Studio	\$670	12	→	1 person	\$25,303- \$ 33,400
60% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS					
Unit Size	Monthly Rent ¹	Units Available		Household Size ²	Annual Household Income ³ (Minimum – Maximum) ⁴
1 bedroom	\$882	41	→	1 person	\$32,709 - \$40,080
				2 people	\$32,709 - \$45,840
2 bedroom	\$1,065	8	→	2 people	\$39,120 - \$45,840
				3 people	\$39,120 - \$51,540
				4 people	\$39,120 - \$57,240
3 bedroom	\$1,224	3	→	3 people	\$45,292 - \$51,540
				4 people	\$45,292 - \$57,240
				5 people	\$45,292 - \$61,860
				6 people	\$45,292 - \$66,420

¹ Tenant pays electricity

² Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

³ Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

⁴ Minimum income listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies. Asset limits also apply.

How Do You Apply?

Apply online or through mail. To apply online, please go to nyc.gov/housingconnect. To request an application **by mail, send a self-addressed envelope to: Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418**. Only send one application per development. Do not submit duplicate applications. Do not apply online and also send in a paper application. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

When is the Deadline?

Applications must be postmarked or submitted online no later than **October 4th, 2017**. Late applications will not be considered.

What Happens After You Submit an Application?

After the deadline, applications are selected for review through a lottery process. If yours is selected and you appear to qualify, you will be invited to an interview to continue the process of determining your eligibility. Interviews are usually scheduled from 2 to 10 months after the application deadline. You will be asked to bring documents that verify your household size, identity of members of your household, and your household income

Español	Presente una solicitud en línea en nyc.gov/housingconnect . Para recibir una traducción de español de este anuncio y la solicitud impresa, envíe un sobre con la dirección a: Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 En el reverso del sobre, escriba en inglés la palabra "SPANISH." Las solicitudes se deben enviar en línea o con sello postal antes de 4 de octubre 2017 .
简体中文	访问 nyc.gov/housingconnect 在线申请。如要获取本广告及书面申请表的简体中文版，请将您的回邮信封寄送至： Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 。信封背面请用英语注明“CHINESE”。必须在以下日期之前在线提交申请或邮寄书面申请 2017 年 10 月 4 日。
Русский	Чтобы подать заявление через интернет, зайдите на сайт: nyc.gov/housingconnect . Для получения данного объявления и заявления на русском языке отправьте конверт с обратным адресом по адресу Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 На задней стороне конверта напишите слово "RUSSIAN" на английском языке. Заявки должны быть поданы онлайн или отправлены по почте (согласно дате на почтовом штемпеле) не позднее 4 октября 2017 .
한국어	nyc.gov/housingconnect 에서 온라인으로 신청하십시오. 이 광고문과 신청서에 대한 한국어 번역본을 받아보시려면 발송용 봉투를 Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 으로 보내주십시오. 봉투 뒷면에 "KOREAN" 이라고 영어로 적어주십시오. 2017 년 10 월 4 일 까지 온라인 신청서를 제출하거나 소인이 찍힌 신청서를 보내야 합니다.
Kreyòl Ayisyen	Aplike sou entènèt sou sitwèb nyc.gov/housingconnect . Pou resevwa yon tradiksyon anons sa a nan lang Kreyòl Ayisyen ak aplikasyon an sou papye, voye anvlòp ki gen adrès pou retounen li nan: Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 . Nan dèyè anvlòp la, ekri mo "HAITIAN CREOLE" an Anglè. Ou dwe remèt aplikasyon yo sou entènèt oswa ou dwe tenbre yo anvan dat oktòb 4, 2017 .
العربية	تقدم بطلب عن طريق الإنترنت على الموقع الإلكتروني nyc.gov/housingconnect للحصول على ترجمة باللغة العربية لهذا الإعلان ولنموذج الطلب الورقي، أرسل مظاروف يحمل اسمك وعنوانك إلى: Stone House, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418 . على الجهة الخلفية للمظاروف، اكتب باللغة الإنجليزية كلمة "ARABIC". يجب إرسال نماذج الطلبات عن طريق الإنترنت أو ختمها بختم البريد قبل 4 أكتوبر، 2017.

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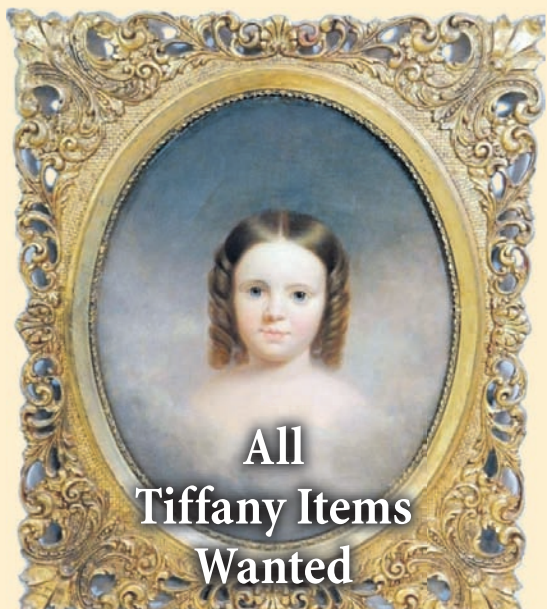
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