

J'Ouvert security beefed up

BY ALEXANDRA SIMON

It was a spirited step back in time.

Several Caribbean-American groups transformed the stairs outside the Brooklyn Public Library's central branch into a stage on Aug. 19 when they gathered to celebrate the heritage of three-decade-old J'Ouvert, a parade rooted in cultural resistance, with traditional music and dances.

"It's a tradition and it brings people together — it is a time for us to play mas, sing, and dance," said Menesky Magloire, who performed with the Brooklyn-based Haitian dance group, Troupe Zetwal. "And this is us resisting because it's an act of claiming our space and an act of celebrating our culture and ourselves."

More than 200 revelers flocked to the Prospect Heights book lender for "The Art and History of J'Ouvert: Tradition as Resistance," which honored the history of the Labor Day procession that precedes the annual West Indian Day parade.

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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Take a tour of Owl's Head Park

BY LAUREN GILL

It will be a hoot!

A Bay Ridge history buff will lead an educational expedition through Owl's Head Park on Sept. 9, showing off one of the borough's most gorgeous green spaces.

"I think it's one of the most beautiful pieces of land in Brooklyn," said Henry Stewart, who writes about Kings County history.

During the tour, Stewart will uncover the history of the diamond-shaped piece of land, bought up during the 1850s by Henry Murphy, one of Brooklyn's founding fathers. Murphy sold the parcel to manufacturer Eliphalet W. Bliss, who died in 1903. In his will, Bliss offered to sell the land to the city for a reduced price on the condition it be turned into a public park. The city eventually agreed, but had no money left over to maintain the green space, according to Stewart, and the land fell into disrepair until 1940, when parks commissioner

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MEADOW MAVEN: Bay Ridge historian Henry Stewart will lead a tour of Owl's Head Park on Sept. 9.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

Bridging the gap

BY JULIANNE CUBA

It's halfway open for business!

Drivers can finally cross the Belt Parkway's long-awaited new Mill Basin Bridge. The Department of Transportation shifted all Brooklyn-bound traffic to the new drawbridge

over the Mill Basin inlet on Aug. 30.

Queens-bound traffic will still head over the old span, but the opening of the new lane is finally a wheel in the right direction, because the long-delayed construction has caused major

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JANEANE FROM THE 'BLOCK: Janeane Garofalo will headline the festival, with performances on Sept. 9 and 10. Steven DeWall

Diverse comedy fest back

BY ALEXANDRA SIMON

The new show on the block is back!

A comedy festival dedicated to promoting minority voices will return bigger and better than ever next week. The second Cinderblock Comedy Festival, happening Sept. 7–10, has

added more comics, more venues, and a whole new neighborhood to its lineup, said its founder.

"We are so much bigger than last year and not only are we doing it in Williamsburg again, we also have Bushwick in our path," said Coree Spencer.

About 130 comedians will join the four-day affair, up from 60 last year, with performances at 19 different venues. Actress and comedian Janeane Garofalo will headline the festival, and will also join a showcase of older women in com-

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NO ROOM: Kids outside PS 8, where the city will not add a sixth kindergarten class despite a 24-person wait list just one school-year after a rezoning of the school's district.

JAM PACKED

There's no room for wait-listed at Heights school

BY LAUREN GILL

It's a kindergarten cap!

The city will not add an extra class for kindergarteners at Brooklyn Heights' PS 8 this year, despite a wait list of 24 students just one school-year after a controversial rezoning designed to reduce overcrowding in its classrooms. And the decision is frustrating parents who hoped to get their youngsters enrolled there before the first bell on Sept. 7.

"We really wanted our daughter to be in her local public school with her friends. We're pretty upset about it," said one dad, who asked not to be named for fear of retribution.

There will be five kindergarten classes this year, but parents crossed their fingers the city would add a sixth to accommodate youngsters hoping to matriculate at the Hicks Street school.

But it will not, according to an education department spokesperson, who said wait-listed kids either have to enroll elsewhere or be lucky enough to snag a spot with less than two weeks until the first day.

The agency hoped to avoid this problem when it redrew zoning lines to cut the area PS 8 serves by about 50 percent in 2016, adding the other half of its former district, which includes Dumbo and Vinegar Hill, to the zone served by nearby PS 307. The move angered parents who hoped to send their tykes to PS 8 as well as those of kids at PS 307, who worried an influx of rich families would alter the fabric of the largely minority facility.

The rezoning seemed to work at first — there was no kindergarten wait list in 2016 after 50 tots could not get in the year before.

Its return has little to do with the glut of residents moving to the booming nabes served by the school, according to the education department rep, who blamed it on incoming siblings of already-enrolled students that receive priority admission even though they now live outside the district.

Eighteen of those pint-sized pupils will be attending PS 8 this year, according to spokesman Will Mantell, who said the overcrowding is expected to subside as squirts with siblings get older.

He did not say, however, how that theory applied to the lack of a wait list last year — when already-enrolled students also had incoming siblings — or how it explains this year's six wait-listed kids who don't have kin at PS 8.

The city is refusing to add another kindergarten class because the school is already overcapacity for the 2017-18 school year, Mantell claimed, although he refused to give enrollment figures, saying he doesn't have final numbers.

He did say that 165 kindergarten students received offers, up from 148 last year. One hundred forty were enrolled in 2014-15, 120 in 2015-16, and 116 in 2016-17. There were five classes the past two years, and six in 2014-15.

Meanwhile, the number of students applying for kindergarten at PS 307 this year increased after PS 8 families learned they were wait listed in March, according to Mantell. The city sent out 88 offers for the Vinegar Hill school, up from 66 last year, a boost it credits to the wait list at the Brooklyn Heights facility.

The PS 8 dad said several parents have told him there are only four second-grade classes at the school this year, leaving space open for more kindergartners, but the education department refused to verify this, ignoring repeated questions on the number of second-grade classrooms.

The frustrated father attributed the agency's silence to his theory that the city wants to push more kids into PS 307, which will again operate under capacity this year.

"My understanding is they actually have space for another class and it was a decision by enrollment somehow not to do it because there was space at 307," he said. "They're basically denying people the right to go to their own school because they happen to have capacity open a mile away."

The education department rep refused to say whether it was attempting this tactic, offering only a few words of encouragement for those still stuck on the wait list.

"We'll continue to work with families to ensure they find kindergarten seats that meet their needs," he said.

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NIGHT MOVES: City Council voted to approve a bill proposing the creation of an Office of Nightlife governed by a “Night Mayor,” who will be in charge of mediating between the \$10-billion industry and City Hall. File photo by Stefano Giovannini

It's party time!

Council OKs pol's bill for nightlife mayor, agency

BY LAUREN GILL

Talk about busting a move!

The city will get a new agency that governs nocturnal activity following the Council's Aug. 24 vote to approve a bill to create an Office of Nightlife, a move that will bolster small businesses struggling to operate after dark, according to the Bushwick pol who spearheaded the legislation.

“I truly believe this bill will breathe life back into our city and foster spaces for culture to flourish in the after hours, while also protecting a vital piece of this economy,” said Councilman Rafael Espinal (D-Bushwick). “We’re known to be the city that never sleeps and we must do what we can to support it.”

The bill creates a position for the United States’ first Director of Nightlife, or “Night Mayor,” who will mediate between City Hall, the after-hours businesses that comprise the \$10-billion industry, and the communities in which it thrives.

In addition, the moonlight czar will be charged with forming strategies to improve the quality of life in neighborhoods where venues operate, advocating for industry workers, and helping do-it-yourself performance spaces navigate the city’s complex codes.

The night mayor will oversee a 12-person advisory board including industry veterans, land use experts, and service workers.

Each board member will serve

a two-year term, and eight will be appointed by the Council speaker while the mayor will appoint four.

Espinal introduced the Office of Nightlife legislation in June, arguing the city needs to do more to protect small businesses that operate after hours from being suffocated by regulations that cater to big clubs with little diversity.

“Recently, [nightlife] has been seeing a trend of being too corporate, sparse, and inaccessible to everyday New Yorkers,” he said. “The diverse businesses that allow people of all colors to take part in New York City’s culture are at risk of becoming homogenous.”

He modeled the night mayor role after Amsterdam’s *nachtburgemeester*, a seat the Dutch capital created in 2012 to promote its nightlife industry that led to the introduction of 24-hour permits.

Since then, other cities such as Berlin, Paris, and London have followed with similar incarnations of the office.

The councilman introduced a separate, related measure in June that calls for repealing the city’s Cabaret Law — a Prohibition-era statute with discriminatory roots that forbids dancing in venues unless they have a difficult-to-obtain license.

He’ll hold a hearing on that bill in September, but said he wants to see the Office of Nightlife established before moving on further legislation.

Filling the coveted gig of night mayor is up to the all-day mayor, who has two months to appoint the city’s promoter-in-chief once he signs the bill into law.

Hizzoner — who announced the creation of a “nightlife ambassador” in June — has shown some support for the legislation, but a rep said he is still reviewing the latest version.

Espinal said those interested in the job should be well-versed in all sorts of after-dark entertainment, and directed applicants to send resumes to City Hall or his office.

“I encourage people who want to apply to send their resume in to the mayor’s office or my office,” he said. “It’s important we have someone who understands all different types of nightlife, and figures out a way to make it easier for those involved.”

Activists cheered the bill’s passage, saying an agency that oversees after-hours activities will further legitimize one of the city’s oldest and most important industries.

“There are many misperceptions about nightlife. An office solely dedicated to being transparent and helpful could show that it isn’t a scourge on society, but an integral piece of NYC that has always existed and should continue to thrive,” said Adam Sneed of Dance Liberation Network, a group advocating to repeal the Cabaret Law.

Petition: Towers are wrong fit for B’Hill

BY LAUREN GILL

The buildings are too damn high!

The developer planning to build two huge towers in Boerum Hill must downsize the high-rises to get city approval, a new petition that will be presented to officials in charge of greenlighting the project demands.

“It’s one tool in terms of communicating to our elected officials how people feel about this,” said Howard Kolins, president of civic group the Boerum Hill Association, which created the petition. “The consensus from most people is the project is just too big.”

The association plans to deliver the request, which had amassed 713 signatures by press time, to Councilman Steve Levin (D-Boerum Hill), Borough President Adams, and Community Board 2’s Land Use Committee — all of whom have a say in the development’s lengthy approval process — before each decides whether to allow builder Alloy Development to construct 74- and 38-story high-rises on a lot bounded by Flatbush Avenue, Third Avenue, and State Street, which is on the outskirts of the brownstone-lined nabe.

The super-tall towers are not in keeping with the low-rise enclave’s aesthetic, according to the petition.

The 80 Flatbush project also includes a new 350-seat elementary school and a new building for the Khalil Gibran International School, which already sits on the lot inside a crumbling structure that will be refashioned into a cultural center as part of the scheme.

But neighbors contend that they shouldn’t have to welcome skyscrapers to get new schools, arguing the extra seats won’t even put a dent in the area’s school-capacity crisis because the towers will just bring more families into the neighborhood.

The petition demands the Education Department identify more locations for classrooms that can accommodate the growing swathe of Brooklyn’s school-age population before the development moves forward. And Kolins said people are disappointed that it seems like the city can no longer fund schools without enlisting private help.

“The community feedback



NOT RIGHT: A petition against the 80 Flatbush towers demands they be downsized before the project proceeds.

was a deep sense of regret that the city seems incapable of building schools without private support,” he said.

Residents are also calling for Alloy to remove loading docks on State Street from the plan, so locals don’t have to deal with truck congestion and trash. But a rep for the developer said they need to be installed to meet city zoning rules, and that Alloy is hoping it can convince officials to reduce the project’s loading requirements.

Locals also say the skyscrapers will block their sight of the nearby Williamsburgh Savings Bank building, forcing people who for decades have enjoyed picturesque views of the historic tower to hit the street just to catch a glimpse of it.

“That building is an icon and it now becomes more and more walled-off and invisible for our neighbors looking that way,” Kolins said.

The civic group’s leader met with Alloy’s head honcho last month, and the developer has hosted several meetings with community members since announcing the towers, input from which will be used to shape the project, according to Alloy’s chief.

“We take the public input seriously and feel it will make for a better project,” said Jared Della Valle.

The city held a meeting in June to get locals’ feedback on the project’s environmental impact study, which examines how it will affect the community, and should be releasing the results of that assessment soon, Kolins said.

The public will then have time to respond before Alloy presents its plans to Community Board 2, which it intends to do in December, he said.

Deadly Ridge blaze kills one

Victim of building fire disrespected by building management, say neighbors

BY JULIANNE MCSHANE

Neighbors of an elderly Bay Ridge woman who died in a fire on Saturday night are outraged at the building management's disrespectful response to the deadly blaze. Debris from the third-floor apartment fire that killed 66-year-old Edwina Faith Golas on Aug. 26 was left on the sidewalk of 94th Street for almost 48 hours after the blaze ripped through the unit.

The pile of furniture and personal items, which the Fire Department had to push out the windows in order to extinguish the fire, became the opposite of an impromptu memorial of the woman's untimely and painful death, according to one neighbor.

"My concern is that it's unbelievably disrespectful to her and to the tragedy of it all," said Mallory McMahon, who has lived in the building since May.

Neighbors described Golas as kind, funny, talkative, independent, and honest. She lived alone but was cared for by a rotating group of home health aides as she battled cancer. She had previously worked as a flight attendant for British Airways, according to neighbors.

The fire department announced via Twitter on Sunday that the fire was accidental, caused by a "careless discard of smoking materials." Neighbors confirmed that Golas smoked cigarettes.

The debris from her apartment included furniture, a charred foam mattress, a stuffed animal, and other personal items, photos, and documents. June VonGizycki, a fourth-floor resident who has lived in the building for 29 years and also heads the building's co-op board, said that she learned on Monday

from the building management that Golas had lived in the apartment for her entire life, which accounted for the large amount of debris.

McMahon said that when the fire department came back on Sunday to re-inspect the scene, a fire marshal told her it was not the department's responsibility to clean up the scene, and that the building management had to do it. But when she asked the building superintendent later that day when he was planning to remove the debris from the sidewalk, she said he told her the debris had to stay put until the Fire Department came back and looked at the apartment yet again.

Another resident said that regardless of who was responsible for the cleanup, it should have been done sooner.

"It should have been

cleaned up the next morning, for sure. There was a lot to do," said April Monahan, a third-floor resident who has lived in the building for five years and checked in on Golas daily for the past six months. "I wish it was handled in a different way. Somewhere along the line it should've been delegated and definitely not sit there for two days."

The superintendent could not be reached for comment by press time.

McMahon, who lives on the sixth floor, also said that she was concerned that the smoke detector the building provided did not go off in her apartment, and that most detectors in the building never went off either, according to her neighbors. McMahon evacuated after she noticed hazy smoke filling her bedroom, she said.

The building is mostly



A LIFETIME OF DEBRIS: The victim's belongings lingered on the 94th Street sidewalk for 48 hours after the fatal blaze.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

fire-proof, because its heavy steel doors and cinderblock hallways help contain fires, VonGizycki said, and that may be one reason why McMahon's smoke alarm didn't go off, according to the fire department.

Smoke still travels throughout fireproof buildings, said fire department spokesperson Jim Long,

but it may take longer to get around and build up to a level that will trigger alarms. He said smoke detectors are meant to alert occupants to a fire in their unit rather than detect fires elsewhere in the building.

"Smoke detectors are for your occupancy and your specific safety," Long said.

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Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

LET THEM EAT CAKE: Veteran James Faraguna and Brooklyn Veterans Administration Medical Center director Melanie Zarabi serve cake at the Veterans' Salute held at the center on Aug. 23.

Vets and police honored at Ft. Hamilton VA hospital

BY JULIANNE MCSHANE

They're true American patriots.

Military veterans and city police chiefs gathered on Aug. 23 at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Fort Hamilton for the Veterans' Salute, an event honoring members of the military and police force for their service. By all measures, the event was a roaring success, according to the event's principal organizer.

"We had a wonderful ceremony," said James Faraguna, an attorney and veteran. "It was awesome, and we had a huge crowd."

Faraguna, who is heavily involved with the Veterans Administration Medical Center, got the idea to create the event after his friend, who owns a Bay Ridge gallery and framing store, donated an army-themed lithograph, or fine art print, to the veterans' hospital's recreation room, which vets term the "clubhouse."

Dennis Kyvik owns the Brooklyn Art Corporation and donated the lithograph, entitled "America's Military and Dependents Parade," by artist Carl Braude. He said he was happy to honor the veterans and police by contributing the artwork.

"I always try to donate something to the veterans, as much as I can, and they give a lot, so we're just giving a little back to them," Kyvik said. "If this makes them happy, I'm glad."

When Faraguna heard about the donation, he decided it was worthy of celebration, and would make a nice backdrop to an event honoring Ray Diaz, former chief of the NYPD Transit Bureau and retiring



FUN TIMES: Veterans Alan Bell and Curtis Brown enjoy the festivities. Photo by Jordan Rathkopf

director of security for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, who also received two Purple Hearts for wounds he received during his combat service in Vietnam.

Attendees sang "America the Beautiful" after kicking off the event with the Pledge of Allegiance. They also enjoyed an American flag-themed cake.

The Veterans Administration Medical Center holds periodic events honoring the veterans, Faraguna said.

The Brooklyn Cyclones' mascot, Sandy the Seagull, also made an appearance, and handed out hats and tickets to the team's Aug. 29 game against the Vermont Lake Monsters at MCU Park in Coney Island on the team's Military Appreciation Night, which also featured fireworks.

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BUILDING WALLS: The city has finished installing this four-foot barrier along Beard Street, which is designed to protect Red Hook from minor flooding.

Photo by Caleb Caldwell

A surge protector

City builds a flood wall near the Red Hook coastline

BY LAUREN GILL

It's a big, beautiful barrier!

The city finished installing a four-foot wall near the Red Hook shoreline that will safeguard the nabe from mild flooding — a temporary safety measure as a permanent solution is developed, according to the head of the agency overseeing the project.

"We wanted to be responsive to the community's concerns and make sure we're doing everything we can to make sure Red Hook is safe," said Jainey Bavishi, director of the mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency.

The wall runs along Beard Street from Van Brunt to Richards streets near Ikea and is comprised of fabric boxes filled with dirt and plants that are surrounded by chain-link fencing.

It is manufactured by Hesco, which provided similar barriers to

New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, and will keep out water from a 10-year flood, meaning a deluge that has a 10-percent chance of happening in any given year.

The bastion won't defend Red Hook from a superstorm Sandy-level surge, which would bring about 10 feet of water into the neighborhood. But a barrier that shelters the area from such a storm would need to be up to 15 feet high in some places, which Bavishi said is too tall for the bustling low-lying community.

"Not everything should be — or can be — built to protect against Sandy level storms," she said.

The stretch of Beard Street the barrier sits on is susceptible to frequent low-level flooding, according to a city study analyzing shorelines around the five boroughs. Putting the wall there also made sense because there are two high points along the thoroughfare, which are

necessary to ensure the bastion's effectiveness and make sure invading water doesn't just flow around it.

The structure will stay up for five years as the city forms a lasting flood-prevention plan. It is preparing to invest \$100 million in a permanent fix, half of which will come from the federal government upon its approval of an application for emergency management funding.

If approved, that money will go towards raising Beard Street and putting in new bulkheads at the coastal Atlantic Basin, Bavishi said.

Other steps are being taken to safeguard Red Hook from flooding, too.

The New York City Housing Authority invested \$440 million to protect the nabe's Red Hook Houses from rising waters, including elevating the public housing complex's electrical equipment.

Oh, oh, Domino!

Tower at sugar factory site opens doors

BY LAUREN GILL

They're living the sweet life!

Residents are moving in to the mega-development on the site of Williamsburg's old Domino Sugar factory after the first of its several apartment complexes opened its doors in July.

Tenants are settling in to 87 of the 522 units inside the doughnut-shaped structure at 325 Kent Ave. It is still under construction, but the Department of Buildings has permitted initial occupants while work proceeds.

The 16-story building at the foot of S. Fourth Street houses apartments that include a \$2,452 per month studio, a \$3,387 per month one-bedroom, and a \$5,496 per month two-bedroom.

It also holds 104 below-market-rate units — including a \$569 per month studio and a \$979 per month two-bedroom — that were distributed through the city's housing lottery, which received 87,000 applications.

Amenities on the premises include an elevated courtyard, a roof deck, a health club, a lounge, and a chef's kitchen for catering. And an outpost of Clinton Hill bar-store-restaurant Melkelburg's, which is known for its craft beers and artisanal sandwiches, will set up shop on the ground floor.

Construction on the rest



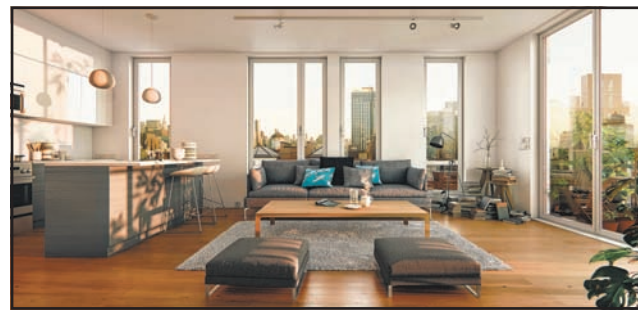
MOVING IN: The donut-shaped building at 325 Kent Ave. is now welcoming residents. Two Trees

of the building is expected to finish within the year — and it can't be completed soon enough, according to a spokeswoman who said people are itching to check out the digs.

"They've started to have open houses on Saturdays and Sundays because so many people want to come by and see the units," said Nicole Kolinsky.

Three more residential buildings are slated to open across the waterfront development, with a total of 2,800 rental apartments. The sprawling lot will also include retail and office space, and a park.

Crews are also working to rehabilitate the iconic Domino Sugar sign, which was removed from the site in 2014 ahead of construction but will eventually be placed atop the landmarked refinery building, Kolinsky said.



LUXURY LIVING: A peek inside one of the building's 522 apartments. Two Trees



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For the further convenience of your guests, Paradise also can provide free valet parking.

A charity case

Locals: Donation boxes taking parking spots

BY JULIANNE CUBA

The city must get rolling and tow away a clothing donation box that's taking up precious parking space on Quentin Road, locals charge.

"It's been there in the same exact spot. I've never seen anything done, nothing," said John Luhrs, who lives a few blocks away. "Parking is tough everywhere and this is taking up a valuable parking spot."

The large, two-wheeled donation trailer for the Chesed Center — a charity which says it supports Chabad houses — has sat unmoved between Nostrand Avenue and Stuart Street for at least six months, and has accumulated several violations.

The city issued two tickets, one on Aug. 5 and another on Aug. 9 — neither

of which was paid — according to the Department of Finance. And another ticket tucked into the door of the two-wheeler shows it was given on May 18.

There's also a boot locked onto one of its tires, but where it came from remains a mystery — both the police department and the Department of Finance claim it's not theirs, and suggest it could have been put on by the owner to make sure the donation box stays put.

Up until a few weeks ago, the donation bin was actually hooked up to a van that was taking up yet another parking spot, but someone drove it off without taking the clothing-collection trailer with it, said Luhrs, who would still like to see the whole block freed up.

"The van is gone, my

biggest issue was the van, but the clothes box has been there also for about six months taking up a valuable parking spot," he said. "If that could go, that would be great."

The collection trailer is subject to the same vehicle and traffic laws as any other licensed car, which means it cannot sit in the same spot on a public street for more than seven days, according to the police department.

But that doesn't seem to stop scofflaws from leaving them on the street for months at a time. Similar donation boxes have popped up all over the neighborhood, vexing locals looking for parking in highly congested areas, said a local pol. He said believes the good-deed boxes are legitimate — even though



READ ALL A-BOOT IT: Locals say this donation box — which has sat in the same spot for more than six months and acquired several tickets and a boot — is taking up much-needed parking.

Community News Group / Julianne Cuba

he doesn't know where the collected goods end up — but he doesn't think they should be given free reign on public streets.

"They're all over the place, Borough Park, Midwood, Flatbush. I've asked police to look into it. I think

they are legit — someone, an organization, is investing an awful lot of money in putting all these together. I don't know what's happening to the clothing that goes in," said Councilman Alan Maisel (D-Marine Park). "The main question

is whether they are supposed to be on the streets — I don't think they should be there."

No one returned repeated requests for comment from the number listed on the Quentin Road donation box.

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J'OUVERT

Continued from page 1

The event came weeks after organizers pushed the typically pre-dawn J'Ouvert, which means "daybreak," to daylight hours this year in an attempt to mitigate deadly violence that has plagued the celebration in the past.

Magloire and members of his troupe played horns and formed a "rara" procession — a musical street march that originated in Haiti — from nearby Prospect Park to the library.

The performance was in keeping with the theme of rebellion, and also shares similar history, he said.

"Rara is not only people just getting together and playing instruments. It has a history in colonialism and it's embedded in many of our cultures," Magloire said. "But rara is special to Haitian culture because it's not only a celebration but also has a role in our political resistance and history in the country."

Some participants wore costumes and body paint to portray mythical characters, while others donned

satirical getups inspired by actual cultural figures, such as President Donald Trump and his wife, Melania.

The celebratory shindig offered an important look at J'Ouvert's origins as a unifying event as proponents of the parade work to reverse the violent reputation it has gained in recent years, according to another attendee.

"I enjoyed the togetherness, especially since we're trying to let everyone know what the history is and what the culture is really like," said Trudy Llewellyn.

FESTIVAL

Continued from page 1

edy, which Spencer said is one of the fest's most anticipated shows.

"We have a lot of big headliners and a great lineup," she said. "We also have a show called 'Women of a Certain Age,' and it's about women over 40 and their under-representation in comedy — and that's going to be an insane show."

The festival, which famously charges straight white men more to apply than it does women or minority comics, got a lot of opposition when it debuted the policy last year. But many naysayers changed their minds when Cinder Block announced its diverse lineup up comedians, said Spencer.

"It's so much more quieter this year. We hit a nerve and I feel like people were still in denial that

this was something that we needed, and a lot of people who weren't on our side started coming around to it," she said. "This festival is for everybody, and once people see my lineup there's no debating that."

Cinder Block Comedy Festival at various locations in Williamsburg and Bushwick, www.cinderblockcomedyfestival.com. Sept. 7-10. Tickets prices vary from free to \$15.

PARK

Continued from page 1

Robert Moses invested the cash to create the park that exists today.

Steward said there is plenty to learn about the meadow — including the mysterious, nonsensical origin of its name. A different piece of land, shaped

like an owl's head with wings, once jutted into the water at Shore Road and 81st Street, but nobody knows why Murphy gave his plot of land the same name. Stewart thinks he was just misinformed, and then tried to cover up his mistake with nonsense stories.

"They stole the name," he said. "After that Mur-

phy kind of bent over backwards to create myths as to why it's called Owl's Head. All of that is b-----."

Historical Tour at Owl's Head Park (67th Street at Colonial Road in Bay Ridge, meet at Horticulture Group's table in front of sprinkler plaza, www.facebook.com/owlsheadvolunteers). Sept. 9 at noon. \$5 suggested donation.

BRIDGE

Continued from page 1

backups, especially when it rains, said the district manager of Community Board 18.

"We anxiously await the completion of this project, which has been the cause of extensive traffic congestion," said Dottie Turano.

Commuters traveling along the Belt Parkway into Brooklyn, between Flatbush Avenue and the old bridge, will be rerouted onto the Queens-bound lanes of the new structure.

The traffic shift will help contractors establish a work zone in order to begin the next stage of the reconstruction project, and three lanes of the eastbound roadway will remain in place, according to information from the Department of Transportation.

The construction is part of a \$365-million federal- and city-funded project that began in 2009 to rebuild the seven bridges linking Brooklyn to Kennedy Airport. Construction had long been stalled, but work is supposed to wrap in January 2021, and the old bridge, which was

erected in 1940, will come down.

All the way at the other end of Marine Park, near the tip of Gerritsen Beach, workers are hustling to complete the new Gerritsen Inlet Bridge. Construction for that span began in February 2013 and is expected to be finished in time for it to open on Labor Day, Sept. 4, according to a spokeswoman for the Department of Transportation.

Anyone can check the construction progress via the Department of Transportation's Belt Parkway Facebook page: www.facebook.com/beltparkway.

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