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WALK TREAT

New LIRR terminal to open next week

By Stephen Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

After nearly six years of construction, the new entrance to the Long Island Rail Road's critical Atlantic Terminal at Flatbush Avenue is finally open to straphangers.

Though the ground-floor entrance is blocked off until next week's grand opening, the Brooklyn Paper got a sneak peek of the concourse, which can be accessed via LIRR platforms. Commuters looking for the ticket office will find that it has moved to a new location on the concourse below the ground-floor entrance, where natural light shines through glass that spans from the road to the ceiling, offering views of the Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower across the street.

Bringing in natural light to the concourse below street-level was one of the top priorities of John di Domenico, the head architect with the Queens-based firm, di Domenico and Partners, which designed the facility.

"As a commuter, light serves as a timepiece, as well as being pleasant and free," he said, adding that the previous entranceway had been cramped and poorly lit.

One of the distinctive features of the new space is a rough-hewn granite sculpture featuring craggy geometric shapes that loom over commuters emerging from train platforms.

The inspiration for the Cubist forms, according to artist Alan Wester, came from scenic overlooks at state parks.

"It is a cross between mathematics and nature," said Wester. "I don't want it to be clear where the architecture ends and the sculpture begins."

More than 50,000 commuters come through the station daily, whether via the subway or Long Island Rail Road. The new, spacious entrance will have to accommodate the surge in riders if the nearby Barclays Center ever opens.

Still, the hordes of pedestrians will have to contend with the sarcophagus-sized slabs of stone outside of the entrance.

See STATION on page 8



The new Long Island Rail Road terminal at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues is almost done. Our photographer got a sneak peek.

A BAD XMAS FOR LOCAL RETAILERS

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper

Holiday sales weren't too joyful for Brooklyn businesses this year. A spot check of a dozen retailers from Williamsburg to Bay Ridge revealed that business is so bad that they're struggling just to just match their horror show numbers from 2008.

"People are looking for discounts at the bigger stores, and I don't blame them," said Mike Chang of Upgrade, an electronics store in Bay Ridge. Of the retailers we interviewed, all but three reported depressed sales, and two of those three said they're scrambling to meet last year's poor receipts.

Even the chains are struggling. A manager at Design Within Reach on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights said that she has until Jan. 2 to close a 20-percent gap in sales compared to the last holiday season.

"I don't believe we'll be seeing a plus," said the bed, bath and



James Trinko (left) and Perrin Siegel of Design Within Reach on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights saw poor sales.

kitch shop's manager, Perrin Siegel. "We're getting people in here — but things aren't good."

But there was some good news, as well as some advice. Idlewild Books in Williamsburg reported improved sales for the holiday, in

part because it's new. An employee who asked not to be named offered a game plan for business trying to push through the hard time. "It's all about the people," he said. "Know your customers and they'll keep coming back," he said.

Solar-power guy waits for customers

By Stephen Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

Finally, there's a way to get around town without polluting or burning anything (or walking).

The Beautiful Earth Group, a Columbia Street "green" energy company, has set up Brooklyn's first solar power array for the express purpose of charging electric cars.

Too bad there aren't many electric cars to take advantage of the cost-free, pollution-free, guilt-free service.

"I spend a lot of time [in the

charging station] thinking about the sun," said Lex Heslin, president of the company and, for now, the sole user of the clean charging station. "The sun is so far away, yet it powers my car. It still amazes me."

Heslin owns an electric Mini Cooper. The charging station — which cost \$25,000 and is fabricated out of two shipping containers — is only the 10th of its kind in the world.

Someday, such "filling" stations could be a model. Now, they're a novelty.

Only a handful of electric cars are in use around the city, part of

a tri-state area "fleet" of just 300, Heslin said.

And, yes, the power is free, but it takes three hours to fully charge Heslin's Mini Cooper — so if you're one of those people who feel that time is money, almost refueling is probably not for you.

Heslin readily admits that the station, which is on Degraw Street between Van Brunt and Columbus streets, is only a pilot meant to get people talking. That's why he's offering the juice for free.

"It will show people you can in-



Beautiful Earth Group President Lex Heslin shows off the solar array that powers his car.

fect enough solar energy to completely power a car in Brooklyn,"

said Heslin. "There is an alternative electricity that comes from 'dirty' sources like coal and nuclear."

Heslin is part of a growing number of eco-entrepreneurs who are hoping to cash in on the coming American eco-revolution.

"It's coming sooner than people think," Heslin said confidently.

And he has a point. Nissan will unveil its electric-powered four-door Leaf next year, and BMW is closely studying its 500 electric Mini Cooper prototypes, one of which The Brooklyn Paper got

See SOLAR on page 8

SCORE! THE PAPER PREDICTS THE YEAR'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS

Like any respectable publication, The Brooklyn Paper treats the end of the year as a great excuse to make lists and predictions about the 12 months to come. In 2008, we presented a list of "80 to Watch in '08." In 2009, we did the seminal "90 to Watch in '09." But we're not insane! So instead of doing a "100 to watch in '10," we're scaling it back a bit to offer our exclusive, "20 to Watch in '10." Enjoy.

20 Steve Sheinkin: The author of the hilarious rabbi-out-of-water comic books, "The Adventures of Rabbi Harvey" and "Rabbi Harvey Rides Again," is back with a third volume of his Talmud-inspired Wild West tales featuring the ultimate sage of the sagebrush, Rabbi Harvey. In this novel-length episode, Harvey meets up with a rival, though less-learned, rabbi who wants to send Harvey packing so he and his overbearing mother (oy vey!) can plunder. At a reading at the Brooklyn Gym last month, Sheinkin earned howls with his scene of the two rabbis in a high-noon showdown on Main Street, standing gunslinger-style while trading Biblical aphorisms. Is the town big enough for the both of them? Find out when "Rabbi Harvey vs. the Wisdom Kid" comes out in April.

19 Don Rauf: The leader of Life in a Blender, whose anti-gentrification anthem, "What Happened to Smith," remains the seminal tribute to Brooklyn's once-hard-harable Restaurant Row, will be all over the place this year. His dozen-person band, which defines the word "electic," will release a new album, "Kill the Bottle," early in the year, about the same time that Rauf and company makes the big time with a gig at the BAM cafe on Jan. 30. The title track is classic Blender: It starts out as a depressing song about a drunkard, but then the horns kick in and suddenly you're in the middle of a Sinatra big band concert, with the wind at your back, a fedora cocked just right, and a cocktail in your hand. But that kind of quirkiness is what we've come to expect from Rauf, who also appears regularly in Blowhole Theater productions (the next one is Feb. 20 at Freddy's Bar in Prospect Heights). One of Rauf's songs, "Chicken Dance," went viral on YouTube — but you'd expect that from a video that starts with a homoerotic moment between two co-workers yet ends up being an uproarious tribute to the famous dancing chicken in that old Chinatown arcade.

18 Rabbi David Niederman: What development project will this rabbi back — or block next? As president of the United Jewish Organization, he's used his power to make some headway with Community Board 1 to stop a rival leader's Rose Plaza project on the Williamsburg waterfront, while he uses his development rights to keep the Broadway Triangle project rolling. Mix those new developments with rumors of back-room deals between the LHO and Mayor Bloomberg, and you've got yourself one of 2010's top newsmakers.

17 David Shenk: Park Slope's resident non-fiction legend (sorry, Foer) will be back this year with a new long-titled brain-twister, "The Genius in All of Us: Why Everything You've Been Told About Genetics, Talent, and IQ Is Wrong." The central premise — that anyone can achieve anything, regardless of his genes or "natural talent" — is at once soothing and horrifying. After all, it's nice to know that your genetic makeup doesn't limit you from becoming



THE ONES TO WATCH: Brooklyn leaders like (clockwise from above) Regina Myer of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, innovative landlord Al Attara and "Rabbi Harvey" chronicler Steve Sheinkin made the list this year.

the next Mozart or Tiger Woods (in the fairway, not the sack), but it's a bit unnerving to know that you could've become the next Mozart or Tiger Woods if you had worked harder at it earlier in life. Bottom line? This book is going to give the Park Slope mommas yet another thing over which to obsess: figuring out what one thing to single-mindedly devote all of their child's time towards in hopes of curing a genius.

16 Andrew Kimball: The guy who has turned the Brooklyn Navy Yard from a political backwater into a thriving (and innovative) office park has been on the receiving end of mayoral praise so many times that it's a wonder he's not running Bloomberg, LLC. Still, this Park Slope native remains poised for a big jump — perhaps to the bullpen at City Hall? You heard it here first.

15&14 Brad Lander and Stephen Levin: Just because these two guys were sent to the City Council in remarkably low-turnout elections doesn't mean they won't be able to change your life with every move they make (or fail to make). Lander, who has spent much of his professional life building affordable housing at the Fifth Avenue Committee and the Pratt Center for Community Development, will replace Bill DeBlasio and represent a swath of Brownstone Brooklyn from Windsor Terrace to Cobble Hill. He comes to office as that ultimate oxymoron: a reform-minded deal-maker — a progressive who isn't afraid to compromise with leadership if it means getting something done. The perfect is not the enemy of the good with Lander. Levin, the former chief of staff to Assemblyman Vito Lopez who will succeed David Yassky to represent Greenpoint, Williamsburg, DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights, is more of a back-room guy. His role in putting

See TWENTY on page 2

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A decade that changed parenting

FAMILY CALENDAR

In this, her last column of 2009, Smartmom takes a look back at the stories and trends that put Brooklyn on the parenting map during the '0s, the decade that sounds like a breakfast cereal. Our borough was clearly the hobbit:

1. Park Slope Parents: This invaluable list-serve, which simultaneously informs and annoys local parents, began in 2002 when Park Sloper Susan Fox started an on-line exchange where parents could discuss a broad range of topics such as "Does anyone have an idea of how to get a baby to take a bottle?" or "Where's the best place to get shoes that fit?" or "What do I do when there's a squarred in my apartment?" The continuing vitality of this online community proves that parents need a way to connect and share information during the tumultuous years of child-rearing. And it's also given journalists a new way to find "trend" stories without leaving their homes.

2. The Bugaboo Generation: Brooklynites were definitely on the cutting edge when it came to buying designer baby products like \$1,000 Bugaboo strollers. No one is saying that those old MacLaren's were so great, but Brownstone Brooklyn's sidewalks are now even more grid-locked with their expensive replacements.

3. "The Stroller" Movement: Who can forget the bartender at Patio, a bar on Park Slope's Fifth Avenue, who wrote in 2005 the infamous "Stroller Manifesto" on an A-frame sandwich board? "What is it with people bringing their kids into bars?" wrote bartender Andy Heald back in 2006. "A bar is a place for adults to kick back and relax. How can you do that with a toddler running around?" This incident marked the beginning of the baby backlash. Non-breastfeeding (and other) trends that emerged in the '0s were sick and tired of parents — and kids — being the center of attention. And who can blame them?

4. Parenting blogs: Park Slope Parents became the mecca for snarky writers everywhere. It was also the moment when the neighborhood realized that a core of the city was probably right to think that Brooklyn was pushing her toddler across the street. Such an incident would have gone unnoticed in most neighborhoods, but in Park Slope, where every casual eye is actually a microscope on the minutia of everyday life, the bean-tos was quickly posted all over the Park Slope Parents Website. This event was emblematic of the self-censoring nature of the parents, who seemed to think that their children were god's gift to the world.

And in December, 2009, there was the slap heard



By Louise Crawford

around the world. One witness told the Brooklyn Heights Blog that it was the Montague Street Starbucks when a baby kept crying in his stroller. With no relief in the waiting, one man complained to the child's father, who did not leave — in fact, he stayed and waited for his drink. "That's when the non-dad man slapped Dad on the back of the head," Ouch. Once again, in this incident, it was the parents being attacked by the non-breeder, who were mad as hell and were not going to take the screaming children anymore.

5. The saga of the "Lost Boy's Hat": In March 2006, a post on Park Slope Parents with the subject line "Lost boy's hat" set off a conflagration that consumed Park Slope. And it all started out so innocently. "Friday, at the corner of 11th Street and Eighth Avenue, [I found] adorable navy blue, or maybe black, boy's fleece hat with triangles jutting out of it of all different colors," the Hat Lady wrote. It was practically poetry — but those jutting triangles quickly became dangers. The Hat Lady was chastised by another poster: "I'm sorry, I know that you are just trying to be helpful, but what makes this a 'boy's hat'?" Did you see the boy himself lose it? Or does the hat in question possess an unmistakable scent of testosterone?

With this incident, Park Slope Parents became the mecca for snarky writers everywhere. It was also the moment when the neighborhood realized that a core of the city was probably right to think that Brooklyn was pushing her toddler across the street. Such an incident would have gone unnoticed in most neighborhoods, but in Park Slope, where every casual eye is actually a microscope on the minutia of everyday life, the bean-tos was quickly posted all over the Park Slope Parents Website. This event was emblematic of the self-censoring nature of the parents, who seemed to think that their children were god's gift to the world.

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6. Mommy and Daddy rage: In 2006, a mom who threw a can of beans at the back window of a car because the driver cut her off when she was pushing her toddler across the street. Such an incident would have gone unnoticed in most neighborhoods, but in Park Slope, where every casual eye is actually a microscope on the minutia of everyday life, the bean-tos was quickly posted all over the Park Slope Parents Website. This event was emblematic of the self-censoring nature of the parents, who seemed to think that their children were god's gift to the world.

And in December, 2009, there was the slap heard



Child's play: It was a fertile decade on the parenting beat, including controversies over an alleged boy's hat (top right), anti-kid bars, and Amy Sohn's book about Park Slope mommies.

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7. Stay-at-home backlash: In 2006, Amy Sohn, who would go on to write the best-selling satirical novel about Park Slope moms and dads called "Prospect Park West," ranted about Park Slope's Stay-at-Home-Moms in her New York Magazine column, Mating. "Here in my neighborhood, Park Slope, I am constantly encountering inauspicious stay-at-home moms. And I have come to the all-too-un-

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12 Jason Goodman: In 2009, Jason Goodman's design firm, Ward opened a new location in the heart of Williamsburg, but this year, the co-director promises to take the artistic communes to new heights. He says that in the new year, enrollment will double, adding six hundred new artists, designers and freelancers to membership. Third Ward will profit not only from the doubled facilities, but from the redoubled PR efforts of the center's staff. Goodman and his co-director Jeremy Lovitt are determined to tell the world of the talent working between their walls. For the community, he'll be kicking off a series of free lectures on science, designed to enliven and engage the everyday. And there will be more of the center's famous parties. In February or March, 3rd Ward will launch a "top-secret" new membership geared towards designers, commercial photographers and other creative professionals. Goodman isn't giving any details, but he says it will change the way freelancers work in New York.

9 Baruch Herzfeld: Using his bicycling shop, TraifBike/Gesheft under the Williamsburg Bridge as a soapbox, Herzfeld has become an icon in the biking world and the lone Hasidic Jew who opposes his community's anti-bike stance (traif, after all, means "non-Kosher," so maybe that makes sense). The guy's got connections in both arenas — he tipped us off to the topless Bedford Avenue bike lane protesters, yet also hooked up with Hasidic legend Isaac Abraham for comment and he's even thrown in his own two cents on cycling from time to time. But just wait; once 2010 rolls around and some of our biggest stories are to fruition, Herzfeld will be perfectly positioned as a major source of information. Dozens of his outlets are already eating up everything he says, and, like he did with his 70-mph scooter in 2005, next year, he'll be most sought after news source.

8 Alexander Kames: He's worked with the Parks Department and even Sen. Chuck Schumer to make sure our beloved Jethro "Poo" parties are back in 2010, and things are looking up for this summer at East River State Park, despite rumors that the concert series wouldn't have a venue. Kames kept the free music alive for the past five years — bringing big names into the borough like Grizzly Bear, TV on the Radio and Jay-Z — and he promised The Brooklyn Paper that 2010 will be the best year yet, though he wouldn't leak any of the juicy details.

7 Jason Furlento: The guy knows bars. The Brooklyn Inn, has essentially been Boorum Hill's unofficial living room for at

least 15 years thanks to Furlento. That point is a classic: nothing too fancy, no TVs, just beer, an oversized pool table, darts, good cocktails and neighbors. Now he'll be making his next monumental hop into the beer bar world with the opening of Roebling Inn on Atlantic Avenue between Hicks and Henry streets, where he'll manage around 15 local bars, a dedicated darts room and plenty of comfortable patrons.

6 Larry Weiss: Brooklyn Friends School will get a new headmaster this summer — and he'd better have big feet. Larry Weiss has some huge shoes to fill — and some outraged community members to fend off — as he oversees a planned expansion begun by his predecessor, Michael Nill. The school's proposal to build a five-story, 400-student elementary school on State Street in Boorum Hill is controversial to say the least, and Weiss hasn't had to sweat under the issue's hot spotlight yet. But he does have experience — he was the head of school at St. Ann's School and, according to Brooklyn Friends School trustees, has had a "genuine love and respect" for the school since he started his teaching career in the 1970s. Can he do it? We'll put it to the test (and so will we).

5 Al Attara: He's the coolest landlord in Brooklyn. Al Attara, the owner of the Metropolitan Exchange Building on Flatbush Avenue, has created a haven for entrepreneurs seeking environmentally friendly solutions to the world's ills, sometimes even letting his tenants pay in works of art. From top to bottom, 2000 looks like it will be an interesting year at Attara's seven-story building. Currently, the rooftop will feature a prototype for a literal tree house that could accommo-

date an entire family. The so-called Fab Tree Hub will soon be sharing space with an elevated chicken coop built for humans designed by architect Mary Mattingly, the creator of the Waterpod. Those outlandish ideas would not be possible without Attara, who has rented out his building to so many groups of PhDs that Google would be jealous. Sustainable food companies like Crop to Cup and Sea to Table share the building with Patten Studio, which builds elaborate interactive displays for museums. This year, Attara hopes to build a local food restaurant on the ground floor and a gallery space on the second floor, further opening his house of ideas to the public.

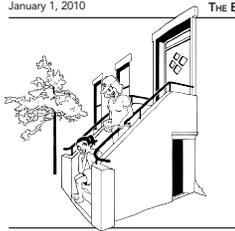
4 Walter Muggdan: As head of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program in New York, Walter Muggdan has been front and center in the bubbling brouhaha over the Feltid Gowanus Canal. Muggdan has not hesitated to deliver news that is

not well-received by local Superfund supporters — like when he announced that the EPA's proposed clean-up would not resolve the terrible smell of the Gowanus, or when he cautioned that a ruling on the Superfund designation was not coming anytime soon. Muggdan has also not backed down from Mayor Bloomberg, who proposed his own clean-up that would supposedly avoid the Superfund stigma that scares off developers from the coming year; a final ruling is expected from head honchos at the EPA regarding whether the filthy canal meets the criteria for the Superfund, which forces polluters to pony up cash for the extensive clean-up. Expect Muggdan to once again be in the spotlight regardless of the ruling.

3 Tupper Thomas: The president of the Prospect Park Alliance gets to preside over the crown jewel of Brooklyn's green spaces — but Tupper Thomas also had to deal with lots of pain in the backside in 2009. The bad news began during the peak of the summer, when careless park-goers were appalled at the shocking amounts of litter strewn across the Nethermead. Then, the fire ratched a whole new level when MHH Ventures threw an unauthorized BBQ bash, leaving the Long Meadow looking more like a city dump than a park. Thomas was left scrambling to lay the smack down on the litterbugs. But 2010 will put Thomas back in the headlines for all the right reasons. The city has already broken ground on the new \$70-million Lakeside Center, which will bring a major facelift to the southern portion of the park, including a new ice skating rink.

2 Regina Myer: It's taken three decades, but it finally appears that a portion of Brooklyn Bridge Park will actually open, as scheduled (more or less), in January. That puts Regina Myer, the president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, in the spotlight. Myer, a former Planning Department bigwig, is accustomed to remaining behind the scenes, but now every eye in Brooklyn will be on her and her dramatically scaled-back greenspace development along the Brooklyn Heights waterfront. Will it receive a warmer reception than the lauded High Line in Manhattan? Or will critics who called it nothing more than a backyard for pricey condos be proven right?

1 Dwayne Anglerio: It's no big deal — just fix the F train for good. That's what Dwayne Anglerio's Heraldtribune took the wake of an October report that revealed what everyone already knew — that the F train delivered the same grade of its name. The line's newly appointed general manager must produce results that calm outraged commuters. Anglerio has faced the music at community meetings, and pledged that he is committed to improving F service. At least the former line manager of the Q 2 train can look on the bright side: Service can't possibly get much worse than 2009.



THE SLOPE

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG



Judge halts B'way Triangle

But city says the ruling was not on the merits

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper

A Manhattan Supreme Court justice halted all further operations in the "Broadway Triangle" last week, only one day after City Council voted in favor of rezoning the mostly commercial land into residential space. Justice Emily Goodnan granted a restraining order last Tuesday after opponents filed a second lawsuit against the city rezoning, claiming that city officials steered the land to two politically connected groups in a back-room deal.

The stay is effective until the lawsuit gets its first hearing in March, buying a bit of hope for the Broadway Triangle Community Coalition.

"The justice's decision shows that there's merit to the lawsuit," said Marty Needleman, the coalition's attorney. "It's really gonna raise the ante for Bloomberg." City lawyers did not see it that way at all.

The court was simply attempting to maintain the status quo; this action was not any assessment of the merits of the plaintiffs' allegations. City Attorney Gabriel Taussig said, "The rezoning will include income-targeted affordable housing, new retail space, community facility space, and an expanded playground, not to mention jobs."

Councilmembers agreed with that assessment when they voted 38-10 in favor of the rezoning last week. Outgoing Councilman David Yansky (D-Brooklyn Heights) called the arrangement legitimate because both of the supposedly connected groups — the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg and Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen Council, both of which are tied to Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick) — submitted proper applications.

"This is not an Atlantic Yards project that circumvented [the process]," he said before the vote. "We're going to have 800 affordable apartments. We went through the process and had public input."

Still, some councilmembers back the coalition, with some baggage. Councilwoman Diana Reyna (D-Bushwick), who was once Lopez's protégé, has opposed the Broadway Triangle plans, calling the proposal a "far-out lie. She held her head in her hands and sobbed when vote tallies were announced last week."

In his suit, Needleman contends that the city's proposal of affordable housing — at least 850 of 1,851 apartments set aside at below-market rates — would actually amount to about 150 units in a mixed-income community.

BAY RIDGE

Hunger for literature

Ridge library reopening delayed by termites

By Andy Campbell

The Brooklyn Paper

Termites are literally eating away at Bay Ridge's literacy.

The original reopening of the Fort Hamilton branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, has been pushed back for a few more months after termites had chewed through more wood beams than they originally thought.

Now Bay Ridge bookworms will have to wait until at least this fall for the grand

reopening of the 104-year-old building, a spokeswoman for Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) told The Brooklyn Paper. Gentile has supported the rehabilitation — which includes a 50 percent increase in the library's size — and helped secure \$3.36 million from the city for the much-needed space.

The lumber-lusting pests have been eradicated, but so has access to an extensive catalogue of books that's been out of commission since



spring of 2008.

In lieu of a true library, a book service on the move in a 29-foot-long truck — called a Bookmobile — makes sporadic appearances at community events on Saturdays. There are groans whenever

the subject of the tone-filled tour bus comes up at local community board meetings.

"We know the Bookmobile is no substitute for the branch and the staff," said Library spokesman Steven Schechter. "We are trying to move forward as quickly as possible."

It's not just the bugs that have caused havoc. Schechter also cited "this summer's wet weather" for causing roof deterioration — and the latest delay.

PARK SLOPE

Call it Park Hope

Texting each other to find a spot

By Stephen Brown

The Brooklyn Paper

A group of Park Slope entrepreneurs are employing social networking — normally useful only for obnoxious status updates and stalking ex-lovers — to engineer a solution to the neighborhood's notorious parking woes.

If the project, called "Roadify," succeeds, Park Slope drivers will share real-time intelligence about available parking spaces through text messages on their cellphones.

"It's like a transportation Twitter," said Nick Nyhan the founder of the company. "If people could share what they know about parking, wouldn't it help a lot of people? It would reduce circling, wasted time and wasted fuel."

The system works like an automatic phone tree. A driver pulling out his cellphone and texts "Get" to 95495, which activates the



NO ROOM AT THE INN: Sometimes, a request for a free parking space sends a driver a message that "no spots are available."

system. Any parking spaces that have become available in the last 15 minutes will be sent in a text response — and if any others are entered in the system in the following 15 minutes, they will be sent as well.

But there is one catch: The system depends on the generosity of others.

In order for the whole scheme to work, users must text information about parking spaces they have just left or are about to leave, as well as spaces they see as they walk around the neighborhood.

In other words, you're constantly relying on the kindness of strange drivers. Around 12:30 pm on Monday, no Slopers were feeding too generously, apparently. A text by The Brooklyn Paper of the Roadify system only yielded the response: "No spots are available at this time."

Nyhan realizes that the pilot project — which works on any cellphone — hinges on Park Slopers remaining attentive and altruistic.

"There is a social experiment aspect to this," Nyhan said. "Will people help each other with a pressing problem? We're giving them a platform, it costs nothing, will they do it?"

tem is useful mainly during prime parking times from around 4 pm to 8 pm during the week, according to Nyhan.

The project's peak usage thus far — 150 available spots over the course of a day — certainly didn't make a dent in the absurd number of cars crisscrossing Park Slope for parking. According to a 2007 study, nearly half of the cars on Seventh Avenue are simply looking for a parking space.

In an effort to resolve the terrible parking in the neighborhood, the city raised parking fees during peak periods to open more spaces.

The founders of Roadify say their idea was inspired by Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, which succeeded in large part due to grassroots activism.

"In the campaign, we saw that people will respond if you give them an opportunity," said Nyhan. "Still, political campaigning is one thing — but parking campaign?"

"The Slope prides itself on its activism," Nyhan said. "This should be a neighborhood that would rise to the challenge of a platform that allows people to help each other."

BOROUGH WIDE

Crime was way way way down this year

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly hailed each other on Monday for "staggering" crime reductions citywide that have made New York the safest city in America.

But what was the crime picture like in your neighborhood? Check out The Brooklyn Paper's roll call below (all statistics are current through Dec. 27, according to the NYPD):

• **94th Precinct (Greenpoint-Williamsburg):** Murders surged there three this year, up from one in 2008, but every other class of crime decreased. There were 10

percent fewer robberies (116 compared to 129), 13.6 fewer assaults (70, down from 81) and 14.6 percent fewer car thefts (123, down from 144). Overall, crime was down 6.49 percent.

• **90th Precinct (Williamsburg-Bushwick):** A whopping six murders led the dishonor roll, but that was the same number of homicides as last year. And despite huge decreases in robbery (down 23.5 percent), grand larceny (down 24.2 percent) and car theft (down 16.5 percent), the precinct's good marks were marred by a double-digit hike in burglaries (477 this year, compared to 416 last year) and a 1.8-percent uptick in assaults. Overall, crime was down 11.53 percent.

• **88th Precinct (Fort Greene-Clinton Hill):** Big decreases in robberies (down 16.7 percent), grand larceny (down 12.5 percent) and car theft (down 12 percent) led the way, but the story in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill wasn't perfect. Burglaries were up four percent and assaults were up 1.5 percent. Overall, crime was down 9.24 percent.

• **84th Precinct (Brooklyn Heights-DMB0-Downtown):** If robberies are down nearly 40 percent, that's a good year. And that drop from 244 reported thefts to 151 was the big story in the 8-4 this year. The precinct also enjoyed a 19-percent drop in assaults, a 25-percent drop in burglaries, and a 10-percent drop in grand larcen-

ies — though murder (one) and raps (three) were unchanged from last year. Overall, crime was down 18.1 percent.

• **78th Precinct (Park Slope):** Every crime category was down — and down big — this year except for car theft. As loyal readers of our police blotter know, car theft is the unending plague on Park Slope — often with thieves taking cars older than 10 years. This year, car theft was up 14 percent, with 97 sets of wheels being swiped.

The good news? There was only one murder, down from three last year, and there were double-digit cuts in robbery (147 to 125), assault (70 to 57) and grand larceny (437 to 374). Overall, crime was

down 10.86 percent.

• **76th Precinct (Cobble Hill-Carroll Gardens-Red Hook):** One of the city's notoriously low-crime precincts, say, as you might expect, only a small drop in crime this year. Robberies led the way with a 24-percent dip (73, down from 96 last year). Overall, crime was down 7.71 percent.

• **68th Precinct (Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights):** A 42-percent drop in burglary led the way to a major overall drop in crime. According to police stats, there were 193 break-ins this year, down from 337 last year. Robbery (28 percent) and assault (25.5 percent) were also down big. Overall, crime was down 21.3 percent.

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This cop calls in her own crime!

88TH PRECINCT Fort Greene—Clinton Hill Cop caper

Even off-duty cops run into trouble at the notorious Atlantic Center Mall. An officer shopping at the Burlington Coat Factory had her purse snatched after she abscondingly left it on a clothing rack on Dec. 26. Officer Denise Marshall told her fellow officers that she was shopping at the crime-ridden mall, which is near the corner of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues, at around 9 pm when someone swiped her purse, which contained NYPD IDs, credit cards, and \$350. The embarrassed cop then called in her own crime. And there was more crime at the Atlantic Ter-

minal Mall's Target store, as well. Here's a rundown of last week's action:

• Security cameras caught an employee rifling through a customer's wallet and taking her credit cards and cash on Dec. 19. The crime occurred at the customer service desk of the chaotic department store at the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, where the victim made a purchase and accidentally left her wallet behind at around 12:45. Security cameras caught an opportunistic employee looking through the wallet and snatching it in her jacket, cops said. The suspect then brazenly used the stolen credit card at the same register where she was working. • "The next day, another unethical employee allegedly took advantage of a customer by passing credit card infor-

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

upon arriving at the corner of Clifton Place and Classon Avenue, the peep said. "Run your pockets," prompting the teenager to hand over the goods.

iGrab
Three troublemakers pounced on a 12-year-old boy on Dec. 23, roughing the youngster up and stealing his iPhone. Yes, the 12-year-old had an iPhone.

The victim told cops he was in the subway station Hanson and Ashland places at around 5 pm when the thugs approached him from behind, and choked and punched him before grabbing his attractive smartphone.

Cell snatched
A cunning thief swiped a 19-year-old's phone as she was walking home on Dec. 17. The young victim told cops that she was talking on her phone at the corner of Lafayette and Clermont avenues at around 4 pm when a man approached her from behind and grabbed it.

G'ed up
A thug intimidated a 14-year-old boy into handing over his phone near the train station at Lafayette and Classon avenues at around 5:30 pm when the perp approached and said, "Don't run, come with me." The victim obliged, and

Joe pick

A Trader Joe's shopper told cops that she was abducted while she shopped in the Court Street grocery store on Dec. 22. Cops say that the thief made his move at the corner of First Street at around 7 pm, showing his victim to the store, matching the cell, and running off. The victim said she knew her assailant.

Only 1 car?
In a neighborhood that saw a double-digit increase in car theft last year, this ranks as a miracle: Only one car was reported swiped last week.

The thief got \$20 and the wallet itself, a fancy Coach version.

VP'd off
A 22-year-old 22-year-old lost her wallet in the hours at a Smith Street hotspot on Dec. 17. The victim told cops that she was at Perks, which is near Warsaw Street, at around 4 am. When last call was belated, she sought out her wallet to discover that it, and the ID, \$90 Metrolink, \$25 and a debit card, was gone.

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Hand job
In the middle of an iPhone attack on iPhone users, a thief snatched the fancy smartphone out of the hand of its user at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Union Street on Dec. 22.

Following a pernickitous pattern, the thief snatched the victim had left the subway station at about 7 pm.

The thug fled through Third Avenue, and the victim returned to a lesser cellphone.

The old scam
Thieves pulled off the old "found money" scam on a 28-year-old woman on Fourth Avenue on Dec. 24, getting \$3,000 from her.

The victim told cops that she was approached at around 9:10 am near the corner of 22nd Street by a tiny woman who said she had just found \$8,500.

Almost on cue, a man showed up and said that he had just lost a large amount of cash, but his lady accomplice denied any knowledge of the money—a ploy to gain the dupes' confidence.

At that point, the lady thief promised to split the ill-gotten booty with the victim, who needed to be sure if she could trust her. So the pair went to the victim's bank, where the dupe withdrew \$3,000 and handed it to the thief.

You don't need to be Mickey Spillane to know what happened next: The thief fled with the cash, swiping the victim's handbag containing her public benefit card and Mexican passport, for good measure.

Cops are looking for a 6-foot, 230-pound bald man in his 40s.

Something bad
A quacking shoplifter ran into a Fifth Avenue clothing store, grabbed more than \$1,000 in jeans, and made his outside to a waiting car on Dec. 22.

In what might have been a larcenous Christmas shopping trip, the thief entered Something Else boutique, which is at Union Street, at 5:30 pm, snatched eight pairs of jeans, and exited within seconds.

Cops said the lady thief jumped into a car with the license plate ETP-5192.

Side kicked

A thug pushed a 20-year-old woman to the ground and grabbed her Sidekick phone on Sixth Avenue on Dec. 19. Cops say that the thief made his move at the corner of First Street at around 7 pm, showing his victim to the store, matching the cell, and running off. The victim said she knew her assailant.

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

New event space in Carroll Gardens

Element Natural Healing Arts, a health and wellness center that offers a diverse range of natural therapies, is pleased to announce the grand opening of its new event space, Element Events.

This unique, 1,500-square-foot space sits 40 people and combines a spacious layout and a large outdoor space. It has a warm, cozy feeling with a wood-paneled fireplace, located in a charming brownstone. There is a fully equipped kitchen, a sunroom with lots of natural light and a peaceful Zen garden perfect for an evening under the stars. An option to include spa services and/or catering is available.

It's a wonderful place for bridal and baby showers, spa parties, dinner parties, wedding rehearsal dinners, fundraisers, business dinners and trainings, holiday celebrations and more. Wellness professionals can also look for lectures, movement classes, cooking classes, workshops and more.

Element Events (518) Henry St. at Union Street in Carroll Gardens. (718) 855-4850. For info, visit www.elementhealing.com.

Heights Association celebrates a century

The Brooklyn Heights Association turns 100 this year — and to celebrate a successful century of service to the Brooklyn Heights community, it will be hosting a series of events all year long. The first is on Wednesday, Jan. 20, and features some genuine star power: Filmmaker Peter Hedges ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape," "About a Boy") will talk on the topic, "Hollywood in the Heights," offering his unique look at why directors so frequently choose scenic Brooklyn Heights as their setting.

Founded in 1910, the Brooklyn Heights Association is the oldest neighborhood association in New York City. Among many successes, its advocacy helped establish the Heights as the city's first historic district, and saved a portion of the Heights from Robert Moses' plans for the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (and created the Promenade in the process). The "Celebrating a Century" series will not only recognize the Association's past 100 years of activism, but will look to the future of the organization and its ongoing efforts to preserve and improve the quality of life in Brooklyn Heights.

"Hollywood in the Heights" discussion at St. Francis College 180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Downtown Brooklyn. (718) 858-9192. Admission is free, but space is limited, so e-mail bha@bhaustagency.com to reserve a place.

Government partnership at community forum

New York State Secretary of State Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez recently announced a new initiative, the Place-Based Regional Collaboration Pilot, which strengthens the partnership between New York and the federal government in advancing community revitalization.

The secretary was joined by the Environmental Protection Agency and the federal Department of Transportation in making the announcement at the New Partners for Community Revitalization Second Annual Brownfields Forum. The announcement marks a new avenue of state-federal collaboration.

This announcement builds on and expands the Brownfields Smart Growth "Spotlight Communities" Initiative, announced last year by Gov. Paterson, a program that capitalizes on commitments from existing state programs and resources to support the implementation of locally generated Brownfield Opportunity Area plans to advance neighborhood revitalization.

New York's Place-based Regional Collaboration Pilot will build on the important lessons learned about interagency cooperation," Cortes-Vazquez said. "It is an excellent first step toward creating a bridge between the three existing Spotlight Communities and the other 100 communities participating in the Brownfields Opportunity Area program, where many could benefit from this coordinated attention across government agencies."

To launch the pilot, the Department of State and partner state and federal agencies will conduct a series of regional workshops over the next two years involving multiple communities that will focus on advancing feasible projects.

Looking to take advantage of new opportunities to promote community renewal, brownfields redevelopment, green jobs and economic growth, more than 250 city, state, and national redevelopment leaders came together for the announcement, hosted by National Grid at the energy company's corporate office in Downtown Brooklyn's Metrotech Plaza.

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DECADE...

Continued from page 2 Slope, was under fire in 2008 — and also hailed as a drinking-class hero — when he posted a "No strollers" sign in the bar's front window. Plenty of nannies took to the blogs to slam Carden, but just as many defended him. "I went to Union Hall [and] was appalled to be sitting next to toddlers while trying to talk to my girlfriends (sometimes graphically) about life," wrote one poster on Brooklynian. "So I've not been back. I'll give it another try if it's not going to feel like a preschool." But the moms were angry miffed about losing their group hangout. The story made national news, and Carden backed off a week later deciding to open the bar to mom groups at selected times of day.

9. The "mad mom" trend: Newspaper columnist Lenore Skenazy was declared the most famous in the world when she allowed her 9-year-old to ride the subway home. The ensuing hysteria landed Skenazy on all the talk shows defending her seemingly independent position: she let her little baby — just a few years out of Mommy and Me classes! — ride the big bad subway. She must be chastised! She's worse than that woman who drowned her kids in the tub or Aylet Waldman who announced to the world that she loves her husband more than her children! Skenazy subsequently wrote a book called "Free

Range Kids" that called for "giving our kids the freedom we had without going nuts with worry." Hence, a new tongue-in-cheek movement was born: how bad a mom are you? People struggled to outdo each other with stories of their bad parenting. At the same time, helicopter parents everywhere were lambasted as overprotective and overbearing.

10. No More Homework: Park Slope authors Nancy Kalish and Sara Bennett wrote a book in 2006 called "The Case Against Homework" that revealed very little evidence that home-

work helps elementary students achieve academic success, and just as little reason to believe that it helps older students, too. The authors drew on academic research, interviews with parents, educators, kids and their own experience as parents at a Park Slope private school. This book confirmed something that Smartmum had known for a long time: homework is ruining everyone's life. And it taught parents how to approach teachers and administrators about this mounting problem.

11. Sex Positive Education: At Babelfand, Park Slope's sex toys shop for women, workshops encourage parents to talk to their kids about sex and they're

changing the way local parents think about sexuality. And that's a good thing, because most of us are dissatisfied by what our parents did and didn't say and want to at least attempt to do it right this time.

12. Edgy Mother's Day: An annual literary reading at the Old Stone House celebrates motherhood without sanctimony. Writers like Michele Madigan Somerville, Smartmum, Sophia Romero, Amy Sohn, Mary Morris, Jenny O'Hill, Marian Fontana, Beth Harpaz, Jill Eisenstadt and many more write about motherhood as they see it wants and all. Audiences love the unabashed outpouring of spicy mother's milk.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

January 1, 2010

Keep a resolution

Better yourself in the new year with these easy suggestions

The Brooklyn Paper

Resolutions. Everyone makes them. Everyone breaks them. But the reason that so many resolutions end up like a Jennifer Lopez marriage is because people shoot too high. Lose 20 pounds? (But pork belly is on sale at Fairway!) Give more to charity? (But what about that iPod you have your eye on?) Finally finish "Moby Dick"? (But the Jets are going to be in the playoffs!).

But resolutions don't have to be difficult. That's why we've prepared this list of 10 cultural promises that you can definitely keep in the new year, easy ways to suck the marrow out of Brooklyn without feeling guilty in the morning.

1. Get off meat

You heard it from Park Sloper Jonathan Safran Foer: eating meat is destroying the planet, terrorizing animals and killing you, too. So there's never been a better time to go veg. Foer says he rarely misses animal flesh, touting the miss veggie and veggie sushi at **Yamato** in Park Slope and the veggie burger from **Bonnie's Grill** nearby, but others swear by the grilled seitan sandwich at **Bliss** in Williamsburg or the barbecued "chicken" at **Red Bamboe** (soon to be renamed Poppa's Place), Mmnn, seitan.

Bonnie's Grill [278 Fifth Ave. between Garfield Place and First Street, (718) 369-9527], **Yamato** [168 Seventh Ave. between Garfield Place and First Street, (718) 840-0099], **Bliss** [191 Bedford Ave. between N. Sixth and N. Seventh streets in Williamsburg, (718) 599-2547], **Poppa's Place** [271 Adelphi St. at DeKalb Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 643-4804].

2. Get back on meat

That said, if you're currently a vegetarian, there's no better time to stick to your resolution of eating animals again, what with Noah Bernamoff's **Meat End** smoked meat joint about to open on Hoyt Street in Boerum Hill. The guy may be from Montreal, but he makes a pastrami that's the Second Avenue deli to shame. And if you want to make it yourself, the borough is quickly becoming a meat-eater's paradise, what with the opening of butcher to the stars Tom Mylan's **Meat Hook** shop in Williamsburg, which has a wide array of "humanely" raised flesh.

Meat End [97A Hoyt St. between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street] will open in January; **The Meat Hook** and **The Lab** [100 Frost St. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 349-5033].

3. Go to Freddy's Bar

You never fully appreciate something until it's gone — so don't make that mistake with **Freddy's Bar** and **Backroom**, as good as saloon as you get in Brooklyn nowadays. Slated to bet on down to make room for Bruce Ratner's basketball arena (what's that, Bruce, you don't think people want a bar outside an arena?), this Prohibition-era speakeasy offers a classic worn bar and booths that fall from the days when Americans were small. But manager Donald O'Finn brings just enough modern touches (like an endless loop of film montages on one of the TVs, and a steady stream of great musicians coming through) so that the place doesn't feel like



#7 Dance!



#2 Eat!



#10 Bow!



#6 ogie!

Clean slate: This is the year to finally do something with your free time. (Clockwise from top left) Start with a fitness class in capoeira dance at Raizes do Brasil Academy in Prospect Heights. Next, eat one (or more) of Noah Bernamoff's smoked meat sandwiches at Meat End in Boerum Hill. Then, go see a burlesque show with the bookish Nasty Canasta. Finally, go bowling in Dyker Heights, where it's cheap.

a nostalgia act. Go to this bar now before it's too late.

Freddy's Bar [485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035].

4. Learn an instrument

There is no question that you would be more successful and happy right now if you had learned to play an instrument when you were a kid. So why not keep that resolution to pick up the guitar or other ungainly stringed or woodwinded contraption before it's too late? Some of the best music classes are taught at **Jalopy** on Columbia Street, where all eight-week sessions are \$225. A new batch of guitar, banjo, ukulele and fiddle classes will be starting up early this year.

And if you're really serious about becoming a musician (rather than just the weird guy playing "Stairway to Heaven" near the campfire), head for the **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music** in Park Slope, where kids can learn via the Suzuki method, starting from age 3. There are also seminars in classical string, brass

and ear training. You can even take opera courses. Other notable classes are at the **Brooklyn Music School** in Fort Greene.

Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street, (718) 395-3214], **Brooklyn Conservatory of Music** [58 Seventh Ave. at Berkeley Place in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300], **Brooklyn Music School** [126 St. Felix St. in Fort Greene, (718) 638-5660].

5. Get cookin'

With food prices that way there are, there's no better way to get the most out of your supermarket budget by taking a cooking course. Sure, it sounds hokey, but there's nothing wrong with picking up some pointers.

A bunch of cooking schools have come and gone over the years, but the **Brooklyn Kitchen** in Williamsburg has filled the vacuum with a full menu of courses that run the gamut from beginner knife skill lessons to full-on pig butchering. For those of us in the middle, there are regular one-night classes on dessert baking,

bread making and cocktail shaking.

Best bet: The braising class on Jan. 20 may sound a bit pricey at \$250, but it comes with a Le Creuset dutch oven, a \$185 value.

The **Brooklyn Kitchen** [616 Lorimer St. (718) 389-2982].

6. Bump and grind

If 2009 is going to be remembered for anything, it'll be celebrated as the year that burlesque took over the borough. What started as a hipster-aimed throwback to the days of the fan dance and the old slap-and-tickle is now a full-on nightlife movement. Most weeks, there are cheeky performances by several rival companies, including the **Wasabasso Burlesque** (monthly at Public Assembly; next show on Jan. 9), the **Pinchbottom Burlesque** (regularly at the Royale), or the aptly named **Sweet and Nasty** troupe (also regulars at Public Assembly). And if you want your low necklines with a highbrow gloss, head for Galapagos to catch the **Floating Kabarette**.

See **NEW** on page 7

EVENT



First freebie

The theme of this month's "First Saturday" freebie at the Brooklyn Museum — the first of the fresh new year — is "transformations," though the only thing that will be transforming is your four winter spirits.

The indie rock band Cordero — a four-piece Spanglish outfit fronted by Ani Cordero and featuring Omar Akil (pictured) — is the highlight of a full evening of free performances, screenings, lectures and art. Here is the complete rundown:

- 5-7 pm: The evening opens with Cordero's mix of Southwestern ballads and straight ahead rock.
- 6 pm: Daphne Brooks, a professor of English and African-American studies at Princeton University, will discuss the women of funk rock and the aesthetics of James Brown.
- 6 pm: Stepping Out Studios gives group waltz lessons in preparation for the evening's Masquerade Ball.
- 6:30-8:30 pm: A live (and quite possibly nude) model will be available to sketch.
- 6:30 pm: "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," John Cameron Mitchell's 2001 film about an East Berlin boy who undergoes a sex-change operation in order to marry and flee to the West, will be screened. The "inch" of the title refers to something we can't talk about in a family paper. After the screening, there'll be a performance by the Midnight Checkout Queens.
- 7 pm: The Masquerade Ball.
- 7:30 pm: Curators will host a gallery talk on the theme of transformation in Buddhist art.
- 9 pm: John Sellers discusses his book "Perfect From Now On: How Indie Rock Saved My Life."
- 9:10-30 pm: Karaoke.
- 9:11 pm: The evening ends with the traditional First Saturday Dance Party. This month, New York Night Train conductor Jonathan Tobin spins his "maximum rock and soul" sound.

That's a full evening of fun — and the price is right.

First Saturday at the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000]. For info, visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

— Gersh Kuntzman

NIGHTLIFE

'Way' far away

The self-proclaimed "world's first steam-punk bar" is caught in a dystopian bureaucratic maw right out of the Clifford Simak sci-fi classic with which it shares a name.

Way Station, which hopes to open as a live-music venue on booming Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, remains without a liquor license, waylaid in a Byzantine administrative limbo by a notoriously circuitous permit process.

"It's Kafka meets Catch 22," owner Andy Heidel (pictured) said, describing his six-month, one-problem-leads-to-another adventure to gain the appropriate building and liquor approvals. "Fortunately, Haven't won a giant cockroach... yet."

For now, the bar hosts one-off events, for which it gets a one-night liquor license — such as Thursday night's raucous New Year's Eve bash and fundraiser. But that's the best Heidel can do until he gets a full liquor license, which is now expected by March. A contingency plan to open without booze (Heidel planned to serve "mocktails") was kiboshed by the bands, most of whom didn't think patrons would show up at a concert in a dry hall.

But that would be a mistake, as Way Station's survival is crucial to the neighborhood. Aside from being the first live venue in this rejuvenated section of Washington Avenue, the bar would become the only true gigspace in Prospect Heights if Freddy's Bar and Backroom is demolished to make room for the Atlantic Yards project, an increasingly likely scenario.

Heidel, a former science fiction book publisher, is seeking help to survive what will be the bar's booze-less period, which could last three months. He's got to start paying rent, as saved-up funds have been spent.

Way Station [682 Washington Ave. between Prospect Place and St. Marks Avenue in Prospect Heights]. New Year's Eve party featuring the funk, pop, disco strings of Discovery (with booze), Dec. 31 at 8 pm. No cover. — Shane Kite

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Come on 'Inn'

New bar on Atlantic is a classic

By Andy Campbell
The Brooklyn Paper

Atlantic Avenue has a new classic local bar. Granted, there are still some icons on the strip between Henry and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights (we'll never forget you, Floyd!), but nobody can recreate that simple, nostalgic, old-school bar feeling like Jason Furlani, who helped open the fancy new Roeboling Inn on Monday night.

Furlani, best known for running the old-school Brooklyn Inn a few blocks away in Boerum Hill, welcomed neighbors to his spacious replacement for the now-defunct Magnetic Field. The candle-lit bar is festooned with the taps of 16 local brews, while a closet of kitchen chairs out front serves soft pretzels and meat pies.

NIGHTLIFE

Roeboling Inn (97 Atlantic Ave. between Henry and Hicks streets, (718) 488-0048).



'Inn' crowd: Lizanne Hinkle is working the bar at the new Roeboling Inn on Atlantic Avenue.

Cooking for clueless men

There's a new cooking show in town. DUMBO resident Jyl Ferris is taking the Internet by storm with her how-to show for singles, "Cooking for Bachelors," which just began its second season at cookingforbachelors.com.



Jyl Ferris, host of 'Cooking for Bachelors'.

A new episode is posted each week following Ferris as she sautés her way into your hearth.

"I got the idea from dating guys and going to their apartments and asking, 'What do you eat?' You're healthy and you go to the gym, the refrigerator had only beer," Ferris said.

This season, Ferris is giving Brooklyn apartment rockers, sharing the spotlight with a Brooklyn-based music duo.

The host is proof that anyone can cook — a fancy culinary school degree is unnecessary. "I don't have formal training," said the former graphic designer. "My mother was a great cook and very creative. She would pull things out of a hat. As a result, I look in my fridge and I have three things. I can make a meal!" In keeping with that easy-to-see, a recent episode offered guidance on making dishes — simple things like meatloaf, grilled chicken breasts, chicken salad and paninis — for an entire week.

9 DAYS...

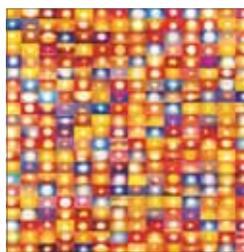
Continued from page 6

SLIDE SHOW: "CULTURE, COMMUNITY & RESISTANCE" — THE MURALS OF WEST BELFAST: Belfast muralist Gerard "McCherry" Kelly shows his work, 7 pm. Rocky Sullivan's "134 Van Dyke St. at Dwyer Street in Red Hook, (718) 264-2050, www.rockysullivan.com.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 1.

MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT: Niklas Szewlow. See Saturday, Jan. 2.

MUSIC: IRISH MUSIC WITH SAFE HAVEN: Monthly gig. Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816, www.safehaven.org).



Solar flair: Penelope Umbrico's "5,537,594 Suns From Flickr (Partial) 5/30/09" is one of the many pieces by the artist that will be on display at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in January.

THURS. JAN. 7

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: "NOW AND THEN": See Friday, Jan. 1.

OPENING RECEPTION: "ABOUT FACE": Paintings, photographs, sculptures and works on paper by several artists. 1 pm. Tabula Rasa Gallery (24 48th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 833-9100, www.tabularasagallery.com).

EXHIBIT: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Friday, Jan. 1.

ART: "WHITE WASH 2009": See Friday, Jan. 1.

TALK: WALLACE SHAWN: One of the greatest and most neurotic actors of his generation appears as part of the "Eat, Drink and Be Literary" series. \$20 (includes dinner), 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org).

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 1.

JAZZ WITH THE CARLOS CUEVAS TRIO: Featuring Alex Hernandez, bass. \$25 (\$20 senior, \$10 student), 8 pm. Bargemusic, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.org.

FRI. JAN. 8

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: "NOW AND THEN": See Friday, Jan. 1.

LIVE MUSIC: Pizza, Italian specialties and live bands. 9 pm. See Friday, Jan. 1.

EXHIBIT: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Friday, Jan. 1.

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCES: See Friday, Jan. 1.

ART: "WHITE WASH 2009": See Friday, Jan. 1.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 1.

MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Rachmaninov with Elena Dvoryanova, piano. \$35 (\$20 senior, \$10 student).

8 pm. Bargemusic (Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.org).

MUSIC: BANJO SHOW: An hour of live action hosted by Pat Conite. \$12. 8 pm. Joppy (315 Columbia St. at Woodluff Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214, www.joppy.com).

AN EVENING OF ART AND ACTIVISM: "Black and White: Performing the Personal/Political" featuring Alice Phillips-Fenn, Tebren Pollard, Chelsea Michel Gregory, Azure O. S. Borneo Lee. Followed by a moderated discussion. \$15 (\$12 in advance). Brooklyn Arts Exchange (621 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-0018, www.bax.org).

MUSIC: OUTRIST OSCAR FENAS: 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Street in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100, www.bam.org).

SAT. JAN. 9

PERFORMANCE: KARAOKE: 7:30 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 2.

THEATER: "BRIEF ENCOUNTER": 2 pm and 8 pm. See Friday, Jan. 1.

MUSIC: CHORAL CONCERT: Religious music, including "The Mass" by Mendelssohn, by composer Henry Purcell, performed by Sacred and Spiritus Chorale of Brooklyn. Also featuring: Purcell's "Lament," "Dile and Aeneas." \$15. 7 pm. St. Ann's Church (157 Montague Street at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 707-1411).

MUSIC: CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Bach, Handel with Makhanov, violin. \$35 (\$30 senior, \$15 student). Bargemusic, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street and Furman Street in DUMBO, (718) 624-2083, www.bargemusic.com.

MUSIC: FIGHTTANK ENSEMBLE: This band tackles everything from French jazz to Serbian and Transylvanian gypsy anthems to flamenco and oddball originals. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 230-4100, www.bam.org).

NEW YEAR...

Continued from page 5

Public Assembly (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 762-5188); The Royale (505 Fifth Ave. at 12th Street in Park Slope, (718) 840-0089); Galapagos Art Space (16 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-8500).

7. Get in shape

After all the binge eating and drunken revelry of the holidays, you'll want to get back in shape. But that can be so difficult, so why not try **capoeira**? The Brazilian mix of martial arts and dance is an arduous workout paired with a variety of group-busting stretches.

But it's fun. Even better, Brooklyn has its own capoeira academy right above the Seventh Avenue subway station on Flatbush Avenue. So don't be surprised to hear the Brazilian songs and instruments echoing out the windows as you approach the class.

Razes do Brasil Academy (347 Flatbush Ave. at Park Place in Prospect Heights, No phone). Visit www.capoeirabrooklyn.com for info.

8. See Stephane Wrembel

A nomad of sorts, this Paris-born jazz guitarist started playing at the age of 4 so he could bring his contemporary (but energetic) jazz trio to Brooklyn. Now he plays shows almost every day in the borough, so there's no excuse to pass up this opportunity. Wrembel's light, brisk style is lively enough to keep everyone entertained and sophisticated enough to leave modern jazz aficionados in tears. His "**Diango Experiment**" shows every Sunday at Barbès — your best chance to catch him (but get there early; we were shut out on Dec. 27 — during a holiday week!).

Barbès (576 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177).

9. Read Brooklyn authors

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Barbès (576 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177).

10. Bargain bowling

Sure, **Whitehead bowling**, but don't you get uncomfortable sitting around in those skimmy jeans waiting for a 540 lane? Head to **Maple Lanes** out in Dyker Heights, where the lanes are short, the bargains are deep and the action is real. One of the best times to go is on Sunday (now that the giants are eliminated from the playoffs, why not bow?) when all games are \$1 after a \$6 cover charge.

Maple Lanes (1570 60th St. between 15th and 16th avenues in Dyker Heights, (718) 331-9000).



Booked: Check out Jonathan Lethem's "Chronic City."

"Invisible (2009) by Paul Auster: A love triangle, a violent mugging and aspirations to publish a literary magazine in the 1960s throw the Park Slope author's characters into an entertaining discussion of identity and the philosophy surrounding love and war. We all like dark humor and Auster does it well. His fresh storytelling ability keeps the pages turning, so don't worry about spending too much time on it.

"Sag Harbor (2009) by Colson Whitehead: Whitehead delves straight into the hearts of two African-American teenagers living in predominantly white Sag Harbor on Long Island. Two brothers spend the summer of 1985 without their parents, trying to find something to do. Whitehead's not a teen himself anymore, but the award-winning contributor to The New Yorker takes his readers on an inventive, enjoyable trip into a classic high school summer in this satirical coming-of-age novel.

Watch "Cooking for Bachelors" and view recipe at www.cookingforbachelors.tv. New content is posted regularly. — **Michelle De Meglio**

OTHER

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: "NOW AND THEN": See Friday, Jan. 1.

EXHIBIT: "LAST DAY OF THE MYRTLE AVENUE EL": See Friday, Jan. 1.

WORKSHOP, WEDDING 101: Meet with caterers, photographers, bands, DJs, and more. \$25 (\$20 in advance for each session, 10:30 am-5 pm. The Ball House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-4510, www.theballhouse.com).

ART: OPEN HOUSE AND FUNDRAISER: Meet and founding artists William and Kathleen Luzzo and see the work of five guest artists. Donations accepted. Micro Museum (123 Smith St. in Boerum Hill, (718) 797-3116, www.micromuseum.com).

ARTIST TALK WITH SHANNON PLUMB: Video artist will talk about her most takes and successes. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-3000, www.brooklynmuseum.org).

ART: "WHITE WASH 2009": See Friday, Jan. 1.

READING, VADIM YARMO-LINETS: Russian author of "I, Leo Zappella." Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100).

OPENING RECEPTION, CONCEPT IN REAL TIME: Works by Nivi Aroy and Shirley Sheer, curated by Peter Frank. Noon-6 pm. DUMBO Arts Center (30 Washington St. between Plymouth and Water streets in DUMBO, (718) 694-0831, www.dumboatartscenter.com).

ART: AN EVENING OF ART AND ACTIVISM: See Friday, Jan. 1.

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SOLAR...

Continued from page 1

to take for a spin earlier this year.

But for electric cars to become popular, several hurdles must be overcome. First, how do you charge a car that's parked on the street, sometimes blocks from its owner's home? And few people are going to want to string extension cords all over the neighborhood.

Still, electric cars are gaining steam, and Heslin's charging station follows the same environmentally aware mindset.

The station produces no emissions and is built from mostly recycled materials that are easily transported (albeit by a gas guzzling truck, of course). To harness the fuel for his Mini Cooper, 24 cutting-edge solar panels capture the sunlight, and that radiation is channeled into 40 batteries, which holds the power until Heslin plugs in his car — with a supervised plug that fits snugly where

the gas nozzle would normally go.

"You won't see anything like this anywhere else in the city," Heslin said.

Now, if he could only get some customers, popular, several hurdles must be overcome. First, how do you charge a car that's parked on the street, sometimes blocks from its owner's home? And few people are going to want to string extension cords all over the neighborhood.

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"You won't see anything like this anywhere else in the city," Heslin said.

Now, if he could only get some customers.

STATION...

Continued from page 1

trace, which are meant to ward off eavesdroppers, but also a grotesque eyesore.

The renovations began in June 2004 with a projected budget of \$16 million, according to an MTA press release. A source said that the job was completed \$8 million under budget (but then again, the source was "off the record," so who knows?).

Di Domenico said that the biggest challenge was accommodat-

ing so many commuters throughout construction.

"We had to [work] without causing additional inconveniences," said Di Domenico.

Despite the five years it took to build the new entrance — which disrupted foot traffic on Hanson Place — Di Domenico said the lengthy construction time was a necessary evil.

"There weren't a lot of days as I'm concerned," Di Domenico said. "We had to make sure the trains ran on time."



The new interior of the amply lit Long Island Rail Road terminal.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4

sending the thief bolting out the door toward Clinton Street.

Quick snag

A hooded chump ran up and swiped a woman's purse as she left a bank on Flatbush Avenue, Dec. 22.

The victim was walking toward Nevins Street at about 3 pm when the thief came from behind, snagged the purse — which contained about \$200 and credit cards, — and fled.

Random assault

A 60-year-old curmudgeon repeatedly punched an elderly woman with a hard object as she was leaving the YWCA on Third Avenue on Dec. 22 — but he got bruised in the end.

The unsuspecting curmudgeon was leaving the building — which is between State and Schermerhorn streets — at about 3:30 pm when the lady woman attacked her, apparently at random.

Police later arrested the senior terror.

— **Andy Campbell**

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint-Williamsburg

Pants off to ya

A party peep forced a woman to take off his pants inside his N. Seventh Street apartment while the creep took his cash on Dec. 29.

The victim returned to his home, which is between Roehrig and Havemeyer streets, at 2 pm to find a man,

who quickly ordered him to take off his pants and go into the bathroom.

That's when the jerk made off with a laptop and cash, leaving the confused, pants-less renter miffed.

Batter down

A bat-wielding crazy was arrested after he randomly swung some lumber and injured a 33-year-old woman on Bedford Avenue on Dec. 22.

The victim was walking between N. Sixth and N. Seventh streets at 11 pm when the jerk swung at her, missing her head by inches. He then dropped the bat and swung with his fists, connecting repeatedly, she told police.

Officers were able to track the man down quickly afterwards.

Wheel back news

At least two cars were swiped:

- A 2008 Toyota Sienna was taken off Hausman Street between Nassau and Driggs avenues at about 3:30 pm on Dec. 22.
- A 1998 Honda Civic was swiped from the intersection of Franklin and Quay streets at 7 am on Dec. 23.

— **Andy Campbell**

90TH PRECINCT
Williamsburg-Bushwick

Burglary report

The victim of the unlucky souls who got their stockings stolen over the holiday:

- A thief was in the Christmas spirit when he broke into a Penn Street apartment between Dec. 25 and 26 and took \$100. The victim, who lives between Bedford and Wythe avenues, told cops that he returned at around 9 pm on Boxing Day to find that a thief had entered through the back door.
- A thief busted into an apartment while the tenants were away on holiday, making off with \$1,000 in gear on Dec. 26. One of the tenants told cops that he returned to the apartment of Powers Street from Leonard and Lorimer streets at around 2 pm only to find his Nintendo Wii, a digital camera and \$500 missing.
- A thief swiped an assortment of plumbing tools from a construction site on Grand Street between Clinton and Pitt streets on Dec. 23. The contractor told cops that he discovered the crime early the next morning, when he found that the thief had entered through a hole that had been cut in a nearby wooden gate.

Purse pilfered

A bandit swiped a woman's purse on the L train on Dec. 26, making off with her phone, \$200, and Italian ID.

The 60-year-old victim told cops that the thief made his move around 6 pm at the Morgan Avenue station.

Grand theft auto

A driver who left his car idling on S. Ninth Street on Dec. 24 returned minutes later to find it gone.

The victim said he had last seen his 1994 Mercedes Benz between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street at around 6:30 am.

— **Stephen Brown**

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of formation of limited liability company (LLC). Name: FINE WRITING IMPORTS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/28/09. Office location: Kings County, SSNY. I, LUCY UOYI, as agent of LLC UOYI, WHOM I PROCESS AGAINST IT MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL COPY OF PROCESS TO: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Pursuant any lawful process, do, do, do, 12/19, 26, 1/2/2010, 1/6, 23.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/21/2009, bearing Index Number NC-001175-09(K), a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to Assume the name of Paula Breal Rivera. My present name is Paula Rivera Solow AKA Paula Rivera. My current address is 1214 14th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214. My date of birth is March 07, 1962.

The Board of Trustees of PAWE Academy Charter School will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 5, 2010. This meeting is open to the public and will take place at The Center for Charter School Excellence (111 Broadway, New York, NY).

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LETTERS

Foer shame! He didn't read Paper

To the editor, I read your interview with Jonathan Safran Foer ("Beast meat"...) in the January issue of the Brooklyn Paper...

To the editor, In the same issue that contained Gerik Kuntzman's excellent interview with Jonathan Safran Foer...

In an economic crisis, The Patrick F. Daly School—PS 15—was a model school. Why did the mayor, Chancellor Klein and our elected officials mess with something that was working?

Pedal pusher To the editor, The Times Up funeral ride was organized to bring attention to the ongoing support of the bike lanes...

Food fight To the editor, Has there suddenly arisen some groundswell of support for a memorial and Christmas tree at Key Food?...

WEB CHATTER

Bike lane story had the InterWeb abuzz

Our online story about the protest over a removal of a city bike lane ("New Bedford bike protest will keep cops abreast"...) Dec. 16 prompted plenty of controversy about whether the cyclists were right to protest...

Cyclist from Brooklyn What is wrong with you people? The Polar Bear and Iceberg club meet on the other side of Brooklyn...

Cindy from Williamsburg I am a cyclist and an activist and I am entirely offended by this protest. What sort of movement for justice intentionally antagonizes and harasses a community on a basis of their being systems?

Anonymous from Brooklyn Why is this OK? Why is this OK?

Send a letter

By e-mail: newroom@cnjlocal.com By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One MetroTech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201...

School daze

To the editor, The sad part in your story about the PAVE Academy is that Red Hook does not have our wonderful urban wildlife habitat...

Bird brains

In your recent article about the sorry state of the birds in Prospect Park, the red circles highlighting the harm done to these creatures...

Pedal pusher

To the editor, The Times Up funeral ride was organized to bring attention to the ongoing support of the bike lanes...

Food fight

To the editor, Has there suddenly arisen some groundswell of support for a memorial and Christmas tree at Key Food?...

The Brooklyn Classifieds

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