

The Brooklyn Paper

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FLAG-RANT VIOLATION

Brooklyn Bridge's American flags swapped for white flags overnight

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

There will be no white flag above our door.

Two flags of surrender mysteriously took the place of the American flags atop the Brooklyn Bridge's two 276-foot towers early on Tuesday morning. The banners waved over the city for several hours until police scaled the cables of the iconic span and removed the offending banners. One Brooklyn pol said in no uncertain terms that the borough won't back down to pranksters, no matter what their intent.

"If flying a white flag atop the Brooklyn Bridge is someone's idea of a joke, I'm not laughing," Borough President Adams said. "The public safety of our city is of paramount importance, particularly our landmarks and bridges that are already known to be high-risk targets. We will not surrender our public safety to anyone, at any time."

The stealth artists responsible apparently crept up the cables on either side of the bridge, blocking the lights illuminating the flag on the Brooklyn side at 3:30 am and the Manhattan side's at 3:42



A group of pranksters replaced the American flags that normally fly from the towers of the city's most iconic span with plain white flags early on Tuesday morning.

am, according to police.

The culprits used aluminum baking pans to shroud the lights, according to deputy com-

missioner of counter-terrorism John Miller.

Construction workers spotted the switcheroo at 5:30 am and

alerted the city, Miller said.

The anti-terror honcho said he doesn't think the gag had any connection to politics.

**BORO PRESIDENT
OFFERS REWARD
FOR 'TERRORISTS'**
SEE PAGE 6

"It may have been somebody's art project," he said.

His boss said that the Police Department is nevertheless taking the flags seriously.

"This is a matter of concern despite the motive," police chief Bill Bratton said.

Video shows four or five people crossing the bridge as a group at around 3:10 am, plus a few more minutes later, according to Miller.

"These people are of particular interest," he said.

Miller said the unsanctioned flags appeared to have been bleached. Police will conduct tests to determine where the flags came from and how they were altered, he said.

Miller speculated that the vandals may have climbing experience from working construction and said that there may have been

See **FLAGS** on page 6



Rob Pecha holds his English bulldog Lola, who lapped up first prize at the canine couture contest outside Freddy's Bar.

Paws on Fifth

Fidos outnumber fi-don'ts at Park Slope dog-fashion show

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope is on a stroll!

Fifth Avenue went to the dogs — the dressed-up dogs — last Friday night when a canine fashion show took place outside Freddy's Bar as part of a weekend packed with Summer Stroll street fairs. The parties were planned to bring fun to areas skipped by previous block parties — and they succeeded, an organizer said.

"We tried to include sections of Fifth Avenue that don't have the Street Fair in May," said Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District spokesman

Mark Casserta, referring to the Fabulous Fifth Avenue Street Fair his organization threw back in May. "By the time we closed up on Friday night, people didn't want to leave."

The festivities also touched down last Saturday along Seventh Avenue, but, alongside fire-breathers, face-painting, and chess throwdowns, the canines strutting the catwalk at Freddy's were probably the biggest attraction.

An English bulldog named Lola fetched top honor from amid a field of 20 competitors with her pink-tutu-and-skull-

See **DOGS** on page 12

Prison for Rebar owner

One bilked groom says he'd rather get his money back

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Sorry didn't cut it.

On Monday a judge sentenced the Dumbo bar owner who bilked dozens of couples out of more than \$1 million in wedding money to 3 years and 4 months to 10 years in prison for tax fraud — the exact amount prosecutors had sought — moments after he apologized for

the first time.

"I completely failed the trust that was put in me by my family and friends and the city and state of New York and the borough of Brooklyn and, most importantly, my employees and customers," Stevens said in Brooklyn Supreme Court, as the New York Post reported.

"I'll spend my time in prison trying to become a better man

so when I come out, I can begin the long process of starting to repay the financial and emotional debts that I incurred," he said, per the Post.

Stevens agreed in June to pay restitution to the couples he fleeced out of \$1.8 million. Rebar closed abruptly in May with more than 200 weddings on its calendar, leaving dozens of couples in the lurch, some of whom

had dropped tens of thousands of dollars in deposits. Now, one groom he agreed to pay back is saying he would rather see Stevens work off his debt than languish in a jail cell.

"He can't make any money in jail," said Christian Pascarella, who says he lost \$17,000 to Stevens. "I'd rather him not be in prison and paying me back."

See **REBAR** on page 6



Rebar owner Jason Stevens left court in handcuffs on Monday.



This Brachiosaurus towers over the crowd at the Barclays Center.

DINOS' MIGHT

Barclays goes full 'Jurassic Park'

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

Steven Spielberg, eat your heart out.

Prehistory came alive last week when more than a dozen life-size, animatronic dinosaurs stomped through the Barclays Center as part of the "Walking with Dinosaurs" show that ran July 16–20. The blow-out presentation — inspired by a British Broadcasting Corporation show of the same name — taught kids without letting them get bored, according to one attendee.

"It was educational — it's better than taking them to the Museum of Natural History where their attention span runs low," said Flatbush dad Rico Silvera, who brought his two sons to the show.

Silvera said he even learned a thing or two.

"I learned that birds are the direct descendants of the dinosaurs," he said.

The show brought 20 dinos from 10 different species to the arena for a glimpse of how the reptiles filled their days back when they roamed the earth.

The \$20 million spectacular hasn't set claw on U.S. shores since 2007, and



An Allosaurus belts out a fearsome roar.

in that time, the producers updated the show and tweaked the starring beasts to reflect the latest scientific discoveries, including the reptiles' relation to birds.

"Every tour the paleontologists tell us something new," said Matt Oliver, who leads a team of raptor-suit-wearing actors in the show. "Before it was more like killer reptiles in a wolf pack. Then they became more predatorial-bird-like."

Silvera said the raptors were cool and all, but there could be only one king of the show.

"I think everyone's favorite dinosaur is the T. Rex — he's the fiercest. He's the most popular," he said.

Polish grocery getting the chop



By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

It could be the end of an Eagle.

Eagle Provisions, a Polish grocery store that has served Greenwood Heights for 75 years, is up for sale, but its demise is not assured just yet. The recent decision to put the three-story building at Fifth Avenue and 18th Street on the market for a reported \$9 million came from one owner over the objection of the other, according to the pair of proprietors.

"I just can't do this forever," said John Zawisny, who put the store up for sale and is the elder of the two brothers who bought it back in 1979. "It's time for me to retire."

Richard Zawisny, on the other hand, wants to keep the enterprise alive and churning out kielbasa, and is fishing for investors to help make that happen.

"I'm looking for some partners to go in with me," he said. "We're in with the neighborhood, and we want to stay."



News of the possible closure comes less than two months after The Brooklyn Paper urged readers to "Go There Now" as part of its ongoing series profiling longtime neighborhood institutions.

The top two floors of the Eagle Provisions building have been vacant since a 1966 fire. Current zoning allows for

(Above) Richard Zawisny, co-owner of Eagle Provisions (left), is in charge of making the deli fare — and he wants to keep it that way.

a residential building as tall as four stories with ground-level retail to be built on the spot.

The store first opened in 1939 as White Eagle Market, and the Zawisnys' father worked there for 18 years. It was their father's dream to have a business in the family and, after learning the grocery trade at Pathmark, the Zawisny brothers decided to go in on the shop.

The brothers tweaked the store's inventory to try to keep up with changing tastes as the neighborhood's Polish

Big promotion for Slope top cop

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

He's on the highway to a swell job.

Deputy Inspector Michael Ameri made Park Slope's 78th police precinct the most high-profile law enforcement advocate of the mayor's Vision Zero push to reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2024, and now he is headed for the top road-cop position in the NYPD.

"As my final day approaches, I leave the 78th Precinct with a heavy heart," Ameri wrote on Twitter. "It is a bitter-sweet transfer for me!"

A local pol hailed his ascendancy, saying Ameri is a great fit for head of the Highway Patrol Unit.

"On a personal level, Mike has been a great friend and partner," said Councilman Brad Lander (D–Park Slope) in a statement. "He has our community's deep thanks, and best wishes for good



Deputy Inspector Michael Ameri left his post as commanding officer for Park Slope's 78th police precinct last week to head up the city's roads enforcement.

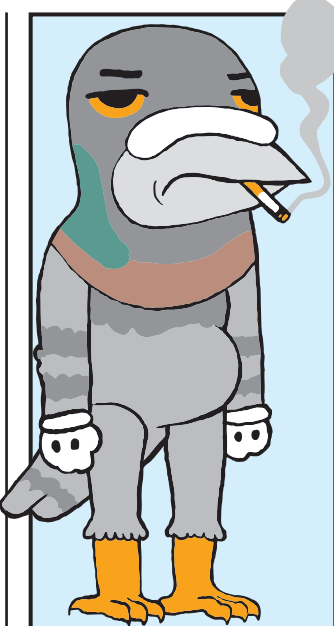
luck in his new position."

Since January, street safety activists have grown to be big-time Ameri boosters as he has rolled out a weekly succession of initiatives to rein in reckless drivers, including an undercover sting operation to bust motorists failing to yield to pedestrians, and crack-downs on parking in bike lanes and unlicensed dollar vans.

Ameri also created a meeting devoted solely to traffic issues to supplement his monthly community council meetings.

In his new post, Ameri will oversee policing of the city's highways, traffic safety, and the Collision Investigation Squad, which underwent reforms last year after widespread criticism for refusing to investigate crashes unless or until someone died.

The 78th Precinct did not respond to repeated requests for comment.



WINNER!

The votes are in at BrooklynPaper.com and Crummy the Pigeon is the people's choice for the next Nets mascot. Crummy bagged 44 percent of votes cast, more than double Jerzy the Hipster.

Fix&Fortify

SANDY RECOVERY WORK



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Fix & Fortify Sandy Recovery Work is returning to the Greenpoint Tubes.

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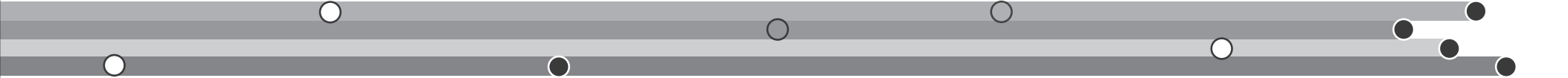
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Wburg-Bushwick naming debate is as old as time

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

Bushwick is the new Williamsburg — and the old Williamsburg.

The industrial area referred to by realtors as “East Williamsburg” as recently as 2010, and by Google to this day, is stridently called Bushwick by neighborhood businesses such as the on-line video streaming company Livestream and high-end pizzeria Roberta’s. The debate over what to call the ‘hood between Bushwick Avenue, Flushing Avenue, Metropolitan Avenue, and Newtown Creek may seem as old as time, and this paper has taken a strong pro-Williamsburg position in recent months, but history is on the side of the tech executives and kale-on-pizza visionaries. That is because all of modern-day Williamsburg was once part of Bushwick, according to history buffs we quizzed.

Still, the argument over what name to use is alive and well, Brooklyn’s borough historian Ron Schweiger said.

“If you were to stop 50 people on the street in that disputed spot, 25 people would say it was Bushwick and 25 people would say it was Williamsburg,” he said.

Back in the mid-19th century, Bushwick was a township that encompassed all of modern-day Bushwick, Williamsburg, and Greenpoint, separated from the city of Brooklyn by Broadway, according to historian Brian Merlis, who has penned books on Bushwick and Williamsburg’s history. Within that township, Williamsburg was a small waterfront village, extending as far towards Newtown Creek as Union Av-



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Brooklyn Public Library Brooklyn Collection

(Above) Emily Lew, manager of the Japanese restaurant Momo, says Bogart Street is a lot of things, but it’s not Williamsburg. (Left) This 1845 map shows Williamsburg ending at Bushwick Avenue.

These days the onetime hinterlands of Brooklyn are 20-something transplant central and, though the new arrivals may not know it, many of them are keeping the traditional boundaries alive. If you don’t believe us, listen to a local.

“This is the epicenter of where people want to be right now,” said Clarissa Reynolds, 26, who lives near the Morgan L. subway stop. “Bushwick is where all the cool parties are. All of my friends live around here.”

The Bushwick pride is so strong that some more-long-time residents in the disputed area have an even more expansive definition of where the neighborhood ends.

“Williamsburg is the Bedford Avenue [L] stop or maybe Lorimer, but beyond that, it is not Williamsburg,” said Emily Lew, a manager at Momo Sushi Shack on Bogart

Avenue, between Siegel and Moore streets. “I have lived here for 15 years and it is crazy how it has changed, but it is not Williamsburg.”

A local journalist insists that, between its 19th-century iterations and its modern-day hype, the neighborhood has never not been called Bushwick.

“Locals have referred to this industrial area of loft buildings as Bushwick at least going back to the early and mid part of the 20th century and probably forever,” said Cate Corcoran, managing editor of the real estate website Brownstoner, in an e-mail response to an article about Livestream’s move. “My uncle used to own a factory there in the 1940s and ‘50s and he confirmed it was known as Bushwick.”

Corcoran did not respond to a request for further information about her uncle and his factory.

But, as Corcoran acknowledges, city bean counters have taken a more generous view of where Williamsburg ends. The contested territory falls into Community Board 1, which weighs in on issues affecting Williamsburg and Greenpoint, and the 90th police precinct, which describes itself as serving “South Williamsburg.” And at one time it sat within the East Williamsburg Industrial Business Zone, signs for which still hang from posts though the area has apparently been incorporated into the North Brooklyn Industrial Business Zone.

As for the preeminent authority on the neighborhoods’ historical boundaries, it’s all gravy to him.

“Brokers will call this whatever name they think will sell,” Merlis said.



Pols and Williamsburg residents gather in front of the stigmata portion of the mural that deals with some dark themes — and some happy ones such as the hair salon.

Domino gets paint job

Latest factory-art piece maintains slavery themes

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

It’s a bittersweet mural piece that’s life.

On the heels of the dismantling of the high-profile Domino Sugar factory installation by artist Kara Walker, the Williamsburg activist group El Puente has started painting a mural on a construction fence outside the complex. The 200-foot piece deals with similar themes to the epic Walker work, also chronicling the exploitative

economy behind the sugar industry.

“A history of sugar is a history of slavery,” said Ana O’Keefe, a member of Los Muralistas, the arts arm of El Puente, adding that the painting commissioned by developer Two Trees is no puff piece and also critiques the building-up of Williamsburg. “We wanted it to be an analysis of the development projects that are going in here as well.”

A volunteer day last Fri-

day drew a crowd to the corner of Grand Street and Kent Avenue to help color in the lines, with volunteers of all ages lending a hand. Borough President Adams showed up to tout his support of the project.

“The neighborhood is changing rapidly, and this is sort of a storybook of what happened,” Adams said. “It’s really a powerful statement.”

Los Muralistas recruited 12 high school students to

help paint the mural for pay. The students mostly hail from the group’s El Puente Academy school, and they are no slouches, working long hours under the hot sun.

Work on the mural began on July 7, and O’Keefe said she expects it to last about six weeks. Because its canvas on a construction fence outside the factory complex slated for development, the mural won’t be there forever, but O’Keefe said it will stay up for two years.

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WHAT IS ROTARY?

Rotary is a group of local business people who get together weekly to network and do charitable work in their community.

The Brooklyn Bridge Rotary Club meets every Thursday in Downtown Brooklyn.

This year we've focused on helping disadvantaged pregnant women to become self reliant, and we also brought a 5 year old Haitian boy to NYC to have open heart surgery.



Join us! For questions or information, contact incoming club president Angelicque Moreno at (718) 802-1616; AMoreno@jkavanzino.com.

Cops: Teens spray perfume in woman’s eyes

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–DUMBO–Boerum Hill–Downtown
Cops cuffed four teens who they say beat a woman up on Adams Street on July 8, spraying perfume in her eyes and stealing her purse.
The 48-year-old victim said she was sitting on a bench between Fulton and Johnson streets at 1:23 am when the group surrounded her.
One of the kids shined a flashlight on her face while another misted her eyes, according to a police report. A third punched her in the face and grabbed her handbag, the report says.
The crew fled on foot, but cops caught up with them on Jay Street between Fulton and Johnson streets, police said. Officers arrested the whole bunch after the victim identified them, cops recounted. The teens included a 15-year-old boy and three girls, two 15 and one 13, officers stated.
Getting’s good
A man was arrested for allegedly shoplifting underwear, vitamins, and shaving cream from a pharmacy on Atlantic Avenue on July 12, cops reported.
Officers apprehended the 56-year-old suspect after employees of the store, between Third and Fourth avenues, saw the man stuffing merchandise into his pockets at 10:50 am, officers said. An employee tried to stop the guy and he started fighting back, store personnel reported.
An officer saw what was going on and arrested the suspected shoplifter, receiving a cut on his wrist during the struggle, according to a police report. The man had four packages of Hanes boxer briefs, two bottles of Centrum Silver, and eight bottles of shaving cream in his pockets, officers said.
Don’t look back
A menacing mob robbed a man on Fulton Street on the evening of July 12, law enforcement officials said.
The 18-year-old victim reported he was on the sidewalk with a friend between Gallitan Place and Hoyt Street at 9 pm when a group of five or six brutes came up from behind. One of the fiends pulled a silver handgun out of his waistband and told the victim and his buddy to turn around, according to a police report.
“If you all move, I’ll shoot you,” the villain supposedly said.
The scalawags relieved the victim of \$200 in cash and a cellphone, then the gunman demanded they walk away without looking back, police stated. The pair boarded a B41 bus and left the scene without turning around, cops said.
Steal-toed
A cretin snatched a cellphone from a 13-year-old and almost stole his shoes at an Atlantic Avenue bus stop on July 8, the authorities said.
The teen said he was waiting for the bus between Court Street and Boerum Place at 6:20 pm when the 20-something bully approached. The lout demanded the kid give him the sneakers from his backpack, then returned them, cops said.
“You’re lucky they’re not

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at **BrooklynPaper.com/blotter**

Locker larceny
A cretin took a man’s wallet from his locker while he showered in a Livingston Street gym on July 12, officers said.
The 26-year-old fitness buff said he was showering inside the facility between Elm Place and Bond Street at 9 am and left his bag in a locker. When he came out, the wallet had gone for a walk, cops said.
A security guard of a nearby building later saw a lowlife throw the wallet into a garbage can on Bond Street between Fulton and Livingston streets, according to a police report. The merchandise minder fished out the billfold and turned it over to neighborhood law enforcement, police stated. The wallet was the victim’s, but it was missing his credit and debit cards, the report says.
88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene–Clinton Hill
Saxo-gone
A fiend snagged a saxophone from inside a Flatbush Avenue Extension bodega on July 17, law enforcement officials stated.
A 21-year-old man said he was in the store between DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street at 11:30 pm and left the instrument on the ground while he was shopping.
He accidentally left the shop without his horn and returned an hour later to find it had disappeared, police said.
Room raider
A home invader hit an apartment on Greene Avenue on July 14, according to the authorities.
A 26-year-old resident of the apartment between Grand and Classon avenues recounted that the villain barged in at noon and flashed a pistol.
“Give me what you got,” he supposedly ordered.
The victim forked over \$120 in cash and the goon promptly scrambled, cops said.
Break it, take it
Two home burglaries were reported in the pre-

unknown direction, officers recounted.
— **Matthew Perlman**

68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights
Purse pinch
A shifty shopper stole a woman’s purse from her shopping cart at an Eighth Avenue supermarket on July 19, police reported.
The victim was picking up groceries at the establishment near 63rd Street in Sun-set Park at 5:30 pm when she set her bag on the cart and walked away for a moment, officers said.
When she returned, her handbag — which contained an iPhone, \$50 cash, and her bank card — had vanished, a report states.
Fake and enter
Two con men posing as utility workers stole \$2,300 from a home on 84th Street on July 15, according to law enforcement records.
The pair called on the home between 10th and 11th avenues sometime between noon and 1 pm, telling the occupant that they worked for the water company and needed to check the home’s water, law enforcement sources said.
The victim let the tricksters into her basement to do the work, but they left after a few minutes, and when the victim returned upstairs, she saw that someone had rifled through her bedroom drawers and taken the cash, police said.
Brass act
A sneaky burglar stole 60 feet of brass pipe from a residence on 13th Avenue sometime between July 12 and 15, cops said.
The prowler entered the building, which sits between 66th and 67th streets in Dyker Heights, through a basement window and made off with 20 yards of the one-

inch pipe valued at \$1,000, a report states.
— **Max Jaeger**

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint–Northside
Stand clear
Cops cuffed a man who they say broke a guy’s jaw and ribs after he bumped him on the L train at the Metropolitan Avenue station on July 14.
The victim said he was getting off the train at the station near Lorimer Street at 6:50 am when the suspect jostled him.
The victim nudged the accused back, which turned out to be a colossal mistake, according to a report.
The suspect clocked the victim in the face, breaking his jaw and knocking out one tooth, police reported.
He allegedly proceeded to jab the victim in the torso several times, breaking his ribs.
The victim was taken to Woodhull Medical Center for treatment, according to officers.
Bar stab
A gang of toughs attacked a guy in front of a Norman Avenue bar on July 17, then followed him down the street and gathered more people for another beating, police stated.
The 24-year-old victim said he was in front of the watering hole near Manhattan Avenue at 1:30 am when two lowlifes jumped him.
He said he then walked to Berry Street between N. 13th and N. 14th streets and eight to 10 other galoots piled on.
The victim suffered deep cuts, but police believe they were self-inflicted.
The fellow, who officers believe was drunk at the time, was taken to Bellevue Hospital Center in Manhattan.
— **Danielle Furfaro**

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Chaotic Jay Street is in line for a pedestrian-friendly overhaul, according to a mayoral announcement.

Target: D’Town

Mayor cheers old and new plans for ‘hood on the rise

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor DeBlasio is setting his sights on Downtown.

The former Sloper in chief touted a package of new and in-progress initiatives last Wednesday that include plans to connect and revamp area parks and to consider renting out space in a Department of Education building to stores. The package push will continue Downtown’s ascent, he said.

“The investments we are making will help Downtown Brooklyn continue its rise, generate good jobs, and make this a more dynamic neighborhood to live and work,” DeBlasio said in a statement.

One component is an already-under-consideration “Brooklyn Strand” that proposes connecting Borough Hall with Brooklyn Bridge Park through an as-yet-unspecified series of parks, plazas, and landscaped thoroughfares. The announcement included no details on how such a linear park would surmount the great wall created by the Brooklyn Bridge and the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, but it is music to Borough President Adams’s ears.

“I am excited to see Downtown Brooklyn’s full potential unlocked under this exciting plan, including its unique open space, which will soon connect Brooklyn Borough Hall to our one-of-a-kind waterfront,” Adams said.

Also on tap is a look at renting out part of the education department building at 65 Court St. to retailers and a move to overhaul the long-shuttered BAM Park in



Mayor DeBlasio sees big progress happening Downtown.

Fort Greene, the ground under which is dangerously unstable, but which the city says is “about to” reopen.

Concurrently with the government moves, 60 groups are getting together to form a business improvement district, according to the announcement.

DeBlasio’s horn-tooting came on the heels of a brochure issued earlier in the week by the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership recapping the area’s growth over the decade since its rezoning to allow sky-high development. The document touts the creation of 5,000 new apartments, 1,100 new hotel rooms, and 10,000 tech-sector jobs. The pro-business group’s president said the city projects will help the area keep expanding.

“Today’s announcement reflects Mayor DeBlasio’s commitment to ensuring that this growth is not a flash in the pan, but a continued and sustained trend that jobs and housing for New Yorkers will continue to grow in Downtown Brooklyn,” said Tucker Reed in a statement.

Park nope!

Drivers brace for Union St. garage-to-apts conversion

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Some Park Slope car owners could soon find themselves circling the block looking for a spot if a developer convinces the city to let it turn a parking garage on Union Street into a luxury apartment complex.

Lewis Meltzer, owner of the garage between Seventh and Sixth avenues, five doors down from the Park Slope Food Coop, is seeking approval for a plan to turn the 261-spot carpark

into a six-story residential building with ground-floor retail. Slopers we polled say losing the spots will intensify already-stiff competition for on-street parking.

“It’s already very difficult to find parking here,” said Dari Litchman as she hurried from her car to her work shift at the cooperative. “This will make it a lot more difficult.”

Litchman lives in Windsor Terrace, but as a coop member who works in the neighborhood, she said she often



Car owners could be left to fend for themselves in the wilderness of on-street parking if the 798 Union St. garage becomes apartments.

finds herself struggling to find a spot. She has never used the garage, but the drivers who do will no doubt flood the neighborhood if it closes, she said.

Meltzer filed an application for the zoning variance in January and the local community board recommended it with several stipulations, among them, including affordable housing and nixing the balconies included in the original bid.

The balconies would create an unacceptable amount of noise, according to the panel.

“Obviously if I were a neighbor sharing a back yard, I might be more concerned about the rear of the building than about the parking,” said Community Board 6 district manager Craig Hammerman.

The approval came over the protest of neighbors who packed a land use committee meeting in June to rail against the conversion.

Meltzer bought the property in 1982 for \$650,000, property records show. The lot was zoned for manufacturing when Meltzer purchased it and required a zoning variance to operate as a parking garage. He has appeared before Community Board 6 every 10 years since then to get its blessing for renewing the variance, and the plan to build apartments didn’t come as much of a surprise, Hammerman said.

“Since the ’80s the owner has indicated he intends to convert the building to residential,” he said. “He’s just getting around to it now.”

Meltzer did not respond to a request for comment.



Contact:

Christopher Fritz
NMLS#1011240
at (516) 507-7914
FritzC@EmigrantMortgage.com

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Giving a BAM

New company shares its name with famed venue

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Now playing at BAM: branding and content creation.

A new Dumbo marketing agency has audaciously named itself “The BAM Connection,” despite having no connection to the famous Brooklyn Academy of Music, the iconic Flatbush Avenue sign for which has helped make the performing arts complex synonymous with the three-letter acronym “BAM.” The heads of the new company say its moniker comes from their surnames, and that they were never concerned about sowing confusion.

“That’s just how you name an ad agency,” said Rob Baiocco, the company’s chief creative officer. “People in our industry know us as Baiocco and Maldari. We’re proud of our reputation—we just know the names are long.”

Baiocco’s business partner Maureen Maldari echoed the sentiment, stressing that



they like the Brooklyn Academy of Music but have no ties to it and never talked about the potential for getting lost in the Google results (as it happens, they don’t).

“We are The Baiocco and Maldari Connection,” she said. “Our discussion was about us.”

Baiocco and Maldari both worked for the global advertising agency Grey Worldwide before deciding to open up their own shop last year. The duo chose Dumbo for the neighborhood’s innovative atmosphere, Baiocco said.

“The energy you find in Manhattan is a kind of frenetic energy,” he said. “Here it’s all creative energy.”

Baiocco still lives in Manhattan, but Maldari grew up in Marine Park and lives in Bergen Beach. She says



Maureen Maldari, left, and Rob Baiocco launched a new marketing company called the BAM Connection earlier this year.

she knew all along where she wanted the company to be located.

“I always knew that Brooklyn was the coolest place to be,” she said. “Finally everybody else knows it too.”

The BAM Connection boasts national clients such as the American Heart Association and the jeans company Wrangler, mean-

ing many in its target audience have never heard of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Maldari pointed out.

“A lot of our reach is beyond New York,” she said. “And people outside of our area don’t make that same connection.”

Going forward, the pair hopes to collaborate with players in the Dumbo tech scene and to work with other

borough businesses, they said. Baiocco stresses that he does not want his business to be seen as the project of a couple of johnny-come-latelies.

“I don’t want to seem like a poser,” he said. “Half of this company is genuinely rooted in Brooklyn.”

The Brooklyn Academy of Music did not respond to requests for comment.

Our reporter rates FDNY’s barbecue

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

He’s our guy in barbecue.

Four firehouses are hard

at work perfecting their secret recipes for the annual Fairway Market Firefighters Food Face-Off in Red Hook on July 30, and your humble reporter will be tasting every last morsel as a celebrity judge. The winning firehouse will take home a \$500 grocery gift card, but the real reward comes from the look on the other guys’ faces, according to one Red Hook smoke eater.

“Bragging rights for a year is a pretty huge prize,” said Michael Wildes, who hangs his hat at the Engine 279 Ladder 131 Happy Hookers firehouse.

Going up against Wildes and his compatriots are another Red Hook firehouse, the Red Hook Raiders, and two interlopers from Brooklyn Heights, the Hicks Street house and the Fire Under the Bridge house.

The Hicks Street team is the defending champion



Soon-to-be renowned barbecue judge and recovering vegetarian Noah Hurowitz chows down on a spare rib.

and the Red Hook Raiders took home the prize the year before that. But a week out from the contest, and after plenty of cooking practice, Wildes wasn’t feeling intimidated.

“I’d be shocked if we didn’t win,” Wildes said. “We’re going in with a lot of confi-

dence, and we fully expect to walk away on top.”

The cook-off consists of three rounds: chicken, spare ribs, and burgers. The Happy Hookers have a chef for each specialty. Wildes is the burger brains of the group, and he’s planning to blow away the competition with his own per-

sonal twist on the American favorite. What exactly that is, of course, is being kept tightly under wraps.

This is the first time Wildes has cooked in the contest, but he helped organize the event in years past, he said.

In addition to the gift card and the claim to borough dominance, the winners will get to name a charity of their choice as the recipient of a fund-raising drive at the supermarket.

At press time, your culinary correspondent was busy preparing mind, body, and spirit to consume copious amounts of greasy meat while keeping his faculties intact.

“Fairway Market Firefighter Food Face-Off” at Fairway Market (480 Van Brunt St. between Reed Street and the waterfront in Red Hook). Wednesday, July 30 at noon.

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3062 Brighton 3rd Street, (Brighton Beach)	2 of 2 partially finished 3-unit buildings
3043 Brighton 1st Street, (Brighton Beach)	Vacant lot zoned for 4 apartments
3027 Brighton 2nd Street, (Brighton Beach)	Fully rented 3-unit apartment building

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Adams: White flags were terrorism

By Matthew Perlman
The Brooklyn Paper

Borough President Adams, above, said that, far from being a harmless prank, Tuesday’s Brooklyn-Bridge-flag incident was an act of terrorism.

The Brooklyn pol held a press conference early on Tuesday afternoon, a few hours after police pulled

down the white flags that briefly replaced the stars and stripes atop the iconic span’s two towers. Adams offered a \$5,000 reward that he claimed would come out of his own pocket for information leading to the capture of the person or people responsible for the switcheroo, and emphasized that

the stunt sowed fear in the hearts of Brooklynites.

“This was a terrorist act,” Adams said. “Anytime you bring about terror, it’s a terrorist act.”

Adams explained that motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists on the bridge could well have been freaked out by the surrender flags, though he did not speculate about what political aims they may have been meant to achieve.

Adams encouraged the culprit or culprits to give themselves up.

“The only thing or person that should be surrendering at this time is the person responsible for the desecration of these flags,” he said.

Police brass pooh-poohed the notion of a terror connection.

The pranksters responsible could face charges of



Borough President Adams has put a \$5,000 bounty on the culprits.

criminal trespassing, reckless endangerment, malicious mischief, and theft of city property, NYPD deputy commissioner of counter-terrorism John Miller said.

All maintenance trips up the cables are supposed to be cleared with NYPD, former top cop Ray Kelly told the New York Times.

— with Max Jaeger

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FLAGS...

Continued from page 1

“a good deal of pre-operation planning.” They circumvented locked gates midway up the cable, which required special equipment and some serious guts, Miller said.

He added that, though the towers are extremely visible, the Police Department is more concerned with structurally vulnerable roadway and support infrastructure.

The Brooklyn Bridge was the target of a 2002 Al Qaeda plot and former police chief Ray Kelly boasted to the New York Times in 2011 that highly visible security measures, including police cars at either end and a police boat in the East River, deterred the attack.

The measures did not faze the graffiti vandal who made a big mark on the Manhattan Bridge side of a support in 2012, though cops later ar-

rested a suspect for the tagging, according to the New York Daily News.

Police responding to the latest visual disruption closed the bridge’s busy footpath around 11:30 am, then officers outfitted in hard hats and climbing gear ascended the cables and removed the flags around noon.

Tourists trying to take a stroll over the bridge were upset about the closure, but said they were willing to wait it out.

“We only have one day in Brooklyn, so we’re pretty disappointed,” said Maren Messer, visiting with her family from Germany. “But we’ll try to see if it re-opens soon.”

The path appeared to have reopened at 1:40 pm.

— with Max Jaeger

REBAR...

Continued from page 1

The felony fraud and larceny charges Stevens pleaded guilty to were for stealing from the state by collecting more than \$200,000 in sales taxes that he didn’t pass on, and failing to collect \$1.2 million more between 2009 and 2012.

Brooklyn’s top lawyer said the sentencing should serve as a deterrent to would-be fraudsters, and took pains to point out that tax money

belongs to taxpayers.

“Today’s sentence sends a clear message that we will prosecute tax cheats and put them in prison for stealing money from the people of New York,” said District Attorney Ken Thompson in a statement.

The language was apparently in response to criticism that prosecutors pursued charges against Stevens for stealing from the government while letting the wedding fraud slide.



VIDEOS

Clip show

Reality stars might have killed the music video, but the classic era of MTV is not forgotten. A vintage music video aficionado is bringing his vast knowledge of the subject to Williamsburg bar-theater Videology on Aug. 2, where he will give a talk on the art form's heyday, the best clips of all time, and the time dolphins saved Axl Rose's life.

"I was in junior high to college from 1980 to 1990, and those were MTV's shining years," said Park Sloper Stephen Pitalo, explaining his interest in the subject. Pitalo runs a blog called "The Golden Age of Music Video," and is working on a book of the same name. He has interviewed more than 60 music video directors in the course of his research, including the directors of many hair metal videos, Madonna's videos, and John Landis, who directed Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

The golden age of music video was between 1976 and 1993, according to Pitalo. It began with Queen's epic "Bohemian Rhapsody" video and ended with a series of overblown short films for the songs on Guns 'N' Roses' "Use Your Illusion" albums. In one of those videos, Axl Rose jumps off of a battleship and is subsequently saved by a pod of dolphins.

"That was at the time of multi-million dollar music videos and also when reality television started with the real world," said Pitalo. "Marketing people started dictating the creative process, and like with any other creative process, the art suffered."

Pitalo will also share some of his favorite music videos with the audience of his Videology presentation, which include Golden Earring's "Twilight Zone," Ian Hunter's "All of the Good Ones are Taken," and "Drive" by R.E.M.

He will also offer some reflections on the current state of music videos.

"Things are totally and completely different in the ingestion of entertainment now," said Pitalo. "Now, there are enormous personalities with enormous budgets like Lady Gaga and Weird Al, and the other side is people taking advantage of how cheap it is to make a clip now."

After the hour-and-a-half presentation, Pitalo plans to video jockey classics for at least two hours.

He will also be at the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club in Gowanus on July 25, where he will show more classic clips as well as giving away pinback buttons, heavy metal trading cards, and vintage MTV shirts.

"The History of Music Video, Part One (Pre-1993)" at Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468, www.videology.info]. Aug. 2 at 9 pm. \$8.

ART

Art of glass

The appeal of this art show is transparent. Hot Wood Arts in Red Hook will feature an eye-catching exhibit of blown-glass sculptures of guns, as part of an art show that uses visual play to ask serious questions about violence in our society.

"They are playful and yet so real," said Hot Wood Arts curator Megan Suttles of the works in the show, which is dubbed "Clear and Present Danger." "They are all about tragic things that have happened."

The pellucid pistols, which artist Claire Lieberman sculpted the with the help of glass experts, are modeled after toy guns from the 1950s and '60s that she remembers from her childhood.

"It is an opportunity to reflect on the time and the fragility of life and of the things we put into children's hands and what we do with them when they grow up," she said.

The show, which opens July 25 and runs through Aug. 17, also features works by Brooklyn artist Jason Maas, who has drawn images of recent news events — including Occupy Oakland and other violent moments from the past few years — with crucial pieces missing.

The name of the show is a play on the two artists' work — "clear" refers to Lieberman's sculptures, while "present danger" refers to Maas's use of recent stories of social unrest.

"I am interested in what gets added to an image when you remove information," said Maas. "There is a thread of social consciousness and choreography of body image when parts are removed."

"Clear and Present Danger" at Hot Wood Arts [481 Van Brunt St. in Red Hook, (718) 596-4000, www.hotwoodarts.com]. July 25 at 6 pm. Free.

— Danielle Furfaro

(718) 260-2500

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

Aug. 5-31, 2014

Surf's up, bro

Guitar legend Dick Dale to play Brooklyn Bowl

By Max Jaeger
The Brooklyn Paper

Just off those huaraches and break out the Sex Wax!

Surf guitar legend Dick Dale will shred Brooklyn Bowl on Aug. 2, and no one is more psyched than his opening act.

"We can't wait to open for Dick Dale — he's one of our favorite musicians," said Laura Rebel Angel, a Bushwick resident who leads rockabilly revivalists Screamin' Rebel Angels. "Not only are we influenced by him, but so many of our other influences are."

Before the 77-year-old "king of surf guitar" takes the stage, the Angels will warm up the crowd with its brand of raucous, high-energy, proto-rock.

Rockabilly — a mix of early rock and country western music from the 1950s — is a drop in the bucket amidst the sea of sub-genres that have burst forth from rock 'n' roll, but for Laura, the niche style comes naturally.

"It's just kinda what comes out," she said. "The intensity and energy of it — its really fun, and it doesn't take itself too seriously."

For his part, Dale practically invented the surf music genre, combining exotic scales and hyper-fast picking he picked up from a Lebanese

MUSIC

Dick Dale and Screamin' Rebel Angels at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369, www.brooklyn-bowl.com] Aug. 2 at 6 pm. \$20.

nese uncle with reverb and distortion that channeled the feeling of riding a wave.

Echoes of his 1962 genre-defining song "Miserlou" can be heard in just about any surf tune to date.

Surf music and rockabilly share several stylistic elements, including super-quick staccato picking leads and a song structure based on the "blues progression," Laura said.

Screamin' Rebel Angels formed in 2011 and put out a five-song album less than two months later. Now Laura and guitarist Brian "Bobo" Hack of Williamsburg anchor the band. The duo uses a revolving rhythm section for local and touring shows, but recently added drummer Sean O'Connell as a permanent member.

The group just inked a record deal with Lanark Records — a Pennsylvania label that specializes in early rock music — and is slated to release a new record this fall.



Associated Press / Richard Drew



Screamin' Rebel Angels

Scream and shout: Brooklyn rockabilly outfit Screamin' Rebel Angels are excited to be playing with surf rock legend Dick Dale. (Pictured top) Dick Dale will rock Brooklyn Bowl Aug. 2.

Totally tubular tunes

Far out! Surf guitar god Dick Dale is playing Brooklyn Bowl and summer temperatures soaring, so The Brooklyn Paper braved rip currents and sandy trunks to bring you the best in Brooklyn's surf music scene. The genre proper may have wiped out by the late 1960s, but these bands dusted of their parents' copy of "Pet Sounds" and incorporated washes of reverb, snare-heavy drums, and sun-kissed lyrics into their own acts. Expect sounds closer to contemporary act Surfer Blood than the Ventures or the Surfaris of old — with six decades of rock history to draw on, these acts fold in elements from a variety of rock sub-genres.

The Vandelles

This band is chest-deep in the surf music canon — and it has got the 'verbed-out guitars, "ooh la la" group vocals, and found beach sounds to prove it. Bonus points for having an article-plus-noun name. The group currently working on a follow-up to its 2013 EP "Strange Girls Don't Cry."

Coastgaard

If surf music is supposed to capture the sport in sound, Coastgaard's tunes are an afternoon spent waiting our summer showers so you can get

back to the waves. Call it dream-pop, call it chill wave, just don't call it bogus, brah.

Coastgaard plays the Bowery Electric (327 Bowery at Second Street in Manhattan). July 29 at 7:30 pm. \$8.

Shark?

In addition to having the best name in the biz, Shark? delivers with the consistency of a point break. Sing-shouting and speed-picked guitars ride a swell of fat bass lines and strait-forward drumming that rocks hard but never betrays its roots.

Shark? is dropping a new album

Oct. 1 and is in the midst of planning a tour.

Surfing

Surfing may be the least "surf" band on this list, but its single "Hollow Sparrow" is the soundtrack to a wipeout. The blend of surf-y guitar phrasing with spacey effects, combined with a frenetic rhythm section, gives the track the disorienting feel of tumbling through emerald and foam — except you don't get water up your nose.

Surfing plays Glasslands Gallery (289 Kent Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg). Aug. 10 at 8:30 pm. \$10.



Beach party rock: The Vandelles — just one of many surf rock-influenced outfits in Brooklyn.

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Kings Highway Library

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Jul 24–Aug 14 | Thu | 4–8:30PM | \$60
Central Library

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Aug 2–9 | Sat | 10:30AM–4:30PM | \$50
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Aug 5–19 | Tue | 1–5PM | \$50
Coney Island Library

Aug 6–13 | Wed | 1–7PM | \$50
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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
July 25

Animation
domination

The annual Anima-
tion Block Party film
festival is kicking off
at the Brooklyn
Academy of Music
with a screening of
1996 Bugs Bunny-
meets-basketball
blockbuster "Space
Jam" in 35mm. The
fest, which runs
through July 27, will
also screen shorts,
indie animations,
and 'toons from
around the globe.

7 pm at BAM Rose
Cinemas [30 Lafayette
Ave. near Ashland Place
in Fort Greene, (718)
636–4100, www.bam.
org]. \$14.

SATURDAY
July 26

On the
zine scene

Dozens of DIY pub-
lishers and artists
will gather at Pete's
Candy Store in
Williamsburg for its
annual Pete's Mini
Zine Fest, which
claims to be "the
longest-running zine
fest in Brooklyn (that
also happens to be
held in a bar)." The
lineup includes The
Brooklyn Paper's
very own Bartoonist,
Bill Roundy, so go
get your favorite
Barscrawl signed.
2–7 pm Pete's Candy
Store [709 Lorimer St. at
Richardson Street in
Williamsburg, (718) 302–
3770, www.petescandys-
tore.com]. Free.

SUNDAY
July 27

Beats ball

Hip-hop stars Kend-
rick Lamar, French
Montana, Wale, and
Fabolous will go
head-to-head — on
the basketball court.
Each entertainer will
coach a team of NBA
stars and street-ball
players when the
Entertainers Basket-
ball Classic comes to
Barclays Center.
Lamar, Fabolous,
and Wale will also
perform.

4 pm at Barclays Center
[620 Atlantic Ave. at
Flatbush Avenue in
Prospect Heights, (917)
618–6100], www.barclay-
scenter.com. From
\$21.50.

TUESDAY
July 29

Food fight

Chew on this — NY1
anchor and Williams-
burg resident Pat
Kiernan will return to
the Bell House for
another epic trivia
night. This time the
theme is "food," but
don't expect cook-
ing questions — the
four-round quiz will
focus on edibles in
music, movies, and
popular culture.

7 pm at the Bell House
[149 Seventh St. between
Second and Third ave-
nues in Gowanus, (718)
643–6510, www.thebell-
houseny.com]. \$26.

THURSDAY
July 31

Star track

Get starry eyed at
Brooklyn Bridge
Park. The Amateur
Astronomers Associ-
ation of New York
will be at the Pier 1
promenade when the
sun goes down to
help you make sense
of all those twinkling
lights in the sky.
Bring your own tele-
scope, or use one of
their giant ones.

Dusk at Brooklyn
Bridge Park, Pier 1
promenade (Near
Furman and Old Fulton
streets, www.brooklyn-
bridgepark.org). Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JULY 25

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, PANAMA: \$8–10. 10:30 pm. Baby's All Right [146 Broadway between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599–5800], babysallright.com.

MUSIC, THE FILTHY SIX: Free with RSVP. 11:45 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529–6696], bk.knittingfactory.com.

MUSIC, "FREE FRIDAYS" MIDNIGHT SHOW: Ever-changing local lineup and drink specials from 11 pm to close. Free. 11:59 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529–6696], bk.knittingfactory.com.

MUSIC, GALACTIC WITH MAGGIE KOERNER, TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT: \$20. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklyn-bowl.com.

MUSIC, MIDNIGHT MAGIC, KING HOLIDAY, KEITH SWEATY: \$12–\$15. 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Stree in Williamsburg, (718) 302–1180], www.cameony.net.

MUSIC, KATY PERRY: \$37.70–\$179. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618–6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, THE FOUR OCLOCK FLOWERS, MAMIE MINCH AND TAMAR KORN: Record release. \$10. 9 pm. Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395–3214], www.jalopy.biz.

MUSIC, RANDY'S EXOTIC ANIMALS, FOLDING LEGS, BLUE & GOLD: \$12 (\$10 advance). 9 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues]. www.roughtradenyc.com.

MUSIC, THE HADEN TRIPLETS, ALL BOY/ALL GIRL: \$15. 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

MUSIC, DESTINATION MOON: People's Champs, Three-o Huxtable (The Jerseyband Saxophones), Underground River, Jack and Eliza, DJ Casey Skodne. \$8–\$15. 10 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

OTHER

ART, "ANATOMY OF A POWERHOUSE: Electrifying the El": Archival photo exhibition showing construction and early operation of the 74th Street Powerhouse. \$7 (\$5 for children 2–17 and seniors, free for members and children under 2). 10 am–4 pm. New York Transit Museum [Boerum Place at Schermerhorn Street in Downtown, (718) 694–1600], www.mta.info/mta/museum.

ART, "LEE FRIEDLANDER: The

Animal planet: Brooklyn indie rockers Animal Years plays Brooklyn Bowl on July 31.

Printed Picture": Fifty years of photographs through 40 publications, ephemera, and selected epigraphs. Free. 10 am–5 pm. Pratt Library [200 Willoughby Ave. at Steuben Street in Clinton Hill].

ART, "CHICAGO IN L.A.: Judy Chicago's Early Work 1963–74": The first survey on the East Coast of the artist's early career. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, "AI WEIWEI: According to What?": The first North American survey of the work of the provocative Chinese conceptual artist, sculptor, photographer, filmmaker, and activist. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

ART, "SUBMERGED MOTHERLANDS": Swoon creates a site-specific installation in the museum's rotunda gallery. \$12 (suggested). 11 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

THIRD AVENUE SUMMER STROLL: Bay Ridge closes portions of Third Avenue to traffic and sets up a pedestrian plaza with food and drinks from local restaurants, entertainment from local cultural groups, and a scavenger hunt with prizes from area shops. Free. 6 pm. Third Avenue between 69th and 80th streets in Bay Ridge, www.summerstrolln3rd.com.

FILM, "AMANDLA! A REVOLUTION

SAT, JULY 26

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, DJ JACK DUTONE (BROOKLYN SOUL CLUB/AUTOMATIC REACTION): \$20. 12:30 am. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, "HOLLER AND SLACKJAW": Free. 2–5 pm. Waterfront Museum Barge [290 Conover St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 624–4719], www.waterfrontmuseum.org.

MUSIC, BRAID, A GREAT BIG PILE OF LEAVES, MARIETTA: \$20. 8 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486–5400], www.musichallof-williamsburg.com.

MUSIC, GALACTIC WITH MAGGIE KOERNER, THE FILTHY SIX: \$20. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, SWINGADELIC: Vocalist Gina Vos brings the best of the little big band with selections of the American Song Book including Duke Ellington and Frank Sinatra. Free. 8 pm. Kingsborough Community College Bandshell [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhat-

tan Beach, (718) 368–5596], www.onstageatkingsborough.org.

MUSIC, DEAD FINGERS, STEPHEN BARTOLOMEI, LOUIS: \$10. 9 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, HEAT: Free. 2 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg]. www.roughtradenyc.com.

MUSIC, DRENCE, WAX WITCHES, THE TEEN AGE: \$12 (\$10 advance). 9 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg]. www.roughtradenyc.com.

MUSIC, HOLTE, M.SHANGHAI STRING BAND: \$12. 9 pm. Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395–3214], www.jalopy.biz.

MUSIC, ROOTS FAMILY REUNION: Celebrating of the music and art that has been birthed out of the community of Roots Cafe. \$8–\$10. 6:30 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

OTHER

THE AMAZING BROOKLYN SCAVENGER HUNT: Participants solve puzzling clues and tackle obstacles in a race across Coney Island. \$20. 12:30 pm. Coney Island Boardwalk [In front of the Brooklyn Aquarium in Coney Island, (718) 344–8962], www.pogoevents.com.

ART, "COLOR AND OUT OF ORDER": Opening reception for more than 900 works art at the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition's two summer shows, along with cocktails and jazz music. Free. 2–6. Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition [499 Van Brunt St., near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 596–2506], www.bwac.org.

CONEY ISLAND TALENT SHOW: Free. 4–8 pm. Coney Island Boardwalk [W. 10th Street at West 12th Street].

SUN, JULY 27

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, 1980S IN HONG KONG, NICK LLOBET, WRESTLING MOVES: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599–1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, MS. LAUREN HILL: \$75. 9 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in

See 9 DAYS on page 10

CNG

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Enchanted afternoon

PotterCon is a Harry Potter party for grown-ups

By Noah Hurowitz
The Brooklyn Paper

Call it “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Beer.” A party for Harry Potter-loving muggles is coming to the Bell House in Gowanus on Aug. 2. And unlike the books, this event is strictly for adults.

“There is going to be a little more debauchery,” said PotterCon organizer Margaret Kaminski.

The free event promises drinking and other activities restricted from the original target demographic of the books, along with trivia, a sorting ceremony, and an Instagram-based costume contest.

Kaminski started PotterCon last year as a small party with about 10 of her friends at Freddy’s Bar in Park Slope. Her pals indulged her Harry Potter obsession, she said, telling her the party could stand in as her birthday party that year. But when other acquaintances started griping that they hadn’t been invited, she realized the event had broader appeal.

“So many people who hadn’t known about it saw pictures and asked why they weren’t invited, so we said next year we’re going to make it way bigger,” she said.

So this year, everyone is welcome — even Slytherins.

“I think Slytherin gets a bad repu-



Watch where you point that: Margaret Kaminski, the organizer of the Harry Potter party PotterCon, wields her magic wand.

tation because every evil wizard ever was from Slytherin,” said Kaminski. “But really, Slytherins are just ambitious and want to achieve greatness. It’s not all evil, racist purebloods.” Kaminski, who is 24, said she sees

the Harry Potter books as the great unifier of her generation — a massive cultural force that she and everyone her age grew up with. “It’s a defining moment of my generations and it’s a moment that

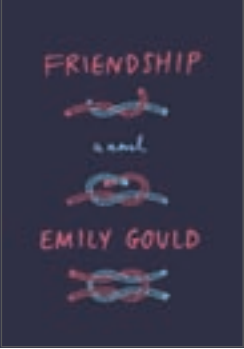
lasted a decade,” she said. PotterCon at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third Avenues, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhousesny.com]. Aug. 2 at 2 p.m. Free.

Highly recommended reading

Brooklyn’s booksellers offer their top picks of new lit

Word’s pick
“Friendship” by Emily Gould: This book made me laugh and, while I am not much of a crier, made me sad — which are the two things everyone always wants to hear about a book, right? Gould approaches the titular topic with wit and insight; I was snorting over G-chats and snarking with the main characters, and then shaking my head and yelling at them as they made some of the terrible decisions we are so prone to in our 20s. If you’ve ever fallen in love with, and then out of love with, a friend, you have to pick this one up.

— Jenn Northington, Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096,



www.wordbrooklyn.com].

BookMark’s pick
“All Fall Down” by Jennifer Weiner: The newest release from the queen of contemporary fiction, Jennifer Weiner, takes us through the dirty, unspoken world of ad-



diction. Allison Weiss has it all — an adoring husband, a high-paying job, and a beautiful daughter. But her husband is becoming distant, her daughter is acting out, and her father is showing early signs of Alzheimer’s. Pills help her get through the day. But as the



habit becomes more expensive and hard to hide, Allison finds it is a struggle to find her way again. With sparkling clarity and tender prose, this tale of redemption is Weiner’s most triumphant story yet.

— Bina Valenzano, co-owner, The BookMark

Shoppe [8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].

Greenlight’s pick
“Land of Love and Drowning” by Tipanie Yanique: This novel quickly became a staff favorite when advanced galley copies arrived in the store in spring. It is a sweeping, hazy, sexy, and dreamlike (fictional) history of the U.S. Virgin Islands. Read in the sun, read it in the rain, just read it.

— Emily Russo Murtagh, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].

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Slice of life: Choire Sicha eats pizza like a real New Yorker now.

New New York stories

Performers share tales of making it in the big city

By **Noah Hurowitz**
The Brooklyn Paper

They wanted to be a part of it — New York, New York! A crew of writers, comedians, and performers will convene in Park Slope on July 30 to describe their own bumpy roads toward understanding life in New York City. “How I Learned to Live in New York,” is part of the “How

I Learned” storytelling series at Union Hall, in which performers regale audiences with stories of learning about a given theme. For one of this month’s storytellers, the advice for new and wanna-be New Yorkers is simple. “Follow your own f--- -- path,” said Choire Sicha (pronounced “Corey”), a co-founder of website the Awl. “Everyone thinks they want

CULTURE

“How I Learned to Live in New York” at Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallnyc.com]. July 30 at 8 pm. \$6 in advance, \$10 day of show.

to work at the New Yorker, but that isn’t the path for everyone.” Sicha, who now lives on

the border of Carroll Gardens and Gowanus, moved to New York from San Francisco in the early 1990s without much of a plan — which he believes was a good way to do it. New York is a city for young people, he said, and while rising rents have made it tougher to follow your dreams without swiftly going broke, it is still best to take on New York in your early 20s.

“This is not a city for middle-aged people,” said Sicha, now hovering somewhere around 43 (he claimed he has lied about his age for so long that he forgets exactly how old he is). “Living here is like marrying for money. For five years the money thing is great, but after like, 10 years, you realize you’re too old to be in a transactional relationship with this horrible, ugly person.” Other performers speak-

ing alongside Sicha at the event will include “Saturday Night Live” comedian Sasheer Zamata, author and humor blogger Bob Powers, and James Bewley, the creator of the popular “Dale Radio” podcast. The “How I Learned” series has been running since 2009, and has gained popularity as an informal forum for performers to share funny and often poignant stories, according to its creator. “The show developed a this vibe where it was sort of like a soiree that felt casual but festive,” said writer and storyteller Blaise Allysens Kearsley. “I always say it’s a storytelling-reading-comedy show, because I can’t come up with anything else, but it is generally a mix of all of those elements.”

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

OTHER

READING, PAUL ZELINSKY: The award-winning author shares his stories. **Free.** 11 am–1:30 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6 (Joralemon Street and Columbia St. in Brooklyn Heights), www.nycgovparks.org.

FILM, DOUBLE “HERCULES”: Obsolete Cinema presents the 1983 film “Hercules” and then the 1969 film “Hercules in New York.” **Free.** 2:30 pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

COMEDY, COMEDY NIGHT: Hosted by Hannibal Burress. First come, first seated. **Free.** 9 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], bk.knittingfactory.com.

ART, DRINK & DRAW: Weekly figure drawing class; model, crayons, and paper provided, or bring your own materials. **Free** (2-drink minimum). 10:30 pm. Macri Park Bar [462 Union Ave. at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-4999], www.macripark.com.

MON, JULY 28

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, MYSTIK SPIRAL: \$7. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, THAO AND THE GET DOWN STAY DOWN, AVERS: \$20 (\$18 in advance). 9 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg [66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400], www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com.

MUSIC, ALVVAYS: **Free.** 7 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg). www.roughtradenyc.com.

COMEDY, STAND UP COMEDY: **Free.** 9 pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood

Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

COMEDY, NIGHT TRAIN: With guest hosts the Kondabolu Brothers, plus Josh Gondelman, Dwayne Kennedy, Randy Liedtke, and Matt Champagne. \$5–\$8. 8 pm. Littlefield 622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

OTHER

FILM, “THE LEGO MOVIE”: Outdoor screening of the animated flick. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Coney Island Beach (W. 10th Street and the Boardwalk in Coney Island), www.nycgovparks.org.

TUES, JULY 29

PERFORMANCE

COMEDY, “THE FANCY SHOW”: Producers Michael Joyce, Langston Kerman, Lane Pieschel, Simmons McDavid and Jenny Zigrino share the stage with local talent. **Free.** 8 pm. Bar Reis [375 Fifth Ave. between 5th and 6th streets in Park Slope, (718) 974-2412].

COMEDY, “JOSH GONDELMAN AND PEOPLE HE ADMIRES”: With Josh Gondelman, Gary Gulman, Sheng Wang, Aparna Nancherla, Nore Davis, and Greg Johnson: \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, “THE WAY YA LIKE” OPEN MIC: Local bands, musicians, singers, artists, and poets ply their craft on an open stage. Play or just listen. **Free.** 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway, between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-6343], www.myspace.com/goodbyebluemondayinc.

MUSIC, THE SAMPLES, MIKE MONTREY BAND, THE ATTIC ENDS: \$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

MUSIC, NAOMI SHELTON & THE GOSPEL QUEENS: **Free.** 7 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg). www.roughtradenyc.com.

OTHER

MOVIE TRIVIA: Six rounds, including famous movie quotes, not so

famous movie quotes, and Nicolas Cage quotes. **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

WED, JULY 30

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL — VAREKAI: \$50.95–\$174.40. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, ORGONE, IKEBE SHAKEDOWN: \$12–\$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

COMEDY, THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW: **Free.** 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 North N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Stree in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1180], www.cameony.net.

OTHER

TALK, BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK: Learn about the history, ecology, and design of Brooklyn Bridge Park from scholars and community members; see website for schedule. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 1 (Enter at Old Fulton St. near Furman Street in Dumbo), www.brooklynbridgepark.org.

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT BINGO: Win free drinks and frozen bananas while watching episodes of cult comedy “Arrested Development.” **Free.** 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

THURS, JULY 31

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, BUTLER, BERNSTEIN AND THE HOT 9: **Free.** 12 pm. MetroTech Commons at MetroTech Center (Metrotech Center between Lawrence and Bridge streets), www.bam.org/metrotech.

MUSIC, AVAN LAVA, UPROOT ANDY, COOKIES: \$15. 8:30 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg). www.roughtradenyc.com.

MUSIC, CYNTHIA HOPKINS, RABBIT RABBIT, MYRTLE J

AND JANE B OF FANTASY GRANDMA: \$6. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, BRONZE RADIO RETURN, ANIMAL YEARS: \$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

COMEDY, “CHOICE CUTS”: Comedy charity show. \$10. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues

in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

COMEDY, FREESTANDING STANDUP: Weekly comedy series with local talent and lots of hilarity. **Free.** 8 pm. Goodbye Blue Monday [1087 Broadway, between Lawton and Dodworth streets in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 453-6343], www.myspace.com/goodbyebluemondayinc.

DANCE, DANCE THEATER OF HARLEM: Program includes Donald Byrd’s “Contested Space,” Robert Garland’s “Return” and a restaging of



Clowning around: The annual Coney Island Talent Show returns to the Boardwalk July 26.

Frederic Franklin’s “Pas de Dix.” **Free.** 7:30 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell [Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-8900], www.bricarts-media.org/cb.

THEATER, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL — VAREKAI: \$50.95–\$174.40. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

DANCE, “THREAD”: Multimediamodern dance company Bodyart presents a new work. \$20 (\$18 in advance). 8 pm. Irondale Ensemble Project (85 S. Oxford St. between Cumberland Street and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Green), www.irondale.org.

OTHER

FILM, “BEETLEJUICE”: Outdoor screening of the darkly funny film by Tim Burton with Winona Rider. **Free.** 6 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park Harbor View Lawn (Furman Street and Middagh Street in Brooklyn Heights), www.nycgovparks.org.

READING, “YOU’RE NOT MUCH USE TO ANYONE” BOOK LAUNCH: With author David Shapiro. **Free.** 7–9 pm. PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhouse-arena.com.

READING, “HOW TO BUILD A FIRE”: Prominent community members share true tales in this monthly series curated by poet Terence Degnan. **Free.** 7:30–10 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in South Slope, (646) 279-3969], open-source-gallery.org.

FRI, AUG. 1

PERFORMANCE

THEATER, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: Varekai: \$50.95–\$174.40. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, THE BOX TIGER, MOUNT SHARP, CHAOS CHAOS, FLYING PACE: \$10 (\$8 in advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, MUCCA PAZZA, M.A.K.U. SOUNDSYSTEM: \$12. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe

Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

COMEDY, THE KINGS OF KARAOKE: **Free.** Midnight. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

MUSIC, NEON INDIAN, THE GREAT VOID, TASSY: \$15. 11:59 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Stree in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1180], www.cameony.net.

MUSIC, U.S. ROYALTY, GOLDEN YOUTH: \$12. 9 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg). www.roughtradenyc.com.

MUSIC, MIKAELA DAVIS, JULIA EASTERLIN, KATE DAVIS: \$10. 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 North N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Stree in Williamsburg, (718) 302-1180], www.cameony.net.

OTHER

FILM, “SPY KIDS 3D GAME OVER”: Outdoors screening. **Free.** 8–10 pm. Owl’s Head Park (67th Street and Colonial Road in Bay Ridge), www.nycgovparks.org.

SAT, AUG. 2

PERFORMANCE

ART, TARGET FIRST SATURDAY: Celebration of Brooklyn’s Caribbean communities. **Free.** 5–8:45 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

THEATER, CIRQUE DU SOLEIL — VAREKAI: \$50.95–\$174.40. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

“PARTY LIKE IT’S 1999”: The “Young Guns of August Edition,” celebrating when “Young Guns II” brought Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Christian Slater back to the big screen as gunfighters. **Free.** 10 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-houseny.com.

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Clones comfy with Conforto

Cyclones 8 Willamsport 4
July 19 at MCU Park

Octavio Acosta gave up just one unearned run on four hits in eight innings, and slugger Mike Conforto got his first professional hit as the Cyclones broke an eight-game losing streak. The game remained scoreless until the sixth, when a single knocked in Robinson Torres, who had reached on an error, stole second, and got to third on a wild pitch from Acosta (3–1, 1.46 earned-run average).

Making his professional debut, the first-round pick Conforto (one-for-four), who batted fourth and was the designated hitter, helped the Clones answer back in the bottom of the frame when he opened the inning with a single to right field.

He and Michael Katz later scored on a single by Michael Bernal before Adrién Abreu hit a three-run bomb to left to put the game away.

The Ride

Cyclones 6 Willamsport 0
July 20 at MCU Park

Corey Oswalt threw seven innings of shut-out ball to lead the Cyclones.

Third baseman Jhoan Urena, batting in front of just-signed slugger Mike Conforto, led the attack for the Clones, going two-for-five with a double and two runs batted in. Conforto, who made his first start in left field, added two hits.

The Clones put the game away early with five runs over the first two innings, and got a stellar start from Oswalt (3–1, 2.48 earned-run average) who manager Tom Gamboa says throws great as long as he keeps his focus.

Scarlyn Reyes threw two innings of shut-out ball to earn his first save of the season.



Cyclones slugger Mike Conforto helped end a losing streak.

Cyclones 5 Willamsport 2
July 21 at MCU Park

Marcos Molina struck out eight in seven innings of two-run ball and Micheal Katz went four-for-four and drove in two runs as the Cyclones cruised to a third-straight victory.

Molina gave up two runs on three hits in the first, but settled down and threw six more innings of no-run ball.

Michael Conforto continued to have impact, doubling and scoring in the third.

In the fifth, Conforto singled home Adrién Abreu, who had singled and moved to second on a base-knock by Jhoan Urena. Katz then

Wins fan Brooke's Clones love

When a team is going bad, it seems like everything that can go wrong will. That's exactly what was happening when the Cyclones slid into an eight-game losing streak that started on July 10, and put the team below the .500 mark for the first time this season. Watching a team that is struggling so badly is no fun, not only for the fans, but for the reporters who cover the games as well.

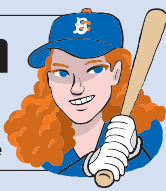
You see, as the season goes on, I've gotten attached to the Cyclones and I want to see the players succeed and the team do well.

But when the Clones' bats are asleep at the plate, and when their normally stellar pitching can't save the team, it is hard to be optimistic.

All of that seems to have changed with the addition of the Mets' first-round draft pick Michael Conforto, who adds depth to the lineup with his bat. Cyclones hitters are finally

Brooke Lynn At Bat

By Brooke Lynn Cortese



putting the bat on the ball and making good decisions while running the bases—and scoring runs in bunches—things they have not been doing in a long time. The day Conforto was added to the roster, things turned around. The Cyclones had 12 hits including a three-run home run from current leadoff man Adrién Abreu, his first of the season. Conforto, meanwhile, went one-for-four with a run scored. His professional debut wound up being a 6–0 win over the Williamsport Crosscutters.

And teammates and management say Conforto brings more to the team than hits.

“Sometimes number-one picks

don't fit in, but his personality is so affable and pleasant—he mingled well with everyone,” said manager Tom Gamboa.


And his presence at the plate is earning raves, particularly when it comes to pitch selection.

“We have guys chase balls in the dirt, swinging at balls over their head,” Gamboa said. “Now they are getting a chance to see a reason why a guy was drafted number one. He doesn't swing at bad pitches and he takes the ‘pitcher's strikes’ that are harder to hit. So there is more of a chance that the pitcher will eventually make a mistake.”

To recap: the kid can hit, and he is a solid outfielder and a good person. I'm excited to see what other qualities the 21-year-old will reveal in the coming months.

It is quite possible the addition of Conforto was exactly what the Cyclones needed to turn the season around. And that means more fun for the fans and, kinda selfishly, me.

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Mid-East pain hits home

When my daughters were younger, I told them if we ever got separated and they needed help, ask a grown up with a child, believing that another parent would both know what to do and would respond to a child's plea for help. My faith in other parents has been renewed by the actions of two mothers and fathers far away and caught up in an unimaginable horror. Sixteen-year-old Naftali Fraenkel was one of three Israeli teenagers kidnapped and murdered by two Palestinians who officials believed were linked to terrorists. The day after he was buried, Muhammad Abu Khdeir, a 16-year-old Palestinian boy, was abducted and killed in retaliation by extremist Israeli Jews. In the midst of their grief and pain, the parents of both these boys refused to

call for revenge and more bloodshed. Rather than shouting to inflict harm on other children and families, these mothers and fathers spoke to the shared experience of parents everywhere, our fears, dreams, and hopes for the safety and blessings of our children. Hussein Abu Khdeir, Muhammad's father said, "Whether Jew or Arab, who can accept the kidnapping and killing of his son or daughter? I call on both sides to stop the bloodshed." The Fraenkels' words were, "No mother or father should ever have to go through what we are going through, and we share the pain of Mohammed's parents ... and we hope that calm will return to the streets of



The Dad

By Scott Sager

our country." Early in my children's lives, I learned that I had to depend on other parents to care for my girls, on play dates, sleepovers, at parties and trips. I might not always agree with another parent's every decision, but I have an underlying faith that they will do what they think is right to keep my daughters safe. I trusted other parents to understand how important my children were to me because their children must surely be equally important to them. In the midst of a violent, angry, dangerous situation,

the parents of Naftali and Muhammad saw through the rhetoric, the politics, and their differences in religion to the essence of the moment, that each had a precious, beloved child ripped from their lives and their families. Their prayers for peace and an end to the violence went unheard as the situation in Israel and Gaza has deteriorated steadily. More children have died as the rockets, mortars, and gunfire continue. The issues involved seem enormous and insurmountable, but through a parent's eyes the impact of events are crystal clear, as tiny and precious as a child's hand. Even in Brooklyn, a father can understand the fear and pain of families far away and their desperate calls for the safety of their children. I have faith it is the same thing all parents pray for every day.

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DOGS...

Continued from page 1 bandana-ensemble. "Everybody loves her because she's just like, a big cartoon character," said Rob Pecha, Lola's proud owner. "We already knew she was cute, but it was nice to get the same reaction from the community." The block parties return

to Fifth Avenue on Friday and Seventh Avenue on Saturday. "Summer Strolls," (Fifth Avenue between 11th and 18th streets in Park Slope). 5–9 pm on July 25. (Seventh Avenue between Ninth and 16th streets in Park Slope). Noon–5 pm on July 26.



(Above) Zara Bellaud sits in the street with her French bulldog Stella at the Summer Strolls street fair on Fifth Avenue in Park Slope on July 18. (Left) Nora Clark, of Park Slope, holds her fox terrier Lonny at the doggy fashion show.

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NOTICE OF SALEIn pursuance and by virtue of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly granted and entered in an action entitled NYCTL 2010-A Trust and The Bank of New York Mellon as Collateral Agent and Custodian for the NYCTL 2010-A Trust v. Ione Smith, et al., bearing Index No. 13863-2012, before IAS Part 84 (Wade, J.) on or about April 7, 2014, I, the Referee, duly appointed in this action for such purpose, will expose for sale and sell at public auction to the highest bidder on August 21, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court located at 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, New York, 11201, the liened premises designated as Block 7984, Lot 23, in the City of New York, County of Kings and Borough of Brooklyn, State of New York and known as 651 East 79th Street, Brooklyn, New York, directed in and by said judgment to be sold, and more particularly described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the Northeastly side of East 79th Street, distant 324 feet 4 inches Northwestly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Northeastly side of East 79th Street and the Northwestly side of Glenwood Road; RUNNING THENCE Northeastly parallel with Glenwood Road and part of the distance through a party wall, 100 feet; THENCE Northwestly parallel with East 79th Street, 20 feet; THENCE Southwestly parallel with Glenwood Road and part of the distance through a party wall, 100 feet to the Northeastly side of East 79th Street; THENCE Southeastly along the Northeastly side of East 79th Street, 20 feet to a point or place of BEGINNING. The approximate amount of the judgment is \$9,833.98 plus interest and other charges, and the property is being sold subject to the terms and conditions stated in the judgment, any prior encumbrances and the terms of sale which shall be available at the time of sale.

Dated: July 18, 2014
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Leticia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

Toll numbers may be a direct line to trouble. Classified ads are intended to help people by facilitating communication and advertising available services; however, some of the hotlines & service numbers in classifieds actually hurt the people who rely on them by cheating them of their hard-earned dollars. "Most newspapers print a disclaimer in their classified ad section to warn readers about numbers that are a direct line to trouble. Any number starting with 900, 540, 595 or 871 charges a fee beyond a local call. In some instances, ads initially advertise calls to a local number, but then direct callers to a second number starting with one of the paid exchanges. "Consumers must also question the legitimacy of vague classifieds because they too could be a scam. Before responding to an ad, consumers should verify the source of all information & always be wary about sending money or signing a contract with an unknown party."

Office of the Public Advocate

JOB INFORMATION

AIRLINE CAREERS begin here Get FAA approved Aviation Maintenance Technician training. Financial aid for qualified students - Housing available. Job placement assistance. Call AIM 866-296-7093

Do You Need More Business?

We Can Help! Call Today 718-260-2588

Our Customers GET THEIR MONEY'S WORTH

To Place Your Ad Call or Fax Tel: 718 260.2588 Fax: 718 260.2549



Weekday Kids Tickets Just \$15!

Use code **CNG** at **Ticketmaster.com**

Additional fees may apply. Restrictions and exclusions may apply. No double discounts. Subject to availability.
Excluded premium seats. Valid on select performances only.

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