

# WILLIAMSBURGLAR

## Pol wants to rename OUR bridge for Manhattan jazz great

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

Call it a bridge naming too far.

A Brooklyn councilman wants to christen the Williamsburg Bridge for Manhattanite and jazz great Sonny Rollins, but said he isn't betraying Kings County by suggesting the span share its name with an outsider because the crossing is for residents of both boroughs.

"The Williamsburg Bridge belongs to neither Manhattan nor Brooklyn, it belongs to everyone," said Councilman Steve Levin (D-Williamsburg). "I'm a jazz fan and a lover of music in general. I'm a lover of the arts and in this instance, I think I'm willing to cross over the bridge."

The pol picked up the cause after reading a New Yorker article about another Manhattan resident who started a campaign to name the span after the saxophonist last year, he said. Rollins, 87, practiced on the crossing's pedestrian path every day between 1959 and 1961 when he lived nearby.

Many of the city's bridges are christened after local political figures and the councilman wants to celebrate some of its artists for a change, he said.

"We have so many landmarks in our city named after politicians and I thought why not name a landmark after somebody who has contributed to our cultural identity here in New York?" he said, citing the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge, which



File photo by Stefano Giovannini



Associated Press / Junji Kurohawa

Councilman Steve Levin wants to name the Williamsburg Bridge for jazz legend Sonny Rollins (left), a Manhattanite who practiced on its pedestrian path in the 1950s and '60s.

was named after the former mayor, and the Hugh L. Carey Battery Tunnel, which honors the former governor.

A Queens pol opposed renaming the former span after Koch when city officials announced the idea in 2011, arguing it would be more appropriate to name something emblematic of the entire city after the now-deceased politico instead of the outer borough's name-sake crossing.

Similarly, Levin contended that Rollins' songs are symbolic of music from across New York City, but claimed that co-naming the span for the saxophonist won't detract from the Brooklyn neighborhood at one end of it.

"We're not trying to take anything away from Williamsburg," he said. "I

think it would be a good way of representing New York City traditions and jazz artists in general."

A bill proposing the designation is currently being drafted and will be introduced in Council soon, according to the pol. If approved, the span would officially become the Sonny Rollins Williamsburg Bridge, although, as with other crossings, it's likely most people will continue to refer to it by its shorter, original name.

Levin, who said he is a big Rollins fan, has never seen him perform live.

But he said he hopes there will soon be an occasion for the hornblower to play, perhaps on the same path where he practiced more than a half-century ago.

"That would be great," he said.



Associated Press / Mike Groll

Emerald ash borers — the larvae of which kill ash trees by burrowing into their bark — have been found in Prospect Park.

## Pain in the ash!

### Arborcidal insects found in P'Park

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

It's a Prospect Park plague.

An invasive species of tree-slaying beetle never-before-found in the city is infesting Brooklyn's Backyard, Department of Parks and Recreation officials announced on Oct. 27.

The emerald ash borer, a small, non-native insect, was first detected in New York state in 2009, according to the agency, and park tree-keepers recently discovered the bugs in Brooklyn while tending the meadow's tens of thousands of green things, its head landscaper said.

"The infestation was detected thanks to vigilant monitoring of the tree population by a year-round crew committed to the protection and preservation of the park's 30,000 trees," said John Jordan, director of land-



## Wild Brooklyn

scape management for the Prospect Park Alliance, which maintains the lawn in conjunction with the city.

See **INSECTS** on page 6



File photo

This Carroll Gardens brownstone was bought by Paul Manafort with cash, then mortgaged to the hilt, according to the Feds.

# MANAFORT KNOX!

## Feds: Ex-Trump staffer used boro home as cash cow for corruption

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

President Trump's former campaign chairman allegedly used his Carroll Gardens brownstone to launder money, evade taxes on income he earned as a consultant for Ukrainian officials, and as collateral for illegal loans, according to an indictment released on Monday by the special counsel investigating collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.

Paul Manafort bought his home on Union Street between Smith and Hoyt streets for \$3 million in cash in 2012, using money that was not reported to the federal government, which he withdrew from a Cyprus-based company that he controlled, according to the indictment.

He then took out a \$5-million loan on the residence in 2016, which he told lenders would be used to complete its conversion from a multi-dwelling build-

ing into a single-family home. But instead Manafort used the funds to make a down payment on a California property and pay off the mortgage on another, violating the loan agreement's terms, the indictment alleged.

"[It] will allow me to pay back the [another Manafort apartment] mortgage in full..." Manafort wrote to his tax preparer about the loan before it was made, the indictment said.

The former Trump-campaign head allegedly accelerated work on the property in the past month to make it appear as if he was using the borrowed money for its intended purpose, according to a Daily Beast report.

The brownstone first caught locals' attention after the publisher of neighborhood blog Pardon Me For Asking revealed its owner in February, following an investigation into the property's records that was spurred by a tip from a nearby resident.



Associated Press / Matt Rourke

Paul Manafort ran President Trump's election campaign for a portion of 2016.

Locals claimed it was empty and being renovated for as many as four years, the New York Post later reported, prompting Manafort to tell the paper that he hired a new architect and expected to finish the work by the end of the year.

In March, someone plastered a sign with a Russian flag and Cyrillic-inspired characters declaring "Paul Manafort lives here" on a wall in front of the house, and when the Brooklyn Paper paid a visit, a woman who claimed to be the architect was sitting on the front steps and threatened to call the police when this reporter began asking questions while standing on a public sidewalk.

The Carroll Gardens home is one of several the Feds allege Manafort used to funnel unreported money into the country and deceive the United States government.

If he is convicted, the brownstone will be seized.

# Sahadi's savory spin-off

## Beloved grocer to open sister outpost in borough next year

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

Who's ready for seconds?

Brooklyn Heights grocery store Sahadi's will open a second location next year, its co-owner announced last week, and locals are thrilled that their beloved bulk-goods emporium will serve even more of the borough.

"I think we all love Sahadi's so having more of it is a terrific thing," said Peter Bray, president of the Brooklyn Heights Association.

The new outpost of the Atlantic Avenue grocer known for its bins full of Middle Eastern delicacies, including nuts, dried figs, spices, and roasted coffee, will offer much of the same selection of goods, and will also boast an open kitchen where patrons can watch food being made, co-owner Christine Whelan revealed at a Crain's family-business conference on Oct. 25.

Whelan said she hopes the second



File photo by Stefano Giovannini

Charlie Sahadi ran the Atlantic Avenue store until retiring last year.

store's concept and layout will help it compete with bigger online retailers by attracting younger shoppers who seek experiences when they browse a store's aisles, Crain's reported.

The co-owner didn't give an exact location for the new space because she is still negotiating with the property's owner, but said it will be somewhere between the original storefront and the business's Sunset Park warehouse.

Bray — who said he shops at Sahadi's once a month — had some suggestions for those Brooklynites who will be blessed with its second coming, recommending the grocer's bins of spices, mango chutney, feta cheese, and halvah — a crumbly confection made out of sesame paste — which he said he can't get enough of.

"It's addictive," Bray said. "You love it or you don't, but if you love it, you're in trouble."

Whelan's grandfather, Wade Sa-

hadi, founded the store in 1948. Her father Charlie, who retired last year, and uncle Bob, who will retire in January, subsequently took it over, and oversaw the original location's expansion before handing day-to-day operations over to Whelan and her brother, Ron, in 2016.

It became a neighborhood institution during its almost 70 years in business, most recently winning the coveted James Beard America's Classics award in January.

Another Brooklyn Heights resident also praised the store for its selection, admitting it's a great place to pig out and cheering its expansion.

"I go when I feel like having great food I shouldn't be eating," said Andrew Porter. "For people deeper into Brooklyn it will be a good deal."

Whelan did not respond to requests for comment.



Photo by Caleb Caldwell

## Magical day in the park!

From left, Adrienne, Poppy, and Jesse Mitchell donned unicorn costumes at the Fort Greene Park Halloween festival on Oct. 28. For more on the fun-filled celebration, see page 4.





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*Letitia James*



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Kevin Bacon fought to allow dancing in the movie “Footloose”...

# Everybody cut footloose!

## Council votes to scrap archaic law banning dancing in bars

**By Lauren Gill**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

Let’s dance! Brooklynites are boogieing across the borough following Council’s Tuesday vote to repeal an archaic law that prohibited dancing in establishments without a special license. And opponents of the Prohibition-era statute said it’s about time the legislation—which many alleged is discriminatory—is abolished, so that they and other beat-lovers can get down in peace.

“The authoritarian and racist cabaret law has terrorized New York City

culture for almost a century. Today, that comes to an end,” said representatives for Dance Liberation Network, an activist group that led the repeal effort. “See you on the dance floor.”

Councilman Rafael Espinal (D-Bushwick) introduced a bill to scrap the 1926 law in June, arguing officials put it in place to shut down black jazz clubs of that era and that the statute has been used as a way to discriminate minorities ever since.

Opponents also charged the legislation provided authorities with a way

to unfairly target small businesses by conducting surprise raids, which resulted in fines that bled out the establishments’ finances.

Now that Council voted to abolish the law, Espinal’s bill will go before Mayor DeBlasio, who upon signing it will do away with the legislation for good.

Hizzoner voiced his support for repealing the statute in September, on the conditions that nightlife businesses install surveillance cameras and ensure that security personnel is licensed.

And activists who fought to scrap the legislation cheered it’s imminent abolition, claiming the city’s after-hours industry will grow even more diverse when that the cabaret law is no more.

“This long-overdue repeal decriminalizes a fundamental cultural expression, and puts an end to the absurdity of an effective city ban on social dancing,” said reps for New York City Artists Coalition, another pro-repeal group. “It is a very positive step toward a vibrant, safer and more inclusive cultural nightlife.”



...and, like the members of New York City’s Council, he got it done.

# Library is starting a new chapter

## Pols find funds to move Crown Heights book lender to kids’ museum

**By Colin Mixson**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

It’s a novel combination. The city is forking over \$3.3 million to cover the costs of moving the Brooklyn Public Library’s Brower Park branch in Crown Heights into the Brooklyn Children’s Museum two blocks away, creating a two-for-one cultural hub where kids can check out books and artifacts from the museum’s 30,000-piece collection, according to the city’s chief culture officer.

“The state-of-the-art facility will give youth ... the rare opportunity to not only read about art, culture, and science, but to see it, touch it, hold it, smell it, and experience it in whole new ways,” said Cultural Affairs Commissioner Tom Finkelpearl.



City officials pledged \$3.3 million in capital funding to cover the costs of relocating the Brooklyn Public Library’s Brower Park branch to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum in Crown Heights.

announcing that together they came up with the tax-payer-funded cash required to fund the relocation.

The library, which hosts events and classes for kids and adults, will remain open until the new space is ready sometime in 2019.

It will offer the same programs following its move, in addition to a new suite of around 20,000 titles geared mostly toward youngsters, but more mature patrons will have to make do with an abridged grown-

ups’ section, according to a rep for the book lender.

Brooklyn Children’s Museum, which opened in 1899, was one of the first institutions of its kind to loan patrons items from its collection when it began delivering boxes filled with artifacts to local schools in the early 20th century.

Honchos expanded the lending program to include all museum members in the 1920s, according to a spokesman, who said the borrowing stopped

when the institution moved out of its original building in 1965.

And staff are thrilled to reinstate the one-of-a-kind initiative following its about-50-year hiatus, according to the institution’s chief.

“Brooklyn Children’s Museum will resume its tradition of lending items from the collection, making it the only children’s museum in the world to offer this service,” said Stephanie Hill Wilchfort, the museum’s president.

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## Our Perspective

# No Limit to Amazon’s Greed

By Stuart Appelbaum, President  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, UFCW

In September, Amazon announced it was looking for a city in North America to build its new headquarters in North America, and announced it was soliciting proposals from cities and regions throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Among Amazon’s announced “decision drivers” are government tax credits and exemptions, grants, fee reductions, and other incentives meant to entice the company. Amazon stated it wants a “business friendly environment and tax structure” for the location of its new HQ.

The announcement set off a frenzied bidding war as municipalities seek to land the new headquarters by doling out taxpayer subsidies and other incentives, despite the fact that Amazon is the largest retailer in the world and one of the planet’s biggest and richest companies.

New Jersey publicly proposed \$7 billion in tax incentives, including \$5 billion in state tax relief over a decade and \$1 billion each in breaks on property taxes and income taxes from Newark. It would be the largest tax incentive ever offered by New Jersey.

The mind-boggling amount of tax incentives offered by New Jersey shows the lengths governments are willing to go to woo Amazon, and how fierce the competition is among the hundreds of cities making proposals. But it’s important to consider that Amazon will make its decision on where to locate its new HQ on factors other than tax incentives, including proximity to airports and highways, and quality of mass transit, local universities and schools, and communications networks. The emphasis on incentives and the bidding war they’ve created is simply a cash grab by Amazon and an attempt to get as much taxpayer money as it can.

We support job creation – it’s a good thing to promote economic growth and more jobs. But according to the Institute for Local Self-

Reliance (ILSR), a nonprofit research and educational organization, Amazon’s growth has eliminated about 150,000 more jobs than it has created due to displacing sales at brick and mortar stores. And many of the jobs Amazon creates are low-wage. Even the company’s treatment of white-collar jobs has come under fire. A 2015 New York Times investigation portrayed a workplace where employees can be reduced to tears because of the pressure and stress to perform. And where workers have been put on so-called “performance improvement plans” – which employees say is code for “in danger of being fired” – if they took time off to visit dying relatives or deal with serious health issues.

Amazon is one of the richest companies on Earth, and the mind-boggling wealth of Amazon’s executives in comparison to the low pay earned by many Amazon workers epitomizes the economic inequality that is hurting America’s families. And still, Amazon has made it clear that it expects massive subsidies in return for setting up shop in our communities.

We think it’s important that any conversation between New York and Amazon should include unions and community groups, and that our public policy protects workers, consumers, and our communities. Our communities deserve better than what Amazon has so far shown it will bring them. And, taxpayers shouldn’t be asked to foot the bill for massive bribes to bring Amazon to town. Amazon doesn’t need it. And given its reported treatment of employees, Amazon doesn’t deserve it.



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# A spirited menagerie

## Halloween fest draws bumble bees, other creatures

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

Talk about a magical day in the park!

Hordes of costumed people and their pups trotted to Fort Greene Park on Oct. 28 to celebrate its 17th-annual Halloween festival, including a family of unicorns, the parents of which chose to sport some sparkly horns after finding a mini mythical getup for their daughter, according to the mother creature.

“I just found a cute costume for my daughter and couldn’t resist dressing her up, and thought she needed unicorn parents as well,” said Boerum Hill resident Adrienne Mitchell, who stopped by the festive affair with her 1-year-old daughter, Poppy, and husband, Jesse.

Attendees jumped in a bouncy castle, picked pumpkins from a patch set up for the occasion, got their faces painted, and took rides on a miniature trolley, but Mitchell, whose unicorn pack hit the event with friends dressed as a family of pandas and as a beekeeper and bees, said she preferred people-watching over standing in the long lines for activities.

“We were there to check out the costumes and show off ours,” she said.

Those who waited patiently for their turn to play included a tiny tot dressed as princess Moana from the like-named Disney movie, who hopped in her first potato-sack race — a challenging, but rewarding, endeavor, according to her mom.

“Her first few hops, she fell down, but it was good. I think she really had fun,” said Manivone Clayton of her 3-year-old daughter, Bua.

And hounds partook in the fest’s great pup-kin costume contest, which featured an appearance by Republican mayoral candidate Nicole Malliotakis and her Chihuahua, Peanut, just days after the miniature



Photo by Caleb Caldwell



Photo by Caleb Caldwell



Photo by Caleb Caldwell

(Top) Myles, baby Phoebe, and Sara Freeland dressed up as a beekeeper and some bumble bees for the occasion. (Above, left) Youngster Milo Byne explored the pumpkin patch at Fort Greene Park’s 17th-annual Halloween festival on Oct. 28. (Above, right) Is that a dog or did the Q train just whiz by?

mutt caused the pol to fracture her foot as she tried to avoid stepping on it, according to a New York Daily News report.

Clayton, who took home a pumpkin af-

ter snapping a few photos of her daughter frolicking in the patch, gave her first visit to the fun-filled festival a rave review, vowing to return next year.

## Cops: Man shot dead on Vinegar Hill street

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

Police are searching for the gunman who shot a man to death outside a public-housing complex in Vinegar Hill on Oct. 25.

The killer shot 27-year-old Melquain Henderson in the chest in front of a Farragut Houses building on York Street between Gold and Bridge streets at around 8:45 pm, according to authorities,

who said the victim was unconscious, unresponsive, and lying on the street when they arrived on the scene.

Paramedics then took Henderson, who lived nearby, to Brooklyn Hospital where he

was pronounced dead, cops said.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call the police Crime Stoppers team at (800) 577-8477.


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Lila Margulies, hugging a youngster at center left, and her group took the titles of top fund-raising team and top fund-raising individual at the fourth-annual Free to Breathe walk and run on Oct. 22.

# Striding toward a cure

## Hundreds walk across B’Bridge for lung-cancer event

By Leah Lu  
for Brooklyn Paper

These do-gooders did not waste their breath! Hundreds of locals strode across the Brooklyn Bridge from Downtown’s Cadman Plaza Park on Oct. 22 as participants of lung-cancer advocacy group Free to Breathe’s annual fund-raising walk, which netted tens of thousands of dollars that will fund more studies on the disease, according to an or-

ganizer, who applauded attendees’ generosity. “We raised nearly \$70,000 for lung-cancer research at this year’s event, which is just the start of the great work we will accomplish together,” said Nancy Sanford, executive director of the Lung Cancer Research Foundation. “I was so inspired by the community of lung-cancer supporters who gathered together that morning.” Among the marchers were

a Cobble Hill mom of two and her team, which collectively pooled together more than \$15,000 — the highest amount raised by any participant or group at the 5k walk and run. The local, a non-smoker who was diagnosed with stage-3 lung cancer in March, hopes the event will also raise awareness for the disease, which she said often does not get as much attention as other types of cancers.

“I signed up for this walk and made public my cancer in a way that I hadn’t before, and raised almost \$16,000,” said Lila Margulies. “People need to learn more about lung cancer because it’s so prevalent and it’s so much more treatable at an early stage. Statistically, more people die of lung cancer annually than breast, colon, and prostate cancer combined, yet most of the funding goes to research for those cancers.”



Margulies, a 43-year-old, non-smoking mom of two who was diagnosed with stage-3 lung cancer in March, spoke at the event.

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# INSECTS...

*Continued from page 1*

The beetle’s larvae burrows deep beneath the bark of ash trees, slowly killing them by cutting off the circulation of water and nutrients.

But the bugs are only a threat to ash trees, which constitute about three percent of all growing in the city, according to a parks department press release.

Officials identified ten trees in Prospect Park that they suspected were affected by the insects, and immediately chopped down and carted off three after confirming they were infested, according to the release, which said workers will remove more this winter.

Local green thumbs should monitor their neighborhood trees for the telltale signs of an emerald ash borer infestation, including the D-shaped exit hole the bugs make in bark as they emerge from trunks, and report any sightings to authorities, said the head of the state’s Department of Environmental Conservation.

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# Their selfless service

Cafe employees donate gratuities to hurricane victims

By Alexandra Simon  
Brooklyn Paper

Don't forget to tip your waiter!

The staff at a Park Slope cafe is donating their tips to aid hurricane-relief efforts in Puerto Rico, and some patrons are so supportive of the initiative, they leave their appetites at home and swing by just to drop money in the collection jar, according to an employee.

"We have people from the neighborhood who just stop by to donate ten dollars," said Brad Canning, a manager at Postmark Cafe on Sixth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues. "Anybody can help, we don't care if they buy coffee. One hundred percent of the tip money is going to Puerto Rico."

The workers spearheaded similar fund-raising efforts for Texans following Hurricane Harvey, Canning said, which inspired them to start a new drive for the island that has strong ties to New York City.

"As New Yorkers, we're connected to Puerto Rico,"



Photo by Erin Lefevre

The staff at Postmark Cafe in Park Slope, including manager Brad Canning, is donating all tips to hurricane-relief efforts in Puerto Rico.

he said. "We are happy to be a part of something positive right now."

Proceeds from the collection will be donated to United for Puerto Rico, a charity the island's first lady started

following the devastation wreaked by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and Visit Rico, a group that aids local farmers affected by the storms, according to Canning.

Staff members raised

around \$2,800 of their \$3,800 end-of-October goal, he said, which they expected to meet because the cafe's owners promised a donation that matches whatever employees collect in tips.



## ON THE RADIO:

# Curtis & Carroll on BPR

By Moses Jefferson  
Brooklyn Paper

New York's state government doesn't work and there are two ways to fix it — vote yes on a Constitutional Convention and change the way things get done, or vote out the bums who refuse to make change happen in Albany.

That's what we learned on the latest edition of Brooklyn Paper Radio when firebrand radio host Curtis Sliwa — who thinks a Constitutional Convention is the only way to clean house in Albany — took on Park Slope Assemblyman Robert Carroll, who claims such an undertaking will be a huge waste of money and time that will be controlled by the very people causing the problems.

"Having a state Constitutional Con-

vention that is going to cost tens of millions of dollars and opens up our entire constitution to the forces that have resisted change for decades is not the best way to go about it," Carroll said.

But Sliwa didn't mince words in his appeal to the voters, claiming that Albany is a cesspool of corruption back-room deal making and the only way to solve the problem is to give the people the ability to clean house.

"We waste money in this state as if we have a printing press," he said. "And you're worried about wasting money for a constitutional convention?"

But Brooklyn Paper Radio host Vince DiMiceli's ears perked up when Carroll pointed out that delegates to the Constitutional Convention will get paid \$80,000 a year, and hoped he could use his sway

with new friend Sliwa — the chairman of the state's Reform Party — to get named to the panel.

"Eighty K a year?" he said. "How do I get in on that action?"

That — and much more — all went down live in our studios on Halloween day. But we can't tell you all about it. You have to take the first step.

Head to the website or iTunes to listen to the show, or subscribe to our podcast on iTunes. Oh, and kindly leave a review.

Brooklyn Paper radio is recorded and podcast live every Tuesday — for your convenience — from our studio in America's Downtown and can be found, as always, on BrooklynPaper.com, on iTunes, and of course, on Stitcher.

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# Gun-toting pair robs man, but cops nab one creep later

**88TH PRECINCT**  
**Fort Greene–Clinton Hill**  
Police arrested one-half of a duo who allegedly held up a man with a gun on Grand Avenue on Oct. 23.  
The victim told police he was walking home from a friend’s house by Putnam Avenue at 11:30 pm when the two suspects crept up from behind and hissed, “Give me your s---.”  
One of the guys pointed a gun at him while the one who was cuffed took his cell phone, wallet, keys, Metro-

Card, money, and pocket knife, then fled, cops said.  
**Moving target**  
Some sneak lifted a woman’s wallet while they were aboard the B52 Bus on Greene Avenue on Oct. 20.  
The lady was standing near the front of the bus at 8:20 pm when she felt the weasel lean up against her before getting off at the next stop by Washington Avenue, cops said. She got off two stops later near Classon Avenue and noticed her wallet containing her debit card, license, and health-insurance cards was

**POLICE**

**BLOTTER**

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

missing, authorities said.  
**Deli slash**  
Cops cuffed a brute who allegedly attacked a man inside a Myrtle Avenue deli on Oct. 27, and are still on the hunt for his partner.  
The victim was leaving a bar by Steuben Street at 4:15

am when the two suspects began harassing him with violent threats, according to police, who said the man feared for his safety and entered a deli to avoid the suspects.  
But they followed him in and began punching him in the face, and one of the suspects took out a sharp object

and cut him from the face to neck before fleeing.  
Cops managed to track down one of the attackers, but are still on the lookout for his companion, according to a report.  
**Senior snatch**  
A filcher stole a female elder’s purse from inside her shoulder bag while aboard a B38 bus on Lafayette Avenue on Oct. 27.  
The 67-year-old victim was riding the bus near Clinton Avenue at 10 am when the creep pretended to fall towards her, cops said. She

braced for his impact, but later realized that was a mistake because when she exited the people-mover, she realized the jerk snatched her purse from within her shoulder bag, police said.  
**Car heist**  
A thief broke into a man’s car and stole \$2,443 of his belongings from inside the ride while it was parked on Lexington Avenue on Oct. 23.  
The victim told cops he left his vehicle near Classon Avenue at 1:50 pm and returned ten minutes later to find his iPad, iPod, brace-

let, wallet, and Nike bag were stolen, authorities said.  
— **Lauren Gill**  
**78TH PRECINCT**  
**Park Slope**  
**Girly thief**  
Cops busted a 17-year-old for allegedly stealing panties, flip flops, and other feminine items from a Flatbush Avenue lingerie store on Oct. 16.  
An employee told police the suspect was caught trying to flee the store near Atlantic Avenue with the stolen girly stuff at 4 pm, and security guards managed to recover an ill-gotten sweater, pants, flip flops, and six pairs of underwear.  
**Pedaling crime**  
A thief stole a man’s Fuji bike he locked up in front of his 10th-Street building on Oct. 7.  
The victim told police he chained his bike to a gate outside his home between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 11 am, and returned two days later find his ride stolen.

**Unholy bandit**  
A nogoodnik stole more than \$1,200 worth of tools and equipment from an unlocked church shed on 14th Avenue on Oct. 27.  
The lout nabbed the items, which included a lawn mower and two snow blowers, between 76th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway at some point between 1 pm and 3:30 pm. Police are reviewing area cameras, which recorded the entire theft, cops said.  
**Shopping spree**  
A lowlife charged \$240 worth of unauthorized purchases to a Fourth Avenue resident’s debit card sometime between Oct. 7 and 28, even though the victim had her card with her the entire time, police said.  
The woman, who lives between 85th and 86th streets, didn’t notice that her account had been charged after she opened it on the 7th until the 28th, according to a report.

**Vanishing act**  
A criminal stole a man’s 2010 Infiniti G37 from 83rd Street some time between Oct. 26 and 27, even though the car owner had his keys the whole time, authorities said.  
The perp stole the ride from its spot between Fourth and Fifth avenues between 11:15 pm on the 26th and 10 am the following day. Police reviewed surveillance cameras in the area but did not find any clues as to who took the car or when it disappeared.  
— **Julianne McShane**

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Cheers: Black Forest on Smith owners Ayana and Tobias Holler toast the opening of their new spot.

# Double Deutsch!

## Beer hall owners open second spot on Smith Street

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

It's the *prost* with the most! The owners of a German beer hall in Fort Greene — Black Forest Brooklyn — have opened a new beer and brat spot in Boerum Hill. The beer hall operators, who both hail from Germany, say that Black Forest on Smith brings a much-needed touch of Deutschland to the nabe.

"We always really liked Smith Street and an opportunity happened with this spot," said Tobias Holler, who owns the eatery with his wife Ayana. "There's not a single German place, and we thought it would be a great fit for the neighborhood."

The restaurant between Warren and Wyckoff streets is very similar to its Fort Greene counterpart, with a menu of wursts and schnitzels, but sets itself apart with a larger selection of draft beers, Holler said. The new spot has 16 taps, two more than the Fort Greene location.

Guests can enjoy their drinks and food while sitting in a cozy bar area near the street, or at communal picnic tables in the back. The eatery also plans to offer private dining in the basement in the future.

The space also comes with a massive L-shaped backyard, but Holler nixed plans to put in a beer garden there after locals rallied against it, worried that patrons would disturb residents living in the apartments

overhead. Holler has not completely ruled out opening an outdoor oasis in the years to come, but said he wants to earn the public's trust by demonstrating that his bar is more of a family-friendly environment than a wild frat party.

"We decided not to pursue it particularly because we want to be good neighbors," he said. "The neighbors didn't really know us, they were apprehensive. But I think once they know what kind of operation we have they'll come around. We'll see what happens."

Black Forest on Smith opened its doors on Oct. 21, and has been slowly expanding its hours and introducing more items to its menu each day. It will host a huge grand

opening party on Dec. 9 that will include free beer from a hand-tapped keg and lots of fun, according to Holler.

"Whenever we do a party, it's always a great party," he said.

A lot of Boerum Hillers have already stopped in to try out the fare and throw back a beer, according to Holler, who can't wait to showcase his homeland to the rest of his neighbors.

"We look forward to becoming a fixture on Smith Street," he said.

*Black Forest on Smith* [181 Smith St. between Warren and Wyckoff streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 522-1806, [www.black-forestbrooklyn.com](http://www.black-forestbrooklyn.com)]. Open Tue-Fri, 5-11 pm; Sat, Sun, 10 am-11 pm. Mon, closed.

# Rehabilitated

## Adult cartoonist is now making children's books

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

He's drawing a younger crowd! An illustrator and author who once drew a filthy adult comic strip now creates fun, family-friendly books for kids, and will share his new work with people of all ages at the 10th annual Brooklyn Children's Book Fair, happening at Brooklyn Museum on Nov. 11. Neil Swaab, who draws books like "Abraham Lincoln: Pro Wrestler" from his studio in Greenpoint, said the hardest part of transitioning towards kid-friendly material is finding the line of what is acceptable for their young, innocent minds.

"What things you can and can't get away with, things you take for granted, like saying 'darn,'" said Swaab, who lives in Queens. "That's not a problem — except sometimes it is a problem. That's been a learning process. I don't want to do anything that's going to be bad for kids. I'm very cognizant of what's going in there."

From 1999 to 2012, Swaab wrote



**Kid friendly:** (Pictured left to right) Max Corrigan offers advice on winning friends and influencing teachers in Neil Swaab's book, "The Secrets to Ruling School: Class Election." The illustrator and author holds up two of his books in his Greenpoint studio.



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

"The adult comics was just one part of my artistic expression, and there was this other untapped thing I wanted to pursue."

Mr. Wiggles has not made an appearance in his children's books, but Swaab keeps them interesting by putting some of his own personal flair into the stories — especially in the series he both writes and draws, "The Secrets to Ruling School (Without Even Trying)," which he will have at the book fair.

"I always try to put my sensibility and my sense of humor in the 'Secrets to Ruling School' series," said Swaab. "There's an anti-hero who wants to stick it to the Man in some way. There's that bit of mischief in there, but filtered to a younger audience."

Swaab also has some drawing activities planned to help kids at the festival get their creative juices flowing, he said.

More than 50 other authors and illustrators will join Swaab at the fair, including Lori Richmond, who will read from her new book "Pax and Blue;" Isabel Roxas, who will give a drawing demonstration using characters in her picture book "Let Me Finish;" and Jon Burgerman, who will present an interactive coloring activity from his new book "Splat!"

*Brooklyn Children's Book Fair at the Brooklyn Museum in the Martha A. and Robert S. Rubin Pavilion* (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Nov. 11, 11:30 am-4 pm. Free.

## CINEMA

# Snort films



It's a feast for the eyes — and the nose! A mind-blowing conglomeration of short films will screen at Nitehawk Cinema during the theater's six-day Nitehawk Shorts Festival — and one event on Nov. 8 will feature scents along with its scenes. "The Eyeslicer" mashes many different films together into a single project, and will enhance its live screening with "Smell-O-Vision." One of the show's creators said that they concocted dozens of smells to accompany the onscreen action.

"Essentially we made our own perfumes custom to an episode we're showing — filling the room with scents," said Dan Schoenbrun, who created the series with Vanessa McDonnell. "So if there's a scene where someone is eating Mexican food, you'll smell Mexican food, and if there's a scene taking place by an ocean, you'll smell salt water."

"The Eyeslicer" is a unique project that will leave first-time viewers thrilled and aghast, he said.

"It's a television series of all of your favorite short films over the years, combined inside an insane variety show puree," said Schoenbrun. "It feels less like you're watching a short film block, and more like you're listening to a mixtape."

He and McDonnell created the spliced-together series to showcase unrecognized works from dozens of different filmmakers, said Schoenbrun.

"It's hard to make weird things in isolation — things that are radical, weird, and counterculture-based, but when you put them together you make more people pay attention. We adapted a lot of filmmakers' dreams into a feature film and they get so much more attention," he said.

The hour-long episode on view at the festival will feature work from about 50 Brooklyn and New York filmmakers, said Schoenbrun, all of them introduced by an animated robot who acts as a master of ceremony.

The bizarre event fits right in with the mission of the Nitehawk Shorts Festival, said the program's director.

"The Eyeslicer" is an innovative project that's attempting to ignite a new avenue for short films. It's weird, it's fun and it includes some of the most exciting artists and filmmakers making work right now," said Caryn Coleman. "The Nitehawk Shorts Festival is about supporting new ideas surrounding short films, so it's a no brainer to include 'The Eyeslicer' in our schedule."

*"The Eyeslicer" at Nitehawk Shorts Festival at Nitehawk Cinemas* [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-8370, [www.nitehawkcinema.com](http://www.nitehawkcinema.com)]. Nov. 8 at 9:15 pm. \$16.

— Alexandra Simon

## MUSIC

# Metal music

He's playing unplugged! A Bushwick rocker who recently arrived from Malaysia will belt out tunes about zombies and machines run amok on Nov. 3 at a Greenpoint concert celebrating the release of his latest album. Singer and songwriter Hameer Zawawi says that his record "Plug Out Your Machines," which came out on Oct. 15, is a steampunk fable about taking back the world from machines and over-polluted landscapes — but anyone who feels beaten down can relate to it.

"Throughout the stories or songs ... the characters of the stories are constantly in a struggle to take lead of their destinies, freeing themselves from the world that is tying them down," said Zawawi.

Zawawi describes himself as an "indie theatrical-folk performer," with each of his songs telling a complete story. After the record was complete, the programmer-turned-musician realized that the songs of struggle also reflected a question in his professional life.

"These songs were all written during a time when I wasn't sure whether music was what I wanted to viably pursue as a career," said Zawawi. "The theme of 'breaking out from conformity' hadn't even occurred to me when I was writing them."

Zawawi grew up in Kuala Lumpur and has lived in the United States for just five months, but he has managed to assemble a three-piece band through some serendipity. Drummer Alex Johnson occupied the other bunk bed at the Bushwick Airbnb room Zawawi first rented, and he met bassist Jude Thomas as an open-mike night.

Zawawi said that he landed in Bushwick because that was the New York neighborhood where he found the cheapest room, but he has since been charmed by the creative nabe and plans to stay.

"It is an amazing melting pot of artists of all kinds of backgrounds, let wild in a habitat that encourages art in its raw form to grow organically at a breathable pace," he said. "I do plan to stick around, and am really looking forward to working with the many creative crawlers of this neighborhood."

*Hameer Zawawi at Greenpoint Gallery, second floor* (390 McGuinness Blvd. between Clay and Dupont streets in Greenpoint, [www.thegreenpointgallery.com](http://www.thegreenpointgallery.com)). Nov. 3 at 9 pm. Free.

— Bill Roundy





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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY  
Nov. 3



**Filthy comics**  
Brooklyn's Nautical Purgatory takes center stage in the latest comic book in the "Tales of the Night Watchman" series, "It Came from the Gowanus Canal ... Again!" The tale of baristas battling sludge monsters launches a few steps from the fetid waters of its setting.  
  
7–10 pm at Gowanus Souvenir Shop (567 Union St. between Nevins Street and Third Avenue in Gowanus, www.gowanus-souvenir.com). Free.

SATURDAY  
Nov. 4

**Surf's up!**  
The surf rock party band High Waisted returns to its home town tonight, playing the final show of its cross-country tour at Rough Trade in Williamsburg. Come out and catch the boisterous band, playing with garage band The Coax, Brooklyn rock four-piece the Hundred Hounds, and punk trio Beechwood.  
  
9 pm at Rough Trade (Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388–4111, www.roughtradenyc.com]. \$12 (\$10 in advance).



SUNDAY  
Nov. 5

**Settle in**  
This afternoon is your best chance to catch the quickly selling out production "The Old Settler," about the tension between two sisters when a handsome young man takes a room in their 1943 Harlem tenement. The show from Brooklyn playwright John Henry Redwood continues through Nov. 19.  
  
3 pm at the Billie Holiday Theatre [1368 Fulton St. between New York and Brooklyn avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant, www.thebillieholiday.org]. \$40 (\$20 students and seniors).

MONDAY  
Nov. 6

**Dead and loving it**  
Celebrate the Day of the Dead with the Mexican Cultural Institute and the Museum of Food and Drink! The party will feature, naturally, plenty of tasty food and drinks, including pan de muerto — the "bread of the dead" — Mexican hot chocolate, and mezcal, along with a community altar, crafts, and a discussion of the lore behind the festival.  
  
6:30 pm at Museum of Food and Drink [62 Bayard St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, (718) 387–2845], www.mofad.org. \$35.



THURSDAY  
Nov. 9



**Come on in!**  
The musical comedy duo Reformed Whores will premiere their new choose-your-own-adventure video series "Journey to Greatness!" at tonight's comedy variety show "Up 'N' Coming," along with stand-up performances from Jim Tews, Katie Hannigan, and Joyelle Nicole Johnson.  
  
9 pm at Cobra Club (6 Wyckoff Ave. between Jefferson and Troutman streets in Bushwick), www.cobraclubbk.com. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, NOV. 3

**MUSIC, BROOKLYN ART SONG SOCIETY:** Featuring soprano Tami Petty, tenor Timothy Fallon, and baritone Paul LaRosa; with a pre-concert lecture by composer Daniel Felsenfeld. \$25. 7 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.  
**THEATER, "MACBETH":** A production from No Name Collective production, staged in a long and cavernous warehouse and featuring an original score by Jeffrey Leiser. \$30 (\$25 students and seniors). 7:30 pm. The Yard (16 Waverly Ave., between Flushing Ave. and Brooklyn Queens Expy. in Navy Yard), www.wearethenoname.com.  
**THEATER, "MARCEL" AND "THE ART OF LAUGHTER":** A double bill of comic one-acts. \$90–\$125 (\$20 students). 7:30 pm. Polonsky Shakespeare Center (262 Ashland Pl., between Fulton St. and Lafayette Ave. in Fort Greene), www.tfna.org.  
**FUND-RAISER, THE BROOKLYN CLASSIC:** The Brooklyn Public Library's annual Fall Benefit and Literary Prize will recognize the "most Brooklyn" fiction and non-fiction book of the year, along with a night of drinks, food, and dancing. \$150–\$1,000. 8 pm. Park Slope Library (431 Sixth Ave. at Ninth Street in Park Slope), apps.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/bkclassic.  
**THEATER, "THE ELEPHANT MAN":** This drama is based on the true story of John Merrick's transition from side show freak to a favorite of London aristocracy. \$25 (\$20 seniors and children). 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352–3101], www.galleryplayers.com.  
**THEATER, "RUINED":** Set in a small mining town in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lynn Nottage's "Ruined" follows a businesswoman trying to stay afloat in a world torn apart by civil war. \$20 (\$18 children and seniors). 8 pm. John Bourne Theater (26 Willow Pl., between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights).  
**MUSIC, THE RURAL ALBERTA ADVANTAGE:** With Yukon Blonde. \$22 (\$20 in advance). 9 pm. Rough Trade



Associated Press / Frank Franklin II

**A smash hit:** The New York Islanders will crash into the Colorado Avalanche during the Nov. 5 game at Barclays Center.

COMING SOON TO  
BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, NOV 3

MUSIC, MASTERS OF CEREMONY: Featuring 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes, Jeezy, and more. \$76–\$156. 8 pm.

SAT, NOV 4

SPORTS, PREMIER BOXING CHAMPIONS: Deontay Wilder v Bermane Stiverne. \$57–\$389. 5:30 pm.

SUN, NOV 5

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V COLORADO AVALANCHE: \$15–\$150. 6 pm.

TUE, NOV 7

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V EDMONTON OILERS: \$17–\$167. 7 pm.

THU, NOV 9

DISNEY ON ICE, DARE TO DREAM: \$12–\$105. 11 am and 7 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights  
(917) 618–6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

http://

Find lots more listings online at  
BrooklynPaper.com/Events

SAT, NOV. 4

**MUSIC, MUSIC IN MOTION:** Barge-music presents a family concert of chamber music on its floating barge. The hour-long concert is followed by a discussion with the artists. Free. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing (1 Water St. at Furman Street in Dumbo), www.bargemusic.org.  
**MUSIC, THE RHAPSODY PLAYERS:** Second annual benefit concert for St. Patrick Academy. \$25. 7:30 pm. St. Patrick Catholic Academy [401 97th St. in Bay Ridge, (718) 833–0124], www.st-patrickschool.org.  
**DANCE, THE ORSANO PROJECT:** Contemporary ballet infused with a natural groove from choreographer Phil Orsano. \$35 (\$50 VIP). 8 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.kumbletheater.org.  
**MUSIC, HIGH WAISTED:** The surf-rock band headlines a lineup that includes Hundred Hounds, Beechwood, and the Coax. \$12 (\$10 in advance). 8 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388–4111], www.roughtradenyc.com.  
**READING, CELEBRATE TWAIN READING:** A reading of Mark Twain's never-before-published "The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine." Free. 11 am. Books are Magic [225 Smith Street in Gowanus, (718) 246–2665], www.booksaremagic.net.  
**FAMILY, "PINOCCHIO":** Puppetworks presents the story of a puppet who becomes a real boy. \$11 (\$10 kids). 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Puppetworks

See 9 DAYS on page 11

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# 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

[338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965–3391], www.puppet-works.org.

**ART, BROOKLYN MUSEUM’S TARGET FIRST SATURDAY:** An evening of performance, scholarship, film, and literature with local tastemakers and artists. **Free.** 6–10 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**COMEDY, TRIGGER PLAY COMEDY SHOW:** With Pranav Behari, Amanda Kay Holstien, Thiago Lima, and Mike Lebovitz. **Free.** 7:30 pm. Pine Box Rock Shop (12 Grattan St. between Bogart Street and Morgan Avenue in Bushwick), www.pine-boxrockshop.com.

**FUND-RAISER, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FUNDRAISER:** The event is a fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus disaster relief fund and features a few local talents including Anna Theresa Treppendi who is a former Miss NY USA beauty pageant queen and Outlaw Wrestling feat Billy Gunn. \$20–\$30. 7:30 pm. St. Bernard’s Parish Gym [East 69th St. and Avenue U in Mill Basin, (917) 202–5152].

**ART, GOODGOOD HAUNTED HOUSE:** An eerie art show from the goodgood artist collective. \$10. 8 pm. Studio 301 NYC (301 Ten Eyck St. between Waterbury Street and Morgan Avenue in Williamsburg), www.studio-301nyc.com.

**NIGHTLIFE, NOIR — A MASQUERADE BALL:** Black Men With Beards invite you to a night of mysterious black excellence with cocktails, cigars, and contests for Best Beard, Best Dressed, and Best Mask for both men and women. All-black formal wear and masks are mandatory. \$60 [\$45 in advance]. 8 pm–2 am. The Tillary Hotel (85 Flatbush Ave. at Tillary Street in Downtown).

## SUN, NOV. 5

**DOWN TO EARTH FARMER’S MARKET:** The annual farmer’s market returns! Browse the wares of local vendors, including seasonal fruits and veggies, specialty foods, prepared foods, beverages, eggs, honey, milk, baked goods, and more. **Free.** 10 am–4 pm. The Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768–3195], theoldstone-house.org.

**MUSIC, EMPYREAN ATLAS AND ENSEMBLE, ET AL.:** Double release show. \$15. 6:30 pm. Baby’s All Right [146 Broadway between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599–5800], www.babysall-right.com.

**MUSIC, THE CLIENTELE:** With Hoops. \$20 [\$16 in advance]. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-houseyny.com.

**FAMILY, “PETRA AND THE WOLF”:** This show uses large-scale puppetry and live music to tell a story inspired by the classic “Peter and the Wolf.” \$12. 2 pm. On Stage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5596], www.onstageatkingsborough.org.

**READING, INSIDE TRAPPIST BEER TRAVELS:** The writers behind the book “Trappist Beer Travels” and the beer blog BitchBeer.org discuss the legendary breweries of Trappist monks, with samples. **Free.** 7 pm. Archestratus Books and Food (160 Huron St. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint), www.archestrat.us.

**COMEDY, LAST CALL COMEDY SHOW:** A dog-friendly comedy show with Daniel Perafan, Brian Grossi, Whitney Chanel Clark, and more. **Free.** 7 pm. Bridge and Tunnel Brewery [15–35 Decatur St. between Wyckoff and Irving avenues in Bushwick, (347) 392–8593].

**NIGHTLIFE, BAD BEHAVIOR:** Queer dance party. **Free.** 10 pm. House of Yes (2 Wyckoff Ave. at Jefferson Street in Bushwick), www.house-ofyes.org.

**THEATER, “MACBETH”:** 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

**THEATER, “MARCEL” AND “THE ART OF LAUGHTER”:** 2 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

**THEATER, “THE ELEPHANT MAN”:** 3 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

## MON, NOV. 6

**TALK, WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE TURNS 100! PART TWO:** Director of Public History Julie Golia leads this discussion with Christine Quinn, the first female Speaker of the NYC Council and former mayoral candidate; and A’Shanti F. Gholar, Political Director for Emerge America. \$5. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street

in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklyn-history.org.

**COMEDY, NIGHT TRAIN WITH WYATT CENAC:** After five years, comedian Wyatt Cenac has his final weekly stand-up show. \$8 [\$5 in advance]. 8 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**COMEDY, POLITICAL SUBVERSITIES:** A musical-sketch comedy show that serves up a spectacular roast of politics and pop-culture. \$15 [\$12 in advance]. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-houseyny.com.

**COMEDY, SIDE PONYTAIL COMEDY:** The Monday night comedy show welcomes Mary Mack, Tim Harmston, Jeremy Hammond, and more. **Free.** 8 pm. Friends and Lovers (641 Classon Ave. between Dean and Pacific streets in Crown Heights), www.fnlnk.com.

## TUES, NOV. 7

**DINING, JUNIOR’S RESTAURANT 67TH ANNIVERSARY CHEESECAKE SPECIAL:** Today only, get a slice of cheesecake with any lunch or dinner entree for only 67 cents. Junior’s Restaurant and Bakery Brooklyn (386 Flatbush Ave. at Dekalb Avenue in Downtown), www.juniorscheesecake.com.

**READING, “BOLLYWOOD KITCHEN”:** Author Sri Rao discusses the foods and films of India. With an Indian dance performance, samosas, and ice cream. \$25. 6:30 pm. Museum of Food and Drink [62 Bayard St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, (718) 387–2845], www.mofad.org.

**TALK, TALES FROM THE PROMISED LAND:** Novelist Lauren Sanders, author of “The Book of Love and Hate,” in conversation with playwright J.T. Rogers. **Free.** 7 pm. BRIC Arts Media House (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683–5621), www.bricartsmedia.org.

**THEATER, “MARCEL” AND “THE ART OF LAUGHTER”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

**NIGHTLIFE, TRIVIA TUESDAY:** Teams (up to 6) and individuals welcome! **Free.** 8 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240–5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

**MUSIC, LYDIA LOVELESS:** Solo show. \$20. 8 pm. Union Pool (484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609–0484], www.union-pool.com.

**MUSIC, SLAMJUNK SOUL AT FREDDY’S:** The weekly soul night welcomes the Jr. Walker Blues Band (8 pm), followed by Soul dee-jays Joey Crispiano and Freddy Deboe (9pm). **Free.** 8 pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

**FUND-RAISER, BROOKLYN RISES FOR PUERTO RICO:** A benefit concert and art auction for the people of Puerto Rico. Featuring members of the original Broadway casts of “In the Heights” and “On Your Feet!” \$12. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.union-hallny.com.

**COMEDY, SMART, FUNNY, AND BLACK:** A comedy game show, hosted by Amanda Seales, and featuring Kid Fury and Bevy Smith. \$15. 10:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebellhouseyny.com.

## WED, NOV. 8

**FILM, “FROM THE ASHES”:** A documentary about the coal industry and its impact. **Free.** 6 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.kumble-theater.org.

**TALK, THE “NASTY WOMAN” STIGMA:** Three expert panelists dig into a history of the mis-characterization of women. \$5 (Free for members). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

**THEATER, “MARCEL” AND “THE ART OF LAUGHTER”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

**MUSIC, LYDIA LOVELESS:** 8 pm. See Tuesday, Nov. 7.

**COMEDY, GOLIATH COMEDY:** Lucie Steiner, David Spector and Amber Rollo host a weekly night of free comedy in the backroom of Cantina Royal. **Free.** 8 pm. Catina Royal [58 N. 7th St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (347) 763–2938], cantinaroyal.com.

**COMEDY, DEVOUR HOUR, WINGS EDITION:** A comedy night featuring free wings, and stand-up from

Melissa Diaz, Ahri Findling, Julie Mitchell, and more. **Free.** 8 pm. Hank’s Saloon [46 Third Ave. at Atlantic Avenue in Boerum Hill, (718) 625–8003], www.exitfive.com/hankssaloon.

**COMEDY, COMEDIANS YOU SHOULD KNOW:** The Chicago-style stand up showcase features Jak Knight, Mary Mack, Tim Harmston, and more. \$5. 9 pm. The Gutter [200 N. 14th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 387–3585], www.thegutterbrooklyn.com.

## THURS, NOV. 9

**FUND-RAISER, OTHER ART FAIR OPENING RECEPTION:** The Other Art Fair is a curated fair of new and emerging artists. Admission to the opening reception benefits Free Arts NYC. \$30. 6 pm. Brooklyn Expo Center (72 Noble St. at Franklin Street in Greenpoint, nyc.theotherartfair.com).

**TALK, “TALKING BROOKLYN WITH MIMI SHERATON”:** Mimi Sheraton, the New York Times’ first female restaurant critic, reflects on her career and Brooklyn roots. \$10 (\$5 for members). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

**TALK, REIMAGINING TRADITION:** A panel discussion moderated by Nina Mehta, exploring ritual, tradition, and social practice. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library’s Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230–2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

**FILM, “195 LEWIS”:** A screening of the first five episodes



Christopher Pasateri

**Strung out:** In the 1937 play “Golden Boy,” opening in Dumbo on Nov. 9, the main character is torn between his skill with the violin and a chance to win a boxing title.

of the online dramedy about black queer women in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Followed by a discussion with the creator and cast members. \$16. 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklyn-museum.org.

**READING, “SIGNS OF HOPE”:** Matthew Chavez’s

book showcases hopeful sticky notes posted in the subway after the 2016 election. **Free.** 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383–0096], www.word-brooklyn.com.

**THEATER, “MARCEL” AND “THE ART OF LAUGHTER”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

**READING, READING AND SIGNING:** Author Malu Halasa will read from and discuss her new novel, “Mother of All Pigs.” **Free.** 7:30 pm. Community Bookstore [143 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783–3075], www.communitybookstore.net.

**THEATER, “GOLDEN BOY”:** An accomplished violinist longs to be top man in the boxing ring but is torn between the lure of big money and the distinct possibility of injuring his hands and destroying his musical career. \$30–\$250. 8 pm. Gelsey Kirkland Arts Center (29 Jay St., between John and Plymouth streets in Dumbo), www.gkartscenter.org/golden-boy.

**THEATER, “THE ELEPHANT MAN”:** 8 pm. See Friday, Nov. 3.

**THEATER, MAYDAY HEYDAY PARFAIT:** A work of song, dance, and poetry expressing humanity’s troubles and highest aspirations, imploring our capacity for empathy across difference; by BRIC House artists-in-residence The Common Choir. \$23 [\$20 in advance]. 8 pm. BRIC Arts Media House (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683–5621), www.bricarts-media.org.

**DANCE, GUSHUE MOVING ARTS:** The dance company presents “Stonefruit” and “An incomplete collection of things #notallmen do.” \$22 [\$18 in advance]. 8 pm. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St. between Banker Street and Clifford Place in Greenpoint, (718) 389–3473], www.triskelionarts.org.

**COMEDY, STANDARD TIME COMEDY:** A monthly comedy show curated by Gideon Hambright and Nasser Khan. With guests Saurin Choksi, Cara Weinberger, Maddy

Smith, and more. **Free.** 8 pm. Pacific Standard [82 Fourth Ave. between St. Marks Place and Bergen Street in Boerum Hill, (718) 858–1951], pacificstandard-brooklyn.blogspot.com.

**MUSIC, LEE RANALDO:** With Pigeons. \$18 [\$16 in advance]. 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-houseyny.com.

**COMEDY, SUPER TIGHT:** A showcase of art, comedy, music, and magic. \$12–\$15. 10:30 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

## FRI, NOV. 10

**ART, THE OTHER ART FAIR:** A curated fair of new and emerging artists. \$15 (\$13.50 students and seniors). Noon–9 pm. Brooklyn Expo Center (72 Noble St. at Franklin Street in Greenpoint).

**MUSIC, IVRY:** With Little Coyote, Minor Poet, and Pearl. \$5. 8 pm. Bushwick Public House (1288 Myrtle Ave., between Dekalb Ave. and Stockholm St. in Bushwick), www.bushwickpublichouse.com.

**THEATER, MAYDAY HEYDAY PARFAIT:** 8 pm. See Thursday, Nov. 9.

**DANCE, GUSHUE MOVING ARTS:** 8 pm. See Thursday, Nov. 9.

## SAT, NOV. 11

**DANCE, AFRO-MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY DANCE PERFORMANCE:** New works choreographed by the members of Ntrinsik Movement and performed by the company and young dancers from New York schools and studios. \$25 (\$20 students). 7 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.kumbletheater.org.

ble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], www.kumbletheater.org.

**READING, JANCEE DUNN:** The author of “I’m Afraid Your Teddy Is in Trouble Today” reads from her kids’ book. **Free.** 11 am. Books are Magic [225 Smith St. in Carroll Gardens, (718) 246–2665], www.booksare-magic.net.

**READING, BROOKLYN CHILDREN’S BOOK FAIR:** More than 50 Brooklyn authors and illustrators, plus book readings, illustrator demonstrations, and hands-on art-making activities. **Free.** 11:30 am. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**ART, PRATT INSTITUTE OPEN STUDIOS:** View the extraordinary talent of the students in Pratt’s graduate Fine Arts department, including painting, drawing, photography, printmaking, and sculpture, along with installation, video, and performance. Reception from 6–8 pm. **Free.** 1–6 pm. Pfizer Building, Seventh Floor (630 Flushing Ave., between Marcy and Tompkins avenues in Bay Ridge).

**COMEDY, KURT BRAUN-OHLER AND FRIENDS (IF HE STILL HAS ANY):** With Wyatt Cenac and Lauren Cook. \$12. 8 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**READING, BABA NGOMA OSAYEMI:** The poet, multi-instrumentalist, and singer-songwriter performs. \$15. 8 pm. South Oxford Space [138 S. Oxford St. between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue in Fort Greene, (212) 532–4704], www.one-breathrising.org.

## BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT



# Have a party to remember at Sirico’s

By Camille Sperrazza

When you’ve got 90 years of experience, you know how to throw awesome parties.

Their grandparents may have started Sirico’s Catering, but two cousins, Hercules and Jim Sirico, are the ones that keep these parties going every night.

## Weddings

A bit overwhelmed with all to be done? Your life just got easier because everything you need is coordinated by Sirico’s in-house wedding planner who directs the process.

**Ceremony:** Want to get married here? Say the word, and the

planner will say, “I do.”

**Food:** They get it. It’s got to be good. With customized menus for every taste and budget, it will be. Guests enjoy drinks and food in a separate room for the cocktail hour, then make their way to another for dinner and dancing. Of course, there’s a lovely bridal suite for the bridal party.

**Music:** The house DJ is young, hip, gets the party started, and keeps it moving all night long.

**Pictures:** Photos and videos will be treasured for a lifetime, so Sirico’s works with proven photographers and videographers who make sure special moments are captured. The beautiful gardens and active

fireplace in the lobby make perfect backdrops.

**Decorations:** Lighting sets the mood and atmosphere, so color-coordinate your event with an LED lighting package. It can match your wedding colors. Or, reach for the stars with specialized effects that include an image of a bright blue sky. Sirico’s has it all covered with chair draperies and sashes, too.

## Sweet 16s

Busy moms can relax because Sirico’s party planner has your back.

Your daughter’s party starts in the Entourage Room where the guest of honor can wait with friends before the intro-

ductions begin.

**Tropical Bar:** Say aloha to the place where teens enjoy drinks that include virgin pina colodas, strawberry daiquiris, and frozen sensations.

**Food:** A buffet loaded with fun food, customize designed to taste. Among the offerings: taco stations, a mashed potato bar, and sliders. For dessert, there’s an ice cream sundae bar, candy tables, and Sirico’s famous chocolate fountain.

**Decorations:** Select from in-house designs and decorations, tailored to teens. Balloon center pieces are always a hit.

## Other parties

Every special occasion calls

for unique needs, and Sirico’s accommodates them all. Whether it’s an anniversary, retirement, Communion, Confirmation, corporate event, or other special occasion, Sirico’s is the place to be.

There are party rooms that can accommodate up to 100, 200, and 300 people.

Valet parking and a parking lot make it convenient for all guests.

Let’s get this party started.

*Sirico’s Caterer’s [8023 13th Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Dyker Heights, (718) 331–2900, www.siricos.net]. Open Tuesdays through Sundays, from 1:30 to 9:30 pm.*

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**Flavor of fall:** The cast of “Pumpkin Spiced Musical” toast the upcoming debut with the signature Starbucks latte that inspired the show.

# Getting pumped!

## Local writes a pumpkin spice parody

By Julianne McShane  
Brooklyn Paper

This musical is anything but basic. A Bergen Beach playwright will make a splash this month with a frothy new musical comedy opening on Nov. 17 at Hunter’s Steak and Ale House in Bay Ridge. “Pumpkin Spiced Musical” tells the story of an advertising agency that embraces the commercial craze surrounding the flavor of fall by inventing a unique pumpkin spice–flavored mystery product. The show was inspired by the annual autumnal obsession with squash spices, which has hit an all-time high this year, said the playwright.

“I love pumpkin spice lattes, I love Starbucks, no doubt about it,” said Ben Stiefel, who plays piano at Hunter’s every Friday night. “But to have air fresheners and cereals and candies — it’s all just gone totally nuts. This fall, it’s everywhere you look, once you start recognizing it.”

Stiefel, who insisted that he only drinks the flavored Starbucks lattes “once or twice a week,” said that he has nothing against consumers of the pumpkin-flavored products, but he wanted to poke fun at the advertisers, marketers, and executives who shamelessly hawk the goods.

“It’s just endlessly silly the way companies are trying to profit off of this pumpkin spice craze, and I thought it would be a really cool way to satirize it. It was more my intention to satirize that than the people who might enjoy this stuff,” he said.

He was particularly aghast when he recently saw pumpkin spice dog treats at Petco.

“My first thought was, maybe there’s a new audience for my show, these dogs that love pumpkin spice,” he added.

The show features four local actors



**The pumpkin king:** Bergen Beach playwright Ben Stiefel will debut his new comedy “Pumpkin Spiced Musical” at Hunter’s Steak and Ale House on Nov. 17.

— James Parks, Sofie W. Smith, Natalie Perry, and Peter Anthony Moore — with Stiefel accompanying on the piano. Before and after the roughly 90-minute show, audience members can indulge in a variety of custom pumpkin drinks from the Hunter’s menu, including pumpkin-spiced espresso martinis and apple cinnamon sangria.

Stiefel refused to reveal what pumpkin-flavored product the advertising agency creates in his musical, but prom-

ised that the audience will be as shocked as he was at Petco.

“I think it’s a big moment,” he said. “My hope is that it’s surprising and funny in a big way.”

“Pumpkin Spiced Musical” at Hunter’s Steak and Ale House (9404 Fourth Ave. between 94th and 95th streets in Bay Ridge, [www.hunterssteakhouse.com](http://www.hunterssteakhouse.com)). Nov. 17 at 6 pm; Nov. 18 at 4 pm; Nov. 19 at 2 pm. \$20.



### Pump-kings County

The spice must flow! Brooklyn is crazy for the pumpkin spice latte. But there is no need to visit an international coffee chain to get a combination of espresso, pumpkin, and cinnamon spices. We’ve found a few places right here in the borough that are ready to pump-kin you up!

— Bill Roundy



### Spice girl

This pumpkin season, the restaurant and bar Midnights is serving the Basic Witch, (pictured right) a frozen cocktail blended with espresso, coconut milk, pumpkin, and vodka, and topped with pumpkin seeds and a cinnamon stick. The spot’s creative director said the drink was inspired by the annual over-the-top frenzy for the Starbucks drink.

“We wanted to do a frozen, boozy, pumpkin spiced drink, and also make fun of it and ourselves a little bit,” said Paul Kolbe.

The bar creates the Witchy concoction in cauldron-sized batches so it can be quickly poured into cups for solo drinkers, or into a giant 28-ounce mug for sharing.

“It’s pretty popular, I have to say,” said Kolbe. “We actually sold out of it last weekend!”

The drink will be available through Thanksgiving.

*Basic Witch at Midnights [149 N. Sixth St. between*



### Sugar and spice:

The No Sleep ‘Til Pumpkin ice cream at Ample Hills combines coffee ice cream with chunks of pumpkin spiced cake.

### We all scream

Ample Hills Creamery recognizes the pumpkin craze with its flavor No Sleep ‘Til Pumpkin, a coffee ice cream studded with chunks of a pumpkin spice–flavored “Ooey Gooney Butter Cake,” a rich poundcake. The buzzy scoop will be available until the end of November.

Ample Hills [305 Nevins St. at Union Street in Gowanus, (347) 725–4061, [www.amplehills.com](http://www.amplehills.com)]. \$2.75–\$8.25.

### Ale and hearty

The Coney Island Brewing Company is pouring a pumpkin spice latte–inspired beer this autumn. The Freaktoberfest Big Ol’ Pumpkin Ale is brewed with espresso beans and finished with an

infusion of sweet pumpkin, along with dashes of cinnamon and allspice. The brew is currently available in six-packs at grocery stores all over the borough, and on draft at the brewery’s taproom in Coney Island.

The taproom also serves an exclusive Superfreak Imperial Pumpkin Ale at a whopping nine percent alcohol.

Coney Island Brewing Company [1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island, (718) 996–0019, [www.coneyislandbeer.com](http://www.coneyislandbeer.com)]. \$7.



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# Here it is! Your fake holiday gift guide!

November means December is around the corner, and December means it's time to buy presents. Just not these.

### For the kids

**Anxious Barbie:** This is a Barbie that prefers to stay in her Dream House. Really. Go away. Ken has taken to driving his Corvette to the bar, grousing to anyone who will listen, usually Skipper, who could tell you stories about her own disastrous marriage(s). And she will, when you buy her a Mojito and pull her string.

**G.I. Tract Joe:** The first action figure to come with a retractable intestine. Hours of fun!

**EZ-Break Oven:** Minutes of fun!

**Cabbage Patch Cabbages:** Adorable heads of real cabbage with tiny arms and legs. Store in a cool, dark place and


they'll last long enough that you start wondering what that weird smell is. And then when you reach in – agggghhh! It's a cabbage with limbs!

### For him

**Eau de Regret:** Cologne with the scent of potato pancakes, which whisks you right back to your mother-in-law's kitchen when you were first married and she told you to buy your apartment — a “crazy” idea because it was \$42,000 for the three-bedroom on West 87th.

**Eau de Further Regret:** This cologne, with top notes of sage, saddle soap, and dysentery, is sure to remind you of that trip you took with your buddies to the dude ranch in Montana. The one that served all those beans.

**Eau Enough Already:** Is that a hint of musk? Or the entire musk shoved into a manly



## Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

bottle, his little paws pressed against the glass? Whatever. It sure is musky.

**Alligator Wallet:** A popular item. But first you have to pickpocket the alligator.

### For her

**Pumpkin Spice Hair-spray:** The look and feel of an expensive, limited-time latte — but in your hair.

**50 Shades of Hay:** The naughty novel of two intensely attracted horses.

**50 Shades of Neigh:** The horse's wife finds out.

**Spa in a (Small) Box:** Give your pinky a day of bliss. Or your little toe. But not both.

**Whitman's Sampler:** Walt Whitman, that is. First stanzas of 24 assorted poems.

**Channel No. 4:** Yes, yes, it *knows* it's not quite what you asked for. Have you ever even *tried* — wait, wait. Hold on. Deep breath. It's not “cheap,” it's a “value scent.” Some people like it even better!

**“I ♥ NEW YORK” T-shirt:** It's 10 pm, Dec. 24. Do you know where your wife's cousin's present is?

Try Ninth Avenue, near Port Authority.

**The Tiffany Ring:** Group of guys who planned a heist at Tiffany's in the '70s. Not really relevant on a gift list.

**For the home**

**The Keurig Day 2 Coffee Re-Heater:** Simply pour yesterday's coffee into an empty plastic K-cup and carefully position it in re-heater. Place receptacle under spigot. Press “On.” Repeat six or seven times for a cup, 12 to 13 times for a mug.

(Note: By this time the first few podfuls of Keurig Day 2 may be cool. Simply pour them back into the K-cup and carefully position in re-heater. Cancel other plans for the rest of the day.)

**Plush Sperm-Shaped Throw Pillows:** What's that all over the sofa?

A whole lot of sperm-

shaped comfiness!

**The Smart Spoon:** Tired of trying to get soup to your mouth only to have it splash and spill? The Smart Spoon scoops up soup and vacu-seals it in a tiny plastic pouch. Simply puncture the pouch once it is *inside* your mouth and *voila* — piping hot soup (and a little bit of plastic).

Best of all, no more mess! (Except for spitting out the pouch.)

**The Smart Fork:** Tired of trying to spear your food, only to have it fall off half-

way to your teeth? The Smart Fork wraps your food in fine 8-gauge wire. Simply chew through the wire once it is *inside* your mouth and *voila* — delicious food (and little bits of wire).

**For your pet**

**100-Percent Carrot Chew Toy:** A bone-shaped carrot that will make any Fido healthier, if he chews it. Which hopefully he will. Although, none of the test dogs did. But they were probably fussier

than yours.

**Close Encounters Flea, Tick, and Alien Collar:** Protect your pets from all the dangers out there. One-hundred percent effective against aliens. About 60 percent as good when it comes to fleas. Some ticks like the smell, ironically. But almost everyone — man, bug, and extraterrestrial — hates the siren-like alarm you can't turn off.

Lenore Skenazy is author of “Has the World Gone Skenazy?”

## Sunset Park to get ornate Chinatown arch

### Entrance to city's biggest Chinese neighborhood a gift from Beijing

By Julianne McShane  
Brooklyn Paper

Call it a gateway to friendship. Mayor DeBlasio announced on Oct. 27 that the city will finally get its first-ever Chinese archway designating the entrance to Sunset Park's Chinatown neighborhood, on Eighth Avenue between 60th and 61st streets. The archway, which will be installed within the next few years, will be a gift from Beijing's Chaoyang District and its placement underscores the importance of the cultural enclave, the mayor said.

“In Brooklyn, this Chinese community has grown to such an extraordinary extent, and Sunset Park and the surrounding area now have a major — global, in fact — Chinese community,” the mayor said at the unveiling. “This was the right place, on Eighth Avenue, to have this arch.”

The 40-foot-tall “friendship archway” will sit close to one of the borders of Brooklyn's Chinatown, which spans Eighth Avenue between 42nd and 68th streets.



The mayor announced on Oct. 27 that the city will get its first-ever Chinese archway in Sunset Park.

The archway's twin pillars will be decorated with indigo-blue glazed tiles and classic Chinese designs, including a golden dragon and a revolving floral motif, and topped with an ornately tiled, nine-section roof. The middle beam of the arch will have a Chinese inscription, meaning “one

family over four seas,” and an English one marking the connection between Brooklyn, the largest borough in New York City, and Chaoyang, the largest district of Beijing.

Former Borough President Marty Markowitz first unveiled plans for the arch in 2013, and Community Board

7 endorsed the plan in 2015. The city's Public Design Commission finally approved the archway's design this past July. The Department of Transportation will manage its installation.

Many American cities—including Boston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco — boast similar structures to mark their own Chinatowns, but Sunset Park's will be New York City's first, even though the distant isle of Manhattan's Little Fuzhou neighborhood is the city's oldest Chinese community.

DeBlasio also credited Borough President Adams — who allocated \$2 million towards the project — as well as Councilman Carlos Menchaca (D–Red Hook) at the unveiling, noting that the pols' diverse backgrounds made their presence fitting.

“It's a classic only-in-New York, only-in-Brooklyn moment that we have an Italian-American, African-American, and Mexican-American unveiling a Chinese arch,” Hizzoner said, referring to himself, Adams and Menchaca.

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# Looking out for the little guy

## City helps mom-and-pops meet accessibility codes

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

City officials launched a new program to protect small-business owners from lawsuits after an attorney representing a disabled man sued more than a dozen Park Slope mom-and-pop shops for violating a federal accessibility law, the nabe’s councilman announced on Oct. 27.

Proprietors can now invite experts from the Department of Small Business Services to their shops, where they will check for compliance issues related to the Americans with Disabilities Act — which requires businesses meet certain standards in order to serve the disabled — and recommend fixes that may save owners thousands in legal fees and other penalties, according to a mayor’s office rep. The free program will help entrepreneurs address violations before they’re flagged in the form of litigation, said a lawyer familiar with the issue.

“I think a service like that, almost a beat ‘em to the punch type of service, is great,” said Vincent Wong, who represented Fifth-Avenue restaurant Pink Lotus Gourmet after it was sued under the disabilities act.

Councilman Brad Lander’s (D-Park Slope) announcement followed lawsuits filed by Queens resident Pe-



Councilman Brad Lander, far right, helped create a program that educates small-business owners on violations that can lead to lawsuits filed under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

dro Fontanes, who sued Pink Lotus Gourmet and at least 12 other Fifth-Avenue businesses since 2016, including Burger Bistro, Calexico, Culture American Yogurt Company, Hiroto Japanese Restaurant, Le Pain Quotidien, Luke’s Lobster, Nahm Thai Kitchen, Pick Quick Foods, Pizza Town, Skylce, Uncle Barry’s, and Dizzy’s diner, which closed in August.

Suits like Fontanes’ often blind-

side small-business owners, according to Wong, who said the pressure of keeping their doors open can distract them from focusing on compliance issues.

“Most small businesses aren’t worrying too much about the ADA,” he said. “They’re worrying about having enough customers, and if their lease is worth putting their life savings into.”

Mom-and-pop proprietors can fight

the lawsuits in front of a judge, but the cost in legal fees to do so can be ruinous, and most would rather settle out of court — even if the plaintiff’s lawyer collects most of the cash, according to another attorney familiar with the issue.

“Why would you pay me \$25,000 when this guy is saying pay me \$10,000 and it all goes away,” said Dennis Kearney, who represented Uncle Barry’s after it was sued. “These little guys get crushed on the fees, so it’s easier to throw cash at the plaintiffs.”

Slope shopkeepers and their advocates at the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District contacted Lander for help in response to Fontanes’ legal blitz, and the pol then sat down with officials from the city’s small-business agency and the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities to hash out a solution, according to a rep for the councilman.

Lander announced the new program less than two weeks after Fontanes died, according to his lawyer, who perversely claimed small-business owners targeted by his client should rejoice now that he can no longer sue them.

“Tell the defendants in this case that he passed away and can no longer bring law suits,” said Ismail Sekendiz. “They should celebrate his death.”

# Police: Trio slapped with drug charges after cops found piles of pot and cash in Crown Heights raid

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

These suspects landed in a sticky situation.

Cops arrested two men and a woman on Oct. 28 after raiding their Crown Heights drug den and uncovering six laundry bags full of pot and \$931,000 in cash.

Police stormed the suspects’ Montgomery Street building between Troy and Schenectady avenues at 10 pm after receiving a search warrant, where they discovered 97 pounds of weed stashed throughout the home, authorities said.

Cops also found three scales and a money counter beside the stacks

of bills, according to court documents.

And amid the refer and cash, authorities uncovered two children, aged two and five, who belong to at least the female subject. She has since been charged with child endangerment in addition to criminal possession, sale, and use of marijuana, according to a report.

Police also charged one of her alleged accomplices with criminal possession, sale, and use of marijuana, and the other with criminal possession and sale of marijuana and criminal use of drug paraphernalia, according to court documents.



Cops raided a Crown Heights apartment on Oct. 28, where they arrested two men and a woman after finding 97 pounds of weed and \$931,000.



Susan Fox and husband Jim van Putten covered themselves in dollar-store gems for the Park Slope Civic Council’s annual Halloween parade on Tuesday.

# Slopers unite in costume

## Halloween paraders march after attack

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

It was a night of frights following a day of terror.

Costumed Park Slopers summoned their holiday spirit hours after a terrorist attack killed eight people across the East River, taking their nabe’s streets to march in an annual Halloween parade that participants said was a welcome treat in the wake of the tragic assault.

“It was good, although it was a little more subdued,” said Susan Fox, who marched covered in dollar-store jewels alongside her husband, Jim van Putten. “But we had a great time, the police are always super nice, and there were so many fun costumes that people made this year.”

The dressed up denizens began their trek at 6:30 pm, walking along Seventh Avenue from 14th to Third street, where they hung a left and strode to the parade’s finish at Washington Park. Among the hundreds of spooky Slopers in attendance was a mysterious band of black-clad skaters in white masks who march every year, according to an organizer, who said their secret identities remain a constant even as their size, curiously, does not.

“I think they’ve evolved — they’re different sizes than they used to be, but it’s a great neighborhood secret,” said Park Slope Civic Council member Kim Maier.

Councilman Brad Lander (D–Park Slope) boasted another of the night’s best costumes, dressing as a “bag monster” to raise awareness for the plastic waste that plagues the city, according to Fox.

“That was amazing,” she said.



Members of a local family showed off their eclectic taste in costumes at the event.

But the night, which attendees said turned out great, almost didn’t happen. After news of the deadly attack in Manhattan broke, Maier said she and other organizers met with the commanding officer of the neighborhood’s 78th Precinct to discuss whether or not to cancel the beloved parade.

Fortunately, Park Slope’s top cop assured the planners that his men in blue had a solid security plan in place, and the group choose to soldier on, Maier said.

“It’s about making a community event and trying to move ahead for the kids,” she said. “Definitely a very difficult time to have a celebratory attitude, but I think it was lovely.”

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