



# Brooklyn Paper

Your World — Your News

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# 2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

Brooklyn Paper

Oh, to be alive in the Borough of Kings in 2017! It was a year of firsts — including the inaugural Brighton Beach pride parade and the arrival of a new Caribbean cultural district. But with every first came a last — Bensonhurst's beloved Vegas Diner closed, and the owner of Boerum Hill bar Hank's Saloon announced the century-old watering hole will soon serve its last drink. The year did not entirely go to the dogs, however: a rogue bull took police on a wild steer chase through Prospect Park, authorities recovered a pregnant raccoon from a Sheepshead Bay daycare center, and some do-gooders saved an abandoned duck in Gravesend. Relive what else happened in the year of our Lord, two thousand and seventeen, in our year in review.

## JANUARY

**Hey baby!** Little Alayna Baloch, the first Brooklyn-born baby of the year, entered Kings County at 1:38 am on Jan. 1. The bundle of joy weighed seven pounds four ounces when doctors at Coney Island Hospital ferried her into the world, which the babe entered more than an hour before the borough's next new-year newborn, Jacob Colmar-Espinosa, who arrived at 2:51 am.

**Off the rails:** A Long Island Rail Road train derailed at Atlantic Terminal on Jan. 4, injuring 104 passengers. Investigators found conductor Michael Bakalo — who allegedly worked long hours of overtime before the accident — was going twice the five-miles-per-hour speed limit when he slammed into the bumpers at the Prospect Heights hub, reigniting conversations about fatigue's effects on railroad accidents.

**Chill out:** Thousands of Brook-



Emergency responders carried dozens of injured strap-hangers from Atlantic Terminal after a Long Island Rail Road train derailed while pulling into the transit hub.

lyn thrill seekers, including this newspaper's former reporter Caroline Spivack, plunged into the frigid Atlantic Ocean as part of the Coney Island Polar Bear Club's more-than-century-old tradition, the New Year's Day plunge. Divers who brave the waters have been known to turn blue from the sub-zero temperatures, but Spivack lucked out, taking the traditional dip on a day that thermometers topped out at an unseasonably high 53 degrees.

## FEBRUARY

**Jersey tax:** Members of Park Slope's Community Board 6 demanded the city charge a fee to Brooklyn-bound motorists crossing the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, arguing that drivers from New Jersey clog up Kings County roads leading to Manhattan thanks to a

20-year-old law that allows them free passage into the borough.

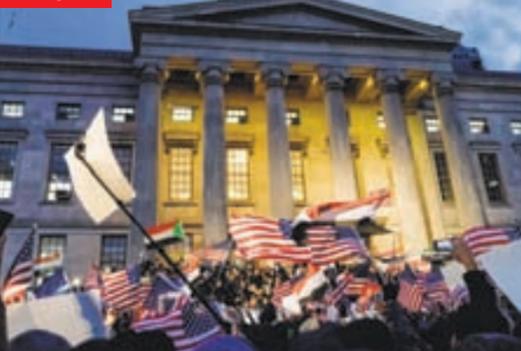
**Light in the darkness:** A musical about a young Muslim refugee's epic journey to the United States after fleeing civil war in Somalia opened at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Feb. 15, a few weeks after President Trump introduced his first so-called "Muslim ban" — which included Somalia.

**Pony up:** The bankrupt owner of Kensington Stables — Prospect Park's lone horseback-riding facility — announced she was putting the barn up for sale at auction after her late husband's unpaid property taxes piled up, but a dark-horse potential buyer willing to save the pony palace quickly swept in, and she pulled the property from the block. The stables' sale saga would continue for months before another buyer — Red Hook con-

## AUGUST



## FEBRUARY



A musical about a Muslim refugee's journey to the U.S. debuted the same month that locals rallied at Borough Hall to protest President Trump's so-called "Muslim ban."

crete magnate John Quadrozzi, Jr. — snagged the barn and agreed to keep it in the riding business for at least five years. Weeks after the November sale, the city slapped the stables with an emergency vacate order after inspectors found its roof partially collapsed, but its opera-

tors said they and the new owner were working quickly to fix the problems.

## MARCH

**Home is where the hospital is:** Developer Fortis Property Group tore down the old Long Island Col-

lege Hospital building at Atlantic Avenue and Hicks Street as part of the redevelopment of the site — which includes a massive residential complex and a new five-story medical center — before re-branding the area as "River Park."

**They're still waiting:** Some youngsters hoping for a seat at Brooklyn Heights' PS 8 found out they would have to cross their fingers a bit longer when the school's wait list returned this year, following its first wait-list-free year in a long while in 2016, which was the result of a controversial redistricting that drastically cut the area served by the public academy.

**Manafort Knox!** A neighbor hung a Russian flag outside the Carroll Gardens brownstone belonging to President Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort — whom the Feds indicted in October for tax fraud

## MARCH



Someone hung this sign on Paul Manafort's Carroll Gardens home after he was revealed as its owner.

and money laundering — to designate the Union Street home as Manafort's after news spread like wildfire that he owned it.

**She's a survivor:** A Gerritsen Beach kitty named Whitney made a heroic recovery after taking an arrow to the face when some weasel shot a crossbow at her.

**Bikers' big win:** The city threw a bone to avid cyclists and said it would install two protected bike lanes along four miles of Fourth Avenue from Boerum Hill to Bay Ridge after activists pushed for pedalers' paths along the thoroughfare for years.

## APRIL

**Are you high?** A luxury-condo developer revealed plans to build two super-tall towers on the edge of Boerum Hill — one 74 stories high, and the other 38 stories — both of which are a sharp break from the low-rise neighborhood, and 50 percent larger than current zoning allows. The planned 900-unit, 80 Flatbush complex would also include two schools, but needs to pass a lengthy rezoning process in order to rise.

**Back in Bridge-ness:** The Squibb Bridge, a pedestrian walkway that connects the Brooklyn Heights Promenade to Brooklyn Bridge Park, re-opened after being shuttered for three years. The bouncy span was first installed in 2013, but soon proved to have too much spring in its step, and shut down in August 2014 so that it could be repaired.

**Hammered out:** Cops cuffed the long-time district manager of Park Slope's Community Board

See 2017 on page 2

# BQX versus BQE

Transit honchos claim construction of trolley will impede road repairs

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

There's an internal battle brewing over the BQE and BQX.

Transit honchos in charge of fixing the dilapidated Brooklyn-Queens Expressway want the mayor to hit the brakes on his controversial \$2.5-billion streetcar plan because the two massive infrastructure projects will butt heads.

The Department of Transportation must repair the 1.5-mile stretch of the decrepit roadway between Atlantic Avenue and Sands Street in Brooklyn Heights before the triple cantilever — which runs beneath the neighborhood's promenade and above Furman Street — crumbles beneath the weight of the thousands of big-rigs that rumble across it daily.

But Hizzoner's plan to lay 14 miles of light-rail tracks from Sunset Park to the outer borough of Queens that would run along streets in Red Hook, Fort Greene, Dumbo, and Brooklyn Heights, including on Atlantic Avenue, will impact the city's work on the expressway and cause even more chaos on the local thorough-

## HELLO, TROLLEY! THE STREETCAR PLAN

fares, according to the city's Deputy Commissioner of Bridges.

"I had a conversation with somebody who was working on the BQX. They are thinking about it going down Atlantic Avenue and across Columbia [Street], and I said, 'Look, we're going to be there, I don't think it's a good idea,'" Bob Collyer said during a public meeting about repairs to the expressway's triple cantilever on Dec. 11. "That's as far as we got."

Work on the two multi-billion-dollar projects would likely overlap. The city hopes to begin laying tracks for the Sunset Park-to-Queens people mover in 2019 to have it shuttling passengers by 2024. And transit officials intend to open up the triple cantilever for renovations by 2021 and end the job by 2026 if the state green-lights a process to streamline design and construction — other-



Transit officials overseeing repairs to the crumbling Brooklyn-Queens Expressway demanded Mayor DeBlasio hold off on his plan for a Brooklyn-Queens light rail because work on the two massive infrastructure projects will likely overlap.

wise work would begin around 2024 and wrap sometime after 2028.

Another transportation honcho said her team would try to work with leaders in charge of the Brooklyn Queens Connector's creation to ensure smooth construction should the two be built simultaneously.

"We're in touch with them, we will coordinate with them," said Tanvi Pandya, a project manager overseeing the expressway's repairs.

DeBlasio first pitched the taxpayer-funded trolley — which is supported by

the private advocacy group Friends of the Brooklyn Queens Connector, Dumbo-based developer Two Trees, and other real-estate companies — in 2016 because he said it would bring transportation to subway-starved communities along the waterfront.

But many residents and local leaders claimed the streetcar — a joint effort overseen by the city's transportation department and Economic Development Corporation — would do more harm than good by accelerating development and

See TROLLEY on page 4

# Whoa, Nelly!

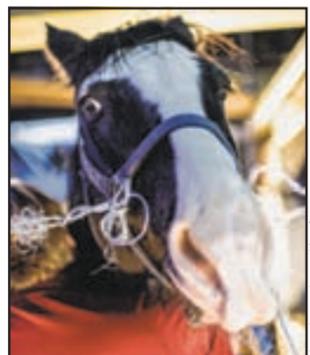
City inspectors slap stables with vacate order for collapsed roof

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

The city isn't horsing around. Department of Buildings officials slapped Prospect Park's lone horse barn, Kensington Stables, with a full and immediate vacate order following a Dec. 15 inspection that found the building's roof partially collapsed, among other violations.

But the stables' manager, Walker Blankenship, said he's keeping his horses under the dilapidated roof as he works to quickly renovate the crumbling property with the help of his new partner, Red Hook concrete magnate John Quadrozzi, Jr. — whom the broker that managed the barn's sale, Marc Yaverbaum, confirmed is the dark-horse buyer who purchased the property at auction last month — even though a judge has yet to formally sign off on the deal.

"We're speeding things up and getting permits, rather than waiting for formalities," Blankenship said. "I can't be here, but I really can't move [the horses]."



The city issued Kensington Stables a vacate order after a recent inspection found its roof partially collapsed.

City inspectors descended on the Catton Place barn owned by Blankenship's mother in response to a 311 complaint, and issued the vacate order after finding its partially collapsed roof, "significant."

See STABLES on page 9

**YEAR-END FLOORING CLEARANCE**

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# 2017

## YEAR IN REVIEW

Continued from page 1

6, Craig Hammerman, twice in one week for misdemeanor stalking charges filed by his ex-girlfriend. The local leader went on to take a leave of absence and then resign from his post, and the case against him would eventually be dropped when prosecutors failed to move it forward.

**Spill it:** Twenty-seven thousand gallons of oil spilled into Gravesend Bay after a worker for Bayside Fuel Oil Depot Corporation left his post and let a container overflow. The company immediately notified the state Department of Environmental Conservation in order to begin clean-up efforts, but local officials did not hear about the spill for five more days.

### MAY

**Proud day in Brighton:** Locals made history in Brighton Beach when the nabe welcomed its first-ever LGBTQ pride parade. Organizers of the march through Little Odessa feared pushback from the mostly Russian-speaking conservative community, but the event went off without untoward altercations.

**Water you doing?** Artist Anish Kapoor — the talent who created Chicago's iconic "The Bean" — made a splash with the debut of his new piece "Descension," a whirlpool of swirling water installed for four months at Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 1.

**Duck and cover!** A chunk of steel fell from the Manhattan Bridge landing just feet away from patrons of an outdoor rock climbing gym, which stayed open for days as fragments cracked off the crossing because authorities assured its owner there was nothing to worry about.

**They're baa-ck:** Four goats returned to Prospect Park to assist caretakers with the meadow's upkeep by munching on weeds in the green space. The cloven-footed workers spent time in the Vale of Cashmere before taking their 16 stomachs over to Lookout Hill.

### JUNE

**All aboard:** The city on June 1 welcomed the first passengers aboard its Southern Brooklyn ferry route, which begins at a new pier at the end of 69th Street in Bay Ridge and travels to the Army Terminal, Red Hook, and Pier 1 and Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park before crossing the East River to Wall Street in Manhattan.

**Saving a landmark:** Borough President Adams announced his allocation of \$665,000 in funds to restore the landmarked Erasmus Hall Academy building, a structure locals battled to save from demolition after the Department of Education let it deteriorate under the agency's ownership. The beep came through with the funding after preservationists' previous pleas to Mayor DeBlasio and Council fell on deaf ears.

**Sad statistic:** A 36-year-old Brooklyn Heights man killed while riding a Citi Bike became the bicycle-rental service's first fatality when the victim died after being hit by a charter-bus driver as he swerved to avoid a parked vehicle while pedaling along a Manhattan street.

**Beep banned:** Organizers of Sunset Park's Puerto Rican Day Parade indefinitely barred the beep from walking in the march after he allegedly did not show up to a town hall the hosts asked he attend as a condition of participating. But the pol's reps claimed he only received his invite to the forum — which he never committed to attending — two days before the parade.

**Three cheers!** The owner of Sunny's in Red Hook announced she raised enough money to keep the bar's doors open after generous locals contributed more than \$65,000 to a fund-raiser to save the beloved watering hole. Donors kicked in enough cash to allow Tone Johansen, the widow of the bar's founder, Sunny Balzano, to buy the shares in the

### APRIL



The 74-story 80 Flatbush tower revealed in April will be amongst the tallest in the borough if built.

### JUNE



The city debuted a new ferry route that carries passengers from Southern Brooklyn to Downtown before shoving off to Manhattan.

property owned by 18 members of Balzano's extended family, who reportedly preferred to sell the space.

**Check, please:** The aging owners of Bensonhurst's Vegas Diner served their last meal at the neighborhood institution on June 25 after feeding Southern Brooklynites round-the-clock for more than 35 years. The iconic diner attracted a loyal clientele since it opened in 1982, and its proprietors were in talks to sell the building to a developer who would raze the eatery and erect housing, according to a co-owner.

### JULY

**Green monster:** State Department of Environmental Protection inspectors discovered toxic algae in Prospect Park Lake for the fourth-consecutive year, forcing Prospect Park's caretakers to ban swimming in the bucolic waterway, lest people or their dogs develop rashes, get sick — or worse.

**Up in arms:** Members of Crown Heights's Community Board 9 wasted no time in voting down a city-backed deal to lease the massive Bedford-Union Armory to developers that want to build luxury housing on the site, in addition to affordable units and a community center. The board's vote began the pro-

posal's drawn-out, dramatic Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, which would conclude with Council voting to approve the project after the developers nixed swanky condos for their plan.

**Tower power?** The developers planning to build two towers at Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park filed paperwork to start construction — before a judge decided whether the high-rises could even be erected. A local civic group fighting the project in court demanded that the builders be banned from acting until a ruling is made, but the judge ruled the work was not anything that couldn't be undone. The legal battle, which returned to court in July, would continue for months before litigants left the high-rises' fate up to the judge.

**Clean start:** Park Slope's historic bathroom emerged from behind scaffolding after a renovation that lasted more than a year. The 111-year-old building reopened weeks later when new tenant Blink Fitness opened for business.

**Greener pastures:** Borough Park lawmaker Councilman David Greenfield announced he would not seek reelection, a move he apparently made so that he could hand-pick his successor. His decision came after a key deadline for Council

campaigns, locking out candidates who might have run had they known Greenfield was stepping down.

**Spantastic:** Two barges sailed the center section of the old Kosciuszko Bridge into oblivion one July morning, ending the first phase of the 78-year-old span's state-led demolition, a process that would conclude in October with the early-morning explosion of the severed crossing's remaining approaches. A new, colorfully-lit Kosciuszko Bridge opened in April to replace the aging Brooklyn-Queens crossing, and its like-named sister span is set to debut in 2020.

**Sad day:** A garbage-truck driver employed by a private carting service hit and killed a cyclist in Greenpoint as the victim, 27-year-old Neftaly Ramirez, was pedaling home from his job at pizzeria Paulie Gee's. Police have yet to close their investigation into the fatal hit-and-run despite identifying the driver, and refuse to release evidence while it remains open.

### AUGUST

**Bombshell report:** A softball-sized cast-iron cannonball was found outside a Brooklyn Heights home, and some historians claimed the ancient ammunition is a likely relic from the American Revolution. The house on Middagh Street is among the oldest in the Heights, and is estimated to have been built between the 1820s and '30s.

**Staring at the sun:** Brooklynites across the borough flocked outdoors to catch a glimpse of the total solar eclipse — the first to pass over the United States in 99 years. New Yorkers did not witness the phenomenon in totality, however, but they were treated to a 71-percent eclipse during which the moon covered more than half of the sun.

**Notorious:** The city named the Clinton Hill basketball courts where late rapper Christopher "Biggie" Wallace used to shoot hoops in his honor, commemorating the Brooklyn native as an inspiration for local youngsters just four years after the community blocked an attempt to memorialize him with a street co-naming.

**He's out:** A Brooklyn Heights state senator attacked the institution he served when he announced his resignation in a New York Daily News op-ed that blasted what he called the corrupt status quo in Albany. State Sen. Daniel Squadron, a Democrat, said that after nine years of working in a body that functions on back room deals and crooked loop holes, he chose to leave because he can do more to stop corruption out of government than he could in it.

**So long:** Bay Ridge religious leaders hauled a plaque commemorating the Confederate leader General Robert E. Lee off the grounds of the neighborhood's so-called Church of the Generals in the wake of white supremacist protests and violence in Charlottesville, sending a message that symbols of slavery and racism have no place in Brooklyn, according to local activists.

**Name game:** Flatbush Democratic Congresswoman Yvette Clarke introduced federal legislation to rename any military properties and installations honoring Confederate soldiers and generals, weeks after the Department of the Army rebuked her request to rename thoroughfares on the Fort Hamilton army base christened after Confederate general Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

**Sweet!** Residents began moving in to the mega-development on the site of Williamsburg's old Domino Sugar factory after the first of its several apartment complexes

### DECEMBER



Workers removed the Jehovah's Witnesses' iconic Watchtower letters, which towered over Brooklyn Heights for more than 40 years.



Boerum Hill bar Hank's Saloon announced she will close the century-old watering hole next year because developers plan to raze the beloved Third Avenue pub in order to make way for what will likely be new residences, she said. But the proprietor said she will keep the good times rolling over until the dive's last day, and plans to serve up some special celebrations for her longtime customers.

**Justin time:** Voters in the 43rd Council District elected Democratic candidate Justin Brannan to replace his former boss, term-limited Councilman Vincent Gentile, capping off one of the city's most hotly anticipated and divisive Council races in the district that includes Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, and Bensonhurst. Brannan secured 50.4 percent of the votes cast, beating his closest challenger, Republican John Quaglione, by a margin of less than 4 percent.

**Montezuma's revenge:** One of the accused perpetrators of a Crown Heights home invasion back in May bolted from a Kings Plaza outpost of Mexican food outlet Chipotle when he came face-to-face with one of the victims behind the counter—and she recognized him. The scoundrel fled when the employee started confronting him, but the eatery's cameras already caught a photograph, according to authorities.

**Rogue raccoon:** Cops carried away a possibly pregnant raccoon—which they quipped looked like a little bear—from the backyard of an Avenue U day-care center in Sheepshead Bay. The rotund rascal put up a tough fight when authorities tried to maneuver her into a cage to haul her off the site, but eventually succumbed to her captors.

**Overboard:** The police department's Harbor Unit and scuba teams recovered a black Toyota RAV4 with the body of a 54-year-old man inside from the water just south of the 69th Street Pier three days after the car careened down the Pier and flew into the water.

**DECEMBER**  
**Axe-ing for trouble:** Alcohol and axe-throwing—what could possibly go wrong? A boozy hatchet-hurling range opened in Gowanus on Dec. 15, where a staff of "axeperts" teach tipsy patrons hit the bullseye—and hopefully nothing else.

**Angel Guardian sold:** The biggest real estate development in Dyker Heights for a generation got underway when the Sisters of Mercy sold the city-block-sized former orphanage to a mystery buyer.

**"Watchtower" sign comes down:** Without warning on Dec. 6, workers took down the iconic "Watchtower" sign from the former Jehovah's Witnesses headquarters as part of Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner's ongoing transformation of the Brooklyn Heights building into a swanky office space.

**Gave 'em L:** After stonewalling for months, city and state officials finally released long-awaited plans for how the 400,000 daily L-train riders will get around during the 2019 18-month closure of the subway's underwater Brooklyn-to-Manhattan tunnel.

**Boro's subway bomber:** Police swarmed what they claimed was the Flatlands home of the man who allegedly set off a faulty pipe bomb in a subway corridor connecting two busy Manhattan stations on Dec. 11. Neighbors called the would-be suicide bomber "shy" and "quiet."

**Fever dream:** Dozens of disco devotees descended on the original location of 2001 Odyssey for a star-studded celebration of the 40th anniversary of "Saturday Night Fever," the 1977 film that made the nightclub famous.

**Hanukkah horror:** A deadly fire ripped through a Sheepshead Bay home on the sixth night of Hanukkah, killing a mother and three of her children. Fire marshals said the tragic blaze was caused by an "unattended, lit menorah."

**Island hopping:** The New York Islanders announced the team will be decamping from Barclays Center to Belmont Park in Queens, breaking its 25-year lease with the Prospect Heights arena. But Borough President Adams seemed to be taking it well: "There's only one Brooklyn team for Barclays Center and that's the Brooklyn Nets," he said.

Goats returned to eat weeds growing in Prospect Park's Vale of Cashmere and Lookout Hill.

opened its doors. The first tenants of the doughnut-shaped structure at 325 Kent Ave. arrived several months before leaders of the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission approved a developer's second plan to transform the old sugar factory's landmarked refinery building into a futuristic glass-and-brick office space.

**SEPTEMBER**

**A safer J'Ouvert:** Thousands of revelers gathered in Crown Heights on Labor Day for this year's early-morning J'Ouvert parade, which unfolded without a fatality after years of deadly violence following the enactment of its strictest security measures yet. But the precautions, which included a significantly increased police presence, resulted in a festival largely unrecognizable to long-time attendees.

**Pulling an all-nighter:** Mayor DeBlasio signed a bill establishing the city's Office of Nightlife, creating the first agency of its kind in the country, after a Bushwick councilman introduced the legislation in June. The office will be led by a to-be-appointed night mayor tasked with liaising between New York City's \$10-billion, late-night industry and City Hall.

**Cat-napped:** Some low-life swiped a 2-month-old kitten employed as a mouser at a Kensington bodega from the store, after a man claiming to reside in Queens came into the deli and offered \$50 to purchase the feline. The shop owner declined, but an hour later, a woman entered the store, scooped up the cat and covered her with a jacket, then left, surveillance footage showed.

**Death from above:** Residents in Downtown, Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill, and Bay Ridge reported a surge of dead tiny yellow birds littering the nabes' sidewalks. One Boerum Hill woman reported finding four in one day, and said her doorman told her that he swept up five in one brush. The president of the Brooklyn Bird Club said that the winged creatures, identified as Common Yellowthroat Warblers, were likely dying after colliding with glassy buildings and windows as they migrated south.

**Shipped out:** Controversial party boats that attract raucous crowds at the Emmons Avenue piers in Sheepshead Bay will be shipped to a new berth next season, Mayor DeBlasio declared at a town hall in the once-quiet fishing village. Hizzoner didn't specify where the boats would dock next summer, but some locals said that as long as they are of the bay, that is good enough.

**OCTOBER**

**Bye, bye birdie:** A swan found hopelessly entangled in a fishing line with an illegal barbed hook in Prospect Park Lake died not long after a wildlife advocate rescued it with the help of a park worker.

**Bovine intervention:** A young bull that escaped from a slaughterhouse led police on a thrilling hours-long chase through Brooklyn streets and into Prospect Park, where he evaded authorities' attempts to trap him using soccer nets before cops tranquilized, lassoed, and shipped him off to the city's Center for Animal Care and Control.

**Pedestrian traffic only:** Mayor DeBlasio permanently banned cars inside Prospect Park beginning in January



Thousands celebrated the early-morning festivity of J'Ouvert on Sept. 4, which unfolded without a fatality after years of deadly violence.

—eliminating a window between 7 and 9 am on weekdays when Downtown-bound motorists can cruise the meadow's East Drive. Hizzoner's permanent prohibition followed a temporary, summer-long car ban in the park.

**Hate mail:** Cops began investigating the source of a rash of racist letters with swastikas inside that were mailed out to law firms in Sheepshead Bay, kosher bakeries in Borough Park, and other businesses throughout the city in late September and early October. The documents invoked President Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," and they all also include the Nazi slogan "Juden Raus," which means "Jews out," and state that "Negroes and f----- must burn in hell," according to photos of a letter shared online.

**Lucky duck!** Three good Samaritans rescued a duck left outside a Gravesend home for several days, allegedly without proper food, water, or tender loving care.

**Keeps on growing:** A dirt-smearing crew of local volunteers and park workers celebrated Prospect Park's 150th anniversary with a humble tree-planting party on Oct. 19 in a historically neglected corner of Brooklyn's Backyard, marking the day when the meadow opened in 1867 with a gift for future generations.

**Big deal:** Members of the Caribbean community cheered local officials as they formally designated the borough's cultural district in honor of the region, dubbed "Little Caribbean," which spans parts of Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Prospect-Lefferts Gardens and is the first enclave of its kind in the world.

**NOVEMBER**

**Short run:** Runners stamped past the starting point seconds before sprinting across the finish line of a 2-mile "marathon" in Williamsburg, just days after athletes traversed the five boroughs as part of the annual the New York City marathon.

**Last call:** The owner of



Hank's Saloon owner Julie Ipcar, right, announced she will close the beloved Boerum Hill honky-tonk bar next year because the building's owner will likely redevelop the property.

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# Bruiser clobbers woman with hammer

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–  
Dumbo–Boerum Hill–  
Downtown

A goon struck a woman with a hammer on Atlantic Avenue on Dec. 21, authorities said.

The bruiser hit the 48-year-old woman with the tool on her left arm after the two got into an argument near Third Avenue around 1:30 pm, officials said. Paramedics transported the victim to Brooklyn Hospital, police said.

## Full of threats

Cops cuffed a guy for threatening to shoot a woman and stealing her phone and bag on Bergen Street on Dec. 23.

The 28-year-old victim told police she was walking home from work near Dean Street around 11 pm when two men came up to her and one said, "Give me your stuff or I will shoot you in the face," while showing off a gun, authorities said.

The suspect grabbed the victim's bag from her shoulder with her laptop, phone, water bottle, and keychain inside before punching her in the face, according to officials, who said the pair fled and police caught one of them, but are still searching for the second.

## Car shopping

A baddie broke into a guy's car parked on Pacific Street and swiped his electronics on Dec. 19, authorities said.

The 46-year-old told cops he left his car near Dean Street around 9:45 pm, and when he returned a little less than an hour later, he saw his rear passenger-side window was shattered and his Canon lens, camera, recorder, and microphone were gone, according to a report.

## Hotel heist

Some sneak stole a guy's cash and phone while he was sleeping in a hotel on Schermerhorn Street, officials said.

The baddie swiped the 35-year-old victim's iPhone 7, phone charger, Bose speakers, and cash while he was snoozing inside a motel near Nevins Street between 5 and 6 am, police said.

## Mink marauder

A punk stole a woman's mink coat she left in a Bridge Street venue on Dec. 8, cops said.

The woman told authorities on Dec. 21 that she put down her brown, short mink coat inside the space between John and Plymouth streets around 8:30 pm, and when she returned to get it two hours later, it was gone.

## POLICE BLOTTER



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

## Wallet woes

A good-for-nothing stole a woman's wallet from inside a nightclub on Wiloughby Street on Dec. 22, police said.

The victim told cops she went to the bathroom inside the bar between Smith Street and Gallatin Place sometime between 5 and 10:30 pm, while her jacket was on a chair with her wallet in the pocket.

The punk took her wallet with her credit card, social security card, and identification card inside and fled, officials said.

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill  
Street attack

Some goons attacked a teen and stole his phone on Lafayette Avenue on Dec. 18, police said.

The 18-year-old victim was walking home from school with his friends between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street around 5:15 pm when the snakes started chasing him, authorities said.

Once the brutes caught up to the teen, they punched and kicked him, before grabbing his iPhone 7 and green case, officials said.

## Bodega brute

A gun-toting savage shot a guy in the foot and stole a bunch of cash from the register of a Fulton Street grocery on Dec. 19, cops said.

The 21-year-old bodega employee told police the black mask-wearing tough entered the store near St. Felix Street around 12:35 pm, brandished a silver handgun, and then hopped behind the counter. The ruffian forced the victim into a corner and demanded money from the cash register, police said, and then fired his gun twice, striking the employee's right foot once.

The shooter took more

money from the register before fleeing, according to officials, who said a nearby doctor helped the victim until paramedics arrived and transported him to Methodist Hospital.

## Two against one

A pair of villains threatened a teen and stole his phone and backpack inside a park near Willoughby Avenue on Dec. 21, police said.

The 13-year-old victim was near Emerson Place around 2:30 pm when one of the goons asked him what time it was while the other displayed a black and silver firearm, authorities said. The pair of baddies demanded the teen's phone, and one of them threatened him by pressing the gun to his chest, according to a report.

The nogoodniks ran off with the teen's iPhone 7, Samsung phone, and backpack, officials said.

## Subway savage

A punk tried to swipe a woman's purse inside a subway station near Fulton Street while she was with her two children on Dec. 24, cops said.

The victim told police she and her two kids entered the station near Washington Avenue around 11:40 am when a malefactor waiting outside the turnstiles tried to grab her purse.

The woman fought back, causing the purse strap to break, and the jerk let go and fled, officials said.

## Loo loot

Some crook broke into a woman's Gates Avenue apartment and stole her jewelry and laptop on Dec. 21, police said.

The woman told authorities she left for work around 9 am, and when she returned to her apartment near St. James Place around 5:15 pm, she realized her stuff was missing,

the bathroom window was unlocked, and the bathroom rug was moved.

The intruder swiped the victim's Apple laptop, Frost earrings, Turkish-gold earrings, diamond studs, and Tiffany necklace, officials said, and the woman's neighbor told authorities she saw a man carrying a bag leave the apartment around 5:15 pm.

## Dude, lost a Dell

Some jerk stole a guy's electronics and credit cards from his car parked on Fulton Street on Dec. 19, authorities said.

The victim told officials he parked his car near Carlton Avenue around 7:30 am before going to work, and when he returned at 11 am, he saw his vehicle was unlocked and some nogoodnik had taken his Dell laptop, global-positioning system, two credit cards, and backpack, said cops.

—Julianne Cuba

## 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

## Punch drunk

Some goon assaulted a drunk man on Flatbush Avenue near Dean Street on Dec. 17.

The victim told police he'd been arguing with the brute that night, when the man socked him once in the face.

Emergency workers took the victim to New York Methodist Hospital following the assault, according to cops, who noted that he was intoxicated.

## Hostile worker

A former employee of a Fifth Avenue diner threatened his one-time boss on Dec. 12.

The victim told authorities that the disgruntled worker stormed into the eatery between Ninth and 10th streets at 8:45 pm and said he'd get hurt if he didn't fork up some dough the man claims he was owed.

Officials referred the victim to criminal court to obtain an order of protection, and then closed the case, cops said.

## Cat nap

Police arrested a man on Dec. 13 because he took too long feeding his cat at a Flatbush Avenue building that he was evicted from.

A landlord told cops the suspect was evicted from his building between Dean and Bergen streets, but that he's still allowed to come back for an hour at a time to feed his cat.

When the suspect showed up around 1:35 pm, however, he refused to leave after the allotted hour, so the landlord called the cops, who came and took the man away, according to a report.

## Rides away

Carjackers descended upon Park Slope in a thieving frenzy that left three vehicle owners without rides earlier this month. Here's the rundown:

• A thief nabbed an 85-year-old man's 1998 Honda Accord he left parked on Bergen Street between Fifth and Flatbush avenues from Dec. 4 to 10.

• Some crook rode off with a man's 2018 Yamaha motorcycle he left on Lincoln Place between Fifth and Sixth avenues from Dec. 7 to 13.

• Another bike bandit stole a man's 2009 BMW he left on Eighth Avenue between First and Second streets around midnight on Dec. 12. The victim was gone for a little more than two hours, and returned to find an empty spot where his motorcycle had been, cops said.

—Colin Mixson

## 76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–  
Cobble Hill–Red Hook  
Christmas theft

A good-for-nothing stole a Christmas gift from a car parked on Strong Place on Dec. 22.

The victim left her unlocked car parked between Kane and Degraw street at 11 pm, and when she returned at 9 am the next day, she found the driver-side door open and a bottle of Jay-Z Gold cologne missing, police said.

## Jackets jacked

A nogoodnik stole three coats from an Atlantic Avenue clothing store on Dec. 21.

The thief walked out of the shop between Clinton and Court streets without paying for a Champion hoodie and two North Face coats, authorities said.

## Missing jewelry

Someone swiped several pieces of pricey jewelry from a woman's Douglas Street home around Sept. 12, the victim reported on Dec. 12.

The woman said the jewelry went missing from her home between Court and Smith streets sometime after Sept. 12, and that she waited to tell police because she was trying to get information from a company that had done work on her house. She told cops that a pearl ring, a pearl necklace, a pair of earrings, and two necklaces were stolen.

## Beat down

A woman hit and bit another woman on Baltic Street on Dec. 21.

The 32-year-old victim was walking between Hoyt and Bond streets when the stranger struck her in the left eye and bit her pinkie until it bled. The victim sought treatment for the bite wound and swelling in her eye at a hospital, police said.

—Adam Lucente

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights  
Without a trace

A thief swiped more than

an estimated \$20,000 worth of jewelry from a 78th Street home on Dec. 18, authorities said.

The victim told police he and his mother left the apartment between Fourth and Fifth avenues between 11:45 am and 2:30 pm, and when the mother returned to the home, she found the top lock of the front door unlocked.

There was no damage to the door or windows, according to a report, and officials are not sure how the crook entered the apartment — although the trespasser did leave behind a chisel that was probably used to pry open the locked drawer that contained the jewels, authorities said.

Police swabbed the chisel and the foot of the bed for evidence.

## Gifted crook

A lying lout swindled a 66-year-old man out of \$1,500 on Dec. 19 by pretending to be a lawyer, police said.

The crook called the man around noon claiming that he was an attorney and that the man's godson needed bail money, authorities said.

The man then sent the thief \$1,500 in Target gift cards, but when he called his godson, he found out he was not in jail and that the call was a scam, according to a report.

—Julianne McShane

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## TROLLEY...

Continued from page 1

gentrification in the nabes it will serve, many of which are home to thousands of public-housing residents.

Some Brooklynites booed the light-rail scheme at a Dec. 14 town hall with the mayor and Red Hook Councilman Carlos Menchaca, and loudly jeered again when DeBlasio claimed he proposed the idea to improve areas' transit options — not as a giveaway to greedy developers.

"I said I want the most transportation options I can get in this city. The plan is

moving forward," DeBlasio said to the crowd. "More mass transit options are good for everyone, so this whole thing that developers like it, therefore it must be awful — I don't accept that."

Other locals echoed transit honchos' concerns about how the nabes affected by the pair of large projects will handle the influx of construction workers and changes in traffic the jobs will bring, with one woman at the BQE meeting saying it is "stupid" to be planning both at the same time.

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## Hello, Dolly!



Kevin Frest

Welcome to the Dollhouse!

A Dolly Parton cover band will celebrate the country music icon's 72nd birthday a little early, with a Jan. 6 celebration featuring music, comedy, burlesque, and drag performers. Brooklyn band Doll Parts will take the stage at Union Hall, leading an eclectic evening of tributes to the country singer, who was born on Jan. 17, 1946. Parton herself would approve of the lineup, said the band's keyboard player and singer, because her living legacy is one of acceptance for all.

"She's so fully herself in ways we can all aspire to," said Maggie Katz. "She's unapologetic about who she is and promotes radical acceptance."

Doll Parts will play an array of Parton's hits at the concert for an audience of fans that — just like the band — has always loved her.

"All Dolly fans want a place to celebrate together," said Katz. "She has an eclectic fan base. She unites everyone."

Parton's enthusiastic embrace of plastic surgery, wigs, and rhinestones has made her an icon of exaggerated femininity, and the band members are excited to see the looks cooked up by drag queens Lady Quesa'Dilla and CalcuttaBitch, as well as comedy duo Fantasy Grandma and burlesque performer Darlinda Just Darlinda, said the band's ukulele player and singer.

"It'll be incredible to see them take on a Dolly side of themselves," said Julia Sirna-Frest.

The night will also feature a culinary celebration of Parton, in the form of a cake designed after her two most prominent attributes.

"A friend is making a giant birthday cake of Dolly's boobs," said Sirna-Frest. "We'll sing 'Happy Birthday' and then everyone will eat a piece of Dolly's boobs."

Doll Parts formed in 2011, literally fulfilling a dream of Sirna-Frest's husband.

"My husband woke up in the middle of the night and told me to start a Dolly Parton cover band and then went back to sleep," she said.

None of the band members hail from the south, so you could say they lack country roots. But they admire Parton's prolific songwriting ability, stage presence, and pretty much everything about her.

"She's just so cool and an incredible artist," said Sirna-Frest. "And who doesn't love Dolly? I haven't met anybody. She's the patron saint of glitter, glam, and love."

"Happy Birthday Dolly Parton" at Union Hall (702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com)). Jan. 6 at 8 pm. \$10.

— Adam Lucente

## BOOKS

## Reading picks

**Community Bookstore's pick:** "The Odyssey" by Emily Wilson

Emily Wilson's newly released translation of Homer's *Odyssey* is notable for being the first by a woman, which is in and of itself remarkable. Even more impressive is the level of rigor and creative insight she brings to the text. Matching the line count of the original, and combining a great depth of scholarship with a unique poetic voice, Wilson's translation makes Homer's text feel more urgent and idiosyncratic, more alive, than it has in a very long time. A classic for the ages!

— Samuel Partal, Community Bookstore [43 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783-3075, [www.communitybookstore.net](http://www.communitybookstore.net)].

**Greenlight Bookstore's pick:** "The Sixth Extinction" by Elizabeth Kolbert

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, "The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History" investigates the indelible marks humans have left (and continue to leave) on the planet.

Each chapter focuses on a particular species or setting, and Kolbert relays the terrain — be it terra firma, aquatic, psychological, or otherwise — with animated detail, and she brings animals never seen by 21st century eyes to life with clear, simple imagery. The present extinction is worth learning about (especially in the context of previous extinctions) so that we can use our knowledge of the past to shape the most preferable future.

— Melissa Hohl, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, [www.greenlightbookstore.com](http://www.greenlightbookstore.com)].

**Word's pick:** "Frida" by Sébastien Perez

If you would like to understand painter Frida Kahlo as she was, pick up this book and read it without distraction — I encourage you to get lost in the pages of Sébastien Perez's writing and Benjamin Lacombe's illustrations. The excerpts from Kahlo's journals are woven so well into the text that it almost feels like you are flipping through a book of thorned roses. This homage was done with such reverence and detail — from the words to the colors to the die-cuts — that I could not leave the store without a copy. I teared up when I read it for the first time, and hugged it following every re-read thereafter, wishing I could hug Kahlo just the same.

— Shevane Cesar, Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, [www.wordbookstores.com](http://www.wordbookstores.com)].

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Brooklyn

Borough of Kings

Dec. 29, 2017–Jan. 4, 2018



Photo by Erin Lefevre

**Potty time:** Kimberly Worsham will lead "The Long and Fascinating History of Toilets," a seminar on the history of the throne, at the Brooklyn Brainerly on Jan. 4. The class is already over-stuffed, but those on its wait list who can hold their excitement can look forward to another talk coming soon, she said.

# Behind the throne

## Expert's seminar overflows with toilet knowledge

By Julianne Cuba  
for Brooklyn Paper

She's got a potty mouth! Learn all about the toilet during teacher Kimberly Worsham's already-stuffed class "The Long and Fascinating History of Toilets," at the Brooklyn Brainerly on Jan. 4 — if you can get off the wait list. If not, try to hold in your excitement until she has another toilet talk at the Prospect Heights community classroom — probably coming in February.

Bathroom humor may be banned from the table at dinner time, but it is welcome in Worsham's classroom, she said.

"As a society we're not allowed to talk about toilets very openly, I try to make it

fun," said Worsham, who lives on the distant isle of Manhattan. "It's not about you and your toilet, it's about the history."

Worsham, who fell in love with the throne as a child and ultimately made it the focus of her career in water and sanitation development, will unpack the history of the loo from the beginning of civilization, but no one really knows when that was, she said.

"People think the Romans invented the sanitation but they did not — it started far before them. It started probably about 5,000 years ago or more," said Worsham. "People don't actually know where the first toilet was."

And one of the biggest potty fallacies is that 19th-century Englishman Thomas

Crapper invented the so-called crapper. He did influence it, as a successful marketer, but that is about it, she said.

"He did a few little tweaks but nothing very substantial," said Worsham. Another cringe-worthy toilet tidbit is the origins of toilet paper, which dates back to the Romans, she said.

"They'd use them like public baths — just sit on toilets and socialize while sharing these things, sticks with sponges on them, and wipe their butts with it and clean them with water and share with friends," said Worsham. "Good old Romans."

Fast-forward thousands of years to this very borough and you've got one of the best and cleanest infrastructure systems in the world, said Worsham.

"One of the first comprehensive sewer systems was in Brooklyn," she said.

Worsham will also share some important tips before you take a squat, like what should and shouldn't go into a toilet, and the importance of avoiding bacteria-filled baby poo.

"Don't flush wet wipes. Please for the love of god, don't flush wet wipes!" said Worsham. "If you have a child, please wash your hands and know their poo is the most lethal poo in the world."

"The Long and Fascinating History of Toilets" at Brooklyn Brainerly [190 Underhill Ave. between Sterling and St. Johns places in Prospect Heights, (347) 292-7246, [www.brooklynbrainerly.com](http://www.brooklynbrainerly.com)]. Jan. 4, wait list only. 6:30 pm. \$10.

# Twice the 'Fun'

## They Might Be Giants launch 'I Like Fun' at year-end shows

By Bill Kopp  
for Brooklyn Paper

When the clock strikes 12 it's happy land!

Beloved Brooklyn band They Might Be Giants will say goodbye to 2017 with a pair of concerts at the Music Hall of Williamsburg on Dec. 30 and on New Year's Eve. Over the last few years, it has become a tradition for the Giants to play a New Year's Eve show in their hometown of old New York, which was once New Amsterdam. Why did touring on New Year's Eve get the works? I can't say, but one of the band's co-founders said that they liked it better that way.

"It really felt like when everybody — the entire world, really — was having a good time, we were just running

around," said John Flansburgh, who formed the band 35 years ago with John Linnell.

The shows will also offer a sneak peek at the band's 20th studio album "I Like Fun," due out on Jan. 19. The band plans to launch a tour of the United States and Europe in mid-January, but the Williamsburg shows feature the debut of a new live lineup that includes trumpeter Kurt Ram, a veteran of performances with Bruce Springsteen and Nile Rodgers.

"Somehow we talked him into coming on board full time with us," Flansburgh said.

Many popular songs in the band's catalog feature trumpet, notably the again-topical hit "Your Racist Friend" and the band's theme song, but having a dedicated trumpet player on the



Shervin Linnell

**Can you hear me now?:** The miked-up musicians of They Might Be Giants will rock the Music Hall of Williamsburg at back-to-back shows on Dec. 30 and 31.

stage will offer new options for the live show, he said.

"When we've done those songs live, we've just kind of glossed over the fact that the trumpet isn't there," Flansburgh said. "And we'll be able to do some real audience favorites

much more precisely."

The shows will also preview some songs from "I Like Fun," two of which — "I Left My Body" and "Last Wave" — have already been released. The latter tune employs a creative model that has proven successful for They Might Be Gi-

ants in the past: wedding a hook-filled, up-tempo melody to lyrics about living and dying alone. The lyrics recall "Don't Let's Start," a song from the band's debut, self-titled album from 1987, which crooned "Everyone dies frustrated and sad — and that is beautiful!"

Band co-founder Linnell was the author of both "Last Wave" and "Don't Let's Start," but Flansburgh believes that both tunes explore the nature of what a pop song can express, he said.

"You can really put a lot of ideas into a pop song," he says. "The ideas in the melody, rhythm, and arrangement are incredibly persuasive to people. And in a way, the lyric is pushing the outer limits of what's possible in that format."

And though the band seems to have a bottomless well of musical ideas, Flansburgh is forthright about the limits of originality.

"We've been making songs for 35 years now," he says. "At a certain point, you have to forgive yourself for reusing nouns and revisiting ideas."

They Might Be Giants at Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St. between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg, [www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com](http://www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com)), Dec. 30 and 31 at 9 pm. \$30–\$40.

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### FRIDAY

Dec. 29



#### Bordello's back!

The New York City-based, nine-person band Gogol Bordello continues its world tour with a hometown performance at Williamsburg's Brooklyn Steel. The headlining troupe is joined by the city-based music makers from Lucky Chops, who will open the show with their energetic brass-funk tunes.

8 pm at Brooklyn Steel (319 Frost St. at Debevoise Avenue in Williamsburg, [www.bowerypresents.com/brooklyn-steel](http://www.bowerypresents.com/brooklyn-steel)). \$32.

### SUNDAY

Dec. 31

#### Final countdown

Finding a New Year's Eve party that doesn't cost an arm and a leg just to get in the door can be tricky, but Ditmas Park's neighborhood watering hole Sycamore is hosting a bash that's free to enter, boasts two happy hours, and features sets by two deejays. Cheers to that!

1 pm at Sycamore (1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850, [www.sycamorebrooklyn.com](http://www.sycamorebrooklyn.com)). Free.



### MONDAY

Jan. 1



#### Chill out

Shock what remains from last night's party out of your system at the Coney Island Polar Bear Club's annual New Year's Day plunge into the frigid waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Don't forget your bathing suit and a set of warm clothes to change into after you make the daredevil dip.

1 pm at Coney Island USA (1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159, [www.coneyisland.com](http://www.coneyisland.com)). \$20 suggested donation.

### TUESDAY

Jan. 2

#### Puck around

The New York Islanders are not long for their current Barclays Center digs following the recent announcement that the hockey team will move to a brand new stadium in Queens, so now is the time to see the squad hit the ice in Brooklyn. Tonight, the Islanders face off against the visiting Boston Bruins, and who doesn't love a New York-Boston battle?

7 pm at Barclays Center (620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, [www.barclayscenter.com](http://www.barclayscenter.com)). \$21-\$201.



### WEDNESDAY

Jan. 3



#### Gut busting

The Chicago-style stand-up showcase "Comedians You Should Know" features performances by funny folk including Judah Friedlander, Michael Kosta, Aparna Nancherla, and Saurin Choksi, all of whom will tell their jokes at Williamsburg's beloved bowling-alley-slash-dive-bar The Gutter.

9 pm at The Gutter (200 N. 14th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 387-3585, [thegutterbrooklyn.com](http://thegutterbrooklyn.com)). \$5.

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

### FRI, DEC. 29

**ART, SOUP KITCHEN 2017:** Every night in December, an artist will provide a free one-pot meal for 15-20 people, and present a one-night exhibit, musical performance, short play, comedy routine, or other event. Free. 7 pm. Open Source Gallery (306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279-3969, [www.open-source-gallery.org](http://www.open-source-gallery.org)).

**ART, "SOULFUL CREATURES":** An exhibit of animal mummies from ancient Egypt. \$16 suggested donation. 11 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000, [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)).

**MUSIC, GOGOL BORDELLO:** With Lucky Chops. \$32. 8 pm. Brooklyn Steel (319 Frost St. at Debevoise Avenue in Williamsburg), [www.bowerypresents.com/brooklyn-steel](http://www.bowerypresents.com/brooklyn-steel).

**FAMILY, DROP IN PLAY AT SPARK:** Kids can build their own structures in our popular exhibit Brooklyn Block Lab, and join art activities that change every week. \$15. 1-5pm. Spark by Brooklyn Children's Museum (1 John St. between Adams and Plymouth streets in Dumbo, (718) 852-2470, [www.brooklynkids.org/spark](http://www.brooklynkids.org/spark)).

**MUSIC, LETTUCE:** With special guest John Scofield and Butcher Brown. \$35 (\$30 in advance). 8:30 pm. Brooklyn Bowl (61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369, [www.brooklynbowl.com](http://www.brooklynbowl.com)).

**MUSIC, HEAD AND SOUTH BAND:** A night of classic and Southern rock, with covers of hits by the Eagles, the Allman Brothers Band and Fleetwood Mac. Free. 10 pm. Greenhouse Café (7177 Third Ave. between 77th and 78th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-8200, [www.greenhousecafe.com](http://www.greenhousecafe.com)).

### SAT, DEC. 30

**FAMILY, LUCY KALANTARI AND THE JAZZ CATS:** A jazz-brunch event for kids and adults. Free. 1 pm. Industry City Courtyard 1-2 (Enter at Second Avenue between 36th and 37th streets in Sunset Park, [www.industrycity.com](http://www.industrycity.com)).



**Start the year right:** The Brooklyn Nets will look for a win against Orlando Magic at Barclays Center on New Year's Day.

## COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

### MON, JAN. 1

**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V ORLANDO MAGIC:** \$21-\$255. 7:30 pm.

### FRI, JAN. 5

**SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V PITTSBURGH PENGUINS:** \$29-\$241. 7 pm.

### TUE, JAN. 2

**SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V BOSTON BRUINS:** \$21-\$201. 7 pm.

### SAT, JAN. 6

**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V BOSTON CELTICS:** \$41-\$356. 6 pm.

### WED, JAN. 3

**SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES:** \$22-\$222. 7:30 pm.

### SUN, JAN. 7

**SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V NEW JERSEY DEVILS:** \$16-\$160. 1 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, [www.barclayscenter.com](http://www.barclayscenter.com).

<http://>

Find lots more listings online at [BrooklynPaper.com/Events](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Events)

**MUSIC, TRAGEDY:** A heavy-metal Bee Gees cover band! With opening acts Wyldlife and Netherlands. \$15. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bazaar (150 Greenpoint Ave. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint), [www.bkbazaar.com](http://www.bkbazaar.com).

**MUSIC, LETTUCE:** With special guests John Scofield and Pharoahe Monch, and Bobby Deitch Band. \$35 (\$30 in advance). 8:30 pm. See Friday, Dec. 29.

**MUSIC, THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS:** The beloved nerdy rock band plays on the eve of New Year's Eve and on New Year's Eve. \$30-\$40. 9 pm. Music Hall of Williamsburg (66 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 486-5400, [www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com](http://www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com)).

**MARKET, WINTER FLEA AND HOLIDAY MARKET:** The Brooklyn Flea moves to Industry City for the winter, with 50 retail vendors and 10 Smorgasburg food stalls, plus a bar with wine, beer, and cocktails. Free. 11 am-6 pm. Industry City (241 37th St., second floor, between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park).

**MUSIC, LONDON FOGG:** The septet performs songs made famous by some of Britain's most beloved musical acts, including the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Free. 4 pm. The Leif Bar (6725 Fifth Ave. between 67th and 68th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-0016).

**DINING, BROOKLYN BREWERY SAMPLING EVENT:** Try the latest from Brooklyn Brewery. Free. 7-10 pm. Prospect Heights Beer Works (648 Washington Ave. between Dean and Bergen streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-2337, [www.phbeerworksny.com](http://www.phbeerworksny.com)).

**EVENT, THE AMAZING BROOKLYN MUSEUM SCAVENGER HUNT:** A series of clues leads you around the Brooklyn Museum performing men-

See 9 DAYS on page 7

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# Meat me at SaltBrick

*New restaurant Downtown is a delicious delight*

By Lisa J. Curtis  
for Brooklyn Paper

This steakhouse has rare appeal!

Every Brooklyn restaurant needs a hook to lure in diners, and Downtown's new SaltBrick Tavern literally has dozens: pink neon hooks, to be precise. Inspired by meat hooks, they are suspended theatrically over diners like repurposed props from an avant-garde production of "Sweeney Todd." But SaltBrick Tavern's most important hook is the delicious selection of steaks that the company dry-ages in a room lined with Himalayan-salt tiles — lending the restaurant its distinctive name.

SaltBrick Tavern, which opened in November adjacent to Downtown's Hampton Inn, is the latest addition to Craveable Hospitality Group's collection of restaurants — best known for their three collaborations with "Iron Chef" star David Burke. In fact, each bite of a SaltBrick Tavern steak comes directly from David Burke Prime Steakhouse's dry-aging room in Connecticut, according to Gerard Pietrafesa, Jr., a manager at SaltBrick.

The dangling hooks catch your eye, but it's SaltBrick's decor that reels you in with its warm and cozy feel. It offers red velvet banquettes and gently glowing pink walls of Himalayan salt bricks as an antidote to a blustery winter's night.

And it's worth the effort to trudge through the snow and pull up a chair here. The signature SaltBrick Beef options include a tender and sur-



Meat the man: SaltBrick Tavern's head chef Christopher Kim holds the bone-in ribeye steak.

prisingly flavorful filet mignon and a bone-in rib eye, dry aged for 55 days. Executive chef Christopher Kim offers a selection of sauces — classic Bearnaise, bordelaise, chimichurri, horse-radish cream, or housemade steak sauce — but the cuts we sampled had such umami that we didn't even consider dipping our fork into one. Among the side dishes — generously portioned for two diners —

are decadent, buttery mashed potatoes and snappy haricots verts. We were as beguiled as Persephone by the juicy pomegranate fruit and crispy shallots that elevated Kim's roasted Brussels sprouts.

Kim offers many comfort-food entrees to delight diners on a chilly night. The toothsome cavatelli, made with fresh carrot juice (that lent a subtle sweetness), was tossed with a perfect rabbit-

bolognese sauce and layered over a bed of creamy ricotta cheese. The hearty cavatelli had more than taste, it had style — it was festively garnished with wide ribbons of every color of carrot.

Daintier appetites will be wooed by Kim's surefire "snacks" and "starters" such as "Tots and Caviar" — a whimsical pairing of tater tots and caviar-topped, herbed sour cream — or his rich heirloom squash

soup, served with cardamom creme fraiche and crunchily, spiced pumpkin seeds.

Every great meal deserves a grand finale to marvel over, and pastry chef Tracy Wilk rises to the occasion — like SaltBrick's peerless popovers — with her "PB S'Mores Baked Alaska." Delivered to the table in a cast-iron pan and set aflame, the s'mores-inspired dessert features a chocolate "stick" (to evoke the childhood pleasure of roasting a marshmallow over a bonfire), peanut butter ice cream, and torched marshmallow fluff.

And her daunting "PieCaken," is a towering, deeply chocolatey assemblage of five layers of cake, including New York cheesecake and Brooklyn Blackout, that takes two forks — or more — to defeat!

The same hometown pride that created the "PieCaken" infuses SaltBrick's cocktail and beer lists: the grapefruit-infused Loving Cup is made with Dorothy Parker gin from Williamsburg's New York Distilling Company, and the beers are almost entirely from Brooklyn brewers.

There's no doubt about it, we're hooked. SaltBrick Tavern's warm hospitality; rich, stick-to-your-ribs fare; and commitment to supporting local businesses make it a good neighbor that we will visit again and again.

SaltBrick Tavern [156 Tillary St. between Flatbush Avenue Ext. and Gold Street Downtown, (347) 417-9112, www.saltbricktavernnyc.com]. Open Mon-Fri, daily, 4 pm-11 pm; Sat, Sun, 11:30 am-11 pm.

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

tal challenges along the way. One member of the team should have a smart phone with an app called Scan-Quest. Please download that before you come to the event. \$39 per person. 12:30 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

### SUN, DEC. 31

**MUSIC, ROCK AND ROLL PLAYHOUSE PHISH PHAMILY CONCERT:** Featuring Phish cover band Kids Gone Phishing. \$15 (\$12 in advance). 11:30 am. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

**MUSIC, LETTUCE:** With special guest John Scofield and Jaw Gems. \$60 (\$55 in advance). 8:30 pm. See Friday, Dec. 29.

**MUSIC, AMANDA PALMER AND JASON WEBLEY'S NEW YEAR'S EVE PHANTASMAGORIA:** Webley and Palmer perform solo and Dresden Dolls favorites, unreleased new material, and more, with surprises and special guests This Way to Egress, Lacy Rose, Alaina Ferris, and Kalan Sherrard. \$65-\$150. 9 pm. Brooklyn Bazaar [150 Greenpoint Ave. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint], www.bkbaazaar.com.

**DINING, HELLO 2018:** Featuring two happy hours from 1-4 pm and 6-8 pm, music from deejays Farbeon and Rabbi Darkside, and 25 bottles of champagne. Free. 1 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminister roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], www.sycamore-brooklyn.com.

**DINING, RING IN 2018:** Featuring an open bar, champagne toast, ice luge, and buffet. \$100. 8 pm. Northern Territory [12 Franklin St. between Meserole Ave. and N 15th St. in Greenpoint (347) 689-4065], www.northernterritorybk.com.

**MUSIC, NEW YEAR'S WITH THE SMITHS:** Featuring Smiths tribute band The Sons and Heirs, complimentary champagne, and dancing after midnight. \$20-\$25. 9 pm. Littlefield [635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**DINING, CHAMPAGNE RIOT NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECTACULAR:** The supper club rings in the new year with vintage style, a three-course meal, burlesque performances, music, and dancing at the stroke of midnight. \$150. 10 pm. Guadalupe Inn [1 Knickerbocker Ave. at Johnson Avenue in Bushwick, (718) 366-0500], guadalupeinnbk.com.

**EVENT, THE AWESOME AUGHTS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Ring in the new year with a party that cel-

brates the music of the first decade of the 2000s. \$5. 10 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

**EVENT, NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS:** Brooklyn sends 2017 off with a bang with a huge fireworks show at Grand Army Plaza. Head down early for hot chocolate and live entertainment. Free. 11 pm. Grand Army Plaza (Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope).

**EVENT, NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION:** Ring in the New Year in the year with some fun and fireworks at this family-friendly bash. Free. 6 pm-12 am. Coney Island USA [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159], www.coneyisland.com.

### MON, JAN. 1

**OUTDOORS, NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE:** A light walk in the park offers a healthy way to stride into the new year. Rangers lead hikers to the hidden gems in Prospect Park. Free. 11 am-12:30 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

**EVENT, CONEY ISLAND POLAR BEAR CLUB NEW YEAR'S DAY SWIM:** Start the new year off with a splash by jumping into the freezing waters of the Atlantic Ocean with hordes of other brave swimmers. \$20 suggested donation. 1 pm. Coney Island USA [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159], www.coneyisland.com.

**THEATER, MAGIC AT CONEY:** Mentalists, escape artists, illusionists, and more amaze the New Year's Day crowd. \$10 (\$5 kids). 3 pm. Coney Island USA [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12th Street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159], www.coneyisland.com.

**MUSIC, AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY MUSIC ENSEMBLE:** New Year's Day concert featuring works by Bach, Schubert, Pärt, Nyman, Mozart, Reich, and Beethoven. \$20. 6 pm. San Damiano Mission [85 N 15th St. between Banker St. and Nassau Ave. in Greenpoint], www.missionbklyn.org.

**COMEDY, COMEDY MONDAY:** Dominate the first open-mike comedy night of the new year! Free. 6 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

### TUES, JAN. 2

**EVENT, TRIVIA TUESDAY:** Teams of up to six members and individuals are welcome! Free. 8 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminister roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

### WED, JAN. 3

**COMEDY, JENNY'S BIRTHDAY VARIETY SHOW:** Every month, Jenny Gorelick celebrates her birthday with comedians, performers, and cake. \$8 (\$6 in advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

**COMEDY, COMEDIANS YOU SHOULD KNOW:** The Chicago-style stand-up showcase features Michael Kosta, Judah Friedlander, Aparna Nancharla, and Saurin Choksi. Hosted by Mike Lebovitz. \$5. 9 pm. The Gutter [200 N. 14th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 387-3585], thegutterbrooklyn.com.

### THURS, JAN. 4

**COMEDY, "F--- IT! WE'LL DO IT LIVE!":** A free monthly stand-up comedy showcase, and a little bit more. Free. 8 pm. Tender Trap [66 Greenpoint Ave. between West and Franklin streets in Greenpoint], www.tendertrapbk.com.

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### FRI, JAN. 5

**ART, "EVERYTHING YOU DO IS PERFECT" OPENING RECEPTION:** New abstract paintings by Nina Meledandri. Free. 5-8 pm. FiveMyles [558 St. John's Place between Classon and Franklin avenues in Crown Heights, (718) 783-4438], www.fivemyles.org.

**DINING, SIXPOINT SAMPLING EVENT:** Challenge your taste buds with the latest Sixpoint beers. Free. 7-10 pm. Prospect Heights Beer Works [648 Washington Ave. between Dean and Bergen streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-2337], www.phbeerworksny.com.

### SAT, JAN. 6

**MUSIC, HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOLLY PARTON!** A celebration of the singer featuring cover band Doll Parts with special guests FantasyGrandma, burlesque performer Darlinda Just Darlinda, and more. \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

**ART, BROOKLYN MUSEUM'S TARGET FIRST SATURDAY:** Start the new year with a cu-

rator-led tour of the Rodin exhibit, music performances by Sinkane, New Kingston, and Bearcat, a screening of "I Am Not Your Negro," and comedy sets by Nimesh Patel, Emma Willmann, Jordan Carlos, Sasheer Zamata, and more. Free. 5-11 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**MUSIC, SINKANE:** The London-born artist lived in Sudan until he was 5-years-old, and in those years, he absorbed the North African musical culture that inspires his rapturous hybrid sound, which is laced with Sudanese pop, electronica, funk, and jazz. Presented by the Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert Series. Free. 5 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**DINING, CERPA SAMPLING EVENT:** Drop by Prospect Height Beer Works for a taste of what Cerpa is brewing for the new year. Free. 8-10 pm. Prospect Heights Beer Works [648 Washington Ave. between Dean and Bergen streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-2337], www.phbeerworksny.com.

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## ON THE RADIO

# Gowanus Tunnel lives!

By Moses Jefferson  
Brooklyn Paper

A decades-old dream of burying the hated Gowanus Expressway — a move that would free Brooklyn residents of choking pollution and remove an eyesore that has stunted the growth of Sunset Park for more than 50 years — is still alive, and one Brooklyn Heights Assemblywoman wants to make it a reality.

Appearing on Brooklyn Paper Radio for the first time, Jo Anne Simon (D-Brooklyn Heights) told host Vince DiMiceli the plan the federal government quietly killed in 2011 is actually alive and well, and practically shovel-ready for any massive infrastructure projects President Trump wants to push through.

The key, Simon says, is moving the proposed tunnel from beneath Third Avenue to the harbor, where a straight connection can be made to the “trench” portion of the



Photo by Jason Spalheim

Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon told BPR she is “still working” on burying the Gowanus Expressway.

BQE just past Red Hook in Carroll Gardens.

“I’m still working on it,” she said. “You can call me ‘Queen of the Gowanus.’”

DiMiceli, who claimed he’d covered plans for “Brooklyn’s Big Dig” when he was a strap-

ping young reporter back in the 1990s, was immediately on board.

“A Big Dig in Brooklyn would do wonders for Sunset Park,” DiMiceli said.

The Simon Tunnel Plan, as we’ll call it moving forward, came up thanks to an initial discussion about a common enemy — truck traffic in Brooklyn coming from Staten Island. That, Simon claimed, was the result of a disastrous move by then Staten Island Rep. Guy Molinari, who put a provision into a federal highway bill demanding the two-way toll on the VZ (as we sometimes call it) become Staten Island-bound only, which literally freed up trucks coming from points south with a less expensive route across the Narrows.

At the time, Molinari claimed removing the toll would decrease air pollution on Staten Island, where the then-hand-collected tolls

did slow traffic across the island to the Goethals Bridge. Simon noted that was a reasonable point back then, but that the problem was eliminated earlier this year when toll booths were knocked down and replaced with a cashless system.

“The trucks are saving \$80 to \$100 a clip,” she said. “These roads were not built for this kind of traffic, but the Jersey Turnpike was.”

Host, guest, and Brooklyn Paper reporter Julianne Cuba eventually got to the topic of the day, the triple cantilever of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, which city officials now say must be replaced or shored up by 2026, lest truck traffic be banned from the dilapidated highway.

And Simon pointed out when driving on the roadway beneath the Brooklyn Heights Promenade, it’s best to stay as far away from the harbor as possible.

“The roadway near the

edges is not safe,” she said. “You want to stay near the wall.”

DiMiceli concurred. “This is a life and death situation,” DiMiceli said. “It’s just a matter of time before that thing falls into Brooklyn Bridge Park.”

Simon, Cuba, and DiMiceli also discussed the residential towers going up at the foot of Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn Bridge Park, but to find out what they had to say about that, you’ll have to listen to the episode, as we are well past our word count for this “brief” summation of the show, which will undoubtedly be cut significantly for our print edition.

Brooklyn Paper radio is recorded and podcast live every week — 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.



The parks department’s plans for Bridge Park 2 include a synthetic-turf field and play equipment for 2- to 5-year-olds and 5- to 12-year-olds.

## ‘Hard to imagine’

### Locals cheer approved plan for Dumbo space once called boro’s worst park

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

Things are looking up for the worst park ever.

Members of Community Board 2’s Parks Committee on Dec. 18 green-lit the city’s redesign plan for Bridge Park 2, a makeover that will transform the Dumbo “park” — which is more like a crumbling concrete lot than a lush green space — into a welcoming playground decorated with artwork throughout. The much-needed spruce up is a win for residents forced to find creative ways to play in the lousy space, according to a local commerce booster.

“I love the incorporation of the art very much,” said Alexandria Sica, who heads the Dumbo Business Improvement District. “It’s kind of shocking to see some of the renderings because it’s hard to imagine this kind of lush and green atmosphere.”

The Jehovah’s Witnesses

handed the city \$7 million to revamp the dilapidated space after pols demanded the religious organization keep its word on a 2004 promise to revamp the park as its honchos prepared to move their headquarters upstate. The group originally pledged \$5.5 million for the makeover, but Department of Parks and Recreation officials and Councilman Stephen Levin (D-Dumbo) negotiated the extra moolah to account for the cost of inflation after the deal was made.

Parks’ design for Bridge Park 2 re-imagines its eyesore of a wall that holds up the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway as a blank canvas, on which local artists can display their work or neighborhood youngsters can watch a flick beneath the stars with the aid of a projection system, according to an agency planner.

The parks department also

plans to better connect the irregularly shaped space’s two sections with a new pathway, and to lay a synthetic-turf field atop the space’s blacktop — a renovation that miffed some locals, including athletes in the Yorkfield Stickball League who play on the concrete and claimed they and other kids from the nearby public-housing complex will lose their beloved pitch.

“We’ve been using this as a ball field for 10 years now,” said Daniel Brumleve, a league member who lives in Greenpoint. “And not just us — kids from the Faragut Houses come all the time and they want to play ball, too.”

Separate play equipment for 2-to-5-year-olds and 5-to-12-year-olds, spray showers, swings, adult fitness equipment, and additional plantings and lighting will also be installed as part of the makeover.

## First for North Brooklyn Hospital opens new LGBTQ health center

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

This clinic is really something to be proud about!

Local leaders snipped a rainbow-colored ribbon to celebrate the Dec. 20 opening of North Brooklyn’s first medical facility dedicated to treating the LGBTQ community. The opening of Pride Health Center at Bedford-Stuyvesant’s Woodhull Hospital is an inclusive step towards making sure no patients fall through the cracks in getting the treatment they need, according to the nabe’s councilman.

“In a region as vibrant and diverse as Brooklyn, public institutions must ensure they are able to address a wide range of culturally-specific needs,” said Councilman Robert Cornegy

(D-Bedford-Stuyvesant).

Doctors at the center inside the public hospital at 760 Broadway are specially trained in providing care for LGBTQ patients, including primary care, obstetrics and gynecology, hormone therapy, behavioral health, sexually-transmitted-infection testing and treatment, and HIV-testing and prevention.

Clients can currently visit the gay-friendly clinic on Mondays from 4 to 8 pm, but hospital honchos expect to expand its operating hours as patient volume grows. And the larger medical center’s doctors are on call seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

The Pride Health Center is the second LGBTQ-focused clinic in the city’s public-hos-

pital system — the first opened in Manhattan in 2014 — and it is certainly not the last of its kind to arrive in the Borough of Kings.

Workers are expected to break ground early next year on another facility that serves the local gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer community, the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, and its honchos expect the Downtown clinic on Flatbush Avenue Extension to open in mid-2019.

And LGBTQ patients could already seek treatment at a specialized health center inside East Flatbush’s State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, which opened in 2015.

There may only be a handful



Mayor’s Office / Ed Reed

(From left) Woodhull Hospital’s head honcho Gregory Calliste, Assemblywoman Maritza Davila, First Lady Chirlane McCray, Woodhull’s chief medical officer Edward Fishkin, and patient Dovear Calhoun cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Pride Health Center.

in the borough, but the Pride Health Center’s opening represents Brooklyn’s important commitment to providing health services for members of its marginalized communities, according to another pol.

“As we move into the 21st century, it is imperative that we strive to build an inclusive society that respects and embraces individuals of all walks of life,” said Assemblywoman Maritza Davila (D-Bushwick).

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# Subway resolutions for '18

As the new year kicks in, New Yorkers look mindfully inward and recognize, with much soul searching, the truth:

*The train is never coming.*

Got that? Never ever ever ever. It will never come. You will never get to work on time, never meet your friend at the time and place you promised, never get home before your dinner is not only burnt, it has turned into coal and is halfway to becoming a diamond. (Which is, I guess, the up side of late trains.)

Instead of being shocked over and over by the unconscionable, soul-crushing, completely unjust *lateness* of all those late late late, slow, halting, sick-passenger-ahead, holding-lights, signal-problems trains, here are the “Resolutions for New York City Subway Riders in 2018.”

Just repeat to yourself:  
• When I get to the platform just as a train is shutting its doors, I resolve not to say anything out loud that would cause my grandmother to blush, faint, or come get me from her grave, whichever is most convenient.

• If I manage to reach the platform seconds *before* the doors close, I resolve not to stick any part of my body in between them, especially not a part that would hurt if sheared off.

• This includes my nose.  
• And your nose, if I was pushing. (Sorry.)

• Nor will I, while wait-



## Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

ing for the train, sigh as if the people around me have no idea how hard it is for me and only me to wait for the &@S\*! train.

• Excuse me, grandma. The tardy train.

• If I cannot figure out how to buy a MetroCard, I will accept this with grace, rather than punching random buttons for 10 minutes while the crowd behind me grows to the size of the Macy’s Parade.

• When and if I get on the train, I will immediately place my backpack in the gunk on the floor, rather than keeping it on my back where it serves as a boxing glove to anyone trying to slip by me, whom I notice not one whit.

• Speaking of which: When I do notice a woman who is eight or nine months pregnant, I will not immediately pretend not to notice her, if I am seated. (Unless I had a really long day.)

• If I am *watching* a movie on my phone, as *enjoying* a movie usually requires at least two senses. So I resolve

to get those strange things everyone’s wearing these days. What are they called again? Ear-stick-ins? Yes, by golly, I’ll try some of those ear-stick-ins.

• If I get on the train and there’s 7 inches of space on the bench I will not try to wedge into it.

• Well, come to think of it, I will. I mean, why not? If everyone would just suck in their stomachs — or their thighs, actually — I swear four people would fit onto those three-person benches, no problem.

• If I am man-spreading, I will cease to do this anymore, even if I am a woman. Even if no one else is on the train, I will keep my legs Velcroed together, to make up for all those other times before “man-spreading” became a thing (and a word!) and I did it all the time.

• If I am holding onto a pole I won’t pause to wipe my nose and then resume my pole-holding with my newly moist hand (or mitten, or glove).

• When I am getting off the train, I won’t “accidentally” brush the idiot who is blocking the door just to ex-

press my displeasure.

• Unless they *know* they should move but just *don’t*. You know who you are.

• When riding the escalator, I will stand to the right if I am going to just stand there.

• When riding the escalator behind someone on the *left* who is just standing there, I won’t roll my eyes, snort, start breathing into their hair, or make a big deal out of it. After all, I’ll still get where I’m going at almost the same time.

• Except I’m *already* 17 days late, thanks to the “sick passenger” four boroughs ahead of us.

• I will never be a sick passenger on a train. I promise. If I am sick, I will wait until the next stop and keel over once off the train and conveniently out of the way of passengers getting on.

• I will never keel over on the left side of the escalator.

• When exiting the station, I will not proceed through the turnstile a desperate commuter is trying to proceed into because they hear the train coming.

• Unless — ha ha! — you missed your train!

• Scratch that. I will be a Zen-like subway rider, patiently accepting that which I cannot change.

• While quietly muttering “Where the @\*!# is my @!#&\*%^ train?”

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

## STABLES...

*Continued from page 1*  
icantly deteriorated” ceiling joists throughout the building, and a wall jutting into the sidewalk at a 30-degree angle, according to a Department of Buildings report.

The decree requires all occupants to leave immediately, according to agency spokesman Joseph Soldevere, who said that vacate orders are only issued in response to

a “significant safety hazard.”

But Blankenship said he doesn’t have the money or resources to relocate his horses.

Instead, the manager is relying on support from his new business partner — who he said agreed to keep the facility and its current operators in the riding business for at least five years

as part of his purchase deal — to quickly remediate the barn’s structural issues before further penalties are issued, he said.

“The buyer is happy to help us with the buildings department,” said Blankenship, who refused to name the buyer despite his broker’s admission.

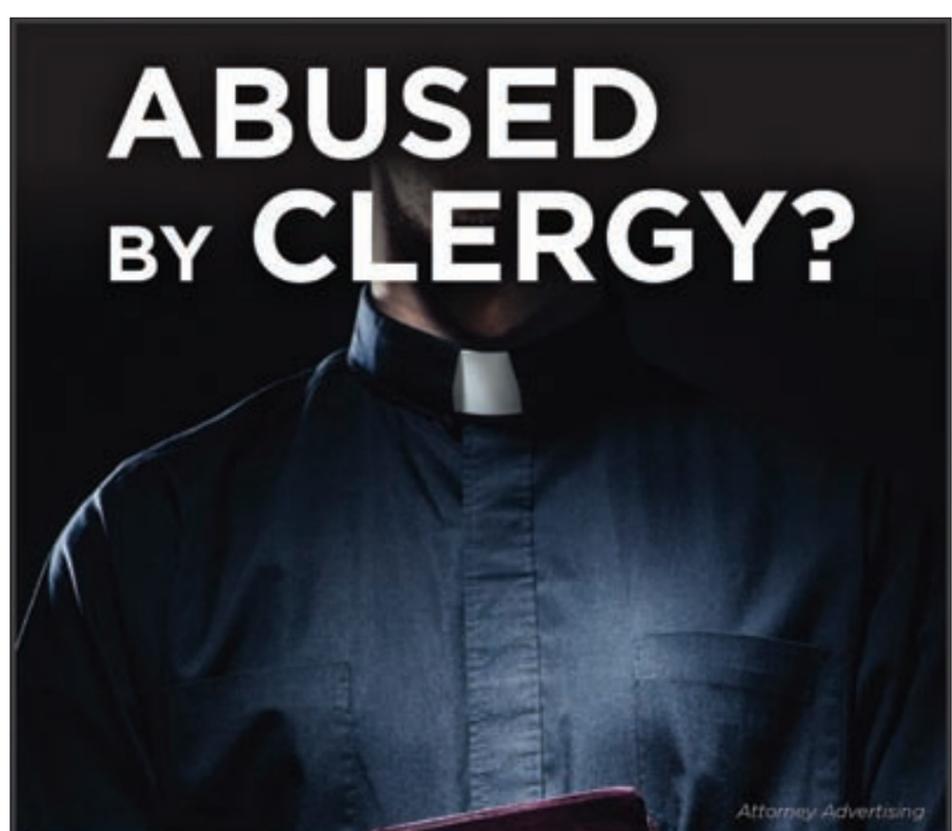
Quadrozzi also refused to acknowledge he purchased the stables, saying the deal is not finalized and citing an unspecified confidentiality agreement.

But a Bankruptcy Court plan-of-reorganization document described the “purchaser” as Quadrozzi Urban Enterprises.

The concrete magnate did admit he is helping Blankenship repair the facility, and said he would try to keep the building as a working barn for “as long as possible.”

And Blankenship said that Quadrozzi already contracted an engineer to inspect the property and draw up new plans, which the partners plan on filing permits for soon.

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## Legal

### SHERIFF'S SALE

BY VIRTUE OF AN EXECUTION ISSUED OUT OF THE SUPREME COURT, SULLIVAN COUNTY, in favor of ORSECK LAW OFFICES PLLC, and against ALICIA IPARRAGUIRRE, to me directed and delivered, I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION, by Dennis Alestra DCA# 0840217., auctioneer, as the law directs, FOR CASH ONLY, on the 14th day of FEBRUARY, 2018, at KINGS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE - 210 JORALEMON ST ROOM 909, at: 10:30 in the FORENOON county of KINGS all the right, title and interest which ALICIA IPARRAGUIRRE, the judgment debtor(s), had on the 7th day of FEBRUARY, 2017, or at anytime thereafter, of, in and to the following properties:

966 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, Block 02541, Lot 0007

ALL that certain pot, 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 Easterly side of Manhattan Avenue, distant 25 feet Southerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the Easterly side of Manhattan Avenue with the Southerly side of India Street;

RUNNING THENCE Easterly parallel with India Street, 100 feet;

THENCE Southerly parallel with Manhattan Avenue, 25 feet;

THENCE Westerly parallel with India Street and part of the distance through a party wall, 100 feet to the Easterly side of Manhattan Avenue;

THENCE Northerly along the Easterly side of Manhattan Avenue, 25 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING.

SAID premises known as 966 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, being tax lot parcel: Block 02541, Lot 0007, Kings County.

JOSEPH FUCITO  
 Sheriff of the City of New York  
 DEPUTY SCOTT DONALDSON  
 CASE# 17044900  
 718-488-3545

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS  
 BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC, Plaintiff against SELWYN ANDALCIO A/K/A SELWYN J. ANDALCIO A/K/A SELWYN JOHN ANDALCIO if living, and if dead, the respective heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignors, lienors, creditors and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and each and every person not specifically named who may be entitled to or claim to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the verified complaint; all of whom and whose names and places of residence unknown, and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained by the Plaintiff, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on November 15, 2017.

I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Courthouse, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. on the 25th day of January, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. premises 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.

Said premises known as 842 Elton Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11208.

(Block: 4360, Lot: 120) Approximate amount of lien \$ 514,793.23 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 501999-13. Doron Leiby, Esq., Referee.

McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, P.C. Attorney(s) for Plaintiff

145 Huguenot Street - Suite 210 New Rochelle, New York 10801 (914) 636-8900

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS, NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST, AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN FOR THE NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. ESTATE OF JOHN POMELLA, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on October 13, 2015 and an Order Appointing Substitute referee duly filed July 21, 2017, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Supreme Court, Room 224, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY on February 01, 2018 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 177 33rd Street, Brooklyn, NY. 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, Block 681 and Lot 80. Approximate amount of judgment is \$42,163.41 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 8940/11. Aaron Tyk, Esq., Referee Windels, Marx, Lane & Mittendorf, LLP, 156 West 56th Street, New York, New York 10019, Attorneys for Plaintiff

Notice is hereby given regarding Cemetery lots abandoned under Section 1513-a of the Not for Profit Corporation Law at Cypress Hills Cemetery, 833 Jamaica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11208, 718-277-2900. INTENT TO DECLARE ABANDONED ACCORDING TO NYS LAW 1513-A Section 2 Lot 100: Alexander C., Collins Section 3 Lot 50: John S. Taylor Section 14 Lot 438: Allan Cameron, William E. Brinkerhoff & James Cameron, Lot 439: Richard Areson, Lot 445: Nicholas L. Bennett, Lot 4482 Nicholas L. Bennett, Lot 449: Ida Walter, Lot 452: Mary Tabor, Lot 456: Sophia Drake, Lot 457: Christopher Gregory, Lot 464: Christopher Gregory Section 18 Lot 89: Andrew F., Edmund S., Robert B. Wilson Refer all questions and information to main office.

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