



# Brooklyn Paper

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12 pages • Vol. 41, No. 18 • May 4-10, 2018 • FREE

## FOR THE KIDS!

### Students offer point of unity at beep's 80 Flatbush hearing

By **Julianne Cuba**  
Brooklyn Paper

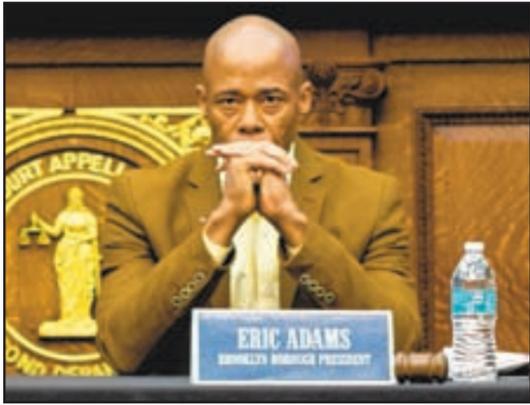
Everyone agrees that the kids are not alright.

Both proponents and opponents of a megadevelopment planned for the edge of Boerum Hill found common ground on the controversial project at a public hearing on Monday, where they agreed students at a schoolhouse that would be rebuilt as part of the scheme deserve better than their current facility.

But the city should never have shoved the high-schoolers at Khalil Gibran International Academy into their dilapidated Schermerhorn Street building in the first place — and should not attempt to right that wrong now by handing over its land to a developer that promised to include a new home for the pupils in its five-building 80 Flatbush project proposed for the site, according to a critic.

“The students of Khalil Gibran are being used as pawns,” said Victoria Cambranes, who last year ran an unsuccessful campaign to unseat Councilman Stephen Levin — whose district includes the 80 Flatbush site. “They are not being given the correct resources and I believe they should be demanding a lot more.”

Cambranes joined dozens of locals at the beep’s hearing on the polarizing project, which drew a



Borough President Adams held a public hearing on the controversial 80 Flatbush project on Monday, and will deliver his opinion on the scheme in the weeks ahead.

much calmer crowd whose opinions fell on both sides of the scheme after an impassioned group of detractors largely stole the floor at the first open forum on the plan in March.

The meetings are required as part of the city’s Uniform Land Use Review Procedure for 80 Flatbush — which builder Alloy Development kicked off with the hope of getting a green light to rezone a swath of land bounded by Flatbush and Third avenues and State and

Schermerhorn streets in order to erect 74- and 38-story towers as part of its complex that incorporates residential, commercial, cultural, and educational spaces.

The latter would include a new home for Khalil Gibran as well as a second, newly built elementary school with 350 seats.

The Department of Education gave the real-estate firm’s plan a thumbs up after the agency’s Educational Construction Fund, which uses money from developers to

construct new schools at no capital cost to the city, selected Alloy’s scheme after putting out a call to builders interested in making over the Khalil Gibran schoolhouse back in 2016 — around the same time Alloy bought up the lots that neighbored the crumbling classrooms.

And the Arabic-language school’s principal has long supported the contentious project, contending it would finally give his bright-eyed pupils the modern-day learning house they desperately need.

“It’s true, our facilities are very limited and outdated,” said Winston Hamann. “Just think for a moment what we can accomplish with a state-of-the-art facility that will allow our students to compete in the 21st century.”

But opponents including Cambranes blasted Alloy’s rezoning application — which would allow it to build towers three times the size that current regulations allow — as unfit for the low-rise neighborhood and an unviable solution to a problem the city should have never put the students in to begin with.

“Seven years ago, the Department of Education placed them in a building that was not suitable for their habitation then, and it is not suitable for their habitation now,”

See **HEARING** on page 9



### Awesome blossoms

Fans of cherry blossoms, Japanese culture, and sunny April weather turned out in droves for Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s annual Sakura Matsuri festival last weekend — including festival-goers Kaoru Tani and Kenny Fong, above, whose outfits paid homage to the nation’s traditional samurai warriors. Read more on page 10.



Wildlife rescuer Bobby Horvath couldn’t save this great horned owl after it got caught in fishing line in Prospect Park.

## Owl lovers are hoot and bothered

### Wildlife advocates demand end to fishing in P’Park after bird caught in fishing line dies

By **Colin Mixson**  
Brooklyn Paper

They’re reel-y outraged.

Bird lovers are calling for an end to fishing in Prospect Park after a great horned owl ensnared by line in the meadow died in the hours following its arrival at a wildlife rescue on April 27.

“Why they allow fishing in this park is beyond me,” said Ann Feldman, a member of the Brooklyn Bird Club. “Everything gets caught in the lines — swans, ducks, herons. This is the first owl, but it’s a stupid policy.”

Park rangers last week tracked the owl for days after noticing it was snared by the line, but couldn’t get their hands on the creature until its injury rendered it unable to fly, according to the rescuer unable to save the ailing bird.

“It was so lethargic and weak that they were able to catch it, and that’s a bad sign,” said Bobby Horvath, who runs

Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation out on faraway Long Island. “Whenever you can catch a bird of prey, it absolutely needs help.”

The owl suffered from starvation and a horrific leg wound that exposed its raw flesh, according to Horvath, who said the raptor was beyond saving by the time he received it, and that it perished shortly after arriving at his facility.

“It was in such critical condition — wet, ice cold, pale,” he said. “We gave it heat, pain medication, and fluids for shock, but within three hours, it passed away.”

Great horned owls are rarely spotted within city limits, according to Feldman, who said that until someone spied a nest in



the park about four years ago, more than a century had passed without a passerby eyeing one of the nocturnal creatures above Brooklyn’s Backyard.

Feldman said she previously kept watch of this particular owl, a male who left a mate and chick behind, and his nest for the Department of Parks and Recreation — which is currently mapping bird of prey nesting spots in order to flag areas where exterminators shouldn’t place deadly rodenticide after a red-tailed hawk ingested the poison in Prospect Park and died in Horvath’s care last December, according to a rep.

And now that the patriarch is dead, its surviving family faces an uncertain

future, Feldman said.

“The father is the one that does the hunting, so his death is pretty serious,” she said. “Birds really do need two parents.”

The great horned owl is far from the first bird in the park to suffer at the hands of careless fishermen, who notoriously snare waterfowl and other winged creatures with their lines.

Last year, a swan entangled by fishing line died shortly after being rescued by a local wildlife advocate, who said she watched a robin and a seagull perish after encounters with lines in 2016.

Meadow caretakers at the Prospect Park Alliance installed special receptacles in which to discard fishing supplies back in 2015, and the Parks Department can slap anglers with fines up to \$75 for failing to comply with the agency’s regulations, which include the proper disposal of equipment, according to a

**PLUS: TWO NEW WAYS TO WALK INTO THE PARK**  
SEE PAGE 9

spokeswoman, who lamented the recent feathered fatality.

“Failure to remove fishing line fragments and hooks from Parks’ land and waters is a violation of our rules, and puts animals in danger,” said Maeri Ferguson. “This is an extremely unfortunate situation and serves as a reminder to New Yorkers to fish responsibly.”

But fishing protocol in city parks follows state laws on the sport — which do not explicitly forbid tossing paraphernalia into the water, according to the leader of another wildlife organization, who demanded Albany crack down on

See **OWL** on page 11



### Shake thy booty

Nicole Nielsen taught medieval dance moves to members of the Society for Creative Anachronism at the group’s picnic in Prospect Park. Read more on page 10.

## Classroom’s sale dismissed

### Old C’Gardens school beloved by Joan Baez back on market

By **Julianne Cuba**  
Brooklyn Paper

A former Carroll Gardens schoolhouse that locals and folk singer Joan Baez demanded the city protect amid rumors that a developer sought to buy and raze it is back on the market weeks after officials moved closer to landmarking the building, according to the broker handling the sale.

“The owners have put it on the market because they want to sell it,” said Brian Lover, who works for real-estate firm Corcoran.

Last month, whispers swirled alleging that Manhattan-based builder Avo Construction was working out a deal to buy the building at 236 President St. — a 19th-century learning house known then as the Hans S. Christian Memorial Kindergarten, which later became the home of Brooklyn’s first Spanish-speaking church, where Baez’s Mexican-born grandfather preached.

Many feared the developer

would destroy the old structure and erect a seven-story apartment building in its place, but critics said Avo bigwigs never went through with the deal after its opponents convinced the Landmarks Preservation Commission to kick off the formal landmarking process by “calendar” a to-be-determined public hearing on whether or not to protect the building and its neighbor at 238 President St. — which housed teachers at the school, then clergy at the church, before becoming residences for locals.

“It would seem that Avo has stepped away from the deal,” said Jim Protos, a proponent of landmarking the buildings who owns and lives in 238 President St. “We were surprised to see it go back on the market.”

Corcoran listed the 1867 schoolhouse between Clinton and Court streets with an asking price of \$4,950,000, and advertises the current structure as a six-bedroom,



A developer’s deal to buy the old schoolhouse at 236 President St. fell through, and the property went back on the market as the city weighs designating the site a landmark.

four-bathroom house with a courtyard and terrace that a buyer with “vision” can turn into a “one-of-a-kind home.”

Protos, who still supports land-

marking both buildings even though Avo’s purchase of 236 President St. fell through, hopes that whoever scoops up the old kindergarten will maintain its size and

architectural details — which include soaring ceilings and stained-glass windows, according to the listing — even if the city does not designate it for protection.

“We hope it gets landmarked,” he said. “Ideally it would be really nice to be a single-family home — I think that would honor the history of the building.”

But it’s anyone’s guess who or what the old school’s owner — who has remained silent amid the landmarking push — will attempt to sell it to next, according to Protos, who said the couple that owned the building died several years ago and left it to their kids, who have since rented it out to different tenants.

“It’s basically been vacant except for periodic renters,” he said.

Lover refused to share the owner’s name, but city records show the building belonged to a Giuseppe Gangemi — who bears no obvious relationship to recently deceased former Bay Ridge Councilman John Gangemi, according to his obituary.

Avo Construction did not respond to requests for comment, and a rep for the landmarks agency said the building’s new for-sale sign has no bearing on its upcoming hearing or final decision.

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## New way to wake & bake

Café offers pot-infused java

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

Hey, Joe! Meet Mary Jane!

The owner of a Greenpoint café is pouring a \$6 cup of coffee infused with a chemical extracted from a strain of cannabis that she claimed actually increases productivity — because she feeds her baristas the concoction before they get behind the counter each day.

"I make all my staff take it," said Samantha Hew, who runs Vittles Café at 94 Franklin St. "Everyone's been chill, relaxed, focused — there's no more, 'I hate this customer.' It's amazing."

Vittles started serving its special brew on April 20, infusing the coffee with cannabidiol extracted from hemp, a legal compound praised by many for its medical benefits, which include treating pain, seizures, and anxiety. Cannabi-

diol is also found in marijuana, but the substance won't get you stoned, or set off any red flags during drug tests.

The chemical does produce a mild, but pleasant, body high — like the feeling you get after a cheap massage, as this reporter can attest — and is also renowned for its ability to sharpen concentration, according to Hew.

Vittles's pot java is brewed using beans from Queens-based provider Flower Power, which boasts its own formula for infusing beans themselves with cannabidiol, masking the chemical's pungent aroma and preserving the coffee flavor, Hew said.

"As a coffee drinker, I just want to drink mine black," she said. "I don't want any extra taste."

And the compound pairs well with caffeine, according to the café owner, who said the cannabidiol helps the stimulant



Vittles Café owner Samantha Hew showed off her new cannabidiol-infused coffee.

sharpen drinkers' focus faster, while easing the jitters and comedown some heavy coffee consumers experience. A cannabis cuppa can even help people fall asleep, she said.

"I drink it before bed," Hew said. "It's insane."

Demand for Vittles's bud brew grew so high when it debuted that the café sold out, but Hew quickly restocked, and said she will be pouring the drink year-round as she expects the legal strain of can-

nabidiol to start popping up in goodies sold at other coffee shops and eateries across the borough.

"It's going to be very common," she said.

Indeed, Vittles isn't the only coffee joint serving cannabis-laced drinks — Bushwick's Caffeine Underground pours a similar cup for \$6, and Swallow Café offers the drug in latte form at its locations in Boerum Hill and Williamsburg for \$8 and change.

## Councilman cuffed

Bklyn Heights pol busted during protest

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

Cops hauled a Brooklyn Heights councilman away in cuffs on Wednesday after he refused to step out of a busy street while protesting for the release of a city report on a controversial treatment for opioid addicts.

Police arrested Stephen Levin amid the demonstration where he demanded the publication of a Department of Health study on so-called safe-consumption sites — facilities that offer addicts a secure place to use drugs under the supervision of doctors standing by to provide care, which some medical studies show are

proven to reduce overdoses.

"We need to do everything we can as a city to demonstrate our commitment to ending overdoses and fighting the opioid crisis with new ways to expand access to treatment," Levin said moments before New York's Finest arrested him for civil disobedience, according to his chief of staff.

The hygiene agency began its yet-to-be-released study in 2016 after Council set aside \$100,000 in taxpayer funds to examine the pros and cons of opening the spaces — which haven't arrived in the U.S., but have opened in other countries including Canada.

And it's not the first occa-

sion Levin butted heads with police while attempting to make a political statement.

The last time cops cuffed the pol was likely back in 2013, when he protested the state's plan to close Cobble Hill's Long Island College Hospital, which eventually sold to a developer that is now building residential towers in its place.

A rep for Levin couldn't immediately provide information on what charges he faces, but months after police arrested the councilman at the previous demonstration, a judge dismissed his charges on the condition he stay out of jail for six months, according to a report at the time.



Police arrested Stephen Levin as he and other demonstrators demanded Mayor De Blasio release the city's long-awaited report on the feasibility of safe-consumption sites.

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# First look at new library

## Carvings from original Heights facade will grace interior

By **Julianne Cuba**  
*Brooklyn Paper*



Plans for the new Brooklyn Heights library include using the bas-relief sculptures that adorned the original building's exterior as interior decorations.

What a relief! Some of the decorative bas-relief sculptures that adorned the facade of the old Brooklyn Heights library will be installed inside the reading room's new home, Brooklyn Public Library leaders recently announced.

Officials saved the 24 original pieces artist Clemente Spampinato carved into the 1962 building's exterior ahead of the book lender's demolition by a developer who bought its Cadman Plaza West land from the city, in exchange for ceding space for a new library at the bottom of its 36-story tower filled with luxury condos planned for the site.

And eight of the limestone panels will decorate walls in the new three-floor library inside builder Hudson Companies's high-rise in Brooklyn Heights, with the rest moving to a neighboring branch in Fort Greene, a bigwig said.

"When the building came down, we were obligated to take the bas-reliefs down very carefully, and keep them safely," said Brooklyn Public Library executive David Woloch.

The library system raked in \$52 million when it sold the property in the 2014 deal, \$12 million of which will go toward building the Heights branch with a new glassy facade, and the rest going towards improvements at other branches, includ-

ing Fort Greene's Walt Whitman library, where most of the bas-reliefs will soon stand.

The new book lender in America's first suburb — which is being designed by Manhattan-based Marvel Architects, the firm behind the polarizing Pierhouse and I Hotel Brooklyn Bridge complex in nearby Brooklyn Bridge Park — will also boast dedicated spaces for tots, pre-teens, teenagers, and adults to get lost in a good book, an amphitheater, and several meeting rooms, which are where the eight bas-reliefs will be hung, according to Woloch, who said the buildings' glass exterior will allow passersby on the street

to see the artworks.

"What's more intriguing is you can see them from the outside — their locations allow them to still be celebrated in natural light, and also be a part of the Brooklyn Heights branch," he said.

The 16 panels moving to Fort Greene will be installed in the garden at the Walt Whitman branch, where library officials are currently renovating the roof and installing a new heating-and-cooling system.

Community Board 2's Youth, Education, and Cultural Affairs Committee voted five to two in favor of the library's plan for the bas-reliefs at its meeting on April 25.

The new stacks are scheduled to open in 2020, around the same time the first residents are expected to move into the luxury high-rise, according to the developer, which is also constructing 114 units of so-called affordable housing required by the city in its redevelopment of the Cadman Plaza West plot.

But those apartments are going up at a different site entirely in Clinton Hill, to the ire of many locals who blasted the plan to separate the swanky condos from the below-market-rate units as segregationist back when Hudson Companies revealed it in 2015.



### ON THE RADIO:

## Rep. Clarke on the new tax deal

By **Moses Jefferson**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

Congresswoman Yvette Clarke told Brooklyn Paper Radio hosts Vince DiMiceli and Anthony Rotunno that gridlock in Washington caused by lines in the sand that Republicans refuse to cross is unbearable, and that

the new tax plan is going to come back to haunt working Brooklynites.

"Unfortunately, not a whole lot is happening in Washington right now," she said. "And everything that has been done has been really, really bad."

The really bad that she refers to, of course, is the tax

bill which President Trump has sold as "rocket fuel for the economy," but which DiMiceli said actually increased his taxes. That, according to Clarke, is because he doesn't make enough money (something he intends to discuss with his boss real soon).

"If you are working class, middle class, average, every-

day American, whatever bump you got won't last long."

Clarke said that all hope is not lost, however—but to find out why, you'll have to tune in to the entire show.

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# Police: Guy sleeping in court attacks cops when kicked out

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—Dumbo—Boerum Hill—Downtown

Authorities arrested a man for attacking two police officers inside a courtroom on Schermerhorn Street on April 23.

The 42-year-old suspect was sleeping and snoring inside the court near Smith Street around 10:45 am, when the officers asked him to leave because he was disrupting the proceedings. But he refused, and then grabbed the cops, in-

jurging them when they tried to handcuff him, according to police.

## Clipped

Cops cuffed a guy for cutting someone's face with a nail clipper on Pacific Street on April 26.

The 39-year-old victim told police he and the suspect got into a verbal dispute near Fourth Avenue around 3:30 pm, when the suspect hurled the grooming tool at him, causing a cut.

## Horror film

A pair of villains attacked

a woman inside a movie theater at Albee Square on April 27, police said.

The 28-year-old victim told officers she got into an argument with the two snakes inside the theater near Fleet Street around 11:30 pm, when they both started punching her and one of them hurled a martini glass at her neck, according to authorities, who said the jerks then fled the movie theater.

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill

**Trio of toughs**

Three baddies stole a teen's phone on Greene Avenue on April 26, police said.

The 16-year-old victim told officers he was walking near Cumberland Street around 4:20 pm when the three no-goodniks demanded his iPhone and then tried to grab it from him as he held onto it.

The teen then dropped his phone and one of the crooks picked it up and ran away, officials said.

## Road rage

A cur smashed a window of a car parked inside a garage on Park Avenue and grabbed a bag from inside it sometime overnight on April 27, cops said.

The victim told authorities he parked his company car

## POLICE BLOTTER



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

## Bad date

Cops cuffed a guy for beating up a man inside the victim's Carlton Avenue apartment on April 25, after the two met on a dating website.

The 23-year-old victim told the suspect, who called himself "Jack D" on the dating site, to leave after he started rummaging through his house near Myrtle Avenue around 2:45 pm, police said.

But the suspect then grabbed the victim's neck, pushed him against the wall, and said "you wanna act tough," before punching him in the head, according to authorities.

The suspect threw the victim to the ground and stole his iPhone from his pocket before running out, but was caught by police on Fulton

## Sitting duck

A pair of fiends stole a guy's wallet on Atlantic Avenue on April 28, police said.

The 30-year-old victim told cops he was sitting outside a storefront between Clinton and Vanderbilt avenues around 2 pm when the two snakes started hitting him in the face and body, and then ran off with his diamond Cuban chain, brown wallet, housing identification card, driver's license, and credit card.

The crooks fled on Vanderbilt Avenue in a gray car, according to officers.

— Julianne Cuba

## 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

## Joy ride

Cops cuffed two teens allegedly caught driving a stolen car on Dean Street on April 21.

The arresting officer said he ran the vehicle's plates after noticing several minor violations on the car near Flatbush Avenue at 5:20 pm, and

then threw on his lights after the system showed the white Nissan Altima was reported stolen.

At first, the driver refused to yield, so the cop maneuvered in front of him with his squad car and cut him off, saying he feared for the safety of nearby pedestrians, police said.

The teens, ages 18 and 19, went quietly following the officer's display of aggressive driving, and they were charged with criminal possession of stolen property, according to authorities.

## Foul fare

A couple assaulted a car-share driver on Pacific Street on April 20.

The victim told police he picked up the pair between Fourth and Flatbush avenues at 8:25 pm, and almost immediately fell into a dispute with the duo, which escalated after the female half of the twosome socked him in the face.

Her fella then threw alcohol in the victim's face, burning his eyes, before hopping out of the car and bending its windshield wipers, cops said.

## Crime stinks

Police arrested a 55-year-old man and 47-year-old woman for allegedly stealing more than 30 bottles of bath wash and body cream

from a Flatbush Avenue soap store on April 20.

An employee told police the suspects waltzed into the retailer between Atlantic and Fourth avenues at 7:31 pm, before attempting to slink past the register with their haul of hygiene supplies.

The suspects were arrested later that day, and charged with petit larceny, officials said.

## Shortchanged

Cops are hunting for the degenerates who stole a tip jar from a Fifth Avenue eatery on April 17.

An employee told police the two reprobates were leaving the eatery between Bergen Street and St. Marks Place at 8 pm, when one of them grabbed the coffee tin filled with about \$80 in hard-earned tips before fleeing.

— Colin Mixson

## 76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill—Red Hook

## Wild chase

Police arrested a man who they said drove the wrong way down W. Ninth Street in a stolen car while under the influence on April 25.

Authorities said they received a call at 9:10 pm reporting a man in a 1999 silver Lexus was driving near Hamilton Avenue towards Court Street and running stop signs. The driver hit a parked red Mazda and then got out and ran from pursuing officers, according to cops.

Officers caught up with the man and arrested him, and said the car was stolen and that the suspect had been drinking. Police charged the man with grand larceny, operating under the influence of alcohol, reckless endangerment, driving the wrong way, and failure to stop for a stop sign.

## Dirty crook

Cops cuffed a Red Hook man who they said stole soap from a pharmacy on Smith Street on April 26.

Store employees said the man entered the store between Warren and Baltic streets at 1:15 pm and took five bottles of Aveno body wash and seven bottles of Dove shampoo before store security stopped him and held him until police arrived.

Authorities took the man into custody upon their arrival, and charged him with petty larceny.

## EZ theft

A sneak stole an EZ Pass, clothes, and cash from a parked car on Huntington Street sometime overnight on April 23.

The victim said he left his 2016 green Toyota Corolla near Court Street at 9:30 pm, and when he returned the next day at 8:30 am, he realized items were missing. The thief took his pass, a bag of garments, and \$2 from the car, police said.

The victim said there was no shattered glass and that he's unsure whether he locked the car, according to cops.

## Bike bandit

A good-for-nothing stole a man's bike on Clinton Street sometime overnight on April 23.

The victim said he left the two-wheeler between Kane and Baltic streets at 7 pm, and locked it. But when he returned at 7 am the next day, the bike was gone, along with its lock. The cycle was a Cannondale 27-speed hybrid bike, police said.

## License to steal

A punk stole a license plate off a motorcycle in a Bond Street parking garage on April 22.

The victim said he left his red Ducati bike in the garage between First and Carroll streets at 3 pm, and when he returned at 3:15 pm, he noticed the license plate was gone.

— Adam Lucente

## 72ND PRECINCT

Sunset Park—Windsor Terrace

## Trigger happy

d threatened another man with a gun on a Manhattan-bound N train at the 59th Street station on April 29.

Officers nabbed the suspect at the station near Fourth Avenue at 5 am, and discovered he was packing two pistols, authorities said.

## Product pinch

A pilferer stole an esti-

mated \$1,300 worth of skin-care products from a Prospect Avenue store on April 23.

The robber entered the shop between 10th and 11th avenues just before 7 pm and grabbed the goods, police reported.

## Cashed out

A brute hit a man in the head, threw him to the ground, and stole his wallet containing \$70 inside a Fifth Avenue home on April 27.

The assault occurred between 44th and 45th streets around 9 pm, according to a report.

## Full pockets

A thief stole a man's jacket containing cash and a credit-and-debit card that he accidentally left at Sunset Park near 44th Street sometime between April 27 and 28.

The man left his jacket with \$1,000 and the plastic inside it in the park at Sixth Avenue around 5 pm, and when returned to grab it at 8 am the next day after realizing he left it behind, it was gone, cops said.

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights

## Scissor hands

Police arrested a man who they said whipped out a pair of scissors and threatened to harm another man with them, causing him to fear for his safety, inside a Fort Hamilton Parkway home on April 28.

The threat occurred at the residence between 88th and 90th streets around 5:15 am, officers reported.

## Lost and found

A baddie charged more than \$1,000 to a man's debit card after he lost it and his wallet while walking on Shore Road at some point before April 20, the victim told police.

The man reported the theft to police around 4:45 pm on April 20, adding that he lost the items while he was walking near 92nd Street. Soon after, he received a call from his bank informing him that someone had charged \$900 to his card via the online Apple store, plus \$150 on shoes and \$40 on car services, according to a report.

## Texting trouble

Cops cuffed a man who they said had two active warrants and a switchblade on him as he was texting while driving on 63rd Street on April 23.

Officers said they saw the man texting while driving a 2016 gray Honda Odyssey between 10th and 11th streets around 4:45 pm. When they approached him, they discovered the active warrants and blade, cops said.

## Not too sharp

Police arrested a man who they said had a knife clipped to his pants pocket in plain view on 86th Street on April 25.

Cops spotted the suspect at Fourth Avenue just after 2:15 pm, when they arrested him, according to authorities.

## Pipe down

Cops cuffed a guy who allegedly threatened another man with a metal pipe, causing him to fear for his safety and his life, during a heated bout of road rage on 10th Avenue on April 26.

The incident occurred between 76th and 77th streets just after 5:45 pm, and officers arrested the suspect at the scene soon after, officials said.

## Sneaky

A bike-riding lout rode up behind a woman on 65th Street and stole her cellphone on April 26.

The victim was walking between Eighth and Ninth avenues around 10:30 pm when the perp rode up behind her, grabbed her phone, and took off towards Fort Hamilton Parkway, police said.

## Grab and go

A pack of punks assaulted a man on Fourth Avenue and stole more than \$300 from him on April 28.

The group of baddies confronted the man at 84th Street around 2 am, when they grabbed the cash and fled on 83rd Street towards Fifth Avenue in a blue Jeep, according to a report.

— Julianne McShane

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COMEDY  
**Femme TV**



The laughter is infectious! A new sketch comedy show will offer a rapid-fire look at the lineup of a fictional feminist television network — named after the sexually transmitted disease that all young adults seem to have. “HPV: Her Point of View Network” launching at Williamsburg’s Brick Theater on May 5, provides a female-focused spoof of the garbage that is really playing on our television sets, said the show’s director.

“We’re looking at how our culture is changing, and what voices are represented — specifically within comedy,” said Amanda Xeller, who lives in Greenpoint.

The hour-long show will give viewers short glimpses of the network’s hit shows — including a feminist spin on “The Bachelor” in which the ladies kick the man to the curb and become friends, rather than competing for him.

“We’re using those clichés and tropes, using that show format, for girls to connect and hang out and reject the guy,” she said.

The show will also offer a behind-the-scenes look at the network’s control room, as the producers deal with crises on and off the camera, said Xeller, who took inspiration from the show “30 Rock.”

“We’re treating the whole show as if it’s one night of programming,” said Xeller. “And also [showing] the backstage, trying to fix whatever issues arise, trying to come up with a solution, and then seeing whatever is happening to the network professionally and how it affects people personally.”

In one sketch, a famous talk show host makes insensitive comments about a natural disaster in the Midwest, said Xeller, and the executives must scramble to do damage control.

“Our big star insults the catastrophe and puts down all these people,” she said. “The network is in a lot of trouble.”

And in another backstage look, the producers are forced by their parent company “MBC: Male Based Content” to invite a straight white dude on the show to counter all the voices of women and people of color, said Xeller.

“We’re getting a demand that HPV is showcasing all of these types of people, where is the straight white male voice within whole thing?” she said. “We have to have the perspective of one white male.”

The show is currently booked for one night at Brick, but if it is successful, Xeller hopes to return to the network each month.

“HPV: Her Point of View Network” at the Brick Theater (579 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, www.bricktheater.com). May 5 at 11 pm. \$5.

— Julianne Cuba

(718) 260-2500

*Brooklyn Paper’s essential guide to the Borough of Kings*

May 4–10, 2018



**Culture clash:** Rappers face off with medieval cosplayers for control of a public park in the second season of “Brooklynification,” a comedy series about gentrification in the borough, returning on May 7.

# Second story

*Gentrification comedy series returns with new episodes*

By Winnie McCroy  
for Brooklyn Paper

This show is on the house. A comedy series about the hustle for housing in the rapidly-gentrifying borough of Kings will launch its second season of 10-minute episodes next week. “Brooklynification,” launching on May 7 and produced by Bric TV, offers a funny take on what can be a serious topic, said the show’s director.

“We don’t want to make Brooklyn precious; we just want to present it as real,” said Keith Miller.

The first season of the scripted comedy followed characters on a brownstone block, including a black couple trying to sell their house, their neighbors, the broker, their friends, and various house hunters. Season Two weaves those characters together and expands on their stories. Much of the humor comes from the collision of different cultures, such as when a senior citizen moves in with a group of socially-conscious youth, or when a black couple deals with their son’s idealistic white teacher. Almost all the episodes are based on real-life incidents, said Miller.

“The parent-teacher conference happened to me and my wife,” said Miller. “I went to a predominately black public school, and my kids attend a predominately white private school. I’m fighting to give my kids the same cultural experience I had, and it’s a challenge. Some things you have to fight



**Po-po little boy:** A teacher is disturbed by the drawing made by a black student in her class, in a scene that “Brooklynification” writer Keith Miller said was based on a real-life incident.

for, and some you have to just let go.”

The focus on race and gentrification can push viewers into an awkward place, said the show’s writer.

“We want to make people laugh — and also to feel slightly uncomfortable,” said

Christopher Poindexter.

The new season also features a character who just got out of jail and returns to a Brooklyn he does not recognize — an idea conceived long before Tracy Morgan played a similar character on the TBS sit-

TELEVISION

“Brooklynification” airs weekly on Mondays starting May 7 at 9 pm on Spectrum Cable 756, Cablevision 70, and Verizon 46. www.bricartsmedia.org/brooklynification. Free. See Miller and Poindexter at the “Brooklynification, Comedy, and Gentrification” panel at Bric House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5600, www.bricartsmedia.org]. May 14 at 7 pm. Free.

com “The Last O.G.”

“It shows me that we’re on the right track and tapping into the front end of something people are looking for,” said Poindexter.

That character reappears in another upcoming episode, as part of an impromptu group of rap battlers challenging medieval cosplayers over park space — an episode that exemplifies the way that different groups manage to get along.

“Shooting that episode was interesting because I was expecting more tension and conflict between the different groups, but they actually got along very well,” said Poindexter. “I thought [the rappers] would have to be more menacing, but what naturally occurred was they found a way to coexist in a way that was not necessarily in the script.”

Miller and Poindexter will discuss their show and the role of comedy as a way to tackle uncomfortable issues at a panel discussion at Bric House on May 14.

# OK composer

*Show combines Brahms with Radiohead album*

By Adam Lucente  
Brooklyn Paper

This is classical rock! A 55-piece orchestra will blend Brahms with Radiohead for an epic concert at Kings Theatre on May 19. The virtuoso who mashed up the Romantic composer’s work with that of the rock gods says that the show combines the best of the past and the modern world.

“It’s about putting classical musicians and pieces with the best songwriting we’ve got,” said Steve Hackman. “The powerful voices and songs plus the power of the symphony is amazing.”

Hackman’s Stereo Hideout Orchestra is known for melding pop and

CONCERT

“Stereo Hideout: Brooklyn Brahms V. Radiohead” at Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Tilden Avenue and Duryea Place in Flatbush, (718) 856-2220, www.kingstheatre.com). May 19 at 8 pm. \$39.50–\$75.

rock with classical music — past projects have combined Coldplay with Beethoven, and Drake with Tchaikovsky. For the May 19 concert, he will conduct a full orchestra, including a group of Brooklyn musicians and singers, through a mash-up of Johannes Brahms’s “First Symphony” and Radiohead’s “OK Computer.” The musician and composer has



**Rock goes symphonic:** Steve Hackman’s Stereo Hideout orchestra will play a mash-up of Brahms and Radiohead at Kings Theatre on May 19.

a personal connection to the works — the symphony was one of the first he ever conducted, while “OK Computer” was the soundtrack of his high school years. The angst-ridden lyrics of Radiohead singer Thom Yorke jive with the restlessness that Brahms felt when while writing his symphony over a lengthy 15-year period, said Hackman.

“He was seen as the successor to Beethoven and there was such pressure on him to deliver,” he said. “And ‘OK Computer’ speaks masterfully to social anxiety and emotional isolation.”

Despite their different eras and genres, the two pieces fit well together. The song “Airbag” already has a cello part, for instance, and “Par-

anoid Android” makes use of classical counterpoint, with two melodies going at the same time, making it a natural fit for orchestral instruments, according to Hackman.

“Their compatibility gave me a lot of freedom to play,” he said. The show follows the format of the symphony, but interweaves music and vocals from “OK Computer” throughout, with singers performing Radiohead lyrics over Brahms’s music, and the orchestra sometimes taking on Radiohead’s instrumentation, with strings filling in for guitars.

Williamsburg singer Keren Tayar, who has performed with the group several times, said that she is excited to sing “Subterranean Homesick Alien” at the show, which she feels takes on new life in an orchestral setting.

“The fusion with Brahms brings out the story line in a different way,” she said. “The story and the meaning are so beautifully communicated with the orchestration.”

The show will bring music fans of different genres together, said Hackman.

“Brahms and Radiohead seem disparate and unrelated,” he said. “But really when you break it down, music is all made of the same twelve notes.”

MUSIC

# Party animals

This drop bear drops beats! A Montreal disc jockey who dresses as a marsupial will throw a wild party in Bushwick this month, featuring dancing penguins, brass-playing ants, and a giant spider wandering through the crowd. Kid Koala’s “Vinyl Vaudeville” show, at Elsewhere on May 18, celebrates his latest album, a soundtrack for the dance video game “Floor Kids.” Eric San, Kid Koala’s off-stage identity, says that the collection of costumed performers and puppeteers — including one dressed as an enormous club sandwich — will create a visual feast while he scratches at a trio of turntables.

“Every act, every song as we get through the set is going to get progressively wilder,” said San, who called the distant isle of Manhattan home before decamping to the even more distant land of Canada. “It’s the most dynamic show that I could come up with and fit on one tour bus. For people who want to just witness a spectacle of sorts, we have plenty to offer.”

The show will also feature a “Floor Kids” arcade so that visitors can have a digital dance-off against their friends. Kid Koala created 24 tracks that play during the game’s breakdance battles, marrying musical elements from decades past with the virtual venues — including a video arcade where ‘80s electro music blares, and a subway platform for which San mixed a track of industrial sounds.

“We wanted it to run the gamut from ‘70s breakdancing to ‘80s electro and ‘90s 12-bit stuff,” said the scratch artist. “I kind of had everything in the studio, from playing drums to keyboards, bass, saxophone, all the way up to computers and laptops, depending on what era I was going for in the tone. It’s kind of peppered in there to match with the aesthetics of each venue.”

On previous visits to the borough, San has brought robot puppets and limbo contests. He says that adding inventive elements — including this show’s 14-foot trumpet prop — gives a new dimension to the music and offers an excuse for absurdity.

“The stage itself can reinvent and transform every song into a whole other visual spectacle,” he said. “As a show it’s a big playground and sandbox for us to create wild stuff and crack each other up.”

Kid Koala at Elsewhere (599 Johnson Ave. between Gardner and Scott avenues in Bushwick, www.elsewherebrooklyn.com). May 18 at 6 pm. \$25.

— Julianne McShane

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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### FRIDAY

May 4



#### Starry night

May the Fourth be with you! On this most Star Wars of days we should revisit "The Last Jedi" on the big screen, now that the hype of its opening has faded, and see how it holds up. Grab some of the low-crunch foods from Syndicated's bar, spend some time with Luke Skywalker and the droids, and then let your feelings flow onto the internet.

7 pm at Syndicated [40 Bogart St. between Thames and Grattan streets in Williamsburg, (718) 386-3399, www.syndicatedbk.com]. \$7.

### SATURDAY

May 5

#### Barge in

Wander down to the water in Red Hook, step aboard the 104-year-old floating barge that houses the Waterfront Museum, and take a gander at some ships that didn't last as long! Painter Jim St. Clair will be on hand to show off "Derelicts," his exhibit of oil paintings of drowned ships. And after the show, drop by Sunny's Bar, just across the way.

2-5 pm at the Waterfront Museum (290 Conover St. at the waterfront in Red Hook, www.waterfront-museum.org). Free.



### SUNDAY

May 6



#### Shy guy

The final flick in this year's silent film series at the Brooklyn Public Library is the delightful 1924 comedy "Girl Shy." Harold Lloyd plays a would-be pick-up artist who is actually terrified of speaking to women. This screening of the car chase-filled comedy will feature a live piano soundtrack from Bernie Anderson.

12:30 pm at Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100, www.brooklyn-publiclibrary.org]. Free.

### MONDAY

May 7

#### Parent rap

Kids are exhausting, so if you have any of your own, stick 'em with the babysitter for the night and commiserate with the hosts of "Standup Comedy From Parents Who Want to Lie Down." Comedians and kid-wrangers Ophira Eisenberg, Eugene Mirman (pictured), Janelle James, and more will share the magical, maddening joy of having spawned.

8 pm at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebellhouse-ny.com]. \$15.



### WEDNESDAY

May 9



#### Grand slam

Get ready to cut a rug tonight at Park Slope's gorgeous — and usually exclusive — Montauk Club, which will open its doors to the public for tonight's album release party from the 16-piece Glenn Crytzer Orchestra, playing tunes from its double album of big band music from the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s, titled "Ain't It Grand?"

7:30 pm at the Montauk Club [25 Eighth Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 638-0800, www.montauclub.com]. \$20 (\$15 in advance).

## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

### FRI, MAY 4

**TALK, DELL SMALL BUSINESS CELEBRATION:** A two-day interactive pop-up event for local start-ups and entrepreneurs, with speakers from "Shark Tank," panels, and networking. Free. 9 am–6 pm. (155 Grand St. between Bedford Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, dell.com/sbweek).

**ART, MONIKER INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR:** A four-day festival of urban and contemporary artists, with a carnival theme. \$30 (\$15 in advance). Noon–10 pm. Greenpoint Terminal Warehouse [73 West St. in Greenpoint, (347) 395-4155], www.monikerartfair.com.

**DINING, MAY THE FOURTH BE WITH YOU:** Coney Island Brewing releases two new Star Wars-inspired brews: Chew-Bocka and Luke Rye Walker. Drinkers in Star Wars costume earn \$1 off pints all night. Free. 5–9 pm. Coney Island Brewery (1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th Street in Coney Island).

**MUSIC, GOGO PENGUIN:** \$30 (\$25 in advance). 7 pm. Elsewhere (599 Johnson Ave. at Varick Avenue in Bushwick), www.elsewherebrooklyn.com.

**DINING, TEQUILA TASTING:** Tonya Hopkins discusses the history of tequilas and mezcal, and guides you through a tasting flight. \$45. 7 pm. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195], theoldstonehouse.org.

**DANCE, MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP, PROGRAM A:** The company performs "Lou 100: In Honor of the Divine Mr. Harrison," works all performed to the music of the late Lou Harrison, Morris's friend and collaborator. \$75. 7:30 pm. Mark Morris Dance Group [3 Lafayette Ave. between Nostrand Avenue and Bedford Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 624-8400], www.markmorris-dancegroup.org.

**FILM, "THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI":** The 1920 German Expressionist film gets a live soundtrack from Rag and Roots. \$25. 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse-ny.com.

**NIGHTLIFE, "FELT UP!":** A burlesque



Pretty in pink: Norwegian disk jockey Kygo will spin tunes at Barclays Center on May 11.

## COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

### FRI, MAY 11

**MUSIC, KYGO:** With opening act Blackbear. \$45–\$99. 7:30 pm.

### SAT, MAY 12

**MUSIC, MOTHER'S DAY GOOD MUSIC FESTIVAL:** With Charlie Wilson, Kem, Boyz II Men, and Joe. \$66–\$156. 7 pm.

### FRI, JUNE 1

**MUSIC, YO! MTV RAPS 30TH ANNIVERSARY EXPERIENCE:** With Big Daddy Kane, Flavor Flav, Doctor Dre, and many more. \$76–\$156. 7:30 pm.

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

### WED, JUNE 6

**MUSIC, DEPECHE MODE:** \$55–\$179. 7:30 pm.

### FRI, JUNE 8

**MUSIC, SOULFRITO URBAN LATIN FESTIVAL:** With Bad Bunny, Miky Woodz, Liro Shaq, and many more. \$76–\$181. 8 pm.

### SAT, JUNE 9

**MUSIC, 34TH NEW YORK SALSA FESTIVAL:** With Willie Colón, Oscar D'León, Rey Ruiz, Andy Montaña, and many more. \$71–\$146. 8 pm.

<http://>

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

tribute to Jim Henson's Creature Shop. \$10 suggested donation. 8 pm. Bizarre Bushwick (12 Jefferson St. between Knickerbocker and Irving avenues in Bushwick), www.bizarrebushwick.com.

**MUSIC, "LIAISONS NOW":** PhiloSonia presents a concert that explores composer friendship, with brothers Brad and Doug Balliett and a program of friends and colleagues. \$25. 8 pm. South Oxford Space (138 S. Oxford St. between Hanson Place and Atlantic Avenue in Fort Greene), www.philosonia.com.

**DANCE, MATTHEW WESTERBY COMPANY:** A dance piece that contrasts the faces we present in public and private. \$22 (\$18 in advance). 8 pm. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St. between Banker Street and Clifford Place in Greenpoint, (718) 389-3473], www.triskelionarts.org.

**MUSIC, PARK SLOPE CHAMBER PLAYERS:** A spring concert of classical and contemporary music, including the premiere of a new tango piece by Carlos Pavan. \$20. 8 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture (53 Prospect Park West between First and Second streets in Park Slope), www.bsec.org.

### SAT, MAY 5

**TOUR, BROOKLYN CULTURAL DISTRICT WALKING TOUR:** A free, two-hour guided walking tour around Fort Greene. Registration required. Free. 11 am and 3 pm. BAM Plaza (Flatbush Avenue at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene), www.fab-fulton.org.

**THEATER, "THEN SINGS MY SOUL MUSICAL":** A 90-minute stage play that brings the audience face-to-face with women and men fighting abuse and the cycle of violence. \$25. 2 pm and 7 pm. The Black Lady

See 9 DAYS on page 8

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**Brooklyn Paper**

Published weekly at

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# Cinco de Derby!

*Mexican and Kentucky parties in the blender*

By Bill Rounding  
Brooklyn Paper

It's the most exciting dos minutes in sports!

This year's Kentucky Derby — the famed annual horse race in Louisville — happens on Cinco de Mayo, the Mexican celebration of a long-ago victory over the French. Derby Day parties are typically day-long affairs, featuring mint juleps, seersucker suits, and women competing to wear the most elaborate hat, while Cinco de Mayo parties often have free-flowing margaritas, Mexican food, and mariachi bands.

But we have found three

spots in Brooklyn that combined the parties into a single event: Derby de Mayo!

## Tres for Cinco

Threes Brewing has thrown parties for both the Kentucky Derby and Cinco de Mayo in the past, and declined to choose a favorite when they fell on the same day, said one of its three founders.

"We can think about a way that we can pay homage to a food culture we love, and have Derby Day too," said Josh Stylman.

On Saturday the brewery will screen the horse race starting at 6 pm, but the afternoon will have a dee-jay spinning



**Mint mash-up:** Threes brewing will serve a mint margarita and a mezcal julep — as well as traditional versions of those drinks — at its Cinco de Derby party on Saturday.

Latin music and taco specials from the Meat Hook kitchen. The bartenders will whip up "The Victor Espenosa" — a mint julep made with mezcal instead of bourbon, and named after the Mexican jockey who has won the Kentucky Derby three times.

"It's really delicious — it's flavors that I wouldn't necessarily associate, but it's really tasty," said Stylman. The bar will also serve mint margari-

tas, and traditional versions of both drinks, all for \$13.

Threes Brewing [333 Douglass St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 522-2110, www.threesbrewing.com]. Noon-8 pm. Free.

## Mint condition

At the Douglass bar, just down the street from Threes Brewing, a Brooklyn native known as "The Colonel" will

welcome visitors to the free, all-day "Kentucky Derby de Mayo Party!"

"I anticipate the coming of Derby Day the way a child does Christmas," said Parrish Hurley, the Colonel's alter-ego. "When you put on your seersucker, your linen, you become more genteel, more civilized, and everyone kicks it up a notch. There are no wallflowers on Derby Day."

The pub will screen the race on its televisions and on the giant projection screen in the back room. For the Mexican holiday, it will serve margaritas as well as mint juleps, with a \$1 discount for anyone who dresses up.

The addition of Cinco de Mayo will only slightly affect the host's duties, he said.

"I'm sure the Colonel will be wearing a sombrero at some point," said Hurley. "But bourbon and tequila don't mix, so you've got to be careful."

The Douglass [149 Fourth Ave. at Douglass Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4337 www.thedouglass.com]. 2-8 pm. Free.

## Dino derby

Drop by Dinosaur BBQ on the afternoon of the Fifth for its "Cinco De Derby Extravaganza," which benefits the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Your entrance ticket gets you plenty of barbecued food,

including pulled pork, brisket, and chicken wings; a raffle ticket to win prizes from local businesses; a best bonnet contest, and happy hour prices at the bar, including a special "Kentucky Derby Margarita" for \$10.

But the barbecue joint will not screen the race, which is scheduled to start at 6:34 pm. For that, the party will relocate to the sports bar 200 Fifth (Ave. between Union and Sackett streets in Park Slope), which will have more than 100 televisions tuned to the race.

Dinosaur BBQ Brooklyn [604 Union St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (347) 429-7030, www.dinosaurbarbq.com/bbq-brooklyn]. 12:30-4:30 pm. \$35 (\$10 kids).

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Photograph by Layla Kovacevic

# Singing in pub

*Musical performs in a saloon*

By Alexandra Simon  
Brooklyn Paper

Stop in for a Rip-roaring show!

A Crown Heights bar will host an immersive, musical version of the Rip Van Winkle story for three performances this month. "Impossible But True," showing at Franklin820 for the next three Mondays, serves up Washington Irving's 1819 short story about a Dutch farmer who falls asleep for 20 years and misses the Revolutionary War, with a twist that considers the nature of belief, said the show's creator.

"He's a time traveler who goes asleep in one era and wakes up in another," said Dan Furman, who lives

in Prospect Lefferts Gardens. "He sees all these changes in the world around him that he wasn't around to see, and he's unsure of it — and in order for something to be possible, you have to believe in it."

The musician and composer first wrote the musical a decade ago, but dusted it off after catching a show performed in several locations in Greenwood Cemetery.

Furman adapted his show so that it could take place in a tavern — a location particularly apt to the story because of Van Winkle's fondness for a drink, and for several scenes that happen in an 18th century taproom, said Furman.

"There are a lot of bar scenes in the



**Sing a few bars:** Actors James Scheider, Mark Montague, and Charles Ouda play 18th century townfolk in "Impossible but True," a musical adaptation of the Rip Van Winkle tale playing at the Franklin820 bar on May 7, 14, and 21.

story because back then they drank a lot and they didn't drink water — they drank beer," he said.

The bar setting also helps the audience to engage with the production, said Furman.

"You're a part of the show without a role — and it's kind of like being at a rehearsal and right in the mid-

dle of the action," said Furman. "It's better than seeing it from afar. The show opens up and tries to include everyone in the room."

"Impossible but True" at Franklin820 [820 Franklin Ave. at Union Street in Crown Heights, (718) 708-4113, www.franklin820.com]. May 7, 14, and 21 at 7 pm. Free.

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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

**THEATRE** [750 Nostrand Ave. between Park and Sterling places in Crown Heights, (718) 771-0900], www.theblackladytheatre.com.

**DANCE, FAMILY FUN SERIES HIP-HOP:** Learn a hip-hop dance routine and freestyle with your own moves. For all ages and abilities. \$25 for a family of up to 3. 4:30 pm. Mark Morris Dance Group [3 Lafayette Ave. between Nostrand Avenue and Bedford Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 624-8400], www.markmorrisdancegroup.org.

**MUSIC, "MESSIAHS FALSE AND TRUE":** A choral concert about the rise and fall of a messianic figure, juxtaposed with passages from the Old and New Testaments. \$12-\$15. 7 pm. Plymouth Church [75 Hicks St. at Orange Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 624-9385], plymouthchurch.org.

**DANCE, MARK MORRIS DANCE GROUP, PROGRAM B:** The company performs a collection of solos, duets and trios, including the world premiere of the piece "Little Britten" and "Old Seville," with Morris as a castanet player. \$75. 7:30 pm. Mark Morris Dance Group [3 Lafayette Ave. between Nostrand Avenue and Bedford Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 624-8400], www.markmorrisdancegroup.org.

**MUSIC, SYNCRETICS SERIES:** Solo performances by renowned Irish pianist Isabelle O'Connell and legendary drum-set master Pheeroan akLaff. \$15. 8 pm. Issue Project Room [22 Boerum Pl. at Livingston Street in Downtown, (718) 330-0313], www.issueprojectroom.org.

**MUSIC, REVEREND MARY'S BLUES JAM:** Blues, burlesque, and open mic. Free. 11 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

**MARKET, PROSPECT HEIGHTS PLANT SALE:** Prospect Heights Community Farm's annual plant sale runs Saturdays and Sundays through May 6, selling vegetables, herbs, and flowers. Free. 10 am-6 pm. Prospect Heights Community Farm [252-256 Saint Marks Ave. between Vanderbilt and Underhill avenues in Prospect Heights], www.phcfarm.com.

**MARKETS, MADE BY HAND MARKETS, SPRING EDITION:** The best in handmade and design artisans in the fields of fashion, jewelry, accessories, art, home and lifestyle goods. Free. 1 pm. Old First Reformed Church [729 Carroll St. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (347) 551-6735], www.madebyhandmarkets.com. Talk, Dell Small Business Celebration: 10 am-6 pm. See Friday, May 4.

**TALK, OLD AND NEW WAYS OF LOOKING AT AUTISM:** Michael John Carley examines the many ways we look at the autism spectrum. Free. 10 am. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100], www.bklynlibrary.org.

**FAMILY, BOARDWALK BARRELS OF FUN:** An art competition of painting trash barrels with colorful landscapes, seascapes, and carnival-themed art. Winners will receive prizes. No need to register, just show up! All supplies provided. Free. 10 am-2 pm. Boardwalk [West 10th St. and the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (718) 965-8998], www.nycgovparks.org.

**OUTDOORS, WONDERFUL WARBLERS:** Discover why Prospect Park is an important place for many species of birds through fun games, experiments and citizen science projects. Free. 11 am-4 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospectpark.org/audubon.

**ART, MONIKER INTERNATIONAL ART FAIR:** Noon-8 pm. See Friday, May 4.

**FAMILY, WATERFRONT KITE FESTIVAL:** Watch your kite soar above the Manhattan skyline and enjoy activities exploring the science of flight. Free. 12 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier One [Old Fulton Street at Furman Street in Dumbo, (718) 222-9939], www.brooklyn-bridgepark.org.

**ART, "REVERIE" EXHIBITION:** A collection of figurative and kinetic metal sculptures by Brooklyn artist Alexandra Limpert. Free. 1-6 pm. Holland Tunnel Gallery [61 S. Third St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 384-5738], www.hollandtunnelgallery.com.

**READING, MAIRA KALMAN:** The illustrator and author reads from her celebrated children's book "Max Makes a Million," and her new book "Cake," written with Barbara Scott-Goodman. Free. 2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100], www.bklynlibrary.org.

**EVENT, KENTUCKY DERBY DISCO:** Fancy hats, diversions, dancing, and tacos. Dress like you mean it. Free. 3 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petes-candystore.com.



Etienne Frossard

**Go fly a kite:** Head up to the highest heights of Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier one for "Lift Off: A Waterfront Kite Festival" on May 5. Kites are normally forbidden in the park, but today you can let them soar, or just enjoy the day's dee-jays, stilt walkers, jugglers, and giant bubble show.

### SUN, MAY 6

**MUSIC, "STRUTTIN' WITH SOME BARBECUE":** Brooklyn Music School presents an afternoon of jazz from three student jazz ensembles and the faculty ensemble, followed by a barbecue meal. \$30 (\$75 for a family). 3 pm. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse [126 St. Felix St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 638-5660], brooklynmusic-school.org.

**MUSIC, CONCERTS ON THE SLOPE:** A chamber group performs Elvis Costello's "The Juliet Letters." \$20 suggested donation. 3 pm. St. John's Episcopal Church [139 St. John's Pl. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 783-3928].

**FAMILY, CIRCUS MINIMUS:** Kevin O'Keefe's One-Man Circus-in-a-Suitcase provides the story of an entire circus, complete with ringmaster, magicians, acrobats, and a runaway hoping to join up. \$13-\$20. 2 pm. Waterfront Museum Barge [290 Conover St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, (877) 238-5596], www.waterfrontmuseum.org.

**MUSIC, "THE BROOKLYN BASEBALL CANTATA":** A spring concert featuring barbershop group Madhattan, the SKRD String Quartet, Sammy Trombone, and pianist Maxine Feldman, followed by a baseball-themed dinner and reception. \$30 (\$6 for children under 13). 4 pm. Beth Shalom v'Emeth Reform Congregation [83 Marlborough Rd. at Church Avenue in Flatbush, (718) 436-5082], www.bshert.org.

**FILM, "ONCE UPON A SUPERHERO":** An independent film about a homeless man who may be a superhero exiled to earth without his powers. \$10. 5:30 pm. Film Noir Cinema [122 Meserole Ave. at Leonard Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389-5773], www.filmnoircinema.com.

**FILM, "INCALL":** In this queer slasher film, a young masseur and a seductive cat burglar begin killing massage clients for profit. Followed by a discussion with the director. \$10. 8 pm. Film Noir Cinema [122 Meserole Ave. at Leonard Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389-5773], www.filmnoircinema.com.

**COMEDY, "ABOVE THE RIM":** Thug Passion Presents a live reading of the 1994 film starring Tupac, with commentary, music, and movie clips. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

### MON, MAY 7

**TALK, PHOTOSHOPPIN' HISTORY:** Short true stories about historical events with made-up visuals. \$8. 7 pm. Starr Bar [214 Starr St. between Irving and Wycoff Avenues in Bushwick].

**DANCE, BALKAN DANCE WORKSHOP:** Learn Balkan dances with the Brooklyn Heights International Folk Dancers at this special event with instructor Michael Ginsburg. \$15. 7 pm. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [55 Cranberry St. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights], brooklynheightsfolkdancers.org.

**COMEDY, STANDUP COMEDY FROM PARENTS WHO WANT TO LIE DOWN:** Hosted by Ophira Eisenberg, featuring Eugene Mirman, Roy Wood Jr., Iris Bahr, Janelle James, and Caroline Rhea. \$15. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

**COMEDY, SIDE PONYTAIL COMEDY:** The Monday night comedy show welcomes Geoffrey Asmus, Robby Hoffman, Frank Nelson, and more. Free. 8 pm. Friends and Lovers [641 Classon Ave. between Dean and Pacific streets in Crown Heights], www.fnlbk.com.

**COMEDY, COMEDY MONDAY:** Open mic and stand-up. Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

**MUSIC, REV. VINCE ANDERSON AND THE LOVE**

### TUES, MAY 8

**CHOIR:** Free (donations appreciated). 10:30 pm. Union Pool [484 Union Ave. at Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 609-0484], www.union-pool.com.

### READING, "KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON — THE OSAGE MURDERS": Author David Grann reveals the story behind the murder of more than two dozen people on the oil-rich land of the Osage tribe in Oklahoma in the 1920s. \$5. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

**MUSIC, THE PIANO MUSIC OF CLAUDE DEBUSSY:** Brooklyn Music School presents a free masterclass with concert pianist George Lepauw, about French composer Claude Debussy. Free. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Music School Playhouse [126 St. Felix St. between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene, (718) 638-5660], brooklynmusic-school.org.

**TALK, PRESERVING GENRE CINEMA:** This Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies class will discuss the basic issues and challenges associated with film preservation, with a specific focus on issues most common to genre films. \$15 (\$12 in advance, \$50 full semester pass). 7 pm. Film Noir Cinema [122 Meserole Ave. at Leonard Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389-5773], www.miskatonic-nyc.com.

**READING, "OCEANIC":** Poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil reads from her book "Oceanic," and discusses her craft with fellow poet Tishani Doshi. Free. 7 pm. Word Bookstore [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096], www.wordbrooklyn.com.

**READING, JAMES AND DEBORAH FALLOWS:** The authors of "Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America" discuss their book with David Brooks. Free. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100], www.bklynlibrary.org.

**MUSIC, "AIDA" SNEAK PEEK PERFORMANCE:** A free, fully-staged performance of the opera about a secret love affair between an enslaved Ethiopian princess and an Egyptian war hero. In Italian with English subtitles. Free. 7:30 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Auditorium [5902 Sixth Ave. at 60th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 259-2772], www.reginaopera.org.

**MUSIC, "MACHINIC FANTASIES":** Argentinean composer Cecilia Lopez uses video and sound for a show performed with oil drums. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

### WED, MAY 9

**MUSIC, CHE CHEN WITH TALICE LEE AND PATRICK HOLMES:** One half of the band 75 Dollar Bill pushes into modal improvisation. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

**COMEDY, COMEDIANS YOU SHOULD KNOW:** The Chicago-style stand up showcase features Gastor Almonte, Kat Radley, Kerry Coddett, and more. Hosted by Mike Lebovitz. \$10 (\$5 in advance). 9 pm. The Gutter [200 N. 14th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 387-3585], cyskny.com.

### THURS, MAY 10

**TALK, HEP C UNIVERSITY:** An educational session about Hep C and the Opioid Crisis. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Free. 10 am-1 pm. Restoration Plaza [1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636-6996], www.restorationplaza.org.

**READING, CONEY SHOW AT THE COOP:** Brooklyn authors Michael Schwartz and Catherine Gigante-Brown

share their Coney Island reflections at this exhibit of Coney Island-inspired artwork from more than 20 artists. Free. 7 pm. The Coop [9504 Fourth Ave. between 95th and 96th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 680-0269], www.thecoop.nyc.

**FILM, MICK ROCK ON DAVID BOWIE:** A look at David Bowie's evolving alter egos as expressed through music videos. \$16 (includes Museum admission). 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

**ART, BARE BROOKLYN, THE ANTI-FASHION SHOW:** An immersive, interactive exhibition and fashion show, which will include a diverse group of models, a short film and curated pieces of artwork. Free. 7:30 pm. Image Gallery [1501 Broadway between Cornelia Street and Jefferson Avenue in Bushwick, (646) 673-4448], www.eternalremedy.com/bare-brooklyn.

**DANCE, "NOT AN ENDING AT ALL":** An evening-length work that explores the homes we build for the spirits that haunt us. \$22 (\$18 in advance). 8 pm. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St. between Banker Street and Clifford Place in Greenpoint, (718) 389-3473], www.triskelionarts.org.

**TALK, RADIOTOPIA LIVE:** Stories, conversations, comedy and music from some of Radiotopia's most popular podcasts, including 99% Invisible, Criminal, Radio Diaries, and more. \$40. 8 pm. Murr Theatre [17 Eastern Pkwy. between Grand Army Plaza and Underhill Avenue in Prospect Heights], www.murr.com.

**MUSIC, HOME BREWED OPERA:** An operatic concert in a casual setting. \$10 suggested donation. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

### FRI, MAY 11

**READING, KIDS BOOKS ARE MAGIC BOOK CLUB:** An "Inquisitor's Tale," by Adam Gidwitz. Free. 4 pm. Books Are Magic [225 Smith St. at Butler Street in Carroll Gardens].

**READING, WEDDING AND FEMINISM BOOK EVENT:** Author Katrina Maikut reads from and signs her new book "The Adventures and Discoveries of a Feminist Bride: What No One Tells You Before You Say 'I Do.'" Free. 6 pm. Cafe con Libros [724 Prospect Pl. at Rogers Avenue in Crown Heights, (347) 460-2838], www.cafconlibrosbk.com.

**NIGHTLIFE, SILENT DISCO ON THE BOARDWALK:** Councilman Mark Treyger sponsors a free, silent dance party, with participants donning headphones to hear music streamed from the DJ. Free. 7-10 pm. [Coney Island Boardwalk at W. 17th Street in Coney Island, (718) 373-9637].

**NIGHTLIFE, DREAMLAND ROLLER DISCO, FLASH-DANCE VS. DIRTY DANCING:** Flashdance vs. Dirty Dancing-themed roller-skating event featuring dee-jays, performers, professional photographer, skate dance competition, costume contest, and more. Costumes encouraged! \$18-\$750. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park LeFrak Center at Lakeside [171 East Drive in Prospect Park], www.dreamlandrollerink.com.

**MUSIC, BROOKLYN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY:** The Brooklyn Heights group performs its final classical music concert of the season. \$30 (\$20 students). 8 pm. Chapel at First Unitarian Church [119 Pierrepont St. between Clinton St. and Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858-0718], www.brooklynchambermusicociety.org.

### SAT, MAY 12

**TOUR, HISTORIC KINGS THEATRE TOUR:** Learn about the history and architecture of a former movie palace and its new life after a \$95M restoration. \$15. 2 pm. Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush], www.kingstheatre.com.

**MUSIC, VERDI'S "AIDA":** Regina Opera debuts its production of Verdi's "Aida," about the secret love affair between an enslaved Ethiopian princess and an Egyptian war hero. In Italian with English subtitles. \$25 (\$20 students and seniors, \$5 teens). 3 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Auditorium [5902 Sixth Ave. at 60th Street in Sunset Park, (718) 259-2772], www.reginaopera.org.

**MARKET, BROOKLYN BIKE JUMBLE:** The New York Bike Jumble returns for the eighth year in a row! Fulfill all your cycling needs for the summer. Get yourself a new or used bike, new and used accessories, clothing, collectibles, artwork, overstocks, and bargains galore. Free. 9 am-4 pm. Old Stone House [336 Third St. at 4th Street in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195].

## LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Nine Days In Brooklyn**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by e-mail: [calendar@cnglocal.com](mailto:calendar@cnglocal.com), or submit the information online at [www.brooklynpaper.com/events/submit](http://www.brooklynpaper.com/events/submit). We are no longer accepting submissions by mail. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

# Making an entrance (or 2)

## P'Park getting two new entry points along forgotten Flatbush Ave.

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

They're new ways to take a walk in the park!  
Two new entrances to Prospect Park will soon allow patrons to step into a historically neglected stretch of the meadow along Flatbush Avenue.

The \$5.6-million project to create the access points between Grand Army Plaza and the meadow's zoo will also fund cosmetic improvements to areas surrounding the entryways, and ultimately make Brooklyn's Backyard a more inclusive retreat for all Kings Countians, according to one pol who allocated taxpayer dollars towards the makeover.

"For years, the east side of Prospect Park was second-class to its western half. Visitors from some communities were valued differently than others, and it reflected in the quality of the park experience and the general upkeep," said Borough President Adams, who with Crown Heights Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, set aside \$2.4 million for the scheme. "With the investments we have made, our crown jewel is getting



Locals will soon be able to stroll into Prospect Park through two new entrances on Flatbush Avenue.

the polish it deserves on every side."

The pair of Flatbush Avenue entrances are the first portals added to the park since the 1940s, according to a spokeswoman for meadow caretaker the Prospect Park Alliance, who said one will be installed nearer the Prospect Park Zoo, and the other closer to Grand Army Plaza, outside the meadow's Rose Garden — another area the alliance is working to restore.

The entrances will be the

first park access points on Flatbush Avenue between Grand Army Plaza and the zoo since the meadow opened in 1867, according to alliance spokeswoman Deborah Kirschner, who said the metal fence that currently runs along the park border there was installed in the early 1900s.

The Department of Parks and Recreation coughed up the additional \$3.2 million from its taxpayer-funded budget for the entryways, which will be attractions in them-

selves, according to Kirschner, who said the plans for them include creating tiered seating and landscaped plazas that lead to paths inside Brooklyn's Backyard, including a new running trail going in as part of the renovation.

The proposal also includes installing a traffic signal and pedestrian crosswalk across Flatbush Avenue outside the new entrance nearest to Grand Army Plaza, she said.

But before park-goers can pass through the new portals,

workers will first restore the stretch of sidewalk they open onto by paving its cracked cement, broadening it from 20- to 30-foot wide, installing new lights, benches, and fencing along the meadow's border, and replacing unwanted plants with new trees, Kirschner said.

Alliance leaders expect to finish the sidewalk restoration this fall, and the new entrances will open in the spring of 2020, she said.

Elsewhere in Brooklyn's Backyard, the mayor's office is allocating \$2 million to spruce up roughly 1,200 feet of park pathways and bring new lights and seating to an area near the Vale of Cashmere — where a herd of goats helped workers clear invasive weeds over several months last year — according to Kirschner, who said work on that project should begin this fall.

And Prospect Park Alliance leaders recently kicked off a project to construct an outdoor fitness center on the park's Parade Grounds, which is scheduled to open next spring, according to the meadow's stewards.

# 'Jump' start

## Uber buys local bike maker as city considers using them

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

This homegrown bike company is going places!

Bigwigs at car-hailing business Uber are scooping up a Fort Greene bicycle manufacturer in a deal that its founder hopes will bring the Brooklyn-made two-wheeler to more metropolises worldwide — including New York City, where the company's pedal-assist-electric and dockless cycles may soon be allowed to cruise streets.

"A lot more of our resources can go toward bikes, expansion, and scaling our vision globally," Jump leader Ryan Rzepecki said of what he expects from the sale.

The Silicon Valley firm reportedly paid upwards of \$200 million for the start-up — which

debuted its fleet in 2017, and produces bicycles at its headquarters in the Brooklyn Navy Yard — but the ink hasn't officially dried on the purchase agreement, according to a Jump spokeswoman.

The local company's fire-engine red cycles are deployed in a dockless sharing system that allows riders to rent them from and store them at any standard bicycle rack in cities where Jump's bikes are available — which now only include San Francisco and Washington, DC — instead of dedicated racks like those for Citi Bikes.

Jump's dockless system — the first of its kind, according to Rzepecki — offers better and more accessible transit options for urban dwellers, its founder claimed.



Uber is finalizing a deal to purchase Brooklyn-based company Jump Bikes, whose cycles have yet to hit New York City streets.

"My goal with this is to make cycling extremely accessible to people who normally wouldn't consider biking," he said. "We made the first-ever dockless bikes, which lowered costs to launch the project, and improved the user experience."

The start-up's bikes come in two styles — a human-powered bicycle propelled by a rider's pedaling alone, and a pedal-assist-electric model, which is equipped with a battery that cyclists can activate when they

need extra juice to help propel them through difficult terrain, Rzepecki said.

"Electric-assist really broadens the market, you don't have to worry about showing up to work sweaty," he said.

And the start-up's sale will allow commuters to rent one of its bicycles — which will still bear the Jump name — using the Uber app, which shows users available car- and bike-hailing options so they can determine the best way to get from one place to another, accord-

ing to Rzepecki.

"They will be still branded Jump, but you can take a bike at one location and drop it off at another within the Uber app," he said. "Or you can look at bikes nearby, and take a car instead."

News of Uber's purchase of Jump came days after the mayor announced that he will introduce legislation allowing pedal-assist-electric bicycles that travel under 20 miles-per-hour on city streets — an about face from the crackdown on electric bicycles he ordered last fall. New York State law forbids the use of entirely electric bikes that don't require pedaling and can travel more than 20 miles-per hour.

And the start-up's new owner is taking over as Department of Transportation leaders review proposals that 12 companies, including Jump, submitted to run the city's first dockless bike-share program — a new alternative-transportation initiative that would follow the Citi Bike rental system instituted in 2013 under Mayor Bloomberg.

Rzepecki — who worked for the Transportation Department from 2008 to 2010 — believes his company has a shot at winning the business, and hopes that Brooklynites will be zipping around the borough on its cycles shortly after the city selects a winner for its dockless-bike scheme, which officials expect to do this summer.

"We have a good chance, but haven't been told anything," he said. "The city has control over it."

# City reverses on Fourth Ave bike lane

By Julianne McShane  
Brooklyn Paper

Talk about backpedaling.

The city is walking back its statement that the protected Fourth Avenue bike lane would skip one side of an entire block in front of Sunset

Park's 72nd Precinct station house to accommodate officers' parking, after local cyclists called out the dangers of merging into traffic in the Bay Ridge-bound lane.

Reps from the Department of Transportation said the plan

isn't finalized and is under review — even though the agency's borough commissioner told one concerned cyclist it was final. And although the agency's willingness to reconsider its decision came as good news to that cyclist, he said he doubts

that the police will change their behavior to accommodate bikers.

"I want to believe that DOT will get this right, but NYPD's disregard for bike lanes all over the city doesn't inspire a ton of optimism," said John Tomac.

# HEARING...

Continued from page 1 she said. "They are being baited and used so a developer like Alloy is the only one to come in and save them, and that is the wrong way to go about selling our public assets."

In 2007, Education Department leaders announced they would open the city's first Arabic-language academy before they even had a home for it, and later proposed squeezing the Khalil Gibran students — who then included middle- and high-schoolers — into Park Slope's PS 282 schoolhouse, inciting protests over combining the two by parents who questioned the need for the cultural school at all.

The controversy led officials to instead open Khalil Gibran later that year in Boerum Hill, inside a Dean Street building between Third and Fourth avenues shared by two learning houses — the Brooklyn High School of the Arts, and the Math and Science Exploratory School, a middle school.

In early 2008, however, the Education Department proposed Khalil Gibran make yet another move, ultimately relocating it to the same Navy Street building as Fort Greene elementary school PS 287 months later, in what bigwigs claimed would be a permanent location.

But three years later, in 2011, the city again moved

the academy into its current home after cutting its then-struggling middle-school classrooms.

And after all that shuffling, Khalil Gibran educators and students deserve a true home at the academy's current location that will allow its cultural curriculum to flourish, according to the president of Downtown do-good group the Arab-American Family Support Center, which recently gave the beep a petition supporting 80 Flatbush signed by more than 600 people.

"This is an opportunity for Khalil Gibran International Academy to finally have a home after moving to multiple locations in the past decade," said Rawaa Nancy Al-bital. "Our children deserve better than what they have been given so far, this is their opportunity to finally have a gymnasium, a library, art room, music room, and new science lab."

Adams will deliver his opinion on the project in the coming weeks, his rep said, and Community Board 2's full board will vote on the scheme on May 9, following its Land Use Committee's unanimous rejection of the plan.

The rezoning application will then go before the City Planning Commission, Council, and ultimately Mayor De-Blasio.

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## Olde time

### Medieval society invades Prospect Park for bash

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

They went medieval on this grass!

Armored knights battled as princesses cut a rug in Brooklyn's Backyard during a day of good old-fashioned frivolity that showed locals the historical Dark Ages weren't all doom and gloom, according to a nobleman who organized the affair.

“Basically, it's good clean fun,” said Count Barry Green, who founded a local chapter of a group that studies pre-17th-century medieval-European cultures, the Society for Creative Anachronism, which bestows titles to those in its ranks.

The society's free April 29 gathering at Prospect Park's Grecian Pavilion boasted all the staples of ye olde Renais-

sance faire, including combat sports, arts and crafts, dancing, and concerts featuring bards who regaled the crowd with ballads even your great-great-grandma is too young to remember, Green said.

“It's sort of like a multi-ring circus, with many things going on at the same time,” he said.

And although the festivities may have outwardly evoked life in Europe before the 1600s, the society's social constructs couldn't be more different from those hierarchies that defined the Middle Ages, according to Green, who described the organization as a meritocracy that bases ranks on skill and character, where anyone who performs daring feats at its annual get-togethers can rise to become king.

“It's the medieval ages



Brave members of the Society for Creative Anachronism duked it out in do-it-yourself armor during the organization's picnic.

as they should have been,” he said.

And almost all of the attendees crafted their own olde-timey getups for the bash,

which included cloaks and tunics, along with genuine suits of armor—some of which were the result of years of manual labor, according to Green.

“In the past I made a shirt out of quarter-inch hardened-steel links, and I worked on that over three years,” the nobleman said.

## Tickled pink!

### Cherry Blossom fest is a toast to Japanese culture

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

Konnichiwo! Kings Countians rubbed elbows with anime icons and samurai warriors at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden last weekend during its annual Cherry Blossom Festival, a celebration of Japanese culture that drew attendees from places almost as faraway as the Asian nation itself.

“It was amazing,” said Kenny Fong, a teenage artist who traveled from distant New Jersey for the event. “I had a great time.”

Many of the Japanophiles who flocked to the Prospect Heights green space for the two-day affair showed up in costume to partake in its

Saturday and Sunday fashion shows, the latter of which featured plenty of cartoon- and video-game-inspired ensembles, according to Fong.

“There was one guy who cosplayed as Cloud from Final Fantasy, and he had a replica of his sword that was almost real-life size,” he said of the festival's ninth-annual cosplay fashion show. “I was like, ‘Wow, that's really nice.’”

Organizers of the two-day affair dubbed Sakura Matsuri treated attendees to other



The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Cherry Blossom Festival attracts hordes of cosplayers year after year.

entertainment that included live performances by kabuki dancers, Taiko drummers, Japanese pop singers—and, of course, the spectacle that was gazing upon the garden's blooming trees themselves.

This year's was the Botanic Garden's 37th iteration of the festival, which unfolds around its Japanese Hill and Pond Garden dotted with Kanzan, Okame, and other cherry-tree species, all of which blossom for about a week before losing their buds.

But not all of the green space's trees flower simultaneously, and locals who missed the fun still have time to scope out the seasonal phenomenon before the cherry trees stop blooming in mid-May, according to information from the Botanic Garden.

## Angels come to Kings

### Los Angeles-based firm will design luxe Pier 6 condos

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

It's West Coast meets East River.

The developers of two controversial towers rising at Pier 6 in Brooklyn Bridge Park tapped an architecture firm based in distant Los Angeles to design the luxury digs for sale inside the taller high-rise.

Builders RAL Development Services and Oliver's Realty Group, whose contractors just topped off the 28-story high-rise at 50 Bridge Park Drive near the foot of Atlantic Avenue, hired Marmol Radziner to dream up the decor for the 126 swanky condominiums inside the so-called Quay Tower.

The high-rise is the designer's first residential project on the East Coast, according to the developers. Renderings for the units show rooms decked out with white-oak cabinets as well as marble and other natural stone elements to create a self-proclaimed aesthetic of “elegant, effortless luxury”—a look familiar to Marmol Radziner, which put together residences for such high-profile clients as actress Demi Moore and Red Hot Chili Peppers singer Anthony Kiedis.



Architecture firm Marmol Radziner's renderings depict open, light-filled condos inside the taller Pier 6 tower.

The condos are slated to hit the market later this spring, and the inventory includes two-bedrooms starting at \$1.9 million, three-bedrooms at \$2.9 million, four-bedrooms at \$5 million, and five-bedrooms at \$5.5 million.

And if all stays on track, homeowners should be able to walk into their new palaces in the park sometime next summer, the builders said.

The developers have yet to announce an interior-design

firm for the 140 rentals inside the shorter 15-story tower at 15 Bridge Park Drive, 100 of which will be so-called affordable apartments doled out via the city's housing lottery.

That high-rise, which topped out earlier this year, is set to open next spring, according to its creators.

For years, the two towers—whose structures themselves were designed by local firm ODA New York—stood at the epicenter of a contentious

lawsuit after civic group the Brooklyn Heights Association sued the park over their creation back in 2016.

But a judge in February ruled in favor of the meadow and the development—months after her predecessor permitted construction of the towers to begin—and Heights Association leaders later said they would not seek an appeal, leaving the builders free to finish the job they began last July.

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## They're buying the farm!

### Investors may save Slope health-food store

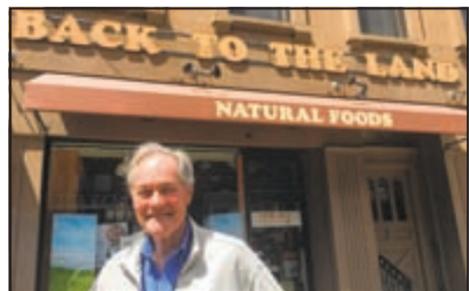
By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

This declining health-food store is not dead yet!

Angel investors may step in to save a Park Slope emporium of feel-good fare following news that the shop would close imminently after nearly half a century in business, according to its owner.

Back to the Land proprietor David Basham said more than one person expressed interest in saving the store known for its aisles of fruits, veggies, and supplements, including a long-time customer of the retailer at 142 Seventh Ave.

“I'm getting calls from people, investors,” he said. “Somebody who's a long-time customer has been



Back to the Land owner David Basham said an angel investor may yet swoop in and save his shop from imminent closure.

looking for an investment.”

But if he can't collect the necessary cash at the 11th hour, Basham said bidding farewell

to the neighborhood won't be too hard because his decades there brought him nothing but good times.

“We want to tell everyone who's been part of this experience over the years that we offer our gratitude and love to them for everything we went through together,” he said.

The store—which Basham bought an ownership stake in years after its original founder opened it in 1971—struggled to turn a profit as the increasingly bougie neighborhood's rents continued to rise, he said. And customers' desires to cook less, eat out more, and buy groceries online didn't help its bottom line, according to the owner.

But regardless of Back to the Land's fate, Basham will always remember his customers fondly, and harbors no hard feelings toward them for taking their business elsewhere.

“I'm not going to chastise the neighborhood for not supporting the store, which is what some people do,” said Basham. “It's more thanks for the memories than anything else.”

# Remember the first time we spanked our kid?

Babies haven't changed much in about a million years.

But how we view them, what we expect of them, and how we raise them is changing all the time and, in the process, changing us, says Janet Golden, a professor of history at Rutgers and author of the new book, "Babies Made Us Modern: How Infants Brought America into the 20th Century."

At the dawn of the 1900s, infant mortality was still so common that photographers routinely took pictures of babies in their coffins — eyes open — as a keepsake for the parents. It was only as mortality rates fell (and Kodak's Brownie camera brought photography to the masses) that another kind of picture became popular: Snapshots of babies very much alive, even giggly.

This was such a new notion that Kodak actually had to tell parents: "It makes no difference how often the baby goes to the photographer ... the record of his days is incomplete unless there are home pictures to supplement the more formal studio photographs."

And that is the first dawn-



## Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

ing of our Facebook culture. You'll find it in baby books — diaries for moms to fill in with baby's word, first tooth, etc. — which started including a page where parents were told to paste a baby photo.

These books proved a treasure trove for Golden, who pored over hundreds of them to see what parents considered good childrearing. "I really didn't know what I was going to find," Golden said in a phone interview. "But the thing that jumped out at me was that they used to have places where you wrote down, 'Baby's first accident.'"

One such book from Red Bud, Ill., recorded the early life of a boy named Charlie Flood, born in 1914. At 4 months old, he suffered a burn to his face. Four months later he pulled off part of his tongue with a button hook — a common device

in the days before zippers. By toddlerhood he'd gotten a nail in his foot and, later, glass in his hand from holding a bottle while he fell.

"Charlie's mother dutifully recorded each accident ... and he was hardly the only infant

to have his calamities written down," writes Golden. "Babies fell down stairs, and out of high chairs and cribs. Some baby books even had places designed for writing down 'First Tumble.'"

Today, of course, babies still take tumbles. "But the standard of parental expectations have changed," Golden says. Accidents have gone from an ordinary part of childhood to something almost too shameful to admit. "And the same thing happened with discipline," says Golden. Some of the baby books have a page for "Baby's First Discipline," with moms filling in, "I spanked baby for \_\_\_\_\_." You wouldn't find a page like that today.

In fact, you wouldn't find a lot of the practices considered prudent 100 years ago. The U.S. Children's Bureau, a department of the government roughly akin to the Department of Agriculture, in that it instructed Americans on how to raise a healthy crop (of kids), published pamphlets giving parents all sorts of "good" advice including: "Don't kiss babies. Let them cry. Make sure they get a healthy tan. Don't give

them pacifiers. Don't get them in the habit of being held," Golden synopsisizes. Some of these strange-sounding tips made sense back then. Kissing spread germs which, before antibiotics, could have proven deadly. It was an era of tuberculosis, too. If crying possibly made lungs stronger, let those babies wail! And a tan? Before industry started adding Vitamin D to foods, kids got the bone-softening ailment called rickets. Sunshine prevented it.

In that era, too, moms routinely started toilet training their babies before age 1,

sometimes as early as two months. Why? No washing machines! How many dirty diapers did anyone want to scrub against a washboard? I'd have hurried up and trained my kids, too.

Parental norms changed after World War II. Instead of rigid rules, parents turned to Dr. Spock, who famously told moms, "You know more than you think you do" — so just trust your gut. No need for a feeding schedule.

But as loosey-goosey as the parenting style became, the standards of safety kept going up. The more babies that

survived, the more Americans began to believe they could — and must — obliterate any childhood adversity.

Which brings us to today: the safest times in human history, when parents are nonetheless encouraged to buy things like devices that can monitor their babies' heart rate every single second, as if they're in constant peril. As safety has reached a new level, so has fear.

It doesn't get more modern than that. Lenore Skenazy is president of Let Grow, and founder of Free-Range Kids.

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## OWL...

Continued from page 1 negligent anglers and said her group is raising money to install receptacles for unwanted lines and hooks at all city fishing spots.

"In New York State, they ask not to discard it, but it's not a law," said Rita McMahon, a director at the Manhattan-based Wild Bird Fund. "Fishing line hurts a lot of animals, not just water fowl, but turkeys, turtles, and the owls, as you see."

And although bird lovers may balk at the hobby, catch-and-release fishing is a beloved tradition in Brooklyn's Backyard that dates back decades — in 2011, meadow stewards ended the park's long-running Macy's Fishing Contest that drew youngsters to Prospect Park lake for 63

years before budget cuts rendered it impractical, the New York Daily News reported at the time. Caretakers at the alliance, however, still host summer angling workshops sponsored by the retailer, as well as seasonal fishing events such as the safe-casting class held in the park as part of its Earth Day celebration earlier this month.

Horvath said he doesn't expect the state to ban fishing in Prospect Park any time soon, arguing line-casters are a generally responsible bunch spoiled by a few bad apples.

"It's more of an ethical thing, people need to clean up after themselves," he said. "If you're intentionally leaving debris behind that can cause damage to an animal, that's irresponsible."

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