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**NEW YORK POST**

# BROOKLYN Weekly

**LOCAL CLASSIFIEDS**  
PAGE 11

Aug. 9, 2015

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## It's murder, but he claims self-defense

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

Family members and friends of a Kensington teen who a grand jury indicted on murder charges for allegedly fatally stabbing his father are rallying behind the kid they say was the victim of an abusive dad.

A grand jury indicted 19-year-old Hassan Razzaq and order him held without bail last Friday after dozens of family and friends wearing T-shirts emblazoned with the words "#FreeHassanRazzaq" piled into the courtroom to hear the decision read by Assistant District Attorney Olatokunbo Olanayan.

The outpouring of support for Razzaq came as a shock to his lawyer.

"Neighbors are contacting  
*Continued on page 10*



**YOU SCREAM, I SCREAM:** Shift manager Whitney Bibeau stacks the ice cream high at Ample Hills Creamery on Nevins Street. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## GOWANUS BOOMING

Third Ave. shops reshape area

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

Who's on Third? Everybody!

A slew of new watering holes and Park Slope-esque storefronts are sprouting up along Gowanus' Third Avenue area, an industrial sprawl once sparsely populated by the odd dive bar or corner store, and some denizens witnessing the change give thanks to the fetid waterway from which it springs.

"This crazy polluted canal has given a bunch of people an opportunity to realize their dreams," said Jonathan Schnapp, co-owner

of the Royal Palms Shuffleboard Club, a tropical vacation-themed getaway that dropped anchor just a block away from the Gowanus Canal two years ago.

Schnapp says the largely industrial zoning that is kept in place, for now, by plans to clean up the canal and the surrounding toxic land have given artists and entrepreneurs a condo-free haven to spread out and lay down roots for their small businesses. The proprietors of the Shuffleboard Club lucked out with a vast

*Continued on page 6*

## Hump plan slammed

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

They are *not* love-drunk on those humps.

Windsor Terrace residents slammed a proposal to stick up to 15 traffic-slowing speed humps around their neighborhood to improve pedestrian safety, with many knocking the plan as a lazily slapped-on

solution that will fail to fix dangerous road conditions in the neighborhood.

"It's cheap and easy," said Neil Eisenberg, who lives on Seeley Street — the site of three proposed humps — eliciting applause from the gathered neighbors at Monday

*Continued on page 9*



Photo by Jason Speakman

**STAND UP FOR THE TRUTH:** Hank Willis Thomas is behind "The Truth is I See You" exhibit at MetroTech.

## Honest artist gets truth out

BY ERIC FAYNBERG

The truth is up there.

A new art installation at MetroTech creates a moment of truth every 45 feet. The exhibit, "The Truth Is I See You" features comic book-style word balloons and thought bubbles hanging from light poles around the plaza, each present-

ing a different "truth" for passers-by to consider. The word balloons, on display until June of 2016, feature phrases like "The truth is I know you," and "The truth is I love you," printed in English on one side, and in one of Brooklyn's 22 most-spoken foreign languages on the other.

The Brooklyn artist behind the project hopes it will lead people to learn about each other's cultures.

"It's a great opportunity to learn more about other people's perspectives and truths," said Hank Willis Thomas. "It's a chance

*Continued on page 6*



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Ridge is blinded  
by the light

New street lamps are too bright, locals say

BY MAX JAEGER

They have to wear sunglasses at night.

The Department of Transportation needs to tone down the new, high-intensity street lights that are shining into homes and ruining residents' quality of life, Ridgites say.

The super-bright bulbs are causing residents some serious headaches.

"I was told to avoid bright, artificial light," said Ridgite Rosemary Steinberg, a cancer survivor who developed ocular migraines due to chemotherapy, and now has to wear sunglasses indoors and out to prevent extreme pain. "And then we came home the first night [after the lights were installed] and the migraines started. First time in two years."

The glare is so strong it's like something from a science-fiction film, the 76th Street resident said.

"Have you ever seen 'Close Encounters?' It's like the mother ship coming in for a landing," Steinberg said.

Steinberg and her husband have already blazed through \$300 on new window coverings to block out the invasive illumination since the city put in the new bulbs about two weeks ago, she said.

They've tried to shed light on the situation by calling 311, Community Board 10, and the Department of Transportation, and even writing a letter to Mayor DeBlasio, she said.

The mayor's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The community board is forwarding all complaints to the city, said CB10 district manager Josephine Beckmann. The board got 15 calls about the amped-up lamps — mainly from 76th Street — in just two days, she said.



**GLARING ERROR:** (Above) The new street lights composed of super bright, light-emitting diodes make 10 pm look like 10 am on 76th Street. (Right) Rosemary Steinberg has to shield her eyes when she walks outside at night because new street lamps are so bright they give her migraines.

Photos by Georgine Benvenuto



Neighbors seem to agree new lamps weren't a bright idea.

"It's been horrible since last Thursday," said 76th Street retiree Marie Albi, whose apartment is situated under a street lamp. "It's like we're living in a film set over here. I can't sleep."

Locals want the city to use lower-intensity lights, angle them away from homes, or install shields on the bulbs so they only shine straight down, affected residents said.

The city is considering the latter, according to Beckmann, however, a Department of Transportation spokeswoman would only confirm that the city is aware of the issue.

But the problem only seems to be hitting home for those living directly across the street from the lights.

"It's bright, but it's not shining on the whole block," said 76th Street resident Ze-

cil Reid, whose apartment is a few doors down from the nearest lamp. "I don't know what they're complaining about."

The Department of Transportation is in the process of replacing the city's 250,000 street lights with high-efficiency light-emitting diodes — an upgrade from traditional 100-watt bulbs — citywide in a plan that's supposed to save taxpayers \$8 million a year in maintenance and \$6 million annually in energy costs, according to information from the city.

In other cities where super-bright streetlights have become an issue, complaints from locals have led to lengthy legal battles. Steinberg said she hopes it doesn't come to that here.

"There's people suing their counties, suing their municipalities," she said. "In Seattle it's been going on for four years. I don't want to go through that."



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**CAN'T HEAR HIMSELF THINK:** St. Anselm's pastor Msgr. John Maloney says the 85-decibel rumble passing R trains produce — roughly the equivalent of an idling bulldozer or a household blender — is heard inside the school, making it hard for students to concentrate.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

## R-acket train

Ridge's subway sending bad vibes toward local parochial school

BY MAX JAEGER

If you want to know what it sounds like inside St. Anselm's School when the R train rumbles along below, just stand next to an idling bulldozer.

Or put your ear up to a running blender. Both generate about 85 decibels — the same sound levels this paper measured as subway cars rolled by beneath the Ridge parochial school on July 3.

The train noise is a distraction for pupils, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has to do something about it, community members said.

"How can you teach a class with a bulldozer in the room?" said school parent Pam Pazarecki, likening the earth-rattling train noise to a similarly loud earth-mover. "The vibrations get so bad, and the school shakes so heavily, that you can't even speak or be heard."

Last year, vibrations were so bad they caused cracks in the neighboring church's facade.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority measured vibrations in the school's basement, but it refused to share the results with administrators, St. Anselm's pastor said.

"MTA sent technicians

and said there is an increase [in vibrations] but they said it's not that bad," said Monsignor John Maloney. "They shut you down right away."

Another Fourth Avenue resident about 10 blocks north of the school had a similar experience.

"The MTA installed a vibration monitor in my basement twice, and they have not followed up with me," said Sheila Lynch of 72nd Street. "I don't know what the point of the monitoring is if they're not telling you how they're going to be reacting to it."

Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) has sent another in a series of letters calling on the authority to implement noise-reduction measures and buy new trains to replace the fleet of nearly 40-year-old cars that serve the line, citing \$1 billion in unexpected revenue the authority recently discovered as a feasible funding source.

The transportation authority suspended service to Bay Ridge for 10 nights over the last two weeks to make repairs on the line. The work included some noise-mitigation measures, and there's a more comprehensive fix on the horizon, but Ridgites will have to wait, an authority

*Continued on page 10*

# Class construction

Beep wants to put 3D printers in all Brooklyn schools

BY MAX JAEGER

He wants to be the prince of prints.

Borough President Adams has approached Brooklyn 3D printer manufacturer MakerBot about outfitting every public school in the borough with a 3D printer — and he says money is no object.

"Whatever it costs to do it, we're going to be fully all in," Adams said.

And it could cost quite a bit.

MakerBot's latest models range from \$1,300 to \$6,500 depending on size and features, and Brooklyn has nearly 1,000 public schools — and that's not even counting maintenance costs and the pricey spools of plastic "ink" needed for the printers to do their thing. But the potential benefit to students outweighs any of Borough Hall's fiscal reservations, according to the Beep.

"This whole concept is all pennies on the dollar," he said.

Growth in the country's tech and engineering sectors far outpaces that in traditional industries, and borough schools need to provide better access to advanced technologies to prepare kids for that expanding job market, Adams said.

"Book-learning is so old-school," he said. "We need a curriculum that prepares today's students for the jobs of tomorrow — and today. In order to make tech education successful, it must be hands-on."

The Beep took a similar position on borough libraries during a sit-down with this paper last month.

Now Adams, MakerBot, and the school system are figuring out how to make the plan financially feasible.

The head of MakerBot — which recently opened a new factory in Sunset Park — wouldn't say yet whether he'd cut Adams a bulk deal, because talks are in the early stages.

"We have some great ideas in place — we'll share them, but we're still developing those ideas," said MakerBot chief executive Jonathan Jaglom.

Adams's office hasn't identified any grants available to lower his plan's potential burden on taxpayers, but he indicated he may fund the plan with his council-allocated capital budget. He plans to use more than 75 percent of his \$61.67 million 2016 budget to improve technology in schools, he said.

But there are recurring costs that the Beep can't fund through his capital budget, like maintenance and ink — or in this case, spools of plastic filament.



**DEAL IN THE WORKS:** (Above) Borough President Adams congratulates MakerBot executive Jonathan Jaglom on a new factory opened in Sunset Park in July. Adams and the 3D-printing giant have been working together to put 3D printers (right) in every school in Brooklyn.

Photos by Jason Speakman

The spools run \$40 a pop and would likely last a classroom about a month, Jaglom said. And the MakerBot charges \$290 a year for maintenance, which means schools might spend \$870 a year to keep machines printing. Extrapolating that figure, it would cost \$848,250 annually to maintain a 3D printer at each Brooklyn public school — including publicly funded, privately run charter schools, which Adams is including in his plan.

But the maintenance plan may not completely cover schools' needs. A recently filed class-action lawsuit against MakerBot alleges that it knowingly sold faulty "smart extruders" — essentially the machine's printer head, which costs \$175. The maintenance plan lets customers request replacement parts or mail in their device for service a total of four times per year — but only covers two replacement extruders a year, which could leave schools on the hook if MakerBot doesn't fix its apparent extruder problem.

And there are places Adams could offset the cost of buying the printers.

Basic design software is available free online, and developers like Autodesk, which makes the architecture industry standard AutoCAD, offer free licenses to



educational institutions.

And software and printers are intuitive enough that students can show teachers the ropes, a Bay Ridge educator said.

"When I first came in, I couldn't run the 3D printer," said Visitation Academy science teacher Mary Ann McGrath after the private school added one of the mini manufacturing machines to its program. "The girls showed me."

The Department of Education supports Adams's plan, but individual schools make decisions about whether to purchase technology like 3D printers, so implementation — and funding — won't come from the top, a spokesman said.

The Beep has yet to deliver his pre-election passion project — transforming the Canarsie bazaar into a gourmet destination where restaurants grow all their produce on hydroponic "vertical farms." But putting 3D printers into all of Brooklyn's schools might cement his place in history, Jaglom said.

"He wants it to be his legacy," he said.



# Sausage building is stuffed with condos

BY ALLEGRA HOBBS

You *do* want to know what they are putting in those sausages!

The developers who bought a beloved Greenwood Heights Polish grocery store that closed in May are turning the old-school Fifth Avenue mainstay into a stack of apartments and retail space.

George Malafis and Ioannis Glyptis are knocking down part of the three-story building that housed Eagle Provisions, a sausage and beer haven, and replacing it with a six-story structure that will house 28 residential units on top of ground-floor retail space, according to a permit application filed with the department of buildings on July 24.

The architecture firm taking on the project, Tom Winter Architects, has unveiled renderings of the new building on its website, and stated that the new project will incorporate the original



**WINTER IS COMING:** Tom Winter Architects unveiled plans (above) for a mixed-use building with apartments and retail space where (left) Eagle Provisions used to sling sausage and beer. Tom Winter Architects

facades of the Polish market into the new design.

The neighborhood fixture at 626-630 Fifth Ave. served up kielbasa and an astounding selection of 2,500 beers to the Greenwood Heights community for more than 75 years before owners Richard and John Zawisny put the building on the market for \$9 million last year when the cost of running the



business became too high, though the brothers were divided over the decision.

Developers ultimately snatched up the property for \$7.5 million in April, and

*Continued on page 10*

# Brooklyn gets bogarted!

## Boro pot joint is nixed

BY NOAH HUROWITZ

Brooklyn's not dope!

The borough's hopes for a new medical marijuana dispensary have gone up in smoke now that the state has refused to license two Kings County joints to stock the product, forcing Brooklynites to travel to Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx to fill their prescription — and prompting Borough President Adams to slam the state for once again bogarting his hometown.



"It's just a consistent pattern that when it comes to innovation and support, the governor has been absent when it comes down to the borough of Brooklyn," said Adams, a longtime supporter of legal medical pot. "Disappointment is putting it lightly, but it's expected when it comes down to their track record on Brooklyn."

The Department of Health selected five companies to grow, process, and dispense prescription pot but didn't say way far out places in Queens, Manhattan, and The Bronx are in, but the two companies with plans to open pharmacies in Brooklyn are out.

*Continued on page 10*

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**FIXING A HOLE:** Utility and city workers examine the yawning sinkhole that suddenly opened at the corner of Fifth Avenue and 64th Street in Sunset Park on Aug. 4 – but locals say they saw it coming.

Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

# HOLE-Y MOLY!

## Sinkhole swallows Sunset Park intersection

BY MAX JAEGER

They're gonna need a bigger cement truck.

A massive sinkhole opened on the corner of 64th Street and Fifth Avenue in Sunset Park on Aug. 4.

The yawning, 20-foot chasm unhinged its gaping maw at a little before 7 am, officials said. The sight may have surprised passers-by, but folks who live and work nearby knew it was just a matter of time before the earth would cleave beneath the long-gagging street.

"It's been sinking for two years," said 64th Street resident Roseanne Coffey. "I just asked my husband two weeks ago, 'When do you think it's gonna go?'"

The city doesn't know what caused the hole, but confirmed there was a leak

in a 48-inch water main beneath the street, according to a spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection, which handles the city's water and sewer infrastructure.

But the problem was definitely on the city's radar — before the street collapsed, city crews piled asphalt atop a growing depression on the street, another local said.

"You could see they put tar over it," Felipe V., who works at a laundromat across the avenue. "I guess they never took the time to find out why it was sinking."

The city recently replaced a fire hydrant on the corner, Coffey said. A spokesman for the Department of Environmental Protection refused to say when the fire hydrant was last replaced.

A pipe tying the hydrant to the main may have been leaking water underground, Coffey said.

"When they pulled it out, it was all rusty," she said.

No residential customers lost electricity, according to a spokesman from Con Ed. But the sinkhole did damage three electric gizmos serving the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, he said. The outage snarled nearby N trains that morning, according to a release from the authority.

There were no injuries in the cave-in, fire officials said.

The city does not know how long it will take to fix underground infrastructure and cap the crater, a Department of Environmental Protection spokesman said.

## Terminal trespasser sent to pokey

BY MAX JAEGER

You know those giant things in Red Hook that say "The Port of New York Authority?"

Yeah, you're not allowed to go into those.

A man who was convicted of sneaking into the perennially trespassed-upon Red Hook grain termi-

nal will spend 10 days in the clink for his indiscretions — and the owner of the warehouse is ecstatic the city is finally doing something about a problem he says he can't control.

"I was surprised that the punishment was so severe, but we're happy because

we've been trying to get stronger decisions against people who keep trespassing," said John Quadrozzi, Jr., who had once erected a security wall around the site to fend off encroaching explorers before the city forced him to tear it down in 2008,

Continued on page 10

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## GOWANUS

Continued from page 1

warehouse space just as the canal-front scene was getting off the ground, giving them a front-row seat to the overflowing of new eats and treats on Third Avenue, once home to metal shops and tire repair companies.

"It was pretty desolate," said Ashley Albert, Schnapp's co-pilot who lives in the neighborhood. "It was dark and there weren't a lot of people on the street. But we knew it was coming."

The change has come in waves over the last few years — renowned ice cream parlor Ample Hills Creamery opened next door to the Shuffleboard, Fletcher's BBQ started slinging Texas-style brisket down the street, and a herd of innovative techies have recognized the area as the new frontier for space and affordability, with song-annotation start-up Genius announcing its imminent move from a handful of Williamsburg apartments to a 43,000 square-foot office space. Most recently, Hazel Village, an earthy toy store specializing in organic, hand-stitched cuddle buddies, opened its first storefront on Third Avenue.

Sister-run sweets shop Four and Twenty Blackbirds was one of the pioneers



Photo by Jason Speakman

**GOWANAISANCE!:** (Clockwise from above) Sisters Emily and Melissa Elsen were among the first to lay down roots on Gowanus's Third Avenue, kicking off a wave of small businesses and start-ups who came to the area for its real estate. Fletcher's Brooklyn Barbeque employee Briana Zeck serves up brisket, ribs, and all the fixings. Production manager Dara Abrams cuddles some of the creatures handmade at Hazel Village's first brick-and-mortar storefront in Gowanus.

to set off what has since been hashtagged the Gowanaissance, leading the charge in 2010 with delectable pies served out of the duo's first brick-and-mortar storefront on the corner of Eighth Street, and the trendsetters said the canal's magic was palpable even before the food and tech explosion.

"It sort of had that magical, 'We can do this' kind of element," said Emily Elsen,

who co-owns Four and Twenty Blackbirds with her sister Melissa.

Elsen worked in a nearby art studio for four years before she was inspired to open a shop with her long-time baking partner, and says the emptiness of the canal-side avenue made it the perfect place to set sail.

"Gowanus was ripe for change because it's a lost of post-industrial empty

buildings that would really benefit from being cleaned up," she said.

Canal district pioneers say they are merging seamlessly with mainstays like the old school Italian joint Two Toms, famous for their giant pork chops, and Canal Bar, a classic dive with cheap drinks and friendly bartenders. Albert says the Shuffleboard Club was welcomed by the old-timers



Photo by Jason Speakman



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

with open arms.

"It feels like we're part of a neighborhood," she said. "It doesn't feel like we just

popped up and there was no history or life here before. We're not pushing stuff out, it's all one thing together."

## TRUTH

Continued from page 1

to think differently about how you navigate the world around you and understand that multiple truths exist on the same plane."

A placard under each balloon offers a phonetic transcription, so English speakers can attempt the foreign-language phrase. Thomas hopes the language-spanning truth

bubbles inspire people to learn more phrases from other languages.

The truthiness experiment resonates with some MetroTech patrons, especially those who can read both sides of the word balloons. A Polish-born Flatbush resident sitting beneath the English and Polish balloon "The truth is I balance you," said the artist's attempt to reach across cultures resonated with him.

"It makes sense," said Lukasz Grygiel. "I wasn't born here so I can relate to that."

Another plaza visitor picked up on the installation's message from the start, and offered his own thought-provoking truth.

"I figured it was an artist trying to prove a point about culture," said Michael Lambert. "My message would be that the truth is gray."

Not everyone in the

plaza knew what to make of the bubbles, however.

"I was just trying to figure out what this was about when I sat down," Charlotte McSweeney said. "I really have no idea,"

The installation also has three other components: two large benches in the shape of word balloons; a "sign tree" with a collection of truth bubbles, and a video recording project called the "Truth Booth." The inflat-

able booth (also in shape of a word bubble), invites truth-tellers to step inside and record their own "The truth is..." statement. The booth, part of a multi-year project called "In Search Of The Truth," has traveled across the United States and to Afghanistan, Ireland, and South Africa, recording more than 5,000 truths along the way. It will stop for only a moment of truth in Brooklyn, however, with

appearances on MetroTech Commons on Oct. 15, and at Atlantic Terminal Plaza on Sept. 26.

"The Truth is I See You" at MetroTech (MetroTech Center 1, between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue in Downtown) on display until June 2016. The Truth Booth [www.insearchofthetruth.net]. Oct. 15 at MetroTech Commons, and Sept. 26 at Atlantic Terminal Plaza, noon-8 pm. Free.



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# Cosmos are coming to Coney Island ballpark

BY ERIC FAYNBERG

Come see the Cosmos where the Cyclones play.

Pro-soccer team the New York Cosmos will play a semi-final playoff game at MCU Park on Nov. 7, according to Borough President Adams, who was joined by representatives from the stadium and the team at Borough Hall on July 30.

“The Beautiful Game” has a beautiful future in our borough, and engaging our young athletes in this great sport is important to building healthy bodies and minds with a love of teamwork and good sportsmanship,” said Adams.

The Cosmos finished first during the North American Soccer League’s Spring season, earning the right to host a playoff game this fall. The team already won the league’s championship—the Soccer Bowl—in 2013, the first season of the



legendary club’s rebirth. A team representative said that a scheduling conflict at the Cosmos’ regular home, Hofstra University’s Shuart Stadium, presented the opportunity to arrange a date in Coney Island.



**FUTBOL IN BROOKLYN:** MCU Park’s Steve Cohen, Cosmos Chief Operating Officer Eric Stover, former goaltender Shep Messing, and current head coach Giovanni Savarese join Borough President Adams at Borough Hall to announce Cosmos youth clinics and a November game at MCU Park. (Left) Savarese literally has a ball. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

“We have the right to host the first round of our playoffs, and we’ve only lost one league game this year,” said the team’s chief operating officer Erik Stover. “We wanted to go to a place that was comfortable to us be-

cause we have a chance to win a trophy.”

This will not be the Cosmos’ first stop in Coney Island. The team already played one game at MCU Park on May 2—a 1-0 shut-out victory over the Ottawa

Fury, one of the league’s best teams.

The Coney contests are especially meaningful for the team’s head coach, who has a personal connection with the borough.

“Brooklyn has a great

history with soccer,” said head coach Giovanni Savarese, a former standout for Long Island University and Major League Soccer’s New York-New Jersey Met-rostars.

“I played here in college, so I know firsthand the passion and the culture of soccer that exists here, and we also experienced that when we played at MCU Park earlier this year.”

Stover said the players liked the field on their first trip to the home of the Cyclones, and the team’s fans enjoyed the professional stadium experience of a modern facility, so the Cosmos are open to more dates at MCU Park in the future.

“I think it’s important for a team to have a home,” Stover said. “To move around a lot is difficult for a fan base and a team, but our experience in Brooklyn has been very good.”

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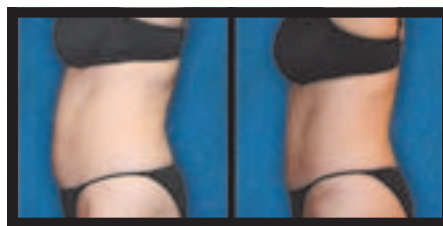
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# Pothole parkway

## Report: Belt roadway's craters worst in city

BY ERIC FAYNBERG

You wouldn't know the Belt Parkway from a hole in the ground.

The pothole-ridden Southern Brooklyn roadway is the city's most defective, according to a report released by Comptroller Scott Stringer.

More than 700 of the 12,286 property-damage claims made against the city for defective roadways since July 2010 faulted the Belt — nearly 40 percent more than the city's next-worst roadway, the Grand Central Parkway in Queens.

"If you happen to drive on the Belt Parkway, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers," Stringer said.

One local politician noted that the parkway has

gotten substantially better along some stretches in recent years, but said the area by the Mill Basin Bridge is a troublesome spot.

"It's a pleasure to drive on the Belt by Canarsie where the roads have been repaved and the lanes have been widened to match current standards," said Councilman Alan Maisel (D-Marine Park). "But they are going to be replacing the draw bridge by Mill Basin and they haven't been repaving there. It's dangerous. It wouldn't hurt to put a new layer of asphalt there."

Construction on the bridge began recently, and the Department of Transportation said it plans to work on potholes in the area this week.

The department said

the Belt Parkway numbers are the result of an enormous spike in the number of potholes during the very rough winter of 2013–14, and that the numbers returned to normal this year after an aggressive response from the agency. Indeed the parkway caused 339 claims in the 2014 fiscal year, as opposed to just 58 in 2013, and 61 in the 2015 fiscal year, which ended in June. There as a smaller spike of 122 claims in 2011 following that winter's heavy snows.

Mayor DeBlasio's latest budget calls for \$1.6 billion for road resurfacing, and the department said it will repave 2,500 miles of road by 2017. That will increase the percentage of roadways in a state of good repair to 80 percent, the best since

1999, according to the department. The current figure is 71 percent.

Stringer said the speed at which potholes are repaired was an issue, noting that an average response time of 6.7 days in fiscal year 2015 was nearly three times longer than the average response time a year ago. He also said that new paving materials could help prevent potholes from occurring in the first place.

"We need to speed up the process of plugging potholes and pilot new and durable materials such as rubberized asphalt and recycled plastic in road resurfacing," Stringer said. "The goal is to bring down the payouts in these claims and ensure safety for pedestrians."



**MOONSCAPE:** The Belt Parkway is the worst road in the city, according to a new report from Comptroller Scott Stringer.

Community News Group / Eric Fainberg

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# HUMPS

Continued from page 1

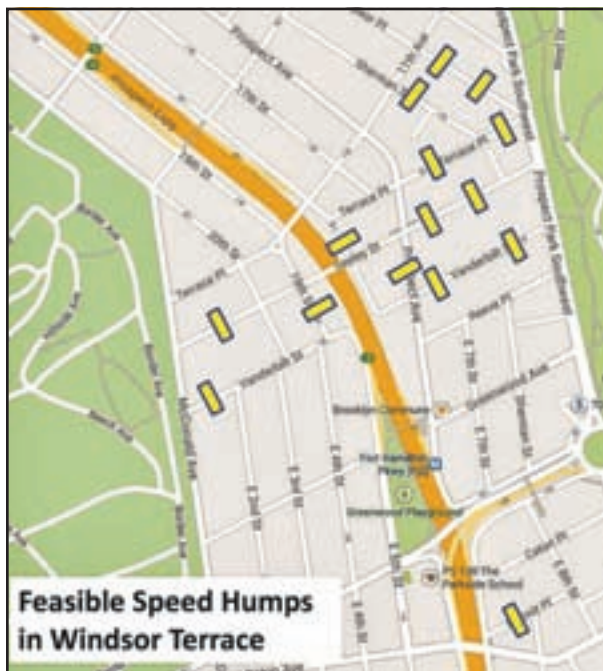
night's meeting. "Now let's get to the solutions that can work for us."

Eisenberg said Seeley Street — described by residents as a busy two-way street plagued by speeding devils — has long blocks with no safe places for kids to cross the street, and condemned the hump plan as a lame alternative to crosswalks, stop signs, and traffic lights that could save kids' lives. Other residents voiced fears that the humps might do more harm than good by causing loud noises, damaging cars, or slowing down emergency response vehicles, though a Department of Transportation specialist assured the naysayers that the agency has never received complaints about property damage or delayed response times.

The 15-hump plan — with 14 concentrated on streets between 11th Avenue and Vanderbilt Street and one on Kermit Place — was presented at a Community Board 7 transportation committee meeting as one way to get drivers to slow down, even if it isn't a cure-all.

"It's not a fix-all, end-all solution," said Transportation specialist Jeannette Saunders. "If you adhere to the advisories, I think they are very effective."

Despite skepticism and dismay voiced by many meeting attendees, some residents cling to hope that the humps will do their part to slow down speedsters and make the streets safer for kids. One Seeley Street resident whose



Feasible Speed Humps in Windsor Terrace

17-year-old son was killed by a drunk driver at 19th Street and Terrace Place in 2003 believes the city's "Vision Zero" efforts could make a big difference.

"It would have saved my son's life if there had been a speed bump," said Mary Jane Monahan.

The city noticed the neighborhood's deadly streets after a 14-year-old boy was killed by a hit-and-run driver at Caton Avenue and E. Seventh Street last November. Councilman Brad Lander (D-Windsor Terrace) has spearheaded a movement with the department to make the streets safer for kids walking to the neighborhood's schools by adding new crossing guards, putting up more signs, and installing more traffic lights in addition to the speed humps. The department's progress is tracked on the councilman's website at

<http://bradlander.com/KWTstreetsafetytracker>.

A representative from the councilman's office said the latest efforts are focusing on speed humps because they are the quickest solution within the city's control, as stop signs and traffic lights have to adhere to state and federal regulations that make them difficult to get approved and installed.

The community board emphasized that Monday's meeting was the first of many, and it will invite the department to return in September with a renewed plan that takes into account community feedback. When the department presents the final plan — which Saunders says will probably be ready next year — the community board will vote on each hump individually. Its vote is not that law of the land, though, as the board's voice is only advisory.



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# GRAIN

Continued from page 5

arguing it obstructed the public's view of Gowanus Bay. "But it's also a contradiction — we're arresting people for trespassing but we're basically rolling out the red carpet for them by not having the fence."

The jail time is a first — trespassers typically just get a ticket, claims Quadrozzi, who is no stranger to finding strange people on his land.

"We catch people here almost on a weekly basis," he said. "Recently we spent three hours trying to get some people to come out of a building, and, in the middle of apprehending them, we caught two more people coming in."

Quadrozzi erected an 18-foot wall around the site in 2006, but the city sued and a judge ordered him to tear it down in 2008. He appealed but eventually gave in, dismantling the barrier in 2010.

The guy who got jail

time is one of four people who snuck on to the site, which is home to Brooklyn's last remaining grain elevator, just after midnight on July 4, according to court documents.

His attorney did not respond to a request for comment.

Much of the rock salt that the city imports to de-ice streets in the winter passes through the terminal, but it's also a destination for amateur photographers and thrill-seekers, Quadrozzi said.

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## MURDER

*Continued from page 1*

me every day with information," said defense attorney Michael Cibella, who cited an online petition with more than a 1,000 signatures on Change.org defending Razzaq's actions as self-defense. "I've never seen this kind of support shown for someone charged with murder."

Some supporters left the courtroom with tears in their eyes.

Razzaq was arrested two weeks ago and charged with murder and the possession of a weapon following the stabbing death of his father, who neighbors claim they routinely heard screaming in the house.



**SUPPORT:** Family, friends, and community members wore T-shirts showing their support for Hassan Razzaq.

Photo by Jason Speakman

Family, friends, and neighbors have been vocal ever since about what they say were Mohammed Razzaq's horrible ways, taking to social media

to rally in defense of the teen. Cibella detailed the nightmarish abuse Mohammed inflicted on his children after a previous appearance by Hassan at the Brooklyn Supreme Court, according to the New York Post.

Cibella says he will apply for bail at the next court appearance, which he anticipates will be in several weeks.

Cibella added he had prepared the family for the possibility of the indictment, but that they were still shocked by the decision.

Still, he hopes that the release of evidence following the indictment will ultimately help the defense.

"There's a lot more to the story that needs to be brought out," he said.

## POT

*Continued from page 4*

Mindful Medical, a Colorado company whose New York division is led by the former owner of Park Slope meat market Fleisher's was looking to open its dispensary in Sunset Park, while Palliatech, a Long Island company, leased a space Downtown on Fulton Street in June.

Representatives of both companies could not immediately be reached for comment.

Both firms faced stiff competition in the reefer race, vying with 41 other

companies for just five licenses to sling prescription pot in the form of tinctures and pills extracted from marijuana, not the buds themselves.

The state will allow each company that did make the cut to open four dispensaries around the state, and they should be up and running by January.

The Beep, an ex-cop, has been a booster for medical weed since his days as a state senator, a position he said he took after watching a sick friend battle chemotherapy symptoms with pot that the man's brother had to buy illegally. The thought of his friend's

little brother risking arrest to buy medicine totally blew the pot's gourd, and made him really reevaluate things, man, he said.

The state should have taken into consideration Adams's early and vocal support for medical when picking which companies it would allow to operate and where they would open up shop, the Beep said.

"No other borough president has actively stated 'Bring the commerce here,'" he said. "There has not been another borough that has been more supportive of this than Brooklyn."

## R TRAIN

*Continued from page 3*

spokesman said.

"[Transit] workers have already replaced defective tie blocks, replaced plates and rails, and tamped and regulated sections of the track," said spokesman Kevin Ortiz. "We have also identified

funds in order to complete the installation [of] Continuous Welded Rail utilizing the best resilient rail fasteners. This job requires several thousand feet of CWR. We hope to be able to schedule the work in the coming months."

The sound at St. Anselm's is not immediately dangerous — the federal Occupational Safety

and Health Administration only requires mitigating measures for job-sites subject to similar sound levels constantly for eight hours or more at a time. But the regular rumble is still a constant annoyance for students, faculty, and staff at the school, Maloney said.

"This is every day," he said as the train rattled by.

## CONDOS

*Continued from page 4*

the Zawisny brothers, who had run the market since 1979,

closed in May.

Construction should be underway later this year, though the application filed by the developers is still pending ap-

proval.

Malafis and Glyptis, as well as Tom Winter Architects, have not responded to requests for comment.



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