BORODEAL SAVE CASH! FIND THIS WEEK'S BORO DEALS ON PAGE 9

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Whoa now! A rehab of the historic Cyclone has fans worried that it might lose its scary old-school charm.

**By Natalie O'Neill** 

A once-embattled Park Slope sports

bar will open with a new name and a

strikingly different business model in

hopes of becoming a slam-dunk for com-

munity foodies - not arena crowds. Woodland, a farm-to-table eatery

with an outdoorsy motif, will start serv

The Brooklyn Paper

**THRILL KILLING** Safer, smoother Cyclone plan has fans fuming

#### **By Daniel Bush** The Brooklyn Paper

The legendary Coney Island Cyclone will get a major overhaul that promises a safer, smoother, and less rickety experience but roller coaster aficionados worry that the fix-up will take the thrills out of the 85-year-old thrill ride.

Beginning this month, workers will replace sections of the coaster's wooden track that have been worn down by decades of heavy

**Bar gets deep-sixed** 

Controversial Prime 6 goes farm-to-table instead

Flatbush and Sixth avenues that was

slated to become Prime 6, the planned

music venue and watering hole that

sparked neighborhood controversy

without ever opening amid concerns

it would draw rowdy basketball fans

Owner Akiva Ofshtein said he has

and a hip hop scene.

a coaster that rides more like a Cadillac than a Jeep, according to Tom Corsillo, of Central Amusement International, the owner of Luna Park, which operates the city-owned coaster.

"It's going to be a much smoother ride," Corsillo told

But some Cyclone fans say getting banged around by the coaster is a big part of its appeal. "There's nothing more fun than few bruises," said Josh Bauchner, who rides the Cyclone multiple times a year.

Bauchner was one of many coaster boosters who bemoaned the upgrades

But Corsillo said the Cyclone's faithful had nothing to worry about, claiming the Cyclone will now be safer, but still be scary—its top speed of 60 miles per hour will not be changed, and its hairpin turns that have been

use - and the end result will be riding the Cyclone and getting a famous since the 1920s will not be affected by the update.

"What made the Cyclone popular is not changing," Corsillo said.

Amusement experts we talked to were split on the upgrade's impact on riders' overall experience.

"The average person won't be able to tell the difference," said Jim Barber, a spokesman for the National Association of Amuse-See CYCLONE on page 2



Brooklyn Heights resident Chris Beal is angry and con-fused about a garbage-covered lot on Henry Street.

## **It's a dump Neighbors trash filthiest** backyard in Bklyn Heights

#### By Kate Briquelet

bility for it.

The Brooklyn Paper The filthiest backyard in Brooklyn Heights has gotten so bad that at least one neighbor has started cleaning it himself.

Community residents have been griping about a lawnturned-garbage-dump on Henry Street for years, but still haven't convinced landlords or business owners to take responsi-

The rat-filled sty around the

is filled with overturned furniture, plastic bottles and bags, a heap of wood forming what looks like a hovel, clay planters and a deflated basketball — and that's after a Brooklyn Heights businessman tried to tidy up the space.

corner from Montague Street

"It's third-world disgusting!" said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "Everyone walking See TRASH on page 2

Neighbor Steve Ettinger likes the new look of Woodland, which was once the planned site for sports bar Prime 6

# **UNCHARTERED TERRITORY**

ing food on Feb. 1 in the storefront at altered his business' vision and will

# Fighting 'Success' in W'burg

#### **By Aaron Short** The Brooklyn Paper

Opponents of a plan to bring a politically connected charter school to Williamsburg slapped disparaging remarks on subway ads promoting it.

See SUCCESS on page 9



Vandals bombed Success Academy charter school's ads at the Bedford Avenue subway station with word balloons criticizing its marketing campaign.

# **Some Fort Greene** parents slam charter

#### **By Kate Briquelet** The Brooklyn Paper

now open "a nice cozy restaurant" with

a 46-seat patio that closes by midnight

on weekends in an attempt to better

The menu at Woodland includes

See BAR on page 2

"Napa Valley-style" new Ameri-

can dishes such as bison burgers and

mesh with the community.

Parents at a Fort Greene elementary school are lashing out against the city's proposal to move a new charter school into their building, claiming that their own expansion plans were denied to make room for a school with more political clout.

Hundreds of parents packed the auditorium of PS 287 on Wednesday night,

waiting for their chance to speak their mind about the Community Roots Charter School's bid to open a new middle school within the Navy Street learning institution — a plan that already has the support of a local councilwoman and the city's chancellor of schools.

Tensions erupted after charter school proponents hogged the microphone for two hours before PS 287 advocates could See PS 287 on page 9



Richard Chase says that Community Roots Charter School would take away learning space from his third-grader, Andre, if it gets to create a middle school inside PS 287 on Navy Street.



sther Nash — who owns the building that once housed Landmark Pub on Second Street — wants help turning the long-dilapidated building (below) into artist housing. Neighbors are skeptical.

# Artsy plan for Slope eyesore

#### Absentee landlord emerges, asks neighbors for money

#### By Natalie O'Neill The Brooklyn Paper

The absentee landlord behind a derelict Park Slope building that once housed a legendary art bar has come out of the woodwork, asking for help from neighbors who have begged her to maintain the decaying property for years.

Rachel Nash, whose family owns the eyesore at Second Street and Seventh Avenue that was once home to the kitschy-cool Landmark Pub, says she wants to renovate the building. But before she can turn it into "affordable artist housing" and replace the longclosed watering hole with a cafe, she needs assistance from a community group she has jilted for almost a decade.

"I've been the victim of a predatory lender - and we need to fundraise," Nash told Community Board 6 on Wednesday.

Nash and her family own the building outright, but she says they might lose it after she took out a loan to help cover property taxes and the lender claimed she fell behind on payments.



Neighbors and community board members, who have long complained about the building's rotting construction shed, busted windows and graffiti,

aren't feeling philanthropic. "It's totally insane that she would come here for help," said CB6 member Nica Lalli, who

lives nearby. "It's so bizarre. I just can't believe it." Longtime Park Slopers remember the former Landmark See EYESORE on page 2

# Bike lane fence called 'offensive'

#### Public housing residents say planned barrier 'feels like jail'

#### By Natalie O'Neill The Brooklyn Paper

Residents of two Fort Greene housing projects want the city to come up with a way to protect cyclists from brick-throwing teens that's smarter and less stigmatizing than a cage-like fence.

The Department of Transportation decided to replace an exist-

ing fence on a pedestrian bridge that links the Walt Whitman and Ingersoll houses with a taller, curved wall of metal mesh after a group of kids threw rocks, bottles and golf balls onto at least seven bikers riding below on the Navy Street bike lane.

But residents of the city-owned developments between Tillary



The city wants to build a higher fence on the overpass over Navy Street to deter kids from throwing objects at bicyclists riding below.

Street and Myrtle Avenue see the planned fence as a superficial quick-fix with the aesthetics of a prison wall.

"We don't want anybody getting hurt either — but this feels like a punishment, like we're in jail," said Stacy Williams, who lives there. "It's offensive."

The city claims the new fence, which features an 18-inch-tall inward-curved barrier much like the fence on the Manhattan Bridge bike lane-will make it harder for See FENCE on page 2

# Take us to your tacos

#### DUMBO firm's iPhone app can calm cravings

#### **By Kate Briquelet** The Brooklyn Paper

A DUMBO marketing firm has answered one of the most pressing questions asked by Brooklyn foodies: ¿Dónde están los tacos?

The brilliant minds at Big Spaceship are behind Taco Finder, an iPhone app that leads hungry users on taco-hunting expeditions.

Mexican food fanatics open the app, select a local taco stand, and follow the arrow on the screen until they're devouring the tortillas of their dreams

'We wanted to make going out for tacos into an adventure," said senior designer Valerie Gnaedig "If I want to find a taco, it will be a taco wonderland — with more places popping up along the way."

As users inch closer to their



Valerie Gnaedig, Jamie Kosoy and Nooka Jones of DUM-BO's Big Spaceship trek to Pedro's with the help of their trusty Taco Finder app.

destination, Taco Finder uses a global positioning system to determine how many more feet they must travel before reaching their

taco target. Jamie Kosoy, the firm's technology director, claims the app See TACOS on page 2

# House of god saved for housing

#### **By Aaron Short**

The Brooklyn Paper Let there be housing! The developers who bought a Williamsburg church last month will convert the N. Sixth Street worship site into housing but promised not to raze the chapel

Caffeine dream

Barista Allie Gordon shows off a flight of fancy coffees

from Toby's Estate in Williamsburg. Read more on the

latest high-end stimulants on page 7 of GO Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Diocese sold St. Vincent De Paul Church and an adjacent school building on the lot for \$13.7 million to developers Yechial Michael Lichtenstein, Yoel Goldman, and Joel Gluck. the lot but would not say how who took out a \$9-million loan to

help purchase the property four days before Christmas.

Lichtenstein's lawyer, Y. David Scharf, said the new owners planned to develop housing inside the existing structures on many units would be added or

whether they would be condominiums or rentals.

The Diocese had been trying to unload the deteriorating church complex since last April, when Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio signed off a series of church mergers to See CHURCH on page 9



This bell won't be the only surviving part of St. Vincent De Paul church.

Assemblyman Hakeem

Jeffries announced his

bid for Congress on

of being re-elected and re-

turning to Congress to con-

tinue my work on behalf

of senior citizens, to fight

for better educational op-

portunities, to protect re-

forms to healthcare, and

to ensure that more peo-

ple get jobs," Towns said

Baptist minister lost a bid

for State Assembly before

winning an open congres-

sional seat in 1982. He rose

to become chair of the

House Oversight commit-

tee, but lost the seat when

Republicans won the ma-

fries came up short in his

first race for State Assem-

ponent redrew district lines

to exclude Jeffries' apart-

ment-but Jeffries had the

last laugh when he won his

seat in 2006 and worked to

introduce new laws reign-

Like his older rival, Jef-

Two years later, his op-

The army veteran and

Sunday.

on Monday.

jority in 2010.

bly in 2000.

# Hakeem begins run **Challenges Ed Towns for Congressional seat**

#### **By Aaron Short** The Brooklyn Paper

State Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries announced his long-anticipated bid for Congress on Sunday and didn't even bother to mention the 30-year incumbent he's expected to run against.

The Fort Greene Democrat rallied more than 150 supporters on the steps of Borough Hall with a sevenminute speech that described the district and its problems in broad terms, but did not make a single reference to 76-year-old Congressional

veteran Rep. Ed Towns (D-Fort Greene). "Congress is broken, peo-

Jeffries swore to defend

President Obama, stand up

against the Republican party,

bring more affordable hous-

ing to the district and im-

prove the failing education

finished his speech that he

"respects" Towns, but it's

time for communities in cen-

tral Brooklyn to move in a

'I take him at his word and

"different direction."

He told reporters after he

system.

I expect him to run for reelection," said Jeffries. "People will have to ultimately deple are suffering, and we decide who to support." ve more," said Jeffries.

Jeffries has been plodding toward a move to Washington since May, when he began holding fundraisers in Hasidic Williamsburg, an area outside his state assembly district but a stronghold in the 10th Congressional district.

Five months later, Jeffries filed paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission to open a new campaign committee for his congressional run and raised more

## What are you waiting for? FITNESS SPA LIFESTYLE S-Clubs Fitness "Simply Better" 808 Union Street Park Slope 718-783-4343 www.sclubfit.com **PILATES FOR YOU**

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week But the early fundraising advantage isn't why Jeffries's allies say he has a real shot of unseating his older rival and tamping down Barron's challenge. "He's going to stand on

than \$173,000.

outspent.

But Jeffries is expected

to face a stiff challenge from

Towns, who hasn't lost an

election since 1983, and in-

surgent candidate Coun-

cilman Charles Barron

(D-East New York), who

nearly toppled Towns in a

congressional race six years

ago despite being heavily

Jeffries has more cash to

spend than his opponents,

with \$158,000 in his ac-

count, according to FEC

figures from September.

Towns only has \$11,240

in the bank, after spend-

ing \$322,000 in campaign

funds this fall. Barron's

campaign information re-

mained unavailable. New

campaign filings are sched-

uled to come out in the next

his record in Albany, which has been to get legislation passed by reaching across the aisle and developing relationships," said Fort Greene's Democratic District Leader Walter Mosley.

Towns claims he's not afraid of a Democratic primary.

"I have every intention ing in the practice.



Continued from page 1 ment Ride Safety Organizations

But Jason Herrera, the director of Amusement Safety Organization, said hard-core fans are in for a surprise. "The changes will take

away that shake, rattle and roll," said Herrera, who says he's familiar with the Cyclone experience.

The coaster's last major upgrade came in the mid-1970s, when the city saved the ride from demolition.

> "How did I ever find tacos before this prescient lit-tle program?" said Conor O'Hollaren. "What a time to be alive."

The Odyssean aspect of the software hasn't stopped the app's creators from divulging their favorite tacoslinging destinations.

Gnaedig's secret standby 2000 Grocery.

# EYESORE...

Continued from page 1 Pub as a performance art bar cluttered with weird kids toys and old musical instruments run by Nash, her sister Esther. and their mother until the late 1990s.

family or Queequeg from

# **Right on red dead**

#### City admits Atlantic Ave. sign is wrong

#### Kate Briquelet The Brooklyn Paper

Walking to the park is about to become a walk in the park.

**Crossing Atlantic Avenue to** reach Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6 will no longer be a dangerous game of "Frogger" for park-goers after the city stops allowing motorists to make right turns on red.

Drivers turning onto the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway on-ramp have blatantly ignored a massive "no turn on red" sign installed last year but now the Department of Transportation says it will eliminate the suburban-style turns and introduce a "pedestrian only" signal phase as soon as this summer.

"This is going to save lives," said Paco Abraham, a vice president of the Cobble Hill Association. "We just can't have intersections like that if we want people to have safe access to Brooklyn Bridge Park."

Current rules allow drivers to make right turns on red between 7 and 10 am on weekdays - but city officials admit that many motorists make right turns on red at all times.

Locals have long demanded that the city completely ban rights on red at the inersection. but Department of Transportation officials refused, saying that doing so would back

The coaster has seen its share of mishaps since then. In 2007, a man died after breaking his neck on the Cyclone's first 85-foot drop. According to Herrera, 19 riders were injured on the Cyclone in 2011 — including four terrified people who bit their tongues.

Longtime neighborhood boosters say the fix-up of the

is a little bodega under the Williamsburg Bridge on Broadway called Mexico

> lery space on the side of the building — say they want to renovate the Landmark Pub and turn it into a cafe with "poetry nights."

The eatery's pending debut comes after dozens of Park

a cab with a hunger for ading her calls. The sisters — who re-

leads vou."

cently opened a small gal-

They also want to show-

Slopers launched a heated pro-



It's not easy to get to Pier 6, especially for families that must deal with the BQE entrance ramp on Atlantic Avenue — but that's about to change, according to the city.

ing red lights.

Park-lovers have clamored

since the park opened

beefing up bike access on

Sandy Balboza, president

of the Atlantic Avenue Bet-

terment Association, said that

the city's latest plan still isn't

She wants a countdown clock at the intersection for

"At least the [Transporta-

tion Department] is making

an effort," she said. "But it

needs to be monitored to see

cars won't be abated, no

mater how "safe" the ride

safety issues in my decision

not to ride it," said Markow-

feeling more secure with my

two feet planted firmly on

cheering on the riders with a

Brooklyn soil and sand –

Nathan's hot dog in hand,.'

venture (and tacos), but no

definitive destination - or

mounting an iPhone on a bike

itz. "It's always a matter of

'I never once considered

sufficient.

pedestrians.

if it all works."

becomes.

for a traffic fix to the area

with a dog run and mega-

playground in the summer

up traffic on Atlantic Avenue in the morning rush.

But traffic planners now insist the new plan will allow 120 more vehicles to get onto the interstate per hour.

of 2010. The city took up the "Our hope is that by removing the slightly abnormal cause a year later, right turn on red sign, people will stop doing it evennearby Columbia Street, but tually," said senior project neighbors said the changes manager Ted Wright. didn't go far enough.

The plan also includes shortening the 80-foot-long crosswalk by constructing a traffic island, adding bollards between the two lanes of westbound Atlantic Avenue traffic nearing the ramp to prevent cars from making dangerous turns from the center lane, and building a median to prevent eastbound Atlantic Avenue motorists from turn-

ing left onto the interstate dur-

Cyclone was long overdue. "Riders should be excited, enthusiastic and grateful," said Dick Zigun, the man be-

hind the Coney Island Mermaid Parade and Sideshows by the Seashore. Borough President

Markowitz also applauded the renovation - but said his famous fear of the strapping himself into one of the

Kosoy prefers Tortilleria Mexicana Los Hermanos, an old garage turned tortilla factory in Bushwick.

an arrow and see where it

Kosoy hopes gutsy din-ers will take Taco Finder to

the next level by hopping in

and pedaling until they en-Of course, if you're in the counter something cooked mood for a fun daytime actival pastor. ity, I could give you recom-'This is for the adventurmendations," Gnaedig said. "But it's more fun to follow

ous eater," he said. "Mostly I just open it up and wander off. To download Taco Finder

for free, visit http://www. bigspaceship.com/2011/10/ hungry-meet-taco-finder/.

case emerging artists, such as cartoonists, and convert the second floor into residential units, claiming they have tried to get a contractor to do repairs.

'We're gonna fix it up and make it pretty," Esther Nash said. "It's a surprise."



ing to neighbors. The Nash family tried to sell the gated-up building for "It was as if the Addams about \$5.5 million in 2006, RAR but it didn't work and the bar never re-opened. Since then, CB6 members *Continued from page 1* have repeatedly tried to track fresh fish — a far cry from down the landlords in hopes the planned menu at Prime of convincing them to fix up 6, which featured bottle serthe property, which occupies vice and bar food. a prime piece of real estate That pleases neighbors, on the retail stretch. who feared that the proposed Board members were sports bar would have opershocked to see Nash at the ated as a night club, drawing hearing, but claim they are more concerned with fixing scores of raucous fans from the "significant blight" than the Barclays Center across planning a fundraiser to save the street who would have it, saying the sisters' disapkept them up late and clogged pearing-then-returning act nearby streets. "I'll be among his first makes them seem unreliable and out of touch. customers," said neighbor Nash says she has "been Steve Ettinger, who bashed Prime 6 at a Community trying" to repair the build-Board 6 meeting last year. ing and remove the crumbling sidewalk shed, but "I'm grateful he changed his mind." her contractor keeps dodg-

Big Spaceship created the free app as an internal project to satiate workers' latenight cravings. But it was such a hit that they bestowed it upon the rest of the taco-

craving world via Apple's App Store last fall.

TACOS..

structions. All that Mexi-

Already, 20-guacamole fiends have sung the praises

can food fanatics can see is a wooden arrow that twists and turns, pointing them toward the tortilla-wrapped objects of their desire. of the taco tracker.

Continued from page 1 is more "divining rod" than roadmap, providing taco lovers with no addresses or in-

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'Moby Dick' opened a bar," a regular told The Brooklyn Paper back then.

The bar was unpredictable in every way - even its hours, said former patron Buck Wolf.

"It was like walking into vour senile old aunt's attic,' said Wolf, who played harmonica there. "There was dust everywhere and you never knew when it would be open."

The building is just as wacky on paper, boasting 24 unresolved Department of Buildings violations. The city has leveled tens of thousands of dollars of fines against the Nash familv for numerous infractions such as failing to maintain a rickety sidewalk shed, letting

# TRASH...

Continued from page 1 by can see it from Henry Street. "It's a dumping ground."

Longtime neighbor Andrew Porter said that the slummy shared courtyard turns into a dining room for vermin at night, and that passersby are confusing the yard for a mini-landfill.

"A few days ago there was a sofa there," Porter said. "I just wish someone would clean it up. I wish the garden would have flowers. The junk pile is behind

a row of Montague Street businesses, including Andy's Chinese restaurant, Dashing Diva nail salon, and the Heights Vision Center. All three of the lot's landlords - including major Coney Island developer Thor Equities, which owns the salon's building - did not return calls from The Brooklyn Paper.

Neighbors claim that calls to 311 and business managers have been no use. Some residents were so fed up that they even blamed Father James Root at Our Lady Lebanon Cathedral, which is separated from the trashy lot by a brick wall and a driveway.

"Someone asked me, 'Are you throwing the garbage over?' Yes, I haul garbage

#### Root said. "It's been like this for years. People are always throwing garbage at the propover the wall after service," erty. But there's some hope

Root said sarcastically. "Seriously, we don't know why it looks like that."

In the 1980s, the forsaken grounds housed a memorial garden and a fountain in honor of the former landlord's son, according to Root. Things got messy after the

family moved away. "Now it's always a pig-

# FENCE..

Continued from page 1 anyone to hurl anything onto the roadway below. But some residents say the job could be better accomplished with a security guard posted on the bridge and a little community outreach, saving they're just as disturbed by the attacks as cyclists.

"Safety comes first," said Kyle Okai, who also lives in the complex. "It seems like there's a better way, though."

The push for increased safety comes after a spree of attacks against cyclists on the popular bike route, which links Fort Greene to the Manhattan Bridge.

Park Slope computer pro- it harder to throw rocks and

sty and there's always rats,"

- the for-

amid the rubbish.

Bobby Cruz -

of the litter last week.

mer owner of the UPS Store

down the block — got into

the garden and bagged some

and wine bar beneath Heights

Vision in the spring and wants

to turn part of the messy yard

grammer Stephen Arthur was

leaving him with a cracked

helmet, a gash on his cheek

and a chipped tooth in Au-

gust. Others suffered minor

that the city is aware of the

problem but consider city's

more thought," said Arthur,

who has called on the city to

add fencing along the stairs

leading up to the footbridge

and remove fencing separat-

ing the street from the public

housing complexes - mea-

sures he hopes would make

solution "incomplete."

Some bicyclists are happy

"They need to give this

injuries.

hit in the head with a brick-

Cruz hopes to open a tapas

test against Prime 6, turning the fight over the proposed pub - one of the first businesses perceived to be targeting the 19,000 fans who might fill the arena when it opens this year - into a proxy battle in the

war over the Atlantic Yards mega-project. Ofshtein says he's waiting for "one final document" be-

fore he can open next month about eight months after he originally planned. The delay was caused in

part by the backlash from neighbors, with whom he has held meetings to try to

allay concerns. "The past is the past," he said. "I think we're beyond that."

into outdoor seating and the rest into a garden. He claims he has already

received permission from Thor Equities to tidy up their section of the yard.

"It was disgusting," said Cruz, who hauled a Dumpster to the site and cleared out a shed, a baby crib, a few dead trees, and empty beer bottles. "For years, no one has taken care of it. I'm going to finish cleaning the rest so we can finally have a garden."

more difficult for those who do to escape.

The city defends its current fence plan, noting that the design is similar to the fences on other bridges near bike lanes.

"Making the bridge safer for everyone is a goal that Department of Transportation shares with the local community," said a spokeswoman for the agency. "[We] also will continue to discuss ideas for ways to further enhance safety on and around the bridge.'

The city expects to install the new fence this month. The bridge isn't the first pedestrian walkway covered with lots of chain-link - two foot paths over the Prospect Expressway are fully enclosed in fencing.





Police arrested a man believed to have groped a woman in a Sunset Park subway station — the latest in a string of sexual assaults in Park Slope, Sunset Park and Bay Ridge.

# Alleged subway groper nabbed

#### **By Kate Briquelet** The Brooklyn Paper

Police say they nabbed a man suspected of groping a woman in a Sunset Park subway station last week - the second such assault to rock the area since New Year's Eve.

A transit cop cuffed the alleged molester on Jan. 11 at about 10:30 pm, shortly after he attacked a woman at the 36th Street station near Fourth Avenue, according to Capt. James Grant of the 72nd Precinct.

He said that the suspect was intoxicated and just as the victim turned to slap him, an officer jumped in to make the arrest

"It was one of those perfect scenarios - the cop was at the top step," said Grant, the precinct's commanding officer. "We're going to be out in full force just to let these people know we're not going to tolerate these crimes.

Police believe the groping wasn't related to a spree of attacks that terrorized a swath of Brooklyn from Park Slope to Bay Ridge last year. Still, neighbors are frustrated that the sexual assaults have continued.

"It's disturbing that this is becoming the status quo," said Aaron Brashear, co-founder of the Concerned Citizens of Greenwood Heights and sergeant at arms of Community Board 7. "Whether this is a sex predator or someone being drunk and stupid, it just continues to go on."

In the last incident, a creep fondled a woman on Fourth Avenue on Dec. 31 right in front of her boyfriend leaving some neighbors to wonder if the so-called South Slope Sex Fiend has returned.

In that case, the 23-year-old victim told police that she was nearing 19th Street at 1:30 am when a stranger - described as a 25-year-old Hispanic male between  $150\,\mathrm{and}\,175\,\mathrm{pounds}\,\mathrm{with}\,\mathrm{dark}\,\mathrm{circles}\,\mathrm{under}\,\mathrm{his}\,\mathrm{eyes}\,\mathrm{and}$ a buzz haircut - grabbed her buttocks and fled when her beau confronted him.

The attack is eerily similar to a string of 20 or so incidents that rocked the Park Slope area last year, but suddenly stopped two months ago.

Police released six sketches of the possible assailants, who tend to sneak up from behind women and grope them before running off when they scream.

Camille Cruz, of the neighborhood watch group Safe Slope, said that she's been giving fewer "safe walks" since the gropings died down this winter - but vowed to continue organizing against the culprit or culprits.

Safe Slope created an on-call buddy system in fall, escorting men and women from bars, subways and other venues to their homes.

"We should all still be aware that stuff like this will happen - even if there is this lag for a while," Cruz said. "We're here for our neighborhood and we're going to continue to be on the lookout."

# Neighbors: It's too tall Preservationists object to six-foot roof addition

#### By Natalie O'Neill

**NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT** 

**COBBLE HILL** 

THE

The Brooklyn Paper A Cobble Hill family wants to expand its threestory row house with a backyard buildout and a six-foottall rooftop addition, but preservationists in the historic district say such unprecedented renovations could spark skyscraping changes in the community.

The proposed work would add three stories of living space behind the home on Tompkins Place near Kane Street and a small rooftop "bulkhead," likely containing a staircase or building mechanicals.

The backyard renovations wouldn't be visible from the street and the rooftop work would only make one section of the building six feet taller than its neighbors but that's enough to trigger an upward-sprouting, light hogging development trend that could forever change the look of the block, some Cobble Hill residents fear. "It could cause a dom-

ino effect," said Jeff Strabone of the Cobble Hill Association.

**BROOKLYN HEIGHTS** 

Homes on Tompkins Place

By Natalie O'Neill

An esteemed Brooklyn

Heights veterinarian abruptly

closed his animal hospital af-

ter 30 years of rescuing furry

creatures, saying the death of

a former partner prompted

his earlier-than-expected re-

for his compassionate, old-

school style-abruptly shut-

tered the 50-year-old Heights

Veterinary Hospital on Hicks Street last week, leaving the

pet-centric neighborhood

without one of its longest-

Richard Turoff-known

The Brooklyn Paper

tirement.

cupied."



Jeff Strabone is irked about a plan to build a threestory backyard extension in a strict historic section of Cobble Hill

**Beloved vet clinic closes** 

bask in good light thanks to the uniform size of the three-story row houses - but tall backvard extensions encroach on that, according to Strabone.

"Changes like this chip away at the neighborhood's charm," he said. Community Board 6 ap-

proved the record-setting abode last week, with several members saying the proposed changes aren't significant enough to disturb the historic character of the street, where rules bar buildings from rising more than 50 feet.

"The building was badly in need of a renovation," said Glenn Kelly of Community Board 6, adding the revamp will likely be an aesthetic upgrade. "The owners are well within their rights."

The city's Landmarks Preservation Commission has the final say on the plans.

Owners of the building did not return calls - but longtime neighbors weren't afraid to speak out against the proposed renovation.

"We take a hardline on these issues," Strabone said. "Otherwise it becomes the Wild West."





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Old-school vet Richard Turoff has closed his Brook-

lyn Heights animal hospital after decades of rescu-

ing furry creatures. His cat, Eddie, is apparently

and he didn't suggest treatments if he didn't believe they would work."

Turoff took over the animal hospital --- which was first owned by Wasserman - in 1985, after the two vets worked together for four years.

He went on to treat nearly every pet imaginable, tending to sick exotic snakes, dehydrated Yorkies and pregnant goats.

"My philosophy was never to put a healthy animal to sleep," he said.

Turoff also made house calls to the Pierrepont Houses for the Elderly on Hicks and

**IEWELS BY SATNICKS** 187 State St. (between Court & Boerum)

Anyone with information regarding Saturday's attack is urged to contact CrimeStoppers at (800) 577-8477. All calls will be kept confidential.

#### **BAY RIDGE**

# Landlord loses homes \$2 million in the hole, but still fighting

#### By Dan MacLeod The Brooklyn Paper

A notorious Bay Ridge landlord has more than a half dozen properties in foreclosure — a move that has neighborhood preservationists cheering.

Two mortgage companies that loaned Mousa Khalil \$1.5 million during the housing bubble claim the landlord is now \$2.35 million in arrears on seven of his homes. As a result, his properties, which can be found on Ridge Boulevard and 82nd Street, are being put up for auction this week

Khalil says he's trying to block the foreclosures.

"I have my lawyer working on it," he said.

Yet neighborhood preservationists want Khalil to let the properties go - so they can be bought by people who will take care of them.

"[Khalil's] destroying the neighborhood block by block," said Victoria Hofmo of the Bay Ridge Preservation Society. "He either guts the buildings or lets them lay fallow.'

According to city records, Congregation Imrei Yehuda and a company called Parkay LLC loaned Khalil the money in 2006 for a blanket mortgage on all seven properties.

Khalil claimed that he was up to date on his mortgages, but fell behind in 2008 after his Sunset Park plumbing supply business took a hit. He also says he's been tied up in expensive court battles with a handful of former tenants who didn't pay rent.

Turoff — a motorcycledriving general practitioner, who treated sick puppies and made house calls to old folks homes — said the recent death of one-time co-

serving animal docs.

worker and friend Bernard

laws prevent high rise condos

from being built throughout

most of Bay Ridge, so she

isn't worried about develop-

ers scooping up and razing Khalil's properties.

who is going to buy them,

and whether they are going

to let the properties lay fal-

Neighbors of the mainly

vacant houses have long com-

plained that Khalil would

rather let his homes rot away

most of Khalil's homes are

in good shape. The Depart-

ment of Buildings has only

taken action on one of Khal-

vard property last year af-

ter the garage to the home.

Khalil says he's trying to

The median sale price for

a home in Bay Ridge is about

\$673,000, according to the

website Trulia.com, which

Khalil's homes range from

\$733,000 property on Ridge

Boulevard between 77th and

78th streets to a \$1.1 million

home on 82nd Street between

Colonial Road and Ridge

Boulevard. Khalil bought

that property for \$960,000

tracks real estate prices.

sell some of his properties,

Yet, according to the city,

ow," she said.

than sell them.

bor's yard.

any buyers.

"I'm concerned about

Wasserman, who lived above the business, influenced his decision to leave. "It seemed to be the end

of an era," Turoff said. "It's a terrific neighborhood full of people who take in-credible care of their pets but it's time to go.

Turoff slapped a sign on the door of the pet hospital at Cranberry Street then shuttered the neighborhood mainstay on Jan. 1, telling few cli-

thrilled about his early retirement. ents or neighbors. He later transferred files belonging

to his four-legged patients to the nearby Atlantic Animal Care. His sudden departure

disappoints animal-loving neighbors, who love Turoff's casual-yet-thorough approach to treatment. 'He reminds me of an

old, country vet," said Andrea Demetropoulos, a client. "He wasn't money-hungry

Pierrepont streets to help clients who had trouble leaving home.

But everything changed after Wasserman died in November. Turoff said the sad event firmed up his decision to retire, although it's "hard to say why.'

Now, he will spend time learning about zoo medicine and hanging out with his cat at his home in Prospect Park South.

"I was torn at first," he said. "But it's time to move on.'

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Critics have charged that Mousa Khalil let houses fall into disrepair. But they're not all dumps: some, like this one at 7701 Ridge Blvd.,

are still in great shape.

Now, he can't afford to keep up, he says.

These people are charging me 24 percent interest," he said. "I've been paying them on time [until 2008]. Imrei Yehuda spokesman Meyer Unsdorfer did not return calls for comment.

Khalil owns 30 homes in Bay Ridge. He made headlines back in 2010 when the Department of Buildings shut

down an illegal hostel he was running out of a 94th Street home. City workers raided the home to find 40 beds throughout the house, which was being used by several

companies that provide housing for foreign students. But that's the most use

Khalil's buildings have seen: many of his properties are vacant. Hofmo said.

in 2005, according to city "[Khalil's homes are] a disaster," she explained. records.

"Most of them were not oc-WILLIAMSBURG Hofmo says that the zoning

**Truck with Philly flavor** 

#### By Aaron Short The Brooklyn Paper

Getting to Philadelphia from Brooklyn only takes minutes thanks to a new food truck serving the socalled sixth borough's most famous local specialty.

The Philadelphia-born, Brooklyn-reared food truck, Phil's Steaks, cooked up its first meaty cheesesteak last weekend on Bedford Avenue in the heart of Williamsburg's already bloated snackhole.

The City of Brotherly Love il's homes: it placed a vacate is only 100 miles away, but order on his Ridge Bouleauthentic Philly-style sandwiches have been hard to find in Brooklyn since 2008, which was built in 1899, when Prospect Heights's collapsed and cinderblocks High Stakes Cheesesteaks were thrown into the neighclosed.

Phil's Steaks founders Jim Drew, JJ Jensen, and Kevin McConnell hope to change but complains he can't find that by focusing on cheesesteaks and cheesesteaks alone

"We didn't want to be everything to everybody people should want to come for one thing," said Drew, who modeled the franchise after the world-famous South Philly cheesesteak joint Pat's King of Steaks. "If you want a salad, you don't want to come here.

The recipe is simple: grill thinly-shaved premium loin tail beef from America's heartland with onions, lightly toast a



Mia McConnell serves up a tasty cheesesteak at Phil's Steaks, a new Bedford Avenue food truck.

10-inch loaf from Philly breadmakers Amoroso's Baking, and put it all together with some provolone or American cheese, or a dollop of Pennsylvania's favorite dairy product, Cheez Whiz.

They're already making Keystone State transplants yearn for home — serving up 200 cheesesteaks on Saturday and running out of meat by 11 pm.

A half-sandwich costs \$5.50 while a full sandwich, roughly a half-pound of beef,

sets diners back \$8.50 - a price affordable to Rocky Balboa back when he was just a hardscrabble pugilist from Philly's Kensington neighborhood.

"They're meaty steaks," said Drew. "I don't think anybody has eaten two yet."

Phil's Steaks, Bedford Avenue at N. Fourth. Street. 6 to 11 pm. For schedule, visit philssteaks. com or follow @PhilsSteaks on Twitter.



his roommate came home to

their apartment between Leon-

ard and Lorimer streets at 8:40

pm and started arguing with

him. As the fight escalated the

drunk man struck the victim

- who is twice his age - in

A thief stole cash, a com-

puter, a CD player and liquor

bottles from a Norman Ave-

closed his business near Rus-

sell Street at 1 am, but when

he returned at 10 am the next

day, he saw the front window

was damaged and his goods

A thief stole \$150 from

The owner told cops that

he locked up his shop near N.

when he returned at 4:10 am

door was pried open and his

90TH PRECINCT

Southside-Bushwick

After life

a Wythe Avenue bakery on

**Baked goods** 

The owner told cops he

nue restaurant on Jan. 11.

the face, then fled down Leon-

ard Street, police said.

Fired up

were gone.

# **Teens busted in Heights subway mug**

see your phone." He then

grabbed the black iPhone

A thief stole some girly

goodies from a car parked on

Flatbush Avenue on Jan. 9.

West at 3 pm then went to Pros-

hour later and discovered her

and her pink purse and \$90

A scoundrel stole some

A manager at De Martino

money from his employer

on Douglass Street on Jan.

rear window was smashed-

Dior lipstick were gone.

**Fishy business** 

Lipstick bandit

and ran away

#### 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO–Boerum Hill– Downtown

#### iPhone swiped

left the bag unattended inside Two teenagers were arof the thrift shop, between rested for stealing a wom-Bond and Nevins streets, at an's iPhone at the High Street 2:50 pm. When she returned subway station on Jan. 10, to retrieve it one hour later, cops said. the purse was missing. The victim told cops she

Jan. 13.

Jacket jacked

on Jan. 14, police said.

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was waiting for a Manhattanbound C train at the station near Red Cross Place at 4:50 pm when the teens grabbed her device. Police arrested two teens

who they said had her phone was riding a Carroll Gardenslater that day. bound F train at midnight

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when the men approached No salvation him as the train pulled into A heartless crook stole the Jay Street station. One a purse from the Atlantic of them said, "Give me your Avenue Salvation Army on jacket, don't make a scene or

I will shoot you." The victim told police she The thug didn't display a gun, but the man handed his coat over anyway and got off the train. Police arrested two men — who they said had the jacket — 45 minutes later.

#### Heating up Two thieves were arrested

A thief stole two heatfor stealing a man's jacket at the Jay Street subway station ers and a generator from an Atlantic Avenue parking ga-The straphanger said he rage sometime between Jan. and Jan. 9.

Flexible office

The owner of the garage,

## POLICE BLOTTER

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between Boerum Place and Smith Street, said he left the business at 7 am on Jan. 7. When he returned 48 hours later, the security gate was broken and the items were missing

#### **Boutique bootv**

Crooks stole clothes from a Smith Street boutique on Jan. 12.

An employee at the store, between Bergen and Dean streets, said the shop's alarm went off at 3:40 pm, when the thieves rushed out with \$1,300 worth of merchandise.

#### **Purses galore**

A thief stole five purses from a rehab center on Jay Street on Jan. 9.

Wholesale Fish Market near Five women said they left Fourth Avenue told cops a the purses in a room at the worker made a \$2,200 delivcenter, between Water and ery around 1 pm-then dis-Plymouth streets, at 9 am. appeared with the cash. When they returned at 1.30 pm, the bags were gone. **Bad move** 

#### Bump-n-run

A thief stole a woman's Avenue on Jan. 9. credit card at a Court Street deli on Jan. 9. while moving out her belong-

The victim said she was ings at 10 am, she left the door entering the bodega between Remsen and Montague to her home near St. Johns streets at 9:30 am when a man bumped into her and walked off. The woman checked her pocketbook, and realized her phone missing. credit card was missing.

#### – Daniel Bush

78TH PRECINCT

#### Park Slope

**Real sicko** 

A creep beat up a woman at a hospital on Sixth Street on Jan. 14.

The victim told cops she was walking in a hallway at New York Methodist Hospital near Eighth Avenue at 6 pm, when a teenage boy started talking trash-then picked her up, slammed her into the floor, and broke her left arm.

#### My phone

A gun-slinging thug snatched a cellphone from a man on Flatbush Avenue on Jan. 14.

The victim told cops he was sitting in a car near Seventh Avenue at 8:15 pm when the jerk climbed into the back of the vehicle, pulled

#### **88TH PRECINCT** Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

#### Jump the gun A pistol-wielding bandit

held up two pals on Hanson Place on Jan. 10-stealing an iPhone, glasses, a backpack and driver's license.

The victim said that he had just left a bar and was near Ashland Place at 10:20 pm when a stranger grabbed his bag and brandished a silver gun.

The victim told cops she The friends dropped their parked her car near Plaza Street belongings and the creep fled north on Ashland Place. pect Park. She came back an

#### Gang of four

A band of robbers snatched a woman's backpack on Clifton Place on Jan. 13.

The victim told cops that she was near Grand Avenue at 3:45 am when a thug pushed her from behind and another ripped away her bag-containing her wallet, Social Security card and driver's license.

She chased after the four thieves but got left behind on Classon Avenue.

#### Grab and go

A rogue plucked a woman's purse from a Fulton Street cof-A jerk jacked two laptops fee shop on Jan. 9 as she had a from an apartment on Fifth cup of joe with friends.

The Manhattanite told police that she was at Beny's Delice near Clinton Avenue at 5:30 pm when a thief grabbed her bag from a counter and fled.

He got away with \$75, a cellphone, cards and a Swiss army knife. **Mobile groan** 

A trio of marauders pum-

The victim told cops that

meled a man on S. Oxford

Street on Jan. 9 to steal his

he was near Fulton Street at

9:18 pm when a crook knocked

him to the ground and punched

him in the face. Another brute

nose and swollen lip.

Phone haul

The man was sent to

Some goon snatched a

The victim told police

woman's iPhone on a Queens-

that the train stopped at Ful-

ton Street at about 9:25 pm.

That's when a thief yanked

her cellphone and ran out

A brazen thief stole an

expensive bike from Atlan-

tic Avenue on Jan. 11 as its

owner visited the Atlantic

chained his \$1,200 bicycle near Flatbush Avenue at 2:30 pm.

When he returned two hours

later his white Gary Fisher

Cops arrested a worker at

speed cycle was gone.

Target-ed!

The victim told cops that he

the doors.

Freecycle

Terminal DMV.

bound G train on Jan. 11.

iPhone and laptop bag.

#### tops and a Blackberry cell-**Free ride**

The victim told cops that,

She came back the next

day and discovered the lap-

Place open.

A crook swiped a car parked on Prospect Park West on Jan. 10. The victim told cops he

parked his gray 2003 Honda Accord near 11th Street at 8 pm, then took the train to work He came back a few days

stole his cell. later and discovered his trusty \$2,000 ride gone — with no Brooklyn Hospital with cuts sign of broken glass. to his left cheek, a bloody

– Natalie O'Neill

#### **76TH PRECINCT** Carroll Gardens-Cobble

Hill–Red Hook

#### Bike bust A thief stole two bikes

from an apartment building on Union Street on Jan. 13. The victim told police he left his home between Colum-

bia and Van Brunt streets at 6 pm. When he returned at 6 the next morning, his two Trek bikes, worth \$2,300 and out a gun and said, "Let me \$1,500, were missing from the building's lobby. His \$29 helmet and two speedome-

#### ters — each worth \$15 were also missing. Laptop down

A thief burglarized a man's apartment on Court Street on Jan. 10.

The victim said he left his the Atlantic Terminal Tarapartment between Kane and Degraw streets at 8 am. When he returned at

get on Jan. 13 who they say stole more than \$2,000 from around 3 pm, he discovered a register this month.

she was leaving Marshals near Flatbush Avenue at 5:30 pm when the stranger started arguing with her and made a grab for her handbag.

The creep fled and the woman was sent to New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope for a cut to her forehead.

— Kate Briquelet

#### 68TH PRECINCT Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights Three amigos

A gang of knife-wielding thugs mugged a man on Third Avenue on Jan. 14and made off with two cellphones.

The victim told cops that he was between 78th and 79th streets at 9:05 pm when a trio of punks came up to him.

Jan. 11. "What you got? Don't hesitate or something will happen to you. Don't do anything Eighth Street at 8:30 pm, but stupid or I will cut you," one of the thugs told him. the next day, he saw the front

Two of the thugs one of whom pressed a knife to cash was missing from the reg-ister. — Aaron Short the victim's back — held him while the third pushed him down and rifled through his pockets.

The gang made off with an iPhone and a Blackberry. **Buraled** 

she left her house between

Third and Fourth avenues at

8 am. When she returned at

10:40 that night, she found

her laptop, iPhone and several

A thief ripped off an em-

items of jewelry missing.

Worst tip ever

station, according to cops.

Greenpoint-Northside

**Phone-y job** 

on Jan. 7.

purse

away

A thief threatened to kill Thieves pilfered a litany a woman and stole her iPod of goods from an 86th Street and phone inside a S. Second apartment on Jan. 10. The victim told cops that

Street building on Jan. 15. The tenant said she had entered her building between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue at 9:50 pm when the man approached her and said, "I am going to kill you! See you in the other life!'

He then put the woman in a headlock, causing her nose ployee at a Fifth Avenue bar to start bleeding. He took her phone and iPod and fled. The victim told cops that

#### **Dirty rider**

she was working at Lone Star A jerk punched a woman between 87th and 88th streets and took her handbag on Monat 7 pm when she noticed her trose Avenue on Jan 13. wallet was missing from her The victim was bringing her The thief got away with her

BMX bicycle into her building between Manhattan Avedebit card, which he used to nue and Leonard Street at 5:10 buy gas at a Senator Street gas am when the jerk followed her inside. He then punched her —Dan MacLeod in the head, grabbed her bag which contained \$740 -94TH PRECINCT and ran off.

#### Stuck up

#### A knife-wielding rob-

ber stole a man's iPhone on A knife-wielding thief stole a woman's iPhone on Manhat-Boerum Street on Jan. 11. tan Avenue on Jan. 12.

The woman gave up

**Steals on wheels** 

from a Newel Street man to

whom he had delivered a meal

A sneaky thief stole \$3,750

The victim said he was outside of his apartment near The victim told cops she Harrison Place at 10:15 pm was near Frost Street at 9:15 when the jerk approached pm when the thief approached him and shouted, "Give me her, flashed a knife and threatened to "stick her."

your phone!" The victim gave it up and the man fled. her phone and the man ran

#### Moore theft

A thief stole two laptops from a Moore Street apartment near Bogart Street on Jan. 10. The tenant told cops he went

for charity on Jan. 11. to sleep at 2:30 am, but when he The victim told cops that awoke at 7:30 am, he saw that the charitable perp dropped his door was unlocked and the off a frozen meal to his home computers were missing. between Norman and Nassau avenues at 11 am. The tenant had him bring the mea into his kitchen, then went to empty his garbage. When he returned 10 minutes later, he noticed the cash was missing from his kitchen drawer.

**Bad music** 



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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites you to attend a public meeting to discuss its feasibility study (FS) for the Gowanus Canal Superfund site. The FS looked at and evaluated cleanup alternatives to address contaminated sediment in the canal. Representatives from EPA will present the findings of the FS followed by a question and answer period.

> The meeting will be held on: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:00 PM The Carroll School, P.S. 58 **330 Smith Street** Brooklyn, NY 11231

Copies of the Proposed Plan and the Administrative Record for the site are available at the Carroll Gardens Library, 396 Clinton Street @ Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231, (718) 596-6972

Or you can access a copy of the feasibility study at: http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/gowanus/fs\_docs.html

If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the FS you can contact Natalie Loney, Community Involvement Coordinator at loney.natalie@epa.gov, (212) 637-3639 or toll-free at 1-800-346-5009.

that his Sony laptop, worth \$1,600, was missing.

#### **Robbed register** A burglar broke into a restaurant on Degraw Street on

Jan. 12 - nabbing cash and the register. Employees told cops that

they locked up the restaurant near Tompkins Place at 11.30 pm When they returned shortly

after noon the next day, the front window had been busted and the cash register, which the owner told police had \$300 in it, was missing.

#### **Mac crook**

A crook pilfered a woman's apartment on Second Place on Jan. 12.

The victim said she left her home between Clinton and Henry places at 8 am.

When she returned later that day at 6:45 pm, her front door was ajar and her \$1,500 Apple MacBook missing.

#### Jacket pinched

A punk snagged a man's jacket at a bar on Smith Street on Jan. 12.

The victim said he left his \$350 jacket on a bar stool at the nightclub between Warren and Baltic streets 3:45 pm.

When he returned a few minutes later, his jacket was gone, along with a \$500 camera he'd left in the pocket. — Colin Mixson

#### 77TH PRECINCT

**Prospect Heights** 

#### Store smash

Crooks smashed the window of a Flatbush Avenue storefront and stole merchandise on Jan. 9.

Cops said the thieves broke into the store between Park and Prospect places between 7 pm and 8 am, stealing more than \$9,000 worth of jewelry.

#### **Nothing nice**

A jerk harassed a woman on St. Marks Avenue on Jan. 13

The victim told cops that she was between Carlton and Vanderbilt avenues at 4:45 pm when the menacing man approached her and said, "I'm gonna cut your face.' - Eli Rosenberg

A manager told poli a security camera caught the 20-year-old cashier pilfering loads of cash several times since Jan. 1.

#### Mall rat

A two-bit crook whacked a woman in the head at Atlantic Terminal Mall on Jan. 14 trying to steal her purse but getting away emptyhanded.

The victim told cops that

#### **Odd couple**

Cops say a drunk man punched his 67-year-old roommate in the face inside their Metropolitan Avenue apartment on Jan. 8. The victim told police that

A thief stole \$10,000 worth of music equipment and instruments from a Chevrolet parked on McKibbin Street on Jan. 10. The driver parked his car

near White Street at noon, but when he returned to the spot at 9:30 am the next day, he saw three guitars, two amps, cymbals, and a set of speakers were all gone.

– Aaron Short

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

# Sign of the

# Pickles preserve the past, barrel into the future

#### By Eli Rosenberg The Brooklyn Paper

o understand Brooklyn today, look no further than your plate. Pickles, once the humblest of immigrant staples, are experiencing a resurgence as an artisinal, specialty good, and enjoying a state of gourmet chic that would have made any 20th century pickle man's eyes pop. That's not to say the borough's old-school picklers are extinct; on the contrary, older, more seasoned pickle mongers -whose lucious cucs are more likely to be sold as a diner side than a delicacy - maintain their operations around the bor-ough, even while a fleet of upstart pickle producers push their newly posh product from Williamsburg to Gowanus. Look closely: Brooklyn's dueling identities can be seen through the briny prism of the pickle jar.

#### **New-school pickles**



years ago — hand-jarring their pickles from a family recipe - but the company soon outgrew its family-album sized roots. McClure's now supplies Michigan with the majority of its pickles, and ships their briny beauties all over the country through retailers such as Williams-Sonoma and Whole Foods. At \$12 a jar, McClure's spicy habanero-brined cucumbers cost a pretty penny - but taste one, and you realize these bold 21st-century pickles are hard to beat. Find them at The Greene Grape [753 Fulton St. at S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 233-2700]

"What's happening on the artisanal front is that we're developing new markets," Jones says. "It's a different game.

Pictured top right, pickler Mark Straiton, — also known as Cowboy Mark, — enjoys the fruit (ves. cucumbers are technically fruits!) of his labor.

Find them at The Blue Apron [814 Union St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 230-3180]

Sour Puss Pickles: With their locally-sourced produce and fin-de-siecle designs, Sour Puss's owners Chris Forbes and Evelyn Evers have seized on some fundamental aspects of new Brooklyn cuisine to earn their pickles some serious epicurean cachet. The company even showcased their pickles briefly out of a shipping



**BONDAGE!** 

Deciding whether to be or not to be is so much harder when you're getting whipped by a dominatrix.

But that's what a leather shorts-clad Hamlet is forced to do in "Slings and Arrows," a film adap-



January 20-26, 2012

tation of the Shakespeare classic set in Brooklyn's underground fetish community and produced by the Bay Ridge theater troupe Genesis Repertory. In the 25-minute short,

which was filmed in a Victorian mansion on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, the bare-chested prince delivers his famous monologue on life and death while

in the thrall of a sultry seductress, then confronts his panties-wearing lady love, Ophelia.

The movie might be racy, but don't expect an X-rated affair: Stillwaggon and his real-life girlfriend Carolyn Dellinger, who portrays Ophelia, don't get naked on screen, according to Mary Micari, Genesis Repertory's artistic director.

"The movie is sexual but it's more spooky and dark [than erotic]," she said.

Genesis Repertory at the Block Institute, [376 Bay 44th Street between Shore Parkway and Hunter Avenue in Bay Ridge, (347-492-0534]. For more info, visit www.genesis-repertory.org http://genesis-repertory.org/. — Daniel Bush

# **OBSCENITY!** F Bomb!

WTF!

The world's foremost historian on the dirtiest of all curses is giving a profanity-laced talk on the origin of the expletive in Greenpoint - so you should probably leave the kids home for this one.

Jesse Sheidlower, an editor-at-large for the Oxford English Dictionary and author of "The F-Word" is coming to Frankin Street book haven, Word, to discuss the origins, development and uses of the 600-year old word that we can't print here - and to talk about



how and why dirty words get included in the world's most comprehensive dictionary.

The F bomb, which has been in use since at least the late 15th century, has always been a taboo word, said Sheidlower.

"It was in a poem about the monks of a particular abbey in Eastern England," he said.

Dirty Words in the Dictionary with Jesse Sheidlower at Word [126 Franklin St. between Milton and Noble streets in Greenpoint (718) 383-0096]. Jan. 24, 7 pm, free. For more info, email info@wordbrooklyn – Dan MacLeod

# **MUSIEKWEEK!** Dutch issue

Call it New Amsterdam!

Issue Project Room, an arts space formerly based in the Can Factory in Gowanus, is celebrating the move to its brand new space at 110 Livingston Street in Brooklyn Heights with a four-day con-



contemporary music festival Gaudeamus Muziekweek. "The Dutch are musi





Brooklyn Brine Co.: No brand better represents the soul of new Brooklyn pickling than Shamus Jones's two-and-a-half year old company, Brooklyn Brine. Made out of a factory in Gowanus by tattoo-clad preservation perfectionists, these pickles come in such brine-bending flavors as chipotle carrots and lavender asparagus. Taste one of the company's curried squash pickles and let the delicate vinegar flavors and hint of eastern spices wash over your tongue; these are pickles that go to yoga and keep a dream journal.



Pickling may be the borough's latest hipster craze, but one of New York's famed briners is moving to Brooklyn with a 90-year-old recipe she claims is healthier than the newfangled pickles sold only blocks away.

> Old-school brine-mistress Pat Fairhurst, pictured left, the proprietor the legendary Guss' Pickles stand in Manhattan, moved her barrels to Clinton Hill and is preserving the gherkin as it once was - by fermenting her cucs in a tried and true salt-water solution once favored by Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century.

"These days, people want more natural food," said Fairhurst, who maintains the tradition of the pickles-sellers of yore by peddling them out of barrels on the sidewalk with her son Roger. "I ferment my pickles - and fermented food is good for you."

Fairhurst is banking on the fact that the process of fermentation, during which helpful bacteria eat the sugars in the cucumbers making them technically "alive"

and in need of refrigeration, will elevate her pickles to the popularity enjoyed by other "live" products like kombucha and kim chi.

In contrast, Brooklyn's new class of pickles — and peppers, string beans and fiddlehead ferns — are shelf-stable after being preserved in vinegar, and without all the good stuff.

Plus, they're expensive.

"I don't really understand [the expensive prices]," said Fairhurst, who made the move to Brooklyn after being priced out of the Lower East Side - where the shop had been since 1920 — and still sell her sells her cucs for \$6 a quart. "Picking isn't rocket science. It's just salt-water and garlic!"

Clinton Hill Pickles [431 DeKalb Ave. at Classon Avenue in Clinton Hill, (212) 334-3616]

cal trailblazers; we feel a real kinship with them," said Ed Patuto, Issue Project Room's executive director

Issue's festival features the U.S. premiere of 2011 Gaudeamus Prize-winner Yoshi Onishi's "Depart das Ns," performed by Wet Ink Ensemble; and artists including the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE), Iktus Percussion, and the Netherlands-based ensemble MAE, in addition to a rare performance of Gyorgi Ligeti's Poeme Symphonique for 100 metronomes. And the venue — Issue's refurbished Eu-

ropean-style jewel box theater concert hall couldn't be more fitting for such a festival.

"Europeans have a tradition of taking old venues and outfitting them for contemporary performance, especially the Dutch," Patuto said. "Our beautiful theater is perfect for this."

Issue Project Room's Gaudeamus Muz-iekweek [110 Livingston St. between Court Street and Boerum Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 330-0313]. Jan. 25-Jan. 28, 8 pm. Tickets, \$20. For info, visit www.issueprojectroom. — Juliet Linderman org.

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# **NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN**

forming Traditions performed by the Grace & Spiritus Chorale. \$15 (\$12 seniors and students). 7 pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafay ette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 707-1411], www.graceandspiritus.

org. DANCE, BROCKPORT ALUMNI DANCE RECITAL: Eights distinct pieces featuring a range of artists and dancers. \$20. 7:30 pm. The Center for Performance Research [361 Manhattan Ave. between Jackson and Withers streets in Williamsburg, (718) 349-1210], www. cprnyc.org.

#### SAT, JAN. 21

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS** TOUR, BROOKLYN HISTORICAL SOCIETY BUILDING: Free with Museum admission. 2 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www. brooklynhistory.org.

**SALES AND MARKETS** PARK SLOPE FLEA MARKET: Peruse antiques, collectibles, vintage, crafts, and furniture. 8 am–6 pm. PS 321 [180 Seventh Ave. between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (917) 991-7807], www.par



#### http:// Find lots more listings online at BrooklynPaper.com/Events

Keshni Kashyap with illustrator Mari Araki in conversation with Katy Weselcouch. Free. 7–9 pm. Power-House Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in DUMBO, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

#### WED, JAN. 25

WORKSHOP, TANGO LESSONS: For adults and youngsters interested in ballroom dancing. No experience and non partners necessary. Spon-sored by the FIAO Beacon pro-gram. Pre-registration for young-sters required. Free. 6 pm-9 pm. IS 96 [99 Ave. P at W. 11th Street in Bensonhurst, (718) 232-2266]. TOUR, CURATOR TOUR OF "YOUTH AND BEAUTY". Packad the screen

AND BEAUTY": Behind-the-scenes tour of the "Youth and Beauty" ex-hibit. Free, for BHS members only. 6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 East-ern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklynmuseum.org.

BEGINNERS ESL: 6:15 to 9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 23.

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To learn more, visit www.thinkgreen.com.



#### slopefleamarket.com OTHER

CITIZENSHIP PREP: For immigrants planning on applying for US citizen-ship. Registration required. Free. 10:30 am-1:30 pm and 1:30–4:30 pm. Prospect Park YMCA [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100), www.ymcanyc.org. WORKSHOP, MEN'S HEALTH: Screenings for hypertension, prostate cancer and diabetes, plus an open discussion with an MD. Goodwill offering. 1

On Jan. 25, the Brooklyn Historical Society is hosting a curator tour of Brooklyn Museum's "Youth and Beauty" exhibit, - become a member ASAP and browse the collection with curator Terry Carbone.

pm–5 pm. Cultural Center [120 Madison St. at Bedford Avenue in Bedford int, (718) 693-2779].

WINE TASTING: Taste scrumptious wine and treats from sweets com panies such as Chocolate Earth, Janelle's, Rawstar, Soul Sister Quisine, and Wannabemonger. Free. 4 pm–6 pm. The Winey Neighbor [679 Washington Ave. between Prospect Place and St. Mark's Ave. in Prospect Heights, (347) 715-6693], wineyneighbor.com.

#### **SUN, JAN. 22**

#### PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, NEPTUNE JAM: Free. 2 pm–5 pm. Freak Bar at Coney Island [1208 Surf Ave. at W. 12 street in Coney Island, (718) 372-5159], www.nep-tuncing com

tunejam.com MUSIC, CLASSICAL CONCERT: Transforming Traditions performed by the Grace & Spiritus Chorale. \$15 (\$12 seniors and students). 4 pm. All Saint's Episcopal Church [286-88 Seventh Ave. at Seventh Street in Park Slope, (718) 707-1411], www. graceandspiritus.org.

#### **SALES AND MARKETS**

PARK SLOPE FLEA MARKET: 8 am-6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 21.

OTHER

PLAY DATE AT THE TRANSIT MU-SEUMI: The Museum will open an hour early and entrance is free for special needs families. Come for music and crafts with metro cards! Free, 10 am, New York Transit Museum [Boerum Place at Schermer-horn Street in Downtown, (718) 694-1600], www.mta.info/mta/museum.

#### MON, JAN. 23

BEGINNERS ESL: Students learn basic structure and vocabulary in English. Registration required. Free. 6:15 [357 Ninth St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 768-7100], www. ymcanyc.org.

#### TUES, JAN. 24

BEGINNERS ESL: 6:15 pm-9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 23. READING, "TINA'S MOUTH": Author

#### THURS, JAN. 26

BEGINNER'S ESL: 6:15 pm-9:15 pm. See Monday, Jan. 23. REAL ESTATE ROUND TABLE COCK-

AL ESTATE ROUND TABLE COCK-TAIL PARTY: \$50. 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org

MUSIC, HOLY HOT MESS: Record-release concert. \$8. 10 pm. The Rock Shop [249 4th Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740 ], www.therockshopny.com.

**SAT, JAN. 28** 

#### PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, CELEBRATION OF ORCHES-TRAL MUSIC: Amelia Robinson & her electric ukulele present a sym-phony of musical guests in the Mil's Trills Philharmonic premiere. \$10. 3 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www. Littlefieldure com littlefieldnyc.com.

#### **SALES AND MARKETS**

PARK SLOPE FLEA MARKET: 8 am-6 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 21.

#### **OTHER**

CITIZENSHIP PREP: 10:30 am-1:30 pm and 1:30-4:30 pm. See Saturday, Jan. 21.

See 9 DAYS on page 6



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**THINK GREEN**.

#### CIVIC CALENDAR

**MON, JAN. 23** 

Community Board 10. Monthly meeting. 7:15 pm. Shore Hill Community Room [9000 Shore Rd. at 90th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-6827].

THURS, JAN. 26

Community Board 6 Landmarks/Land Use Committee. Monthly meeting. 6 pm. Prospect Park Residence

[1 Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 643-3027], www.

To list an event in the Civic Calendar,

e-mail Calendar@cnglocal.com

brooklyncb6.org.



Pour it on: Toby's Estate barista Yarrow Maurer makes a stellar cup of joe at the new boutique coffee joint in Williamsburg.

R SCRAW

The Owl's Head is a cozy new wine bar in Bay Ridge.

# **Real 'Estate'** New coffee shop raises the bar

#### By Sarah Zorn for The Brooklyn Paper

ò

ust when you'd learned how to properly taste wine, pair beer, and distinguish a single malt from a blended Scotch whisky, along comes Australian transplant Toby's Estate - revolutionizing Brooklyn's coffee scene with highaltitude, single-origin beans, flat whites, and baristas that can expound on the merits of a mug of Costa Rica El Alto as if it were a glass of Chablis Grand Cru.

You can thank Toby Smith for that an enterprising Aussie with a jones for java — who's just opened up his first stateside roastery and café (he has others

**By Bill Roundy** 

#### DINING

Toby's Estate Brooklyn [125 N. Sixth St. between Berry Street and Bedford Avenue in North Williamsburg (347) 457-6160].

in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne and Singapore), in a 3,000 square foot space in Williamsburg.

"We needed enough room for our showcase roaster, a brew bar, a cupping and training area, a dispatch and warehouse space for our pallets of beans, and of course, a nice spot for people to sit around and enjoy," said Smith.

'We're very grateful to have found ourselves in Williamsburg, with a lot of creative people and a mixed demographic,' he added. "We have some very special coffees that we're excited to share.

Smith is also introducing a whole brew world of iargon to unsuspected caffeine seekers, although he insists that the uninitiated won't be turned off — or away.

'It's important not to isolate ourselves from our customers by rattling on about citrus notes in the Guatemalan — we're just trying to make great coffee approach-able," Smith said. "The industry is all about the latest toys

and coming up with a new way of saying something, but an espresso shot is an espresso shot as it always will be."

Be that as it may, we're spilling the beans on Toby's most oft-used terms to help you get the most out of your next (elevated) cup of joe.

#### Single origin

A descriptive term referring to beans with a single known geographical origin. Estate coffees are a specific type See TOBY on page 8



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WHITE VEETS CROSTINI \* The full-wall chalkboard lists the wines 8reds, 7whites \$6-13 / glass \$28-39 / bottle It closes early (11 pm weeknights) but gets a lively after-work crowd You might like the Rio Madre The kitchen serves Graciano, which has a I can charcuterie + cheese velvety taste, or the л taste you plates , paninis , and drier Basalto. on both desserts , with all ingredients from Yes, please! Brooklyn providers.

The Owl's Head [479 74th St. at Fifth Avenue in Bay Ridge (718) 680-2436] Tue-Thurs, 5 pm-11 pm; Fri-Sat, 5 pm-midnight; Sun, 2 pm-8 pm; Mon, closed. For more info, visit www.theowlshead.com.

Most importantly,

they know their wine

# The Argentalian South American, done al dente

#### By Sarah Zorn for The Brooklyn Paper

ho would have guessed that an Argentina-born Queens resident would become such a pioneer of Italian food in Brooklyn?

Andres Rodas, co-owner of the nine-year-old Carroll Garden's staple, Fragole, and the one-year-old Windsor Terrace risotto takeaway spot, Piccoli, is now drawing raves for his warm and welcoming Piccoli Trattoria, an intimate Italian dinner option on the corner of 14th Street and Sixth Avenue in Park Slope.

'Many people don't know this, but the majority of the population of people living in Argentina are actually from Italy and Spain," said Rodas. "If you go to any restaurant, pasta is half the menu. And every neighborhood has two or three stores that sell fresh pasta, with lines out the door every Sunday."

That makes it a safe bet to go for the noodles at Piccoli Trattoria, which are made in-house each day. Dishes like pappardelle with honeybraised short rib ragu and fettuccini with wild mushrooms and five-hour braised rabbit (both \$15.95) are exercises in rustic elegance - as well as down-home flavor. You also can't go wrong

or even a salad — hardly

rabbit-food fare. Top marks go to a toss of shaved brussels sprouts, marcona almonds, pecorino and meyer lemon dressing (\$8.95); and a deceptively simple but intensely flavorful mélange of roasted butternut squash, mushrooms, Buffalo mozzarella and butter/balsamic vinaigrette

(\$9.95)And although the food may not be as recognizably Argentinean as empanadas or

carne asada, Rodas hopes to best distinguish his trattoria with a liberal dose of South American hospitality.

'One of the things that shocked me when I first moved here from Argentina and began work at high-end restaurants, is that they try to pull you in and then push you

like friends."

788-0066].



Veggies to root for: Mozzarella di bufala at Piccoli in Park Slope features fresh mozzarella imported from Italy, roast butternut squash, and mushrooms with a brown butter vinaigrette. with a plate of the creamy risotto, made famous at Picco-li's Windsor Terrace sibling,

out the door," Rodas said.

"We welcome you here" he said. "Our customers are

Piccoli Trattoria [522 Sixth Ave. between 13th Street and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718)

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# **Brooklyn gone wild!** Six average joes regale with their nature tales

#### **By Colin Mixson** The Brooklyn Paper

e've all experienced the wonders of nature through the expert lens of the thoroughly British documentary superstar Sir David Attenborough, but what happens when your average Brooklynite comes face-to-face with the oft' majestic, and sometimes dangerous, forces of the wilderness?

Find out during the next installment of "Story Collider," a storytelling series that includes tales about the magic and mystery of science, as experienced by non-scientist New Yorkers.

"Science is everywhere," said host and co-creator Ben Lillie, a particle physicist who founded the series along with string theorist Brian Wecht in May of 2010. "It happens to all of us; sometimes it's funny and sometimes it's heartbreaking. Lillie may have a PHD in particle physics, but he found his calling outside the realm of research and theories, when he began helping people to discover the role of science in their lives.

'Science is a part of daily life," said Lillie, "it's one of the biggest cultural influences on our era, and there are a lot of facts and figures, but not a lot of stories directly from people.'

This particular show features six raconteurs, including Hallie Haglund, and Kerri Doherty.

And their respective interests in science are as diverse as the stories they'll tell.



Weird science: "Story Collider" hosts Ben Lillie and Erin Barker chat with a robot friend. Check out their reading series at Union Hall on Jan. 24.

"I was really bad at math and science all throughout school," said Doherty, whose "Story Collider" appearance is her first, "Once, I accidentally flung a sheep's eye off a science lab table while trying to dissect it. Getting the opportunity to tell a story on a science-based show

makes me think that I've somehow beat the system!'

In addition to Doherty's tale, there'll be stories about the arctic, the mountains of Colorado, and the cosmos. But not all of the stories are set in remote tracts of untamed wilderness; a few take place in the equally wild - if less remote concete jungle.

Union Hall [702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400] Jan. 24, 7:30 pm. Tickets, \$10 (\$8 in advance). For info, visit www.unionhallny.com



# **Va Beh is bene** An eatery with dreamy crostini

#### The Best Thing We Ate This Week

ark Slope's newest Italian restaurant serves one of the most authentic crostini this side of Milan - and there's one reason why: owners brought the fresh, simple recipe straight from the food-centric city itself.

Order the tuna crostini - made with market-(\$7) fresh fish, capers and Meyer lemon on wood oven-baked bread - at Va Beh' on Dean Street, where the insanely fresh snack is the fare of choice

"Real Italian food is simple," said Italian-born co-

Perfetto: (Pictured top clockwise) Fresh bread from Calabrese Bakery in Bensonhurst; in-house marinated olives; codfish; mozzarella and pickled grapes; and prosciutto crudo. (Pictured top) Va Beh co-owner Andrea Alari shows off a fresh tuna crostini.

owner Andrea Alari, who opened the place with two partners just weeks ago in order to recreate his homeland's cuisine. "It's what we grew up with, made right here."

The casual-but-sleek restaurant is a comfortable place to grab a small plate with friends, or sit solo at the bar, where wine - and even prosecco! — is available on tap

Other crostini include artichoke, chicken liver, and grilled eggplant doused with a splash of top-notch extra virgin oil on top of bread from

# PICK

Continued from page 5 DeKalb Market. Bottled at a factory on Atlantic Avenue, the company's pickle varieties - such as peppered okra and lemon cucumbers - taste like the pickles you always wanted but

never knew existed. Find them at the Bedford Cheese Shop [229 Bedford Ave. at N. Fourth Street in Williamsburg. (718) 599-7588]

#### **Old-school cucs**

Ba-Tampte: Fourth-generation pickleman Howard Silberstein has been in the ame since 1967, so he knows his way around a barrel. His company, Ba-Tampte, produces a variety of deli-style pickles at their factory in the Brooklvn Terminal Market in Canarsie that are sold in delis and supermarkets around the country. The majority of Silberstein's pickles are saltbrined and fermented One bite of one of his half-

renowned Royal Crown Bakery in Bensonhurst. Or try some of the thinly sliced charcuterie, such as mortadella (\$6), creamy sheep's milk cheese (\$7)

and homemade cherry tomato gnocchi (\$11). It's all part of a rotating seasonal menu, written on marble walls by the owners, who named the place after the Ital-ian saying, "It's all good."

And really, it is. Va Beh' [446 Dean St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 678-4200].

so strange: these cucs are salty and garlicky with a nice crunch to boot - all for around \$3 a jar. "There's only one way to make a New York pickle," maintains Silberstein. "You're not going to

reinvent the wheel here. Find them at Pathmark Supermarkets, various loca-

Mr. Pickle: Mr. Pickle moves so many pickles the company doesn't even sell them in jars. Based in Canarsie, the 50-year-old company peddles its full-sour pickles in buckets to delis and supermarkets around town — although the ma-jority of its business now comes from the wholesale cucumbers it supplies to sushi restaurants and grocery stores. Taste one of Wiseman's full-sours and get ready for a punchy flavor: these are pickles that get in fights on the way to school. "What's important is not so much the specificity of who's making the pickles," says Wiseman. "You want people thinking about pickles. You want them walking into a restaurant and going, 'Where are the pickles? There's no pickles on this table!' That's what's important."



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# TOBY.

sours, and the company's

longevity no longer seems

Continued from page 7 of single origin, grown on one farm.

High altitude Arabica: High altitude conditions (weather light, temperature, oxygen) allow these top-quality beans to ripen very slowly, concentrating their flavor.



#### Pour-over

active barista service.

Toby says: "It's a time old the coffee.'

tinct coffees.

find certain notes in coffee if you're not experienced at it. Yet if you put a cup of citrusy Guatemalan coffee next to a Kenyan coffee, with black current and plum flavors, you can distinguish and compare much more easily. It's quite a lovely sensory experience."

Joe shmo: Barista Luis Ramos by the pour-over

A single shot of espresso

topped with steamed milkpopular in Australia. **Toby says**: "It's pretty

much the same as a wet cap-

The practice of tasting and

appreciating the nuances of cof-

fee (involves sniffing and slurping, not unlike wine-tasting).

La Mazorca Strada

Flat white

puccino."

Cupping

A method of drip coffee in which the water is poured in a thin, steady, slow stream over a filter cone. Served at Toby's special brew bar, with inter-

method, where each cup is freshly ground and weighed out and poured with the correct amount of water to coffee ratio. It's that little bit of extra care to the delivery of

Flight A tasting of three dis-

A top-of-the-line, pressure controlled espresso machine. Toby says: "It's hard to Toby's currently boasts the only one in the city.

Toby says: "We can calibrate the machine in regards to pressure and temperature, which produces the optimal cup of coffee. We're giving ourselves every opportunity to get the best flavor we can, to give our customers something extra special."

#### MEMORIES The Brooklyn Paper KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC that last a lifetime SURPRISE LAKE CAMP

# **Double the love!**

remember the moment it hit me that I had to split my love between two children. It felt like a harsh physical blow, like how I imagined the opposing boxer's fist would feel in the ring, expected, yet still strangely shocking. I'd walked in to Eli's room

to tuck him in the night I ar-

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**EENCING** CENTER

rived home with his brother in the dark. back those many years ago, I'd been past the framed painting of two crowned dogs in faceoff, and its prescient caption, else while "Why Can't We Both Be he'd waited, Kings?" Suddenly I felt an overwhelming surge of guilt as ingly to a new boy in a way I I saw his big expectant brown had previously, over the last

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Th 11a

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Gardens, Brooklyn, in January 2003. We are

tending to someone tending loveyes stare desirously toward me two-and-a-half years, tended



only to him.

I had to calm myself, as I often do in moments of sheer panic. I had to be my own personal cheerleader. It's ok, you can do it. You can love both of them. It doesn't mean your love diminishes, it just has to expand.

That moment occurs to me often-when my boys tussle over my attention, when I have to choose who to kiss goodnight first, or whose homework question to field before whose. The internal pep talk has to happen in a split second. Inevitably recently, as insecurities rise with growing existential awareness, I will be accused outright of loving the other more, of picking sides because of my seemingly obvious preference.

"I love you both the same ..." I find myself saying dispassionately as mothers have in the many generations before me. Of course, though, even as I say it, I know it is not true. The minute the easy cliché rolls off my tongue, I know that the truth, like most truths, is far more nuanced.

I do not love my children the same. I love them very, very differently. They are completely different in who they are, the way they love me, and the way they expect to be loved. Intimacy between two people is incredibly personal and unique, unlike the intimacy between any other combination I do not act the same or feel the same when Eli nears as I do when Oscar approaches. I try not to judge myself for the difference, try not to think which is better, which is worse. In the same way, I try not to judge them and their

responses to love and intimacy with me and with othersas better or worse. It is what it is, they are who they are.

In terms of how to display my love for my children equal amounts doled out differently, separately - I try to think about the directive I see scrawled often on the kids' math homework: show vour work.

In addition to showering both kids with 'I love you's and as many hugs and kisses as they'll allow, I try to let them in on how challenging it is sometimes to determine how to give them what they want from me.

Without getting too defensive, I try to let them in on what I'm up against, on how hard it can be for me to translate their feelings through the compli-

cated array of physical and verbal protestations they can offer, each in their own way. A friend recently shared a

difficult accusation her teenage son made, that she put work before him, that she found her other son easier to handle, ostensibly easier to love. As she began to explain

to me how she defended herself, how she got annoyed with him at his wrong assessment; I imagined how he felt, and what he probably most wanted.

I stopped her. It seemed so obvious because I was outside the situation, not standing accused.

"I think he didn't care about your excuses. I think he just wanted a hug and to hear how you really love him..."

She nodded, sympathy for him in her eyes. "I know ... " she said. Sometimes it's easy to forget that what a person at any age is looking for from his mother is the simple reassurance that you love him immenselv

I have thought of that conversation often in the last few weeks and tried to give myself the same advice. I have to remember that, from my sons' vantage point, they are the only one that matters. I have to stop and remind them that I am trying, like I hope they are, to love multiple people to the best of my ability, to show my love in the individual ways they need me to





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# **PS 287...**

Continued from page 1 even chime in. One PS 287 mother was pulled out of the auditorium screaming as rumors swirled that critics of the plan were being silenced to stifle opposition.

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SPECIAL EVENTS & DETAILS

"Community Roots is robbing our children," said who has Garrett

that parents aren't against Community Roots — they also demonstrated against Khalil Gibran in 2008, because they wanted the space for their own expansion. But the city has repeatedly

scuttled PS 287's attempts to add middle school classes, citing low enrollment

Charter school supporters swear Community Roots is a boon to the community.

went above and beyond to help her autistic daughter. "The [Department of Edu-

never read above grade level," Fenelon said. "She reads and does math above grade level, she writes music and plays guitar." Department of Education

spokesman Frank Thomas said that PS 287 has enough

room for both schools, since the Khalil Gibran International Academy, an Arab language charter school that also resides in the building, PS 287 currently utilizes

only about half of its 571-stu-munity Roots has a waiting

parents have denounced the the highest performing in

Moskowitz began expanding her Manhattan charter

ing to city data.

list of 700 students, accord-2010 school year and took home a C last year. PS 287 has gone from re-

season

The city is big on wildly popular Community Roots despite its low scores, citing its strong culture of parent involvement and ties with the community. According to an Education Department surtember.

vey in 2010-2011, 100 percent of parents reported that they are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the school.

If the city's plan is approved, the charter school will host its first class of 50 sixth-graders in Sep-

ically Latino southside. "[Success Academy's]



ing in Gravesend on Wednescation] told me that she would day night.

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Abi Fenelon says the school

that the neighborhood's com-

ment of Spanish-speaking

students, among other cri-

\$1.6 million on marketing

Success Academy spent

SUCCESS

move.

Community Board 1

progress report in the 2009-

the state.

network into Brooklyn last

year and hopes to add new

schools in Cobble Hill and

Bedford Stuyvesant, which

have also faced staunch op-

ceiving an F in city progress in

2006-2007 reports to earning

an A in 2008-2009 followed by

two straight Bs. Community

Roots received an F in its first

a kindergartner at PS 287. "They're taking over our cafeteria and our library, and we just get to hear about how great their school is.'

PS 287 PTA president Edgardo Rivera bristled as supporters shared Community Roots success stories.

'What about us? What about this community and this school?" said Rivera, who claims his school has tried in vain to expand to include a K-8 program. "We'retrying so hard but the [Department of Education] keeps telling us no. If the city were shoving a school down your throats, you'd be out there fighting."

PS 287 already shares its facilities with a charter school, the Khalil Gibran International Academy an Arabic language school that is currently being phased out and relocated. Rivera said

This isn't the first time that Community Roots - which operates a K-5 program just blocks away on St. Edwards Street in a building it shares with PS 67 - plotted an expansion in a public school. Last year, the city scrapped plans for the charter school to occupy more space inside its current home after PS 67 families complained.

But this time the move has drawn support from Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene), who has slammed charter schools in the past. It also has the backing of

the Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott, who claims he's 'very bullish" on Community Roots because "there's a great opportunity for quality education to take place." "We're confident that there

will be support there," said Walcott at a town hall meet-

Continued from page 1 in 2009-2010," one of the stickers reads. "Could this Critics vandalized a series money have been used in of subway ads for the Sucthe classroom?" cess Charter Network - a group of charter schools that

Another sticker turns a photograph of a student into aims to open an elementary an attack on the school. school in Williamsburg this fall — on the same week

"There is one focus at a Success Academy school munity board called on the testing," the sticker reads.

city to reject plans for the The Success Charter Network, run by former Man-The sticker taggers tarhattan councilwoman Eva geted ads at the Bedford Av-Moskowitz, put up the glossy ads in the Williamsburg subenue L-train station, slapway station, not far from JHS ping down stickers featuring 50 on S. Third Street, where speech bubbles that chastize the education organization the organization wants to for its aggressive marketadd a 200-child elementary school. ing and its alleged mistreat-

The Department of Education proposed the charter school share space with an existing junior high school, but community leaders and

members urged the city to reject the co-location plan in a resolution at a full board meeting on Tuesday and about 50 parents met on Wednesday night in Williamsburg to express their frustrations.

tire space to Eva."

A Success Charter Net-

Williamsburg is an attrac-

because "there is a need for

But the Success Charter 'Success Charter is not Network boasts powerful

position

HUR

Continued from page 1 save money.

It would have cost about work spokeswoman said \$4 million to renovate the church, whose walls had sevtive destination for a school eral cracks and a tree was growing in its belfry.

"There was so much damage to the building, I couldn't afford to repair or sustain the building much longer," said

Bloomberg, who praised Success as the city's "most claims to success in educasuccessful charter school option are a mask for its real erator" and called on it to exintent - to allow private pedite expansion plans. money to feed at the pub-Success Charter Network

friends — including Mayor

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

pastor Joseph Calise, who

recommended the Diocese

buyer, it began removing con-

secrated items from the church

a 2.977-pound, 130-year-old

bronze bell blessed by the bor-

-including its pews, altar and

When the church found a

sell the building.

lic funding of public educaopponents like Williamsburg tion," said Yourke. resident Kate Yourke fear the State officials, who sign charter school will "elbow off on all charter schools, will out" existing public schools decide the fate of the Success in the neighborhood's histor-Academy in March.

Rev. John Loughlin.

The three-story church served the neighborhood's Irish immigrants since the end of the Civil War, but its population dwindled in the latter half of the 20th century.

The Diocese closed the church 2005 and its remaining parishioners - a small group of Armenian Catholics now worship at Blessed Virgin Mary of the Annunciation three blocks away on N. Fifth Street.

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## The Pearl Room

8201 Third Avenue Brooklyn NY, 11209 718-833-6666

# ough's first Catholic bishop,

better elementary and middle schools" in the neighborhood and the charter organization's schools are among

what our community needs - they're offering an elementary school when we have four in the neighborhood," said CB1 member Esteban Duran. "The city just wants to give the whole enLegal Notices

AM Ŧ irookiynpaper.cor WED. DEADLINE: PHONE: 718.260.2588 00 bpclassified@cnglocal

Notice is hereby given that a license number 1259408 for On Premises Liquor has been applied for by the un-dersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in a res-taurant under the alcoholic GO ABREU DBA: RESTAURANT Iobeverage control DOMINGO ABRE JARO cated at 1073 Liberty Ave-nue, BROOKLYN, NY

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given Order entered by he Civil Court, Kings County on 01/17/2012, bearing Index Number NC-000041-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk ocated at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 1201, grants me the right 11201 Assume the name of st) Sean (Middle) Ge-do (Last) Muniz, My First) ardo resent name is (First) Ge-(Last) Muniz (Sen-Jr. AKA Geraldo Muardo ority) niz. My present address is 1372 New York Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11210. My place of birth is Bronx, New York. My date of birth is September 17, 1976.

NOTICE IS HEREBY given hat an Order entered by Civil Court, Kings he County on 01/17/2012, Index bearing Number NC-000042-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk ocated at 141 Livingston Brooklyn, NY Street 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of

(First) Dawn (Middle) Lisa (Last) Susi. My present is (First) Dawn-Lisa namé enhart-Susi AKA (Last) Epsenhart-Susi. Dawn My present address is 1351 81st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11228. My place of birth is Brooklyn, N.Y. My date of birth is December 24, 1974.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by Court, Kings n 01/17/2012, Civil Kings he on County bearing Index Number NC-000038-12/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) Joel (Last) Biener. My present name is (First) Joel (Last) Melamed, My (Last) Melamed, My ant address is 570 present address is Wythe Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11249-6651. My place of birth is Manhattan, NY My date of birth is November 25, 1992.

Public hearing notice - The Department of Consumer Affairs scheduled a hearing at 2pm on February 1st at 66 John Street, 11th floor to consider the petition of submitted by Piadaplanet to operate an unenclosed sidewalk cafe at 106 North 6th Street in Brooklyn. Requests for copies of the proposed revocable consent agreement may be addressed to: Department of Consumer Affairs, Attn: York FOIL Office 42 Broadway, rightfully returned to Plain-New York NY 10004 tiff's possession.

chased:10/24/2011 SUM MONS WITH NOTICE Plaintiff designates New York County as the place of trial Basis of venue: Location of defendant's bank account. RYSZARD KRU-ZYNSKI, Plaintiff, against OF KRUZYNSKI WIESLAW ACTION Defendant FOR RECOVERY OF FRAUDU-LENTLY TRANSFERRED MISAPPROPRIATED FUNDS the То above named ARE Defendant YOU HEREBY SUM-MONED to show cause on tives. February 01, 2012, Part 13, Room 307 located at Street, 80 Centre New New York at 9:30 York a.m. The service of this summons is complete and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by de-fault for the relief demanded in the notice set forth Dated: New York below. New York, November 23 SEGAL GEBSKI 2011 PLLC, By: David Kuznia, By: Dan Plaintiffs Attoms, ^ve. 16th floor 10022 Esq., Plaintiffs 410 Park Ave., e, NY 10∪∠∠, NOTICE: - De New York. 212-244-2805. To the above-named De-fendant, the above Sumfendant, mons is served upon you publication pursuant by an Order of the Hon, Manuel J. Mendez, a Justice of the Supreme Court; County of New York dated the 23rd day of November, 2011. The nature of this action is recover plaintiff's funds that were fraudulent transferred and misappropriated to defendant's bank account by defendant without the permission of plaintiff. The relief sought is a judgment in favor of the Plaintiff in the amount of \$263,663.02 plus costs, disbursements, interest and attorney fees and for removal of funds from Defendant's bank account lo-cated at Self Reliance New York Federal Credit Union, 108 Second Avenue, New

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TROL MENT FINANCE STATES

STATE OF COUNTY NEW OF THE YORK KINGS KINGS Index No. 19222/2011 Date of Filing: Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon County in which premises are situated SUPPLEMENTAL SUM-NYCTL 2010-A and THE BANK MONS TRUST NEW YORK MELLON as Collateral Agent and Custodian, Plaintiffs, against- J.E. ROBERTS against- J.E. HODELLO HOLDINGS, INC., ANTHO-NY VIOLA, individually and d'h/a ANTHONY VIOLA d/b/a ANTHONY VIOLA REALTY, ANNA VIOLA, if living, and if he/she be dead, his/her representawith , heirs at law, next of distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assign-ees, lienors, creditors, and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lier or otherwise, any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the amended complaint herein, PAM HOLDING CORP., NEW YORK CITY HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINIS-HESOURCES ADMINIS-TRATION/DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, UNLIMITED L'YNX, INC., CITY OF NEW YORK DE-PARTMENT OF FINANCE, CITY OF NEW YORK EN-VIRONMENTAL CON-VIRONMENTAL CON-NEW BOARD, NE STATE DEPAI OF TAXATION DEPART-OF THE UNITED OF AMERICA -AL REVENUE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, "John Doe No. 1" through "John Doe No. 100" inclusive, the names 100" inclusive, the names of the last 100 defendants the being unknown to plaintiff, it being intended to designate fee owners, tenants or occupants of the tax lien premises and/or persons or parties having or claiming parties having or claiming an interest in or a lien upon the subject property, if the aforesaid individual defendants are living, and if any or all of said individual de-fendants be dead, their heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, ad-ministrators, trustees, comcopy of the answer on the attorney for the Plaintiff who filed this foreclosure mittees, devisees, lega-tees, and the assignees, licreditors and sucproceeding

and filing the answer with the court, a default judg-ment may be entered and and generally all persons having or claiming under by, through, or against the said defendants named as /ou may lose your home a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint herein, Defen-dants. Tax Lien Foreclo-sure Block: 357; Lot: 34 a/k/a 290 Columbia Street Brooklyn, New York To the above named Defendants You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, the complaint is not served this summons, serve a notice of appear-ance, on the Plaintiff's At-torney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to ap-pear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint Notice of Nature of Action and Relief Sought The Object of the above entitled , action is to foreclose a tax lien for the amount due and interest, recorded in the office of the Register/Clerk of the County of Kings on the 18th day of August, 2010 and bearing City Register File Number ("CRFN") 20100000279055 covering premises described as fol lows: ADDRESS: ... 290 Co-lumbia Street BLOCK: ... 357 LOT: 34 COUNTY: Kings The relief sought in the The relief sought in the within action is a final judg-ment directing the sale of described premises above to satisfy the debt secured by the tax lien de-scribed above. Plaintiff designates Kings as the place of trial. County Venue is based upon the county where the Property being foreclosed upon is located NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and complaint and protect your property. Sending a pay-ment to the Plaintiff will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Dated: ....December 22, 2011 New York, New York THE LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS PMALONE OFFICE PLLC By:....

Thomas Malone Attorneys for Plain-tiffs 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 1540 New York, New 10165 York 101 (212) 867-0500

> State University of New York Notice to Bidders



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The State University of New York Downstate Medical Center will receive sealed Proposals for Project No. 09-126 Titled Dermatology Dept. West Wing 8th. FI Conference Room Expansion until 3:00pm Local Time Eastern Standard Time on February 10th. 2012 at 450 Clarkson Ave Bklyn NY 11203 Attn: Marvin Smith Contracts & Procurement where such proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud.

All work on this Contract is to be completed within Ninety (90) calendar days starting ten (10) calendar days after the contract approval date of the New York State Comptroller, Bidding and Contract Documents may be examined free of charge at the campus at: SUNY Downstate Medical Center, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Facilities Management and Development Plan Room, Box 13, Brooklyn, NY 11203-2098.

1.A MANDATORY Pre-bid Conference and Project Walk-through will be held on Wednesday February 1st, 2012 with all contractors assembled at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in the Main Lobby, 450 Clarkson Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11203. The mandatory conference will begin promptly at 10:00am. No individual or additional walk-through will be performed under the pre-bid time period. Only bidders who attend the Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference and Project Walkthrough will be permitted to submit a proposal on this project.

2.Qualifications of Bidders: Contractor shall have all applicable licenses required to perform work indicated in this contract. Contractor shall have (Ten) 10 years of construction experience.

Complete sets of Contract Documents for bidding may be obtained from: Mr. Marvin Smith 718.613.8781 or at marvin.smith @downstate.edu.

Section 143 of the State Finance Law requires payment of a deposit to receive these documents. Accordingly, a deposit check of \$49.00, made payable to SUNY Downstate Medical Center is required. Deposits less than \$50.00 are nonrefundable.

Bids must be submitted in duplicate in accordance with the instructions contained in the Information for Bidders. Security will be required for each bid in an amount not less than five (5) percent of the Total Bid.

It is the policy of the State of New York and the State University of New York to encourage minority business enterprise participation in this project by contractors, subcontractors and suppliers, and all bidders are expected to cooperate in implementing this policy.

The State University of New York reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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