

ACROSS THE BOARD

DECEMBER 2014

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*A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR,
Ms. NIZONI GRANVILLE*

I urge you to get involved in the community by participating on a committee or by applying to become an active Community Board member. Active Community Board members make important decisions concerning City budget priorities, land use and delivery of city services, all of which ensures that the neighborhood receives the economic, social, and safety necessities to thrive. Applications for membership on the Board are currently being accepted with a deadline for submission of **Friday, February 6, 2015**. To apply, please visit Borough President's Adams' website at www.brooklyn-usa.org or by calling your local City Council representative.

Please note that active membership, unlike general participation, requires committed individuals that take their obligation to come to monthly committee and general meetings seriously. If you are unable to make the commitment but still want to help the community, join and committee and participate that way. Either way, there are ways to be active and to participate in the gubernatorial processes of the Community Board. A list of our committees can be obtained on our website, www.brooklyn8.org.

If you are not part of the solution, then you are part of the problem. Be the change that you want to see in the community.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Great News!

Community Board 8 has been chosen by the NYC Dept. of Sanitation for the "Snow Sectoring" pilot program for snow removal. The Department believes that the Snow Sectoring initiative will achieve routing efficiencies by eliminating some redundant travel mileage between street segments on a given route. As part of the sectoring program, our district will be divided into 10 sectors with 3 critical routes and 1 haulster route (for narrower streets). In a heavy storm with significant expected accumulation, the Department will begin plowing both critical and sector routes at the same time, providing more timely service for many residents.

Previously, snow was removed in the District based on primary, secondary, and tertiary streets with particular care given to bus routes, emergency units such as police stations, fire houses, hospitals, and schools. With the new sectoring program, 3 salt spreaders and 1 smaller plow (for narrower streets) will be used to clear the streets in a timely fashion.

Please remember to do your part by shoveling and salting in front of your property. Homeowners have two hours after the snow has stopped falling to remove the snow.

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The **Economic Development Committee** of Community Board No. 8 wants to remind you to **Shop Local** this holiday season.

District 8 has a host of shops, stores, and restaurants. So keep your money in the community by shopping local! Visit [www.shoplocalcb8.com](http://www.shoplocalcb8.com), follow on Instagram: shoplocalcb8, or follow on Facebook at <https://facebook.com/pages/SHOP-LOCAL-CB8/1476953235919964>.



**HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS**

As the holiday season gets into full swing there are some who will look to take advantage of the season. Before venturing out to the stores please read our tips to help ensure your holiday shopping experience is a fun and safe one!

If visiting multiple stores, store your bags in the trunk of your car. If you must store them in the passenger compartment, make every effort to keep them out of sight.

Be aware of loiterers near your vehicle. Park your vehicle in a well-lit area that is well traveled by fellow-shoppers.

Consider using a credit card and not a debit card when you shop online. Federal law limits your liability to \$50 if your credit card is used fraudulently.

Just carry the amount of cash you expect to use when out shopping, thieves are on the look-out for people holding large amounts of money.

Cut up product boxes in to small pieces that fit in to trash or recycling bins. There is no need to advertise all the cool gifts that are now in your home to everyone that passes.



**SMELL GAS, ACT FAST**

Con Edison and National Grid want to remind you about natural gas safety tips this

winter season. Natural gas smells like sulfur or rotten eggs. If gas is in the air, a spark could cause an explosion. If you suspect a gas leak, get out immediately and help your neighbors vacate as well. Call 911, Con Edison (1-800 75-CONED, or National Grid (718-643-4050) immediately. Do not assume someone else has already called. You can report leaks anonymously.



**The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 12/01/14 through 12/07/14.**

|                         | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                         | 2014         | 2013 | %Chg  |
| <b>Murder</b>           | 8            | 12   | -33.3 |
| <b>Rape</b>             | 18           | 24   | -25   |
| <b>Robbery</b>          | 270          | 378  | -28.6 |
| <b>Felony Assault</b>   | 358          | 366  | -2.2  |
| <b>Burglary</b>         | 279          | 282  | -1.1  |
| <b>Grand Larceny</b>    | 477          | 522  | -8.6  |
| <b>Gr. Larceny Auto</b> | 125          | 104  | 20.2  |

The overall change year to date is **-9.1%**.



**The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through November 2014.**

|                                | Month | YTD  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 37    | 362  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 11    | 203  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 48    | 565  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 1     | 26   |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 246   | 2693 |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 287   | 2829 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 593   | 6270 |



We urge everyone to adhere to **the Dept. of Sanitation's routing times of 8 AM to 9**

**AM and Noon to 1 PM daily.** The front of your property should be swept and free of debris 18 inches into the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. This will help increase our scorecard rating, which for month of November was **81.4 for streets and 82.8 for sidewalks.**



### **NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS**

The **Citizens Committee for New York City is offering grants of up to \$3,000** to resident-led groups to work on community and school improvement projects addressing issues that they identify as important to them. Projects include community gardening, theater and fine arts, nutrition awareness, composting, beautification, tenant organizing, youth education, physical fitness, public safety, and much more.

For further information or to obtain an application, visit [www.citizensnyc.org/grants](http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants) or email [grants@citizensnyc.org](mailto:grants@citizensnyc.org). **The deadline to apply is January 31, 2015.**



### **FRATE FRANCESCO FRIAR FRANCIS: TRACES, WORDS, AND IMAGES**

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams is pleased to announce the **exhibit Frate Francesco: Friar Francis: Traces, Words, and Images.** The exhibit will be on display at Brooklyn Boro Hall from **December 17<sup>th</sup> through January 14, 2015.**

For the complete calendar of exhibit days and for information on tour arrangements, visit <http://brooklyn-usa.org/> or call 718-802-4042.



### **FREE IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo is pleased to offer **free immigration services** every

**Tuesday from 10 AM to 5 PM** at her district office located at 1 Hanson Place, Suite 201 (entrance on Ashland Place), Brooklyn.

Please call to make an appointment and get free help with your immigration questions related to Naturalization, Temporary Protected Status, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

All services are free, confidential, and open to any member of the community. For more information, call 718-260-9191.



### **HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC**

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo invites you to a **Housing Legal Clinic** every **second Thursday of the month** from 1 to 4 PM (appointment required) at her District office located at 1 Hanson Place, Suite 201, Brooklyn.

Meet with an attorney from the Brooklyn Programs of Legal Services NYC to discuss issues such as your landlord/tenant court cases, questions about repairs, rent stabilization, overcharge, and other rental apartment issues.

For more information or to register, call 718-260-9191, ext. 103.



### **HEALTH INSURANCE OPEN ENROLLMENT**

Open enrollment for health insurance coverage runs through February 15, 2015 via the New York State of Health Marketplace. Open enrollment is a great opportunity to get enrolled in a health plan if you do not already have health insurance.

You can enroll online at <https://nystateofhealth.ny.gov> or by calling the toll free Marketplace Customer Assistance



Helpline at 855-355-5777 or by visiting a local Navigator Site. The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce acts as a Navigator site for Central Brooklyn. Call 311 for a list of their office hours and locations.

During open enrollment, you can find out if you are eligible for free public health insurance; make easy comparisons of available health plans; get free or low-cost health insurance for your children; and access financial help to pay for a private health plan. Additionally, the NYS of Health Marketplace has a host of new features to help you maneuver and obtain information on a variety of subjects.

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BIPOLAR DISORDER

Bipolar disorder (formerly called manic-depressive) is a mental illness that causes extreme mood swings. A person with bipolar disorder has periods of mania, or a frantic high. During this time, a bipolar person has an overabundance of confidence and energy, which often leads to reckless behavior. There are also periods of severe depression, or a devastating low. During this time, a bipolar person has little interest in the things that are usually enjoyable, and they can barely function. Finally, there are normal moods that occur between episodes of mania and depression.

It is important to learn about bipolar disorder because you or someone you know may be affected by it. Learning its symptoms and understanding the disease is one of successfully coping with it. Without treatment, bipolar disorder can ruin lives. It can lead to unnecessary mental suffering; problems with family, friends, and co-workers; poor job performance; financial disaster; substance abuse; and death from reckless behavior or suicide to name a few.

Bipolar disorder can be treated if you are not ashamed to seek help. Do not be ashamed to seek help. Too often, fear is what keeps us from understanding our loved ones' disorders and understanding ourselves. Do not let the stigma of mental illness prevent you from enjoying not only your life, but the time spent with family and friends. Contact your health care provider if you think you or someone you know might suffer from bipolar disorder and start the road to treatment.

For assistance, you can also contact the National Alliance on Mental Illness at 1-800-950-6264 or visit www.nami.org; the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance at 1-800-826-3632 or visit www.dbsalliance.org; or Mental Health America at 1-800-969-6642 or visit www.mentalhealthamerica.net.

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### ***NEED HELP PAYING YOUR BACK CHILD SUPPORT?***

The NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) is pleased to announce a number of Child Support Initiatives for non-custodial parents that owe back child support. One initiative is a 7 week program that runs thru December 31<sup>st</sup>, where HRA is matching money that a non-custodial parent puts forward to help clear away arrears. Parents that provide a minimum of \$1000 will have the amount matched dollar for dollar. For example, someone that owes \$20,000 in arrears can clear the entire debt payment if they can come up with \$10,000 of their own money. Also as part of the program, HRA will remove 9% of the interest charged on a child support judgment owed to the government if the non-custodial parent can pay the principal amount in full. Child support arrest warrants can be lifted and the payments can help prevent suspension of driver's licenses and other penalties. For more information on this program, call 212-274-6000.

## ***NEW YEAR'S LUNCHEON & PARTY***

Albany Neighborhood Center located at 196 Albany Avenue, Brooklyn, invites you to **celebrate the New Year at their New Year's Luncheon and Party on Friday, January 2, 2015 at 1 PM.** Come enjoy a special lunch, sparkling cider, noise makers, and DJ.

For more information, call Ms. Urquhart or Ms. Holland at 718-773-2600.



## ***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

### **Snow Laborers**

The Dept. of Sanitation is hiring snow laborers to help with snow and ice removal after winter storms. Individuals interested in registering with DSNY can do so at their local district garage weekdays between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. The list of garage locations can be found at [www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation). The pay rate begins at \$12 per hour, and increases to \$18 after the first 40 hours in the week.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, be eligible to work in the United States, and capable of performing heavy physical labor.

This year, individuals may also register at select Department of Transportation locations. The offices will be open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The Brooklyn office is located at Flatbush Yard, 2900 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn.



### **NYC Lifeguard**

NYC Parks is looking for qualified individuals with strong swimming skills to continue the tradition of keeping New York City's highly

visited beaches and pools some of the safest in the world.

Working as a lifeguard is an important job that carries with it a high level of responsibility, a commitment to public service and offers a unique sense of fulfillment and accomplishment. Becoming a lifeguard is no easy task, but it is one of the best and most rewarding jobs in New York City!

First-year lifeguards earn a minimum of \$13.57 an hour, working 48 hours each week for a weekly salary of over \$650.00.

New York City's 8 beaches are open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and the 55 outdoor pools are open from late June through Labor Day.

Please help us in spreading the word. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a lifeguard this summer, they must take the qualifying test for the Municipal Lifeguard Training Program being offered from December through mid-January. There is no need for an appointment; just be sure to bring a bathing suit, towel and lock for a locker.

Qualifying test dates and times to become a New York City lifeguard are now available on the Parks Department's website. Testing locations can be found throughout the five boroughs. For testing locations, testing dates, and times, please visit <http://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs/lifeguards/qualifying-test>.

If you have any questions, please email [lifeguard@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:lifeguard@parks.nyc.gov).



### ***City Exams***

**Bookkeeper**, Exam No. 5015, file through December 23<sup>rd</sup>



**Police Communication Technicians**, Exam No. 5330, file through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Police Officer**, Exam No. 5314, file through December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**School Safety Agent**, Exam 5312, file through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**Traffic Enforcement Agent**, Exam No. 5313, file through December 31<sup>st</sup>

**For further information on either of these jobs or to file for the exam, go to [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs) and search for the specific exam number. Some exams have daily walk-in testing available.**

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We would like to wish the happiest of birthdays to our Chairperson, Ms. Nizjoni Granville, Ms. Stacey Sheffey, and Ms. Irsa Weatherspoon.

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The next 78<sup>th</sup> **Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 23, 2014** at 7 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn. All are encouraged to attend.

The next 77<sup>th</sup> **Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, January 12, 2015** at 7 PM at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 127 Utica Avenue (corner of Bergen Street), Brooklyn. All are encouraged to attend.

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The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2015** at 7 PM at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places), Brooklyn. All are encouraged to attend.

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***ACROSS THE BOARD*** is a monthly publication:

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**Michelle George, District Mgr/Editor**  
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