

ACROSS THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2014

VOLUME 36, NO. 2

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

Earlier this month, I met with Borough President Eric Adams and Deputy Borough president Diana Reyna, who are calling for more diversity and community participation on Community Boards. Our community is dramatically changing and we need more individuals across different boundaries to participate so that different perspectives are represented.

Applications for membership are available on the BP's website at www.Brooklyn-usa.org. The application deadline is March 31, 2014.

BP Adams is committed to not only getting a new voice on every board, but he is also committed to removing current members that do not do their duty as members. We urge interested individuals to complete an application and join the board either as a member, or on one of our many committees. Activism should not be contained to the few, but open to the many.

As the number of unsightly clothing collection bins pop up across our District and City increases, the NYC Dept. of Sanitation is reaching out to residents for assistance in curbing the installation of these nuisance boxes.

In an effort to reduce the number of clothing collection boxes, we urge you to please call your local Sanitation garage when you see the boxes being delivered. The number for BK8 is 718-756-7027.

A city bench will be installed in front of 19 Grant Square between Dean and Bergen Streets by the end of February.

SUMMER PLAY STREETS

The Summer 2014 Play Street Application deadline is fast approaching on April 1, 2014. An approved application would allow you to close your street off every day during the week from 9 AM to 5 PM during the months of July and August. There is a lengthy application process and many small details that must be adhered to before your application can be approved. As such, the earlier you submit an application, the earlier you may receive a response and be able to avoid and resolve any potential problems.

Please note that both the Community Board and the local precinct must approve and sign off on your application, just as with a street activity permit. Petitions from block residents are also mandatory.

Complete your summer playstreet application online by visiting <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/cdp/play-streets-app.pdf>.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 02/03/14 through 02/09/14.

|                         | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                         | 2014         | 2013 | %Chg  |
| <b>Murder</b>           | 1            | 1    | 0     |
| <b>Rape</b>             | 3            | 2    | 50    |
| <b>Robbery</b>          | 26           | 57   | -54.4 |
| <b>Felony Assault</b>   | 36           | 38   | -5.3  |
| <b>Burglary</b>         | 48           | 21   | 128.6 |
| <b>Grand Larceny</b>    | 45           | 38   | 18.4  |
| <b>Gr. Larceny Auto</b> | 18           | 9    | 100   |

The overall change year to date is **13.6%**.

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

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	41	41
Non-Structural	21	21
Total Fires	62	62
Suspicious Fires	4	4
Non-Medical Emergencies	320	320
Medical Emergencies	241	241
Total Incidents	641	641

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The **scorecard rating** for the month of January in District 8 was **81.8 for clean streets and 90.1 for clean sidewalks**.

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. Remember to sweep!

Also, please obey all Alternate Side Parking regulations on your street so that the sanitation broom can sweep and help keep the District cleaner.

Also, please keep in mind that the front of your property has to be cleared of snow within 4 hours after the snow stops falling or you will face a fine. When shoveling your car out (if necessary), do not throw the snow in the street as it impedes traffic and undoes the work that the plow has done.

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SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES

As of February 2014, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer offer Social Security number (SSN) printouts and benefit verification information in field offices. However, to ensure a smooth transition, the SSA will continue providing these services if requested until April 2014. These changes are being made to meet the increasing demands for services at the same time that the agency's budget has been significantly cut by over \$1B in each of the last three years. During this same time period the SSA has invested in technology that offers more convenient, cost-effective, and secure options for customers to obtain certain services without visiting a local office.

Because the SSN printout is not an official document with security features, and is easily duplicated, misused, shared illegally, or counterfeited, eliminating it helps prevent fraud. Employers, departments of motor vehicles, and other entities requiring SSN verification can obtain this information in real time or overnight using online government services such as E-Verify and Social Security's Business Services Online. Beneficiaries and recipients needing a benefit verification letter can obtain one **immediately** by registering for a *My Social Security* account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount, or through the mail within 5-7 days by calling our national toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.

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### **HIGH WINTER BILLS?**

Con Edison is reminding customers that they can **spread their energy costs out over 12 months** to ease the impact of gas and electric supply prices, which shot higher in January due to the extreme cold weather.

The company also urges customers to take simple **energy-saving steps to reduce their bills** while staying comfortable.

Natural gas costs climbed in January, as the region has experienced colder-than-anticipated weather. The high gas prices are also driving up the cost of electricity, since gas is the fuel used in the generation of most electricity in New York.

Con Edison does not control the price of natural gas or electricity and makes no profit on either commodity. The company

uses a variety of buying strategies to get the best price possible and then provides the energy to customers at cost.

Con Edison offers level-payment plans and other options to help customers manage their bills. For more information, visit the following website: <http://www.coned.com/customercentral/managemybill.asp>

Under the level-payment plan, Con Edison will estimate the customer's energy usage for a 12-month period and then spread those costs out over 12 months. After 12 months, the company will reconcile the estimates with the customer's actual energy usage.

Customers also can save money with these tips:

- Set your thermostat at 68 degrees during the day and 60 degrees at night and when no one is home. Each degree over 68 can increase by 3 percent the amount of energy you use for heating.
- Install a programmable thermostat and set it to lower the heat at night and when no one is home.
- Inspect ducts to ensure adequate air flow and eliminate loss of heated air.
- Keep drapes and furniture away from radiators and baseboard heaters so heat can flow freely.

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CON EDISON & NATIONAL GRID MULTI-FAMILY ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Starting in February, all multi-family buildings of 5 - 75 units with *firm* gas

accounts (either Con Edison & National Grid) will be **eligible for the free water / natural gas savings measures in addition to the electric measures**. These include both kitchen & bathroom faucet aerators and showerheads.

For multi-family buildings of 5-75 units (per common area meter), Con Edison offers *free* in-unit efficiency measures.

At no cost to the tenant or the building, our team of installers will install per apartment:

- Up to 6 compact fluorescent lights
- Smart strip – shuts off power to non-essential equipment (computer speakers, printer) when the “control” item is powered down.

For buildings with firm gas, we will also install at no cost:

- Showerhead, low-flow
- Kitchen aerator
- Bathroom aerator

Additional information on the ConEdison Multi-Family Direct Install program can be obtained by visiting <http://www.coned.com/energyefficiency/multi-family.asp>.

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### ***BRING YOUR BUSINESS TO THE PARK***

The **Prospect Park Alliance** has a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to reach Brooklyn’s biggest audience by **bringing your business to Prospect Park**.

Last year, over 2,500 park visitors and regular users attended the inaugural Prospect Park Fair where they purchased

goods and services from local Brooklyn-based business members, and enjoyed live music and good food.

Join the Prospect Park Alliance Business Membership Program at any level, and your business can be part of their second annual fair on Saturday, April 26, 2013. The fair is a great way to advertise your business and sell your wares.

A full list of membership benefits and information on how to join can be obtained by visiting [www.prospectpark.org/business](http://www.prospectpark.org/business). If you have any questions, please contact Raine Martin at 718-965-8945 or via email at [rmartin@prospectpark.org](mailto:rmartin@prospectpark.org).

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LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANTS

Love Your Block is a special partnership between Citizens Committee for New York City and NYC Service that provides a unique opportunity for city residents to transform and beautify their neighborhoods.

Love Your Block grantees will receive:

- A grant of \$1,000
- Access to City services from DOT, Parks and Recreation, and Sanitation
- Assistance with press for their neighborhood event

For more information, contact Tehmina at tbrohi@citizencnyc.org or call 212-822-9563. To obtain an application, visit <http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants/love-your-block>. **The application deadline is February 20, 2014.**

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**BLACK HISTORY MONTH  
CELEBRATION**

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams invites you to the 2014 celebration of Black History Month Honoring the Weeksville Heritage Center and featuring the Brooklyn Historical Society's exhibition "Brooklyn Abolitionists/In Pursuit of Freedom."

The celebration will take place on **Monday, February 24, 2014 at 6 PM** at the Brooklyn Historical Society, located at 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn. **RSVP by Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 718-802-4875.**

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HOUSING COURT ANSWERS

Join Housing Court Answers for its 2014 Annual Conference panel discussion on **Thursday, February 27, 2014 from 9 AM to 4 PM** at Cardozo Law School, 55 Fifth Avenue (at 12th Street), Manhattan.

The 2014 Annual Conference will feature discussions and workshops on how to bridge the justice gap in the halls of Housing Court and provide a first look at their new visual guide to help tenants negotiate better stipulations when entering back rent payment agreements.

Admission is free, but you must register to attend. For more information or to register, visit hcanswers.org or call 212-962-4795 x 206.

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**CENTRAL BROOKLYN FAMILY  
HEALTH NETWORK LEGISLATIVE  
BREAKFAST**

Central Brooklyn Family Health Network and New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation invites you to their annual **Legislative Breakfast on Friday, February 28, 2014** from **8:30-10:30 AM** at Kings County hospital Center, T Building Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor. The T Building is located at 451 Clarkson Avenue (corner of New York Avenue).

**RSVP by February 21, 2014** via email to [debera.tyndall@nychhc.org](mailto:debera.tyndall@nychhc.org) or by calling 718-245-3910 or 3929.

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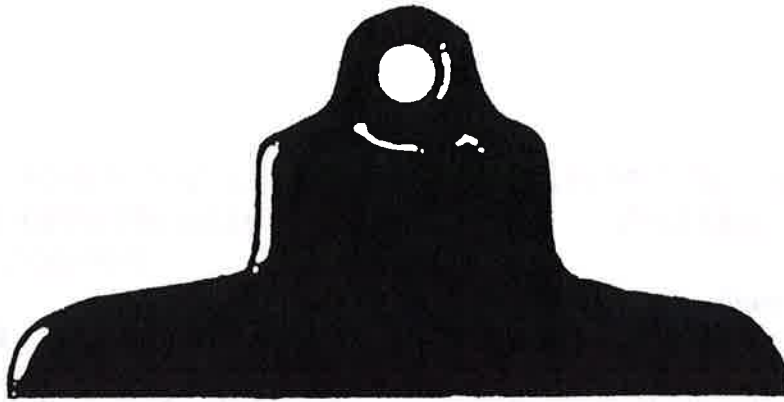
JOB OPPORTUNITIES

NYC Correction Officer

The city is offering walk-in exams for the position of Correction Officer. The exam fee is \$54 for the position with a salary of \$40-76G per year with benefits. Exams are offered at 2 Lafayette Street, 17th Floor, Manhattan and 210 Joralemon Street, 4th Floor, Downtown Brooklyn.

Community Service Aide

Brooklyn Community Board 8 is seeking to hire a full-time Community Service Aide. The position prefers applicants to have a proficiency of clerical procedures, basic computer knowledge, and excellent interpersonal skills for service delivery. Applicants should also be detail oriented, with good oral and written communication skills. Salary for the position starts at \$13.55 per hour plus benefits.



Submit your resume and cover letter to Michelle George, District Manager via email at brooklyncb8@gmail.com by Monday, March 10, 2014. Put in the subject line, "Community Service Aide Position." **NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Mr. Fred Frazier, Ms. Atim Oton, Mr. Robert Puca, and Mr. Yves Vilus who will celebrate a birthday in February.

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We wish a speedy recovery to Ms. Kim Albert, Ms. Adelaide Miller, and Ms. Patricia Scantlebury. We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Nizjoni Granville, who recently lost her father.

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 7:30 PM** at the **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct** located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue (corner of Bergen Street).

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The **February** meeting of **Community Board No. 8**, which was postponed due to the snowstorm, will be held on **Thursday, February 27, 2014** at 7 PM at CNR-Center Light Health Care Center located at

727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places).

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, March 10, 2014 at 7 PM**. Call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 for the location.

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The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 7 PM** at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place).

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

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