

# ACROSS THE BOARD

**FEBRUARY 2026**

**VOLUME 47, NO. 2**

## *District Manager's Report*

As 2026 begins, our community has already faced severe winter weather conditions. We hope that everyone is staying safe, warm, and taking the necessary precautions during this challenging time.

The significant accumulation of snow and ice has created major obstacles throughout the district. We have been informed that Department of Sanitation crews are working diligently around the clock to address these conditions. In fact, just yesterday, 15 dump trucks filled with snow and ice were transported to ice-melting machines in Community Board 5 as part of the citywide snow removal effort.

We encourage all residents to report hazardous conditions—such as icy sidewalks, unplowed streets, heating issues, or other concerns—by calling 311 or submitting a request online. After filing your complaint, please email the Community Board 8 District Office with your 311 service request number so we can track the issues affecting our neighborhood.

Once we receive your complaint number, our office will follow up with the appropriate agency to help ensure the condition is addressed as quickly as possible.

Please contact us at [BrooklynCB8@gmail.com](mailto:BrooklynCB8@gmail.com) or call the District Office at 718-467-5574.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership. Together, we can help keep our community safe during this winter season.

## **SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

Applications are now open for NYC's 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program. NYC's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is the nation's largest youth employment program, connecting NYC youth between the ages of 14 and 24 with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences each summer.

By participating in structured project and work-based opportunities, NYC youth are better prepared for careers of the future. **The deadline to apply is February 27, 2026.**

## **CHARTER REVISIONS INFO SESSION**

In November, NYC voters approved historic changes to the land use review process. New tools include “fast track” actions for affordable housing, expedited CPC approvals for select housing and resiliency projects, and an “appeals board” for affordable housing rezonings, among other actions.

Join City Planning on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM for a virtual info session as they unpack these reforms and discuss how they simplify the approval process for new housing projects across the city. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/3OkOrgS> (case sensitive).

## **THE 77<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

In response to an uptick in youth violence in 2025, the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Affairs, spearheaded

by Detectives Wallen and Marte, are partnering with the community on several youth-centric events beginning May 2026. But to be successful, they need your help!

Vendors are welcome to table at these events, but all services and resources must be free. Preferred are resources geared towards helping youths and families to accomplish the following:

- Restore and build a strong state of health, mental and physical
- Cope with stress and anxiety
- Manage anger issues
- Mitigate peer pressure and bullying
- Foster effective communication skills
- Prioritize making good choices

Volunteers are also needed to spearhead group activities. The following instructors (and suggestions for missing activities if you know of someone that can provide them) are:

- Yoga Instructor
- Health Fitness Instructor
- Basketball (volunteer referees, players and coaches)
- Soccer participants (including players and coaches)
- Volleyball participants

To learn more, to volunteer, make suggestions, or otherwise help in planning or event organizing, contact either Detective Wallen at (917) 683-6757 or Detective Marte at (929) 291-8481.

### ***NYC SECURITY GATE REQUIREMENTS***

#### **Local Law 75: Open-Grille Security Gates**

In 2009, the City of New York passed a law banning the installation of solid-panel security grilles for commercial stores. If you choose to install security grilles on buildings in occupancy groups B or M, city law requires that such grilles, when closed, shall permit at least 70% visibility from the sidewalk. \* This does not apply to security grilles on buildings classified in Occupancy Group

S (Storage) or a building designated as a landmark or those that are in historic districts.

#### **New and existing security grilles that do not meet this requirement must be replaced with compliant open security grilles by July 1, 2026.**

The Department of Buildings may fine non-compliant businesses \$250 for the first offenses and not less than \$1,000 for each subsequent offense. There will be no penalty for such violations if the respondent corrects the condition within 90 days and files a certificate. Open-security grilles are just as effective as solid-panel grilles when it comes to preventing break-ins and allow customers and police to see inside a business at night. Open security grilles ensure merchandise is always on display, prevent graffiti, and allow interior light to shine on the sidewalk, improving corridor safety and vibrancy, especially at night. To learn more, visit [www.on.nyc.gov/l175of2009](http://www.on.nyc.gov/l175of2009).

Owners who have existing or new security grilles installed on their property must verify if the grilles are subject to the Local Law 75 requirements, and if the grille(s) meet all compliance requirements, including the 70% visibility requirement. If an owner is not in compliance, they must install or replace the security grille. In addition, the owner must also comply with any other applicable requirements, permits, and must hire a registered design professional as required.

<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/sbs/downloads/pdf/neighborhoods/storefront-guide.pdf>

### ***LOCKERNYC PROGRAM EXPANSION***

The New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will be installing a new shared use locker within Community Board 8 as part of LockerNYC, a pilot program that aims to cut down on package thefts and reduce delivery truck trips.

Launched in April 2024, the LockerNYC pilot program allows New Yorkers to conveniently receive and send packages using secure lockers on public sidewalks.

The locations of the new locker is planned for 189 Utica Avenue outside of Big Z Deli Corp, and 1608 Sterling Place at Francena Mini Mart Food Corp. The locker will be available for the public to use free of charge, 24/7, with participating carrier companies. GoLocker is the vendor that will be operating and maintaining this locker location throughout the pilot program.

To ensure the seamless implementation and success of the LockerNYC program, DOT has authorized GoLocker to directly engage with property owners to finalize the placement of lockers; the property owner adjacent to the proposed locker has approved installation for the above location. The LockerNYC program will bring numerous benefits to your local community and will be well utilized by community members. If you have any questions, feel free to contact NYC DOT at 646-892-1350.

Additional lockers located in CB8 are at:

- 500 St. Marks Ave at a residential building
- 632 Vanderbilt Ave at Foodtown
- 768 Franklin Ave at Franklin Express Laundry
- 569 Grand Avenue at G&B Collision Center

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### ***NPR LISTENER CONVERSATIONS***

New York Public Radio's independent community advisory board is hosting a listener conversation for Small Business Owners taking place Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:30pm over Zoom. Anyone interested in registering can go to [www.smallbiz.nyprcab.org](http://www.smallbiz.nyprcab.org) or can call NPR at 347-746-1430.

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### ***NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES***

NHS Brooklyn is pleased to present the following training sessions:

**Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30PM: Foreclosure Webinar.** Join if you have payment struggles; confusing notices; expiring forbearance; unsolicited help offers.

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 2PM: First Time Homebuyer Webinar.** Learn about grants; credit counseling; affordable mortgages; your home-buying team; home inspections; and other home buyer education.

**Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> from 6-8PM: Landlord Training.** Learn about NYC regulations; fair housing laws; lease rules; property insurance; money-saving resources and more.

**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30PM: Financial Webinar.** Learn about budgeting and money management; reducing debt increasing savings; establishing and improving credit; money saving resources.

For more information or to register for any of the webinars, visit <https://www.nhsbrooklyn.org/> and click the link for each series.

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### ***2026 LIBERATION SERIES: SONIC PORTALS***

First Fridays, or Liberation Series, is a monthly, artist-led, community-building gathering hosted in Bed-Stuy at 1476 Fulton Street. Each season is guided by an artist working at the intersection of culture, imagination, and collective power.

The Liberation Series creates a joyful, healing space for neighbors to come together, experiment with creativity, make new friends, and shape new possibilities together! Each session is free, open to the public, and grounded in The LP's values of meeting people where they are, honoring legacy, and practicing abundance.

In 2026 it is a pleasure to present the artist collective Mz. Icar, who will lead the first four Liberation Series events from February to June 2026. Extending the spirit of their current installation in The LP's Storefront window, "Legendary," Mz. Icar presents "Sonic Portals," a five-part Liberation Series program that explores sound as a liberatory tool, blending analog and digital traditions to create a shared sound space where past, present, and future converge.

Neighbors of all ages are invited into The LP Storefront for communal artmaking, shared meals spotlighting local vendors, friendly dialogue, and reflections on how freedom shows up in everyday life through sound.

This is the perfect opportunity to gather with The LP, reflect with others, and co-create rhythms that will stretch your imagination beyond the limits of time and space! To learn more or to sign up, visit <https://laundromatproject.org/lib-series/>.

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### ***UNITED AIRLINES NYC HALF MARATHON***

The 2026 United Airlines NYC Half is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 2026, featuring a 13.1-mile course from Brooklyn, over the Manhattan Bridge, through Times Square, to a Central Park finish. Expect road closures around Prospect Park and surrounding areas and significant traffic delays. Use public transportation as much as possible.

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### ***CONQUER THE COLD***

Winter in New York City can turn dangerous quickly so now is the time to prepare. Extreme cold, snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain can shut down roads, cause power disruptions, and put lives at risk. As temperatures drop, the risk of fires and carbon monoxide poisoning rises.

Here's how to stay safe this winter:

- Make a household emergency plan so everyone knows how to stay in touch and what to do. Be ready to shelter in place when it's unsafe to go outside; follow official travel bans.
- Use space heaters safely. Keep them at least three feet away from anything flammable. Always plug them directly into a wall outlet. Never use your stove or oven to heat your home. Dress in warm layers and cover exposed skin during extreme cold.

Gather supplies. Build a stay-at-home kit for at least seven days. Include the following: Non-perishable food, water, and basic sanitation items; Medications and first aid supplies; warm clothing and blankets; flashlights, extra batteries, and power banks; extra water for drinking and sanitation in case plumbing freezes or service is disrupted.

Regularly check that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are working. Use flameless candles for religious observances and flashlights during power outages to prevent fires. Keep a fire extinguisher in your home.

Stay informed. Text NOTIFYNYC to 692-692 for emergency alerts. Then reply with your ZIP code. You can also visit: [nyc.gov/notify](http://nyc.gov/notify) to sign up. Check on neighbors, especially older adults, people with disabilities, and those living alone. Learn more about winter preparedness by visiting: [www.on.nyc.gov/WinterWeather](http://www.on.nyc.gov/WinterWeather).

Spot the Signs of Frostbite & Hypothermia. Frostbite: pale, numb, or waxy skin and Hypothermia: shivering, confusion, or slurred speech. Call 911 immediately if these symptoms appear.

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### ***MAE'S GRACE FOUNDATION***

The Mae's Grace Foundation is a non-profit that is the cornerstone of our communities, providing a vast and diverse array of social and community services that support individuals and families, foster self-sufficiency, and promote a higher quality of life for all.

These organizations step in to fill service gaps, address unmet needs, and champion the well-being of the most vulnerable among us.

At the heart of The Mae's Grace Foundation's social and community service offerings is a commitment to empowering individuals and fostering thriving communities. This is achieved through a holistic approach that addresses

immediate needs and provides the tools and resources for long-term stability and success.

Mae's Grace offers Ready Re-Entry Training Program to give re-entry adults hospitality training to prepare them for careers in restaurant hospitality management, culinary kitchen management, or office technology management as well as a 30-week Culinary Kitchen Management program offers a transformative and rigorous journey designed for aspiring professionals ready to master the fast-paced world of gastronomy.

For more information, please visit <https://www.maesgracefoundation.org/>.

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### ***CANNABIS REINVESTMENT PROGRAM***

Guided by the Cannabis Advisory Board, the Community Reinvestment Program seeks to address the harms of past drug policies by reinvesting adult-use cannabis tax revenue into communities that faced disproportion enforcement of prior drug laws.

It is anticipated that applications for Round 2 of the Community Reinvestment Program will open in early-2026. Interested applicants are encouraged to sign up for OCM email alerts to be informed when the Request for Applications is publishes. All interested applicants should be aware that to apply for New York State grants you must be prequalified in New York's Statewide Financial System (SFS)! Interested applicants are encouraged to start the prequalification process today or if you have previously prequalified, check that your prequalification status is still up to date.

The Community Reinvestment Program issues grants to communities disproportionately affected by prior federal and state drug policies in order to redress a wide range of community needs—from housing to childcare to job skills training and many areas in between. The grants are not limited to activities related to cannabis.

Taxes from legal adult-use cannabis sales in New York State go into the Cannabis Revenue Fund. Per the Cannabis Law (§ 99-ii), 40% of Cannabis Tax Revenue goes back to the communities disproportionately affected by prior drug policies in the form of grants overseen by the Cannabis Advisory Board (CAB) via the Community Grants Reinvestment Fund.

Through these grants, it is the goal of OCM and the CAB to distribute impactful funding to areas of the state that have been historically under-resourced, underserved, and over-policed. The future programmatic focus of the Community Reinvestment Program can change according to the guidance provided by the Cannabis Advisory Board.

Who can apply? 501(c)3 non-profit organization providing youth services in New York State with a minimum operating expenditure of \$50,000 or more. Organizations do not have to be affiliated with any cannabis-related businesses or activities to apply.

Applications must propose youth-serving programs (targeting populations 0 to 24 years old) in the areas of mental health, harm reduction & substance use disorder, workforce development, and housing for communities disproportionately affected by prior federal and state drug policies.

For full details, instructions, and helpful links, visit <https://cannabis.ny.gov/reinvestment>.

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### ***GET A PROPERTY TAX BREAK!***

It's time for homeowners to renew their property tax exemptions for the 2026–27 tax year, including the Senior Citizen Homeowners' Exemption (SCHE), Disabled Homeowners' Exemption (DHE), and Clergy Exemption.

The **deadline to renew is March 16, 2026**. Homeowners who do not renew may lose their exemption and see an increase in property taxes.

Renew online or by paper application. Visit [www.nyc.gov/contactdof](http://www.nyc.gov/contactdof).

## ***THE BATTLE OF BROOKLYN: FOUGHT AND REMEMBERED***

In August of 1776, the first and largest battle of the American Revolution took place in what is now Brooklyn, NY. The Battle of Brooklyn: Fought and Remembered uses primary source material from the Center for Brooklyn History's collection to relay the story of this turning point in American history, sharing the events of this battle with new relevance. Artifacts, archival documents, and exclusive access to rare maps bring the summer of 1776 alive, 250 years later.

The exhibition also tells the story of how Brooklynites have remembered their borough's Revolutionary War past, with a look back at battle commemorations as Brooklyn changed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. The exhibition ends with a final flashback to the 1970s and the 1976 Bicentennial, and a digital interactive where visitors can compare the sites of Brooklyn's Revolutionary past with our shared present.

The exhibit can be viewed for free from now until December at the Center for Brooklyn History located at 128 Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Free tours are offered most Fridays from 3PM to 4PM. For more information or to register for a free tour, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/exhibitions/battle-brooklyn-fought>.

## ***THE PHILOSOPHY OF MATHEMATICS***

This Pi Day, join us at Central Library to consider the unexpected secrets and philosophies of mathematics—alongside topics like poetry, psychology, nature, and dreams—at an unforgettable night of art, culture and intellectual discovery. Night in the Library: The Philosophy of Mathematics is supported by the Simons Foundation and is part of its “Infinite Sums” initiative.

The event will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2026 starting at 7 PM at Central Library Central

Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn. For more information, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/calendar/night-library-philosophy-central-library-20260314-0700pm-0>.

## ***BLACK HISTORY MONTH***

### **Weeksville Heritage Center**

As we mark the 100th anniversary of Black History Month under the theme A Century of Black History Commemorations, we honor the people and places that have shaped Black life in this country. At Weeksville Heritage Center, that history is preserved in the very ground where a free Black community built lives rooted in ownership, education, and civic leadership.

Founded in 1838 by free Black New Yorkers, Weeksville is one of the nation's most significant surviving free Black communities. Here, Black life was built around ownership, education, civic leadership, and mutual care—values that continue to shape how this history is preserved and shared today.

Honoring a century of Black History Month also calls us to sustain the places that hold this history. Consider donating to Weeksville if you support the mission and purpose of the foundation by contributing to the preservation of Weeksville's historic houses and the programs that ensure this legacy remains visible, accessible, and alive for future generations.

Also, join the Weeksville Heritage Center and Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce for the 2026 Black History Month Celebration on Thursday, February 26, 2026 from 6-9PM.

Featured speakers include Michale Garner, Chief Business Diversity Officer with NYC; Kelley Pierre, CEO and Founder of All Access Golf; Morgan Monaco, President and Park Administrator of the Prospect Park Alliance; Kenneth Marable, Financial Planner with Prudential Financial.

Register to attend at [www.brooklynchamber.com/events](http://www.brooklynchamber.com/events).

### **Black History Month at BPL**

Throughout February, BPL is honoring Black History Month with programs for all ages, including author talks, musical performances, storytimes, movie screenings and much more.

Highlights include:

- Adult Movie Matinee: A Century of Black Cinema
- Jack and Friends Black History Month Celebration: Conroy Warren
- Flatbush Library Book Club: Sula by Toni Morrison
- African Dancing & Folk Tales Workshop
- Little Kids Create: Finger Painting

For a full list of programming and locations, visit <https://discover.bklynlibrary.org/?event=true&search=black+history+month>.



### ***LOCAL LAW 152, GAS PIPE INSPECTIONS***

**New York City Local Law 152 of 2016 requires all buildings (except 1-2 family homes) to have their exposed gas piping systems inspected by a Licensed Master Plumber (LMP) at least once every four years.** Inspections are aimed at identifying hazardous conditions like leaks or corrosion, and the certification must be submitted to the NYC Department of Buildings. In calendar year 2026, all qualifying properties in District 8 must be inspected.

The Dept. of Buildings has created a step by step guide for property owners required to have the inspection.

STEP 1: Determine if your building is required to comply with Local Law 152 of 2016.

LL152 of 2016 applies to all properties except one- and two-family homes and other buildings classified in occupancy group R-3 . If your

building has one of the following Department of Finance Building Classification, you do not need to comply with LL152: A0, A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A6, A7, A8, A9, B1, B2, B3, B9, CM, M3 (with 2 or less permanent dwelling units), M4 (with 20 or fewer occupants in the building), N2, S0, S1, S2, or V.

The Department of Finance Building Classification is shown on each building's Property Profile in the Buildings Information System (BIS) – if the Building Classification is incorrect, submit a Request To Update - Tax Class 1 to the Department of Finance.

STEP 2: If LL152 of 2016 applies to your building but the building does not contain gas piping: If your building does not contain gas piping, a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification, signed and sealed by a Registered Design Professional (a New York State licensed professional engineer or registered architect) or a Licensed Master Plumber, stating that such building contains no gas piping must be submitted to DOB. No further action is necessary.

STEP 3: If LL152 of 2016 applies to your building, the building contains gas piping, and the building is currently supplied with gas: Hire a Licensed Master Plumber (LMP) to Inspect the Gas Piping System in Your Building. LMPs are licensed by DOB to perform plumbing work in New York City. DOB encourages anyone hiring an LMP to check both their current license status and disciplinary and voluntary surrender records.

Before hiring an LMP:

Use the License Search tool to make sure the LMP's license is active. The tool allows you to search a licensee by name, business name, or license number.

Review the disciplinary actions taken against a licensee by DOB or voluntary surrender records by using the Know Your Construction Professional tool.

If are unable to have your building inspected by the deadline of your reporting year, you can request a one-time 180-day extension of the due date using the online portal. You must have your building inspected before the extension period expires.

STEP 4: LMP must submit a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Report to the building owner within 30 days of inspection

Within 30 days of the inspection, the LMP you hired must provide you with a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Report showing the results of the inspection.

If an inspection reveals any unsafe or hazardous condition(s), the LMP must immediately notify you, the utility providing gas service to your building, and DOB. You must take immediate action to correct the unsafe or hazardous condition(s) in compliance with the NYC Construction Codes, including obtaining any required work permits.

STEP 5: Submit Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification to DOB within 60 days of inspection

Within 60 days of the inspection, you must submit a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification signed and sealed by the Licensed Master Plumber who conducted or supervised the inspection using DOB's using online portal.

If the Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification submitted to DOB indicates that conditions requiring correction were identified during the gas piping system inspection, you must submit to DOB, within 120 days of the inspection, a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification signed and sealed by the Licensed Master Plumber who conducted the inspection, stating that the conditions have been corrected.

If the Gas Piping System Inspection Certification submitted to DOB indicated that additional time was needed to correct the condition(s) identified during the gas piping system inspection, you must submit to DOB, within 180 days of the inspection, a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification signed and sealed by the Licensed

Master Plumber who conducted the inspection, stating that the conditions have been corrected.

Correction of conditions identified during a gas piping system inspection must be performed in compliance with the New York City Construction Codes, including obtaining any required work permits.

Failure to file a Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification by the applicable due date may result in a civil penalty of \$5,000.

STEP 6: If LL152 of 2016 applies to your building and your building contains gas piping, but the building is not currently supplied with gas and has no appliances connected to the gas piping You must submit to DOB, through the online portal, the following two documents:

a signed statement from the utility company containing: containing the following:

- the last date gas was supplied to the building; and
- the date on which gas service was no longer provided to the building; and

a signed statement from the owner of the building containing the following:

- a certification that the building no longer receives gas service; and
- a certification that the building no longer contains appliances connected to gas piping.

Before resuming gas service to the building, the owner must hire a Licensed Master Plumber to obtain a DOB permit and conduct all gas-related inspections; submit a Gas Authorization Request in DOB NOW: Inspections; and submit the Gas Piping System Periodic Inspection Certification through the online portal.

If you need to report an unsafe condition or have general questions about gas piping inspections, contact the Plumbing Enforcement Unit at (212) 393-2557. If you have general questions about gas piping inspections, please call the Gas Piping Compliance Unit at (212) 323-8001 or email LL152of16@buildings.nyc.gov.

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## ***NEWS AND UPDATES FROM YOUR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS***

### **Councilmember Crystal Hudson**

The Councilmember is pleased to announce that Free Tax Preparation Services are available in the office every Tuesday from now thru tax day from 10AM to 4PM. Services are provided by the Urban Upbound Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) to those making \$97,000 or less.

Call 718-260-9191 to schedule your tax appointment today.

### **Councilwoman Darlene Mealy**

The member would like to share the following statement with constituents:

“I am relieved that the destructive Community Opportunity to Purchase Act (COPA) is no longer under consideration as a piece of legislation in the New York City Council. In addition to the immediate harm this legislation would have caused homeowners, it would have set a dangerous precedent relating to the rights of property owners, which would have long term effects.

I am especially proud of the efforts that have taken place to block COPA. As soon as I learned about COPA, I decided to speak up and fight against it. Fortunately, others did as well. We joined forces and what emerged was a coalition of Black and Jewish community members and political leaders, as well as small property owners, who organized and advocated against this bill. As soon as people became aware of COPA, they understood that this was a red Line we could not cross as a city, and that is why this bill did not become law.”

The member is also pleased to announce that in partnership with Urban Upbound, there are free tax preparation services at her district office to support community members during tax season every Thursday from 9AM to 4PM from now thru April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please visit [www.uutaxbooking.org](http://www.uutaxbooking.org) to schedule an appointment as walk-ins cannot be guaranteed an appointment. The District 41

Community Advisory Board meeting on Saturday, January 31, 2026 11AM-12:30 PM at 400 Rockaway Avenue. This event is free and open to the public.

Finally, Veterans services are available in the office every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9AM to 3PM with Veterans of Foreign Wars. Appointments are necessary; call the office at 718-953-3097 to schedule an appointment; the next community advisory board meeting will be Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 400 Rockaway Avenue at 11AM.

### **Councilmember Chi Osse**

The member is pleased to announce the following:

- Veterans services are available in the office every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month from 10AM to 5PM with Veterans of Foreign Wars. Appointments are necessary; call the office at 718-919-0740 to schedule an appointment.
- Suicide Prevention is year-round. Resources are available. The member has allocated funds to Samaritans, and they are able to offer an updated collection of suicide prevention information, services, tools, resources, webinars, and more to district 36. To download resources, visit [https://bit.ly/CD36\\_Prevent-Suicide](https://bit.ly/CD36_Prevent-Suicide).

### **Assemblyman Brian Cunningham**

The member would like to share the following:

Tenant Thursdays in partnership with Churches United for Fair Housing: every Thursday from 10AM to 5PM (by appointment only), receive free housing assistance and referrals for immigration, finance, and legal services at the district office located at 249 Empire Blvd. Call 718-771-3105 to schedule an appointment.

Join the member on February 26, 2026 from 6:30PM to 8:30PM for The Ubuntu Railroad: Building Networks of Freedom and Power, a townhall discussion with elected officials, creatives, and community leaders invoking the

legacy of the undergrown railroad to imagine contemporary strategies for collective care, safety, and sovereignty. The event will be held at 1564 Bedford Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

The Mobile legal Help Center will be partnering with the Assemblyman to provide free civil legal services to New Yorkers in need via the NYLAG mobile van. Private meeting rooms and technology inside the vehicle enable it to function as a full-service office. The van will be located outside of Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place from 10AM to 3 PM on the following dates:

Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>  
Mondays, May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>

Appointments are recommended to ensure service. To schedule and appointment, visit <https://bit.ly/NYLAG26>.

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### ***\$5,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS***

Encourage your child to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship! Now thru the end of February, high school seniors are invited to apply for an Albert Shanker Scholarship. The process is easier than ever with the new online portal.

Candidates must be financially eligible and be accepted in a full-time, matriculated, degree-granting program at an accredited college or university. The deadline to apply for a \$5,000 scholarship is Saturday, Feb. 28. For more information or to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/3ME1Uau>.

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### ***EARN MONEY WHILE YOU TRAIN!***

St. Nick's Alliance Workforce locate at 92 Throop Avenue, Brooklyn, offers two workforce development tracks that allows you to earn money

while you train. You can join either their Healthcare (HHA, CAN/PCT, or Hemodialysis) or Industrial and Infrastructure (construction, building maintenance, HVAC) pathways. You simply need to be at least 18 to 24 years old with a high school diploma or high school equivalency and out of work to be eligible.

You must attend an info session where you will be given the TABE test if interested in moving forward. To register for an info session, call 718-30-2057 ext 450 or email [trainandearn@stnicksalliance.org](mailto:trainandearn@stnicksalliance.org).

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### ***BRAVE VIDEO CONTEST***

To raise awareness about bullying and intolerance, the UFT's BRAVE Campaign (Building Respect, Acceptance and Voice through Education) is holding its annual video contest. BRAVE encourages students to share their experiences with bullying and intolerance either from the "inside" (firsthand) or "outside" (witnessed) point of view.

The contest is open to all middle and high school students in New York City public schools. Students are invited to submit a three-to-five minute video that responds to one of the contest prompts. Winners' schools will receive cash prizes, and winning students will attend an awards ceremony at UFT headquarters in May.

Suggested topics:

What does it feel like to be the target of bullying, witness a bullying situation or engage in bullying behavior?

How do you and your classmates stand up for others in a positive way?

How can students and teachers create school communities that promote acceptance, tolerance and respect?

What do students want adults to know about bullying and intolerance?

Entries will be accepted until Monday, May 18, 2026. Cash prizes will be awarded to the schools earning first, second and third place! Prize

distributions will take place at each school site at a later date. To enter, please email the video to [uftbravevideos@gmail.com](mailto:uftbravevideos@gmail.com) with the subject line "2026 BRAVE video contest." Alternatively, you may submit your video by mail on a USB flash drive to: UFT Brave Video Contest, 52 Broadway, 14th floor, New York, NY 10004.

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### ***POWER UP BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION***

Turn your business idea into a reality with help from the Library and you may win \$20,000 in start up capital. Entrepreneurs throughout Brooklyn are eligible to participate in Brooklyn Public Library's PowerUP Business Plan Competition. All contestants have access to free resources and services to help them write a business plan. Everyone wins because the Prize is in the Process!

Participants attend online classes on creating business plans, marketing, financial projections, and doing business research with Library resources. They are also referred to business counselors in the community.

Over the past twenty-two years the competition has fostered the development of a host of new businesses. Join the competition, and you may be on the list next year!

If you are 18 years of age or older, live in Brooklyn and want to start a business in Brooklyn, you are eligible. "PowerUP" is a competition to help applicants start a business. Additional details, including the competition rules and the application process will be supplied during the orientation session.

First Place - \$20,000  
Second Place - \$10,000  
Third Place - \$5,000  
Five Merit Awards - \$1,000  
Audience Choice Award - \$1,000

Applicants must attend a virtual or in-person orientation to apply. More information about

PowerUP and Orientation registration is online at: <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/business/powerup>.

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### ***BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES***

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services offices affordable home ownership, development program, and home improvement projects courses in partnership with NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

Income eligible homeowners of one- or two-family homes can qualify for up to \$50,000 each to make the necessary repairs in their home to avoid hazardous living conditions. Eligible repairs include plumbing and sewer related repairs; water main; gas emergencies; water leaks; roofs and windows; boiler replacement/conversions; handicap accessible installations; and much more.

Brooklyn Neighborhood Services is located at 20 Bancroft Place. For more information, you may call their office at 718-919-2100.

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### ***YOUNG ADULT BOROUGH CENTER***

Boys & Girls High School's Young Adult Borough Center (YABC) is excited to host their Post-Secondary Options Fair on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. This event will provide students with valuable opportunities to explore educational, career, and training pathways as they prepare for life after high school.

The event will be from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM at Boys & Girls High School, 1700 Fulton Street and will feature a resource fair with interactive booths and networking opportunities. Colleges, trade schools, apprenticeship programs, employers, and military representatives have been invited to participate to connect with motivated young adults eager to learn about post-secondary options.

Please confirm your participation by February 15, 2026 at <https://bit.ly/4kyE0Kl>. If you have any



questions or need additional details, feel free to email [janeebrown@goodshepherds.org](mailto:janeebrown@goodshepherds.org) or call 718-804-6809 x 4625.



### **COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS**

The next **Crown Heights North Association General Membership Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 6:45PM** at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place. The invited guest speaker is Mr. Atiba Edwards from the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

The Crown Heights North Association is also hosting a **free electronics and textile recycling collection event on Saturday, February 28, 2026 from 10AM to 2PM** on Sterling Place between Kingston and Brooklyn Avenues in the parking lot on the left hand side of the street (southwest), rain or shine. Bring your old televisions, monitors, computer towers/laptops, printers and other computer devices, as well as clothing, fabrics, and shoes/sneakers for recycling. Batters and household appliances will not be accepted. For a full list of accepted items visit [www.nyc.gov/recyclingevents](http://www.nyc.gov/recyclingevents).



The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 7:30PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 69 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2026 at a location to be determined. This is an opportunity to come together, share concerns, hear important

updates, and work collaboratively toward a safer, stronger, and more connected community. Your voice matters, and your presence makes a difference.



The next meeting of Community Board 8 will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6PM at the Nigerian-American Muslim Integrated Community Center located at 801 Dean Street, Brooklyn. All are invited to attend.



We wish the happiest of birthdays to Mr. Benny Faygen, Mr. Robert Puca, and Ms. Dana Thompson who will celebrate all celebrate a birthday in the month of February.



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

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**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
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