

# ACROSS THE BOARD

**JUNE 2018**

**VOLUME 40, NO. 6**

## *A Message from the District Manager*

Community Board finally has reached the max of 50 members! We would like to welcome the following new members to the Board, and wish them all a productive membership:

- **Ms. Sasha Ahuja**
- **Mr. Desmond Atkins**
- **Mr. Drew Gabriel**
- **Ms. Lisa Lashley**

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## **COMMUNITY NEWS AND ALERTS**

### **HOMEOWNERS BEWARE!**

There has been a rash of roof hatch break-ins into homes in our district. Burglars are using roof hatches to gain access to properties and rob them. It is worth a few minutes to make sure any access points from your roof are secure to protect your home and family. Please contact 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Crime Prevention Unit for tips on how to secure your home at 718-735-0658 or 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct at 718-636-6433.

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## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES**

Applications are being accepted for affordable housing at 802 Washington Ave, 840 Washington Avenue, 165 Park Avenue, 368 Lafayette Avenue, 83 E 18th Street, 72/74 Lott

Street, 825 Bedford Avenue, and 890 Flushing Avenue.

Rent ranges from \$850/month for a studio for individuals and families earning between \$29,143 and \$43,860 annually; \$913/month for a one bedroom for individuals and families earning between \$31,303 and 50,100 annually; \$1,105 for a two bedroom for families earning between \$37,866 and \$62,580; and \$1,427 for a four bedroom for families earning between \$48,926 and \$82,620 annually.

Please note that rents and income limits are subject to change and asset limits may apply. In addition, minimum incomes listed may not apply to applicants with Section 8 or other qualifying rental subsidies.

Interested persons should apply online at [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect) or write to FSG Partners LLC; PO Box 903; Bronx, NY 10473 to request a paper application and advertisement. Online and paper applications are available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Korean, Russian, and Spanish.

**The application deadline is June 22, 2018. Late applications will not be considered.**

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## **ST. JOHN'S RECREATION CENTER**

**The St. John's Recreation Center will be closed through October 2018 due to much needed renovations.** These renovations include a contract for heating, ventilation and air

conditioning (HVAC) for the center located at 1251 Prospect Place (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues), Brooklyn.

In place of the recreation center, recreational programming will be offered in St. John’s Park (directly next to and behind the center) five days a week as weather permits, and members of St. John’s Rec will have their memberships honored free of charge at any other recreation center in Brooklyn.

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**REMEMBER TO VOTE!**

On Tuesday, June 26, 2018, the Federal Primary Election will be held in New York State. Up for election are virtually all Congressmembers and 35 of the 100 federal Senators.

Please utilize the Campaign Finance Board’s Voter Spotlight, which highlights the Federal Primary Election as well as voter registration deadlines for the other elections to be held this year. To access the Voter Spotlight, please visit [www.voting.nyc](http://www.voting.nyc).

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through May 2018.

|                         | Month | YTD  |
|-------------------------|-------|------|
| Structural Fires        | 22    | 148  |
| Non-Structural          | 5     | 99   |
| Total Fires             | 27    | 247  |
| Suspicious Fires        | 0     | 12   |
| Non-Medical Emergencies | 241   | 1331 |
| Medical Emergencies     | 364   | 1472 |
| Total Incidents         | 652   | 3149 |

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 05/28/18 through 06/03/18.

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2018         | 2017 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 1            | 2    | -50   |
| Rape           | 15           | 8    | 87.5  |
| Robbery        | 60           | 98   | -38.8 |
| Felony Assault | 104          | 135  | -23   |
| Burglary       | 72           | 84   | -14.3 |
| Grand Larceny  | 164          | 145  | 13.1  |
| GL Auto        | 26           | 20   | 30    |

The overall change year-to-date is -10.2%.

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The following is a summary of the Dept. of Sanitation scorecard rating for the month of May. The score was 85.3% for clean streets and 95.9% for sidewalks. This marks the second consecutive month of sub-90 cleanliness rating for streets, and the fourth time out of the last five months we have been rated.

District 8 has always been one of the cleaner Boards in Brooklyn. There were times we led the city with the highest scorecard rating. With the clamoring and demand for a reduction in Alternate Side Parking, we need to maintain a 90% cleanliness rating. Unfortunately, we have not been able to do so, and this makes the Dept. of Sanitation even more hesitant to allow communities to reduce the number of ASP days.

Furthermore, a disturbing trend has emerged in our District with the misuse of corner baskets, and a consequent uptick in overflowing corner basket complaints. As a result, Superintendent Manuel Mendez of BK8 Sanitation garage has asked for members of the community (both residents and merchants) to adopt a corner basket. As a basket sponsor, you would be given garbage bags to line the baskets with, and you merely need to remove the full bag, tie it, place it curbside, and replace the can liner. There are a number of people in our District that have adopted baskets, but we need many more.

Finally, we continue to urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation's residential enforcement routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and 6 PM to 7 PM daily. Please clean in front of your properties and 18 inches into the gutter area of the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep the District clean.

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### **LONG TERM GROUND LEASES**

A note from Land Use Committee Chairperson, Ms. Ethel Tyus, Esq.:

According to a panel of well-known commercial real estate attorneys in Manhattan, most of the property from Lexington Avenue to the East River and from E. 50th St. to E. 60th St. has belonged to five families since the early 1800s. How exactly did they do this?

The answer is quite simple: they used **real estate trusts and long-term ground leases**. The trusts help them to keep their estate planning private because, unlike wills, the trusts are not subject to probate, which can be very expensive. Secondly, the long-term ground leases gave them a reliable stream of income while relieving them of the burdensome financial and physical maintenance that goes with owning real estate.

In today's current speculative market, it is likely that developers are contacting you or leaving notices on your door regarding their interest in purchasing your property. You do not have to give up ownership to get the same benefit of selling to them. I assure you that if **you insist**, the potential buyers who are currently hounding you to buy your property will eventually be satisfied with a long term ground lease with a much lower initial payment for full control of your property, **minus the deed, which stays in your control**.

For you as the deed holder, you draft the lease to provide for periodic increases of the rental

rate to match the market rate. Every few years, both parties would do appraisals and take the average to reset the rent to market. The tenant would be responsible for **everything** that you yourself are currently responsible for: taxes, maintenance, and assessments, etc. If the building is not landmarked, the ground lease tenant can demolish the building and erect a replacement controlled only by the zoning.

Given that many families are more prone to sell their property(ies) and divvy the proceeds amongst children, and thus losing the wealth that is property ownership, using a long-term ground lease allows for you and your family to retain the wealth accreted over the length of time your family has owned its property(ies). Please consider a residential ground lease instead of selling your land. Money can disappear in a short span of time, but land, or wealth, is a self-propagating revenue stream that never runs out.

For more information, visit: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/ground-lease.asp>.

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### **SERVICES AT ASSEMBLYWOMAN DIANA RICHARDSON'S OFFICE**

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson's office provides a host of free services and programs. Her office offers the followings:

**Dept. of Labor Services**, including outreach services, unemployment concerns, training, assistance for job seekers, and compliance appointments on Thursdays in June from 10 AM to 4 PM.

**Health Insurance Navigator Programs**, designed to simplify health insurance enrollment for those experiencing the following: loss of health insurance (for reasons other than non-payment of premiums); divorce or legal separation; birth or adoption of a child or placement of a child in foster care; and marriage

or domestic partnership on Mondays from 11 AM to 5 PM.

**CAMBA Homebase Outreach**, which provides anti-eviction legal assistance; housing related assistance; landlord and tenant resources; and various housing applications on Mondays in June from 10 AM to 4 PM. Call 718-875-9300 for more information on the Navigator Program. Note: Small business can apply anytime.

All services are offered at the Assemblywoman’s District office located at 330 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn. Please call her office at 718-771-3105 for more information or to schedule an appointment.



### **CITY FEST**

Calvary Community Church is pleased to announce its annual City Fest Basketball Outreach on **Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 1 to 7 PM** at Calvary Community Church located at 1575 St. John’s Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue), Brooklyn. Celebrate with Christian rappers, bands and choirs, clowns, face painting, and much more.

For more information, please call 718-467-4108.



### **FREE RAIN BARREL GIVEAWAY**

In an effort to help conserve water, Councilman Robert Cornegy is hosting a free rain barrel giveaway on **Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 11 AM to 1 PM** at Brower Park (Park Place between Brooklyn and Kingston Avenues).

You must live in the 36<sup>th</sup> Council District to reserve a rain barrel. To RSVP, please call the Councilman’s office at 718-919-0740 or email [sfrancis@council.nyc.gov](mailto:sfrancis@council.nyc.gov). One barrel per household.

### **SHRED FEST**

The Crown Heights North Association (CHNA) is hosting a free shredding event on **Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at St. Gregory’s Roman Catholic Church located at 991 St. John’s Place (corner of Brooklyn Avenue), Brooklyn. Shred papers, documents, books, etc.

Also, CHNA is hosting a beautification program and giving away free plants on a first come, first served basis.

For more information, call 718-774-3834.



### **HELP PLAN YOUR NEW BROWER PARK LIBRARY**

On **Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6 PM**, there will be a Brower Park Library planning session at the Brower Park Library Branch located at 725 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn.

In case you missed it, in two years, Brower Park Library will relocate to the Brooklyn Children’s Museum. The Library and Museum are working with Brooklyn-based architectural firm TsAO & McKown to gather public input for the new library design before construction begins in mid-2019. The renovation will take about one year to complete and the new space is expected to open in mid-2020. Brooklyn Public Library will continue to operate its current leased branch until the new library opens.

RSVP for the planning session online at [www.bklynlib.org/browerpark](http://www.bklynlib.org/browerpark) or email [standup@bklynlibrary.org](mailto:standup@bklynlibrary.org).



### **REPAIRING YOUR CREDIT**

Legal Hand is pleased to offer, “Repairing Your Credit,” a seminar offering assistance to individuals wondering about their economic and

credit future. Are you wondering what you can do if you have a bad credit score? How you can build better credit? Or even just how to start financial planning and credit building? Then please attend the seminar on **Monday, June 18, 2018 at 6 PM** at Legal Hand's office located at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn.

All are welcome. To RSVP, or if you have any questions, please call 718-619-4248.

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### ***IMMIGRANT WORKERS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS***

Legal Hand is offering a forum to help immigrant workers learn their rights on **Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6 PM** at the Legal Hand office located at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. All are welcome. For more information or to RSVP, please call 718-619-4248.

#### **Other Legal Hand workshops:**

- Student Loan Debt Workshop, **Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM**
- Fair Hearings Training, **Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM**
- Computer Workshop, **Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM**

All workshops take place at the Legal Hand office at 250 Kingston Avenue.

### ***MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING***

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson, in conjunction with THRIVE NYC and the Brooklyn Children's Museum, are pleased to host a Mental Health First Aid Training Day on **Wednesday, June 27, 2018 from 10 AM to 5 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn.

This free 8 hours course will help you to identify signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental illness; learn how

to respond if you see these signs in your colleagues, friends, and loved ones; acquire a valuable tool for professional development; and become a certified Mental Health First Aid Responder.

RSVP at <http://bcm.timetap.com>. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/mhfa](http://www.nyc.gov/mhfa) or call Assemblywoman Richardson's office at 718-771-3105.

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### ***47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AFRICAN ARTS FESTIVAL***

From **Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>** through **Wednesday, July 4, 2018** at Commodore Barry Park (aka City Park) at Navy Street (between Flushing and Park Avenues), Downtown Brooklyn, enjoy the African Arts Festival. There will be many specialty vendors, performances, and cultural immersion.

For general information, vendor inquiries, and housing, visit [www.iaafestival.org](http://www.iaafestival.org), email [info@iaafestival.org](mailto:info@iaafestival.org), or call 718-638-6700.

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### ***3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR***

The Health and Human Services Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Health Fair: From Survive to Thrive** on **Saturday, June 30, 2018 from 11 AM to 3 PM** at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association located at 465 Sterling Place (corner of Washington Avenue), Brooklyn.

Meet and hear the experts on: Mental Health; Elder Care; Nutrition; Chi Kung; Acupuncture; Wills & Trusts; Physical Fitness; Health Screenings; Community Supported Agriculture; and much more. For more information, contact Mr. Kwasi Mensah at [bcb8healthfair@gmail.com](mailto:bcb8healthfair@gmail.com).

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## ***ZUMBA AND LINE DANCE***

Weeksville Gardens Community Center presents a weekly Health and Wellness Workshop series, Zumba and Line Dance with Lady Diane and Steppin' Stephanie at Wednesday from 5:45-7 PM. Classes are held at Weeksville Gardens Community Center located at 1640 Pacific Street (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues), Brooklyn. For more information, contact Ms. Judy Fears or Melinda Robinson-Birk at 718-395-9001, ext. 153.



## ***SCHOLARSHIPS***

### **Delete Cyberbullying Scholarship**

The Delete Cyberbullying Scholarship is open from now through June 30, 2019. Two awards are available for \$1,000 each.

Eligibility requirements include US citizenship or permanent residency; attending or planning to attend an accredited US college or university for undergraduate or graduate studies; completion of short essay (500 words or less) on either "Why is it important to work to delete cyberbullying?" or "How has cyberbullying personally affected you?"

The project aims to educate parents and teens about the dangers of living in a connected world. For more information and to apply, visit [www.endcyberbullying.net/scholarship/](http://www.endcyberbullying.net/scholarship/).



## ***FREE TRAINING AND INTERNSHIPS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR A BETTER TOMORROW***

Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development are pleased to offer a series of free training programs and internship programs for youth ages 17-24.

**Paid Youth Internships:** Earn up to \$4,550 in 14 weeks. Applicants must not be employed and not attending school. An informational workshop will be held on **Wednesday, June 27, 2018** at 10 AM at 20 New York Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn. For more information or to RSVP, email [OBToutreach@obtjobs.org](mailto:OBToutreach@obtjobs.org), text 917-342-5279, or visit [www.tinyurl.com/getpaidOBT](http://www.tinyurl.com/getpaidOBT).

**Web Design and Coding Fundamentals Program:** Learn to design and build websites; develop skills in Photoshop, HTML, CSS, PHP, JavaScript, and Git; earn industry recognized certifications.

Additional eligibility requirements: must have HS diploma or GED, be out of school, and not be employed. No coding experience necessary.

All courses are offered at Industry City-Innovation Lab located at 87 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Brooklyn.

For more information or to register, visit [www.obtjobs.org](http://www.obtjobs.org), email [outreach@obtjobs.org](mailto:outreach@obtjobs.org), or call 718-801-8970.

**Certified Medical Administrative Assistant Training Program:** Get trained in medical terminology and billing, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; prepare for the National Health Career Association's Certified Medical Administrative Assistant exam; receive assistance with internships and job placement.

All courses are offered at Y Roads Jamaica, located at 161-04 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432.

For more information or to register, visit [www.obtjobs.org](http://www.obtjobs.org), email [outreach@obtjobs.org](mailto:outreach@obtjobs.org), or call 212-630-9727.

**Free Computer and Job Skills Training:** Obtain your Microsoft Office Specialist certification; resume assistance and interview skills training included.

SNAP recipients are encouraged to apply. Please note: unlike other OBT Programs, there is no age limit on this program. For more information or to apply, call 718-831-3222, or visit [www.obtjobs.org](http://www.obtjobs.org).

**Start Your Career Now Job Training Services:**

Free job training includes preparation for certifications in Microsoft Office, Hospitality, and Customer Services; preparation for the TASC Exam (previously GED) available to those who did not finish high school; assistance with creating a competitive resume and obtaining public speaking skills; free college access and job placement assistance; placement into advanced training programs at CUNY and/or paid internships at other organizations available for qualified participants.

Applicants must be 17-24 years old, not in school and not employed, residents of New York City, and eligible to work in the United States. Apply today. Visit [www.obtjobs.org](http://www.obtjobs.org) or email [outreach@obtjobs.org](mailto:outreach@obtjobs.org).

Locations for training are in Sunset Park at 783 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn (718-369-0303); and Bushwick at 25 Thornton Street, Brooklyn (718-387-1600).

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***100% TUITION FREE CLASSES FOR ADULTS***

The NYC Dept. of Education offers free classes for adults 21 years and older without a high school equivalency degree. Classes are offered at MS 61, Dr. Gladstone H. Atwell School located at 400 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn. Summer classes begin in July 2018.

Choose from the offered classes: English as a Second Language (ESL) or Basic Education (TASC/HSE preparation). Classes are offered in the daytime, evening, and even on Saturdays. For more information, call 7718-221-6703 or email [oaces7@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:oaces7@schools.nyc.gov).

Additionally, the Dept. of Education also offers tuition free classes in Computer Literacy; Digital Technology; EKG/Phlebotomy; Microsoft Office; A+ Certification; Network+; and Nursing Assistant. Class sessions are Monday-Friday from 9 AM to Noon (morning session); Monday-Friday from 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM (afternoon session); Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 5:40 PM to 9 PM (evening session); and Saturdays from 9 AM to 2 PM.

To register for classes, please go to the Brooklyn Adult Learning Center located at 475 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn to get an appointment for an intake date or call 718-638-2635. To qualify, you must be 21 years or older and not possess a high school diploma or equivalent degree.

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***EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES***

Are you looking to earn money this summer? The Andromeda Initiative is a construction company looking for individuals with ambition and who want to be part of a productive world, learning new skills. Obtain free training in the construction industry with a focus on OSHA training; skills training (brick laying, pointing, etc.), and best of all, guaranteed job placement!

If you are over 18 and interested, please email [info@andromedainitiative.org](mailto:info@andromedainitiative.org). Make sure to include your name, and contact information. You can also call or text 347-665-6947.

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**Maggie's Paratransit Corp.**

Drivers are needed right now with full time positions available. Maggie's Paratransit is a 24-hour Access-A-Ride company with a starting salary of \$16/hour (experienced drivers can make up to \$24/hour). There is a sign-on bonus of \$1,000 for Commercial Drivers (CDL). You must be 21 or older with a valid NYS license for at least 3 years with a CDL passenger endorsement.



To apply, bring your license and social security card to 233 Norwood Avenue, Brooklyn from 8 AM to 4 PM. For more information, visit [www.maggiespara.com](http://www.maggiespara.com) or call 718-647-2988, ext. 6.

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#### **New York City**

The City of New York is offering exams for the position of Special Officer from now through June 30, 2018. Special Officers provide unarmed security at city agencies. A background check is required for this position.

#### **Application deadline: June 30, 2018**

Salary (starting) \$32,426

Exam # 8328

To apply, go to [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs).

**The Parks Department** seeks an experienced Painter with a valid driver's license. Salary is \$76,350 with included benefits.

#### **Application deadline: June 22, 2018**

ID # 347385

For a full description and requirements, visit [www.nyc.gov/careers/search](http://www.nyc.gov/careers/search) and input the job ID.

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 26, 2018** at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to **Mr. James Ellis and Mr. Michael Cox**, who will celebrate their birthdays in the month of June; **Ms. Deshauna Appleton, Ms. Michelle George, Ms. Tarves Lord, Mr. Brian Saunders, Ms. Ethel Tyus, and Mr. Robert Witherwax**, who will all celebrate their birthdays in the month of July; and **Ms. Shalawn Langhorne and Ms. Vilma Zuniga**, who will celebrate their birthdays in the month of August.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Julia Neale, Community Coordinator at the District office, on the loss of her brother, Samuel Barton.

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

**Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Melanie Grant, Community Assistant**

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