

ACROSS THE BOARD

MAY 2016

VOLUME 38, NO. 5

A Message from the District Manager

Great News!

A new **City Bench** will be installed at the following locations:

- 845 St. John's Place
- 1432 Bedford Avenue
- 243 Buffalo Avenue

Even Greater News!

The following streets have been resurfaced or are scheduled for resurfacing this Spring:

- Carlton Avenue between Dean Street and Flatbush Avenue
- Plaza Street East between Vanderbilt Avenue and Eastern Parkway
- Lincoln Place between Underhill and Classon Avenue
- Grand Avenue between Pacific Street and Park Place
- Franklin Avenue between Atlantic Avenue and Eastern Parkway
- Pacific Street between Vanderbilt and Ralph Avenues

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Community Board 8 has joined NextDoor, a private social network for you, your neighbors, and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods. To learn more or to sign up for NextDoor and receive instant notifications of community news and events, visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).

## *ARE YOU GETTING ALL OF YOUR BENEFITS?*

**You may be eligible for benefits that help you pay for food and rent!** SNAP (Nutrition Assistance) is available to anyone living on a low or fixed income. If you are over age 60 and your income was less than \$1,962 a person for \$2,655 for two people in the past month, you may be eligible.

SCRIE (Senior Rent Freeze) is available to anyone 62 years old or disabled, living in a rent regulated apartment with an income less than \$50,000 last year, and paying at least 1/3 of their income towards rent.

Every last Wednesday of the month at the **Community Board 8 district office**, a representative from the Crown Heights Jewish Community Council will be on hand from 10 AM to 2 PM to help people complete the necessary paperwork for these benefits. To schedule an appointment, please call Melanie at 718-467-5574.

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PROPOSED FY 2017 WATER AND SEWER RATE

The NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection recently announced the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Water and Sewer Rate at a meeting of the NYC Water Board in April 2016. **This year's proposal includes a 2.1% rate increase, which is the lowest increase in 16 years.** The significant reduction was achieved through internal cost savings and underspending, interest rate savings, and an increased return of the rental payment.

If the 2.1% water rate increase is adopted by the Water Board, a typical single-family homeowner will see an increase of approximately \$1.85 per month on average and a typical multi-family home with metered billing will see an increase of approximately \$1.20 per unit per month.

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## ***GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN***

The Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest has been a borough-wide tradition for more than 20 years. It promotes streetscape gardening, street tree stewardship, and community development through block and merchant associations and other community greening groups. Prize categories include Best Residential and Commercial Block, Greenest Storefront, Best Street Tree Beds, and Best Window Box.

The contest is free to enter by visiting [www.bbg.org/greenestblock](http://www.bbg.org/greenestblock). Anyone needing assistance or information can call Brooklyn Botanic Garden at 718-623-7250 or email [greenbridge@bbg.org](mailto:greenbridge@bbg.org). The deadline to enter the contest is **June 1, 2016**.

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BROOKLYN URBAN GARDENER

The Brooklyn Urban Gardener (BUG) certificate program is a free, multi-session

course that covers the basics of urban gardening and community greening. This training consists of over 35 hours of interrelated workshops combined with 30 hours of teamwork spent volunteering for an assigned greening project in Brooklyn. Upon graduation, participants become certified Botanic Gardens BUG volunteers who support greening projects at schools, senior centers, block associations, community gardens, and more.

If you know of anyone that would make a great BUG community volunteer, applications are due **June 1, 2016**. You can apply online at www.bbg.org/greenbridge/bug.

If you have any questions about the BUG program, please contact Ms. Nina Browne, Greenbridge Program Manager at nbrowne@bbg.org or via telephone at 718-623-7209.

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## ***NYC PARKS' STREET TREES***

NYC Parks' Street Tree Planting Program is part of a citywide initiative to green the streets of New York City. Trees on our streets have the unique ability to beautify blocks, increase property values, cool and clean the air, reduce storm water runoff, and lower building energy costs. By shading hot surfaces, trees improve public health by reducing the formation of ozone, which can trigger respiratory problems in children and the elderly. Tree planting is a key element to make the city more sustainable as our population grows.

New street trees are planted by service requests from any New Yorker seeking a tree for their home, block or neighborhood. Additionally, NYC Parks is continuing to plant trees in areas with low tree canopy and high population density to ensure all communities enjoy the environmental, economic and social benefits of our urban forest.

For more information or a list of Spring tree planting locations, visit <http://www.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting/locations>.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING INFO SESSION

The housing lottery for affordable apartments at **461 Dean Street** (part of the Atlantic Yards/Pacific Park project) is now open for households earning between \$20,675 and \$144,960. Attend the information session on **May 24, 2016 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at PS 9, 80 Underhill Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn. RSVP to 461dean@mutualhousingny.org. For more information call 718-246-8080, ext. 224.

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### **MENTAL HEALTH MONTH 2016**

NYC Health and Hospitals/Kings County in collaboration with Councilman Mathieu Eugene and Senator Jesse Hamilton will shine light on the barriers, negative attitudes and discrimination that prevent Brooklyn residents from seeking treatment and isolating them from their communities at the **Mental Health Month 2016: Celebrating a Night of Art and Culture Event**. The evening will also highlight the central role art, poetry, music, and dance played in treating adults and children with mental illness.

The event will be held on **Thursday, May 18, 2016 from 5 to 7 PM** at the D-Building Lobby/Main Entrance, 471 Clarkson Avenue (corner of E. 37<sup>th</sup> Street), Brooklyn. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Xiomara Wallace at 718-245-3228.

### **SENIORS FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP**

Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams and the Financial Education Empowerment Committee are pleased to present: **Securing Brooklyn's Seniors: A Workshop for Seniors and Caregivers**—helping Brooklynites 55 and older enjoy a meaningful retirement lifestyle.

The workshop will focus on the following:

- How to protect and prevent financial exploitation of seniors
- Encourage financial planning and informed investment decision-making/asset building
- Medicaid and pooled trusts: a pathway to living in the community
- Seniors returning to work

The Financial Education Empowerment Workshop will be held on **Wednesday, May 18, 2016 from 6 to 8 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall, Community Room, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

Free raffles and giveaways! RSVP to 718-802-3717 or [programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

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CIVIC MINDED

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson is pleased to announce **Civic Minded**, a coalition group within the 43rd Assembly District that will connect concerned constituents, clergy leaders, neighborhood associations, block associations, tenants associations, merchants associations and develop solution-oriented approaches to solving problems.

There will be a session on **Saturday, May 21, 2016** at Middle School 61 located at 400 Empire Boulevard, Brooklyn from **Noon to 2 PM**. For more information contact the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER WORKSHOP

The Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights presents a **First Time Home Buyer Workshop** on **Tuesday, May 24, 2016 from 6 to 8 PM** at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place, Community Room, Brooklyn. Refreshments will be served.

To RSVP, email Dorothy McLaurin at dmclaurin@LDCCH.org or Yinery Martinez at LDCCH@LDCCH.org or call 718-467-8800.

ART HISTORY HAPPY HOUR AND TARGET FIRST SATURDAY

The Brooklyn Museum of Art is pleased to bring you **Art History Happy Hour** on **Tuesday, May 26, 2016 at 7 PM**, bringing you seriously unserious art history lectures accompanied by wine and beer. Don't forget about Target First Saturday, every first Saturday from 5 to 11 PM, where the museum is free to the public!

The Brooklyn Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway. For more information, call 718-638-5000.

DEPT. OF PUBLIC SERVICE: SUSTAINABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE

In January 2016, the NYS Public Service Commission directed Staff to develop a process for Commission consideration of a Clean Energy Standard (CES) program. The CES mandates that by the year 2030, half of the electricity used in the State of New York will come from renewable resources such as solar, wind, and hydro.

There will be an information session and public comment session on **Tuesday, May**

31, 2016 at the NYS Dept. of Public Service office building located at 90 Church Street, 4th Floor boardroom, Manhattan.

If you cannot attend the hearing, you are encouraged to comment in writing via the online form at www.dps.ny.gov.

STATE OF THE 20TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT ADDRESS

New York State Senator Jesse Hamilton invites you to his **State of the District Address and Community Resource Fair** on **Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 6:30 PM** at St. Francis School for the Deaf, located at 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. The District Address will highlight the great strides the community has made over the last year to make Brooklyn a better place to live and work. He will also present his policy priorities for 2016 and beyond.

For more information, contact Senator Hamilton's office at 718-284-4700.

FREE SHREDDING EVENT

The Crown Heights North Association is sponsoring a free shredding event on **Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at 991 St. John's Place, corner of Brooklyn Avenue, Brooklyn. Come out and shred your papers, documents, sensitive information, books, etc. For more information, please call 718-774-3834.

FREE HOME MAINTENANCE WORKSHOPS

The Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights, Inc. is pleased to present two **free home maintenance workshops** on **Tuesday June 14th and 21st from 6 to 8 PM**. Topics include do it yourself repairs, energy

efficiency tips, home inspections and much more.

The home maintenance workshops will be held at Crown Heights Apartments, Community Room, 1055 St. John's Place, Brooklyn. For more information and to confirm your attendance, please call 718-467-8800 or email LDCCH752@aol.com.

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### ***BROOKLYN VETERANS NEED YOUR HELP!***

Brooklyn Veterans need your help! Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> marks the 149<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that a Memorial Day Parade has been held in Kings County. Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade is trying to reach all Brooklyn Veterans, especially the most recent veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars to encourage them to march in this year's parade, whose theme is "Service, Valor, Sacrifice." A veteran does not have to be a member of a Veteran Service Organization to participate.

If you have any questions on how you can help, are a veteran interested in marching, or would like more information on Brooklyn Memorial Day Parade, you can contact Mr. Raymond Aalbue, Chairman at 347-907-9547.

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

School Safety Agent

The city is offering exams through June 30, 2016 for the post of School Safety Agent. The application fee is \$47. A high school diploma and Driver's License are required for the position. To apply and schedule yourself for an exam, go to www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs. The exam number is 6326 through June 30th.

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#### Environmental Police Officer

The city is offering exams through June 30, 2016 for the post of Environmental Police

Officer. The application fee is \$40. A high school diploma and Driver's License are required for the position. To apply and schedule yourself for an exam, go to [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs). The exam number is 6316.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 05/02/16 through 05/08/16.

Year-to-Date			
	2016	2015	%Chg
Murder	2	1	100
Rape	10	7	42.9
Robbery	78	92	-15.2
Felony Assault	128	111	15.3
Burglary	66	79	-16.5
Grand Larceny	151	151	0
Gr. Larceny Auto	29	31	-6.5

The overall change year-to-date is -1.7%.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through April 2016.

|                                | Month | YTD  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 43    | 146  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 21    | 106  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 64    | 252  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 0     | 9    |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 220   | 996  |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 280   | 1103 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 577   | 2412 |

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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 the month of April was **93.5 for streets and 94.5 for sidewalks.**

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We would like to **wish a speedy recovery** to Ms. Vilma Zuniga.

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We would like wish the happiest of birthdays to Mr. Curtis Harris, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, and Ms. Deborah Young.

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The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 24, 2016** at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, June 9, 2016** at Weeksville Heritage Center located at 158 Buffalo Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue).

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, June 13, 2016** at a location to be determined. Call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to verify the location.

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The next **Crown Heights North Association** meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 6:45 PM** at St. Gregory's Roman Catholic Church located at 224 Brooklyn Avenue, corner of St. John's Place.

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

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

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