

ACROSS THE BOARD

MAY 2018

VOLUME 40, NO. 5

A Word from the District Manager

COMMUNITY NEWS!

ST. JOHN'S RECREATION CENTER

The New York City Parks Department has a major and much needed contract for heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) for St. Johns Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place (between Troy and Schenectady Avenues), Brooklyn. **The center will be closed from May 21, 2018 to October 2018 due to these much needed renovations.**

The Parks Department has elected to close the center for this time to complete the renovations as quickly as possible with as few interruptions in services as necessary. 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.

The scorecard rating for the month of April was **78.8% for streets and 91.7% for sidewalks.** We 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.

~~~~~

**The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 04/23/18 through 04/29/18.**

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2018         | 2017 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 1            | 1    | 0     |
| Rape           | 9            | 7    | 28.6  |
| Robbery        | 38           | 71   | -46.5 |
| Felony Assault | 76           | 93   | -18.3 |
| Burglary       | 54           | 71   | -23.9 |
| Grand Larceny  | 122          | 113  | 8     |
| GL Auto        | 18           | 18   | 0     |

The overall change year-to-date is -15.5%.

~~~~~

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. As the stigma of mental illness continues to plague our city, it is imperative that dialogue on the issue is continued to raise awareness. Too often, mental illness is disregarded as a "fake" sickness, and the appropriate course of action is for someone to "pull themselves up by the bootstraps." This is an incorrect approach to the subject.

Mental illness is more than just depression, and depression is more than a prolonged feeling of sadness. In fact, depression can manifest itself in many forms. For instance, anger, sadness, isolation, a feeling of emptiness or hopelessness, acting outside of your normal character (taking risks of various kinds, ceasing participation in actions that normally bring you joy, etc.) listlessness, forgetfulness, and many more are all manifestations of depression. Bi-polar disorder, anxiety, seasonal affective disorder, borderline personality disorder, schizophrenia, and many more are all aligned under the broader spectrum of mental illness.

First Lady of NYC, Chirlane McCray, has advanced the THRIVE NYC program, whose purpose is to champion mental illness awareness, eliminate the stigma, and provide help to those that need it **when they need it**. For so long, New York City has not done enough to support the emotional wellbeing of its residents. Too many New Yorkers have not gotten the help they needed for any number of reasons. THRIVE NYC's website states that 41% of adult New Yorkers with a serious mental illness said they needed treatment at some point in the past year but did not receive it or delayed getting it for myriad reasons including but not limited to, fear of the stigma, not thinking it could help, an inability to afford services, and not knowing where to receive services. This delay in care impedes progress and also heightens conditions, making their impact on the affected person worse.

If you or someone you know is possibly suffering from mental illness, please seek help as soon as possible. Do not delay. Utilize the resources provided to you. Visit www.nyc.gov/thrivenyc for more information. If you need to talk to someone immediately and/or are experiencing suicidal thoughts, please contact the NYC Suicide Prevention Hotline by texting "WELL" to 65173 or calling 1-888-NYC-WELL. NYC WELL is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Someone is always available to talk and help you through your issues.

THRIVE NYC also is hosting a mental health training in collaboration with Assemblywoman Diana Richardson on **Saturday, May 12, 2018** at Kings County Hospital in the T Building Auditorium, 689 New York Avenue, Brooklyn from 9:00AM - 5:00PM.

During this free 8 hour training session, participants will learn how to identify signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses. If you are interested in participating, **RSVP** at <http://crownheights.timetap.com>.

~~~~~

### ***BROWER PARK LIBRARY UPDATE***

Great news! The partnership to relocate Brooklyn Public Library (BPL) Brower Park Branch into the Brooklyn Children's Museum received \$3.3 million in the FY 18 City Budget.

The Brooklyn Children's Museum successfully raised funding that will pay for the design and build-out of the new library. In October the Department of Cultural Affairs put out a news release announcing the partnership, and detailed the funds that were allocated in the city budget.

The funds came from:

- Mayor de Blasio/Department of Cultural Affairs: \$2,500,000
- Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams: \$500,000
- Councilman Robert Cornegy, Jr: \$300,000

BPL put out a request for proposal (RFP) for an architect to design the space and the Brooklyn firm TsAO & McKown was selected. Despite the agency being in the early stage of gathering information, they have vowed to be fully transparent in the process and include the community in a discussion about what patrons would like to see in the library.

The Library and the Museum, along with the architects, anticipate holding the first

community engagement session in mid to late June (date and location to be determined). As soon as a date and location has been determined, it will be shared with the community. There will be several opportunities and different ways to give your feedback.

BPL will continue to operate in the current leased space at 725 St. Marks Avenue until the new library opens. The anticipated construction on the new space is mid-2019 and lasting approximately 1 year to mid-2020.

For more information, visit <https://www.bklynlibrary.org/locations/brower-park/reconstruct>.

~~~~~

DID YOU KNOW? SIDEWALK OBSTRUCTION EDITION

According to the NYC Dept. of Transportation, sidewalk areas must be kept free from any obstruction that could impede pedestrian traffic. Obstructions may include but are not limited to, refuse, refuse containers, merchandise, bins, racks, coin-operated rides, sandwich or A-frame signs, over-extended sidewalk displays/stands, ATMs, ice machines, and acrylic enclosures, etc.

Stores are permitted to have outside displays of merchandise. The items displayed must consist of goods which are available for sale inside the store and all sales must occur inside the premises. Structures for merchandise displayed outside the store may extend **no more than 3 feet into the sidewalk from the building line and no higher than 5 feet tall**. However, streets that are designated “zero sidewalk display streets” **may not have any displays placed on the sidewalks**. To find out if a particular street is a “zero sidewalk display street,” please call 311. (Excerpt from §16-118(2)(a))

~~~~~

### ***LAUNCH OF THE LONG TERM CARE PLANNING COUNCIL***

In Governor Andrew Cuomo’s 2018 State of the State Address, he announced the launch of a Long Term Care Planning Council to prepare for the emerging needs of New York State’s growing aging population. The charge of the Council is to examine New York’s long term care system. Specifically, the Council will:

- Analyze, evaluate, and identify the existing service gaps in New York’s long term care system;
- Determine the most cost-effective evidence-based interventions; and
- Prepare a strategic plan to meet the emerging needs of New York’s aging population over the next decade.

The NYS Dept. of Health and the NYS Office for the Aging are seeking responses for their survey to assist the Planning Council in this effort. The survey can be found by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HM9DM97>. All survey responses are anonymous and due by **June 18, 2018**.

~~~~~

BROOKLYN CHILDREN’S MUSEUM

The Brooklyn Children’s Museum (BCM) will be closed on Wednesday, May 23 and Monday, May 28, 2018. However, there are a number of exciting upcoming events:

Drag Queen Story Hour

Saturday, May 12, 2018, 11 Am to Noon

Back by popular demand, Drag Queen Story Hour will continue their residency at BCM in the months of May and June. Every second Saturday of the month, DQSH entertains and educates with an interactive art and storytime program that celebrates the uniqueness of all kids and families. Don't miss it!

Mother's Day at BCM

Sunday, May 13, 2018, Noon to 4 PM

Every day is mother's day, but on Mother's Day that's especially true. Join the museum on Sunday, May 13 for a screen printing workshop, planting activity, and storytime!

~~~~~

## ***SCHOOL LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES***

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams is pleased to present the School Lunchtime Concert Series every Wednesday until June 13, 2018. The Concert Series will feature live music and dance performances from middle and high school students. Concerts will start at Noon in Columbus Park at the steps of Brooklyn Borough Hall Plaza, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. For more information, call 718-802-3700.

~~~~~

JOB TRAINING FAIR

The Economic Development Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its **Job Training Fair** on **Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10AM to 1PM and Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 6PM to 9PM**. The fair will be held at the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation located at 727 Classon Avenue (between Park and Prospect Places), Brooklyn.

Get the Training You Need For the Job You Want! Increase your job skills. Increase your income. Change careers to a field you actually want to be in.

Register here to attend:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/job-training-fair-by-community-board-8s-economic-development-committee-tickets-44838450011>.

VOTER TEACH-IN

On **Saturday, May 12, 2018** from 2 to 5 PM at Emmanuel Baptist Church located at 279 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn, there will be a Voter Teach-In hosted by the Impact Ministry of EBC and the Brooklyn NAACP. Make a real impact this election season! Join political strategists, justice organizations, and educators to learn how to do more than simply vote. Understand expert ways to know your local candidates and represent your community before hitting the polls for the Congressional Primary on June 26th. RSVP at impact@ebc-nyc.org.

~~~~~

## ***CRIMINAL RECORDS WORKSHOP***

The Criminal Justice Unit and Legal Hand are offering a Criminal Records Workshop on **Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 6 PM** at Legal Hand located at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. Learn about sealing convictions, cleaning up your RAP sheet, and getting certificates of relief and good conduct.

For more information or to RSVP, email [margolinh@legalhand.org](mailto:margolinh@legalhand.org) or call 718-619-4248.

~~~~~

YOUTH FAIR

The Youth and Education Committee of Community Board 8 is pleased to present its first **Youth Fair: the Me in We**, on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM at P.S. 316, 750 Classon Avenue (between Sterling and Park Places), Brooklyn.

Discussion topics include: 10 Things EVERY Youth Should Know; Financial Literacy; Avoiding Credit Card Abuse; Job/Career Readiness; Civic Education (Voter Registration); Culinary Arts; Adult Education; How to AVOID the Criminal Justice System;

Dressing for Success; and Know Your Educational Rights (Adelaide Sanford Institute). For more information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah at bcb8healthfair@gmail.com.

~~~~~

### ***FINANCIAL COACHING WORKSHOP CELEBRATING COMMUNITY MOMS***

IMPACCT Brooklyn, in partnership with the NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), is hosting a special Free Financial Coaching Workshop Celebrating Community Moms on **Saturday, May 19, 2018** from 10 AM to 5 PM at 1000 Dean Street, Suite 420 (between Classon and Franklin Avenues), Brooklyn.

IMPACCT Brooklyn's free financial coaching gives you powerful tools to change your habits. Their program is designed to produce action regardless of where you are in your economic life. Space is limited and registration is necessary. To register, email your contact information to [Duane\\_harrison@impacctbk.org](mailto:Duane_harrison@impacctbk.org) or call 718-522-2613, ext 319. For further information on IMPACCT Brooklyn, visit their website at [www.impactbrooklyn.org](http://www.impactbrooklyn.org).

~~~~~

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS EMPLOYEES AND JOB APPLICANTS

Did you know that there are certain things prospective employers are unable to ask you? Certain protocols they must follow for handling your tips, overtime, minimum pay you must earn (minimum wage)? Learn your rights as an employee or job applicant during a forum on employee rights with Legal Hand on **Wednesday, May 23, 2018** at 6 PM at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information or to RSVP, please call 718-619-4248.

~~~~~

### ***SENIOR SAFETY WORKSHOP***

The Local Development Corporation of Crown Heights in collaboration with the NYPD, is pleased to present a Senior Safety Workshop on **Thursday, May 24, 2018** at 6 PM at Crown Heights Apartments located at 1055 St. John's Place (corner of Kingston Avenue), Brooklyn.

Come out and enjoy helpful safety tips and information, lectures, interactive group discussions, and refreshments. For further information or to RSVP, please contact Ms. Yinery Martinez at 718-467-8800 or via email at [LDCCH@LDCCH.org](mailto:LDCCH@LDCCH.org).

~~~~~

BY THE NUMBERS: CHANGES IN NEW YORK CITY'S HOUSING STOCK

Please join NYU Furman Center for By the Numbers: Changes in New York City's Housing Stock. The forum will feature the release of the NYU Furman Center's State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods in 2017 report, copies of which will be distributed. The event will be held on **Thursday, May 24th, 2018** from 4:00 - 7:30 PM at NYU School of Law, Vanderbilt Hall, 40 Washington Square South, Manhattan.

This year's State of New York City's Housing and Neighborhoods Focus examines changes in the housing stock in New York City: where are we building, what are we building, and are we building enough? A panel will explore the implications of those changes for neighborhoods, the city as a whole, the political process, and housing affordability.

Immediately following the program, guests are invited to a wine and cheese reception. The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. The event will also be live streamed, with the link distributed the morning of the event. To register, please go to https://nyu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5vjtA3yO9LPw9AV.

CIVIC MINDED

Assemblywoman Diana Richardson invites you to get Civic Minded! Please join her every 4th Saturday of the month (next meeting: May 26, 2018) from 2 to 4 PM to discuss issues in the community and create solutions to many of our community's problems. All meetings are held at MS 61, 400 Empire Blvd, Brooklyn. For more information, contact the Assemblywoman's office at 718-771-3105.

~~~~~

### ***TOWN HALL MEETING***

State Committeewoman and 57<sup>th</sup> Assembly District Leader, Olanike Alabi, is pleased to present a Town Hall Meeting on **Thursday, May 31, 2018** at 6 PM at the Teen Challenge Center located at 444 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn. There will be presentation by Commissioner of the NYC Dept. of Small Business Services, Mr. Gregg Bishop, New York City Housing Authority, and an opportunity to meet the 2018 candidates for Surrogates Court.

For more information, contact District Leader Alabi at [olanike.alabi@gmail.com](mailto:olanike.alabi@gmail.com).

~~~~~

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION SERIES

You are cordially invited to participate in a District 35 Community Conversation as part of an ongoing series, to discuss quality of life issues of Prospect Heights & Crown Heights North on **Wednesday, June 6, 2018** from 6pm-8pm at PS 9 located at 80 Underhill Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn. This event is sponsored by the Office of Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo, Council Majority Leader.

The objective of these conversations is to hear the concerns of community members and collaborate to develop solutions, as well as identify possible legislation that can resolve

them. Please call the Councilwoman's office at 718-260-9191 to register for the event or for further information.

~~~~~

### ***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).

~~~~~

GREENEST BLOCK IN BROOKLYN

For nearly 25 years, Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) has hosted the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest, which has promoted neighborliness and sustainability. By encouraging gardening, street tree care, and civic participation, the contest motivates neighbors to work together to make their blocks more connected, walkable, resilient, and healthy. Prize categories include Best Residential and Commercial Block, Greenest Storefront, Best Street Tree Beds, Best Window Box, and more!

BBG offers free How to Green Your Block workshops along with a small number of Walk-and-Talk block Visits. Visit www.bbg.org/greenestblock to enter and for more information. The deadline to enter the contest is June 1, 2018.

~~~~~

## **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/.

~~~~

## **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **CitiBike**

CitiBike has a number of positions available. They are seeking candidates for the following positions: Deputy Director of Operations; Deputy Director for Bike Fleet Operations; Motorized Redistribution Operations Manager; Planning and Outreach Assistant; Human

Resources Associate; Bike Fleet Assistant Manager; Special Operations Technician; Bike Mechanic; Facilities and Safety Technician; Call Center Agent; Dispatcher (part-time); Station Valet Lead; Pedicab Rebalancer; Assistant Bike Train Operations Coordinator; and a Marketing Intern.

All interested candidates must apply online via the Citi Bike website at [www.citibikenyc.com/jobs](http://www.citibikenyc.com/jobs). Further information on each position is available on the website as well.

~~~~

Metro-North

MTA Metro-North Railroad is hiring Trackworkers to install, repair, maintain, and inspect all portions of track, including rail, ties, switches, and insulated joints. There are physical requirements for this position and a background check will be performed.

Application deadline: May 20, 2018

Salary (starting): \$20.66/hour

Job ID Number: 93053

To apply, go to <http://mta.info/mta/employment/> and click on "Metro-North Railroad". Use the job ID number to search for the position.

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.

~~~~



The next 77<sup>th</sup> **Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on **Monday, May 14, 2018** Greater Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, located at 887 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

~~~~~

The next 78th **Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 22, 2018** at 7:30 PM at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY. **Please note that this is one week earlier than the regularly scheduled date because of Memorial Day.**

~~~~~

The next Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 14, 2018** at 7 PM at Concern for Independent Living located at 151 Rochester Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place), Brooklyn, NY.

~~~~~

We wish the happiest of birthdays to **Ms. Dian Duke, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, and Ms. Deborah Young**, who will all celebrate their birthdays in the month of May.

~~~~~

*ACROSS THE BOARD* is a monthly publication:

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

**Community Board No. 8**  
**1291 St. Marks Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11213**

**718-467-5574**  
**718-467-5620**  
**718-467-5586**  
**Fax: 718-778-2979**

Website: [www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)  
Email: [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)  
Like us on  **facebook/Community Board 8**  
Sign up for **NextDoor** at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com).