

ACROSS THE BOARD

MAY 2019

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District Manager's Report

Good News!

St. John's Recreation Center has re-opened as of April 29, 2019.

After an extended delay, the NYC Department of Transportation is currently working on implementing the Eastern Parkway Signalization Project. Visit www.brooklyn8.org to view the project plans.

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### ***A NOTE FROM BROOKLYN NORTH 8 SANITATION GARAGE***

Property owners with bioswales, or "Raingardens" in front of their homes are asked not to place their garbage inside of the bioswale on collection days. Please put the garbage **next** to the bioswale.

Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to participate in the "Adopt-A-Basket" program. If you would like a basket on your corner, or if there is a heavily used basket on your corner and you are tired of seeing it over-flowing despite the 6-day a week pickup, you are encouraged to adopt the basket. Sanitation will provide you with all necessary tools: bags, gloves, brooms, dustpan, and even a certificate of appreciation. All you have to do is simply place a can liner in the basket and replace it when full or near full, leaving the tied bag on the corner next to the basket. This will

help in keeping the community cleaner. If interested, please contact BK8 garage at 718-756-7027.

Finally, Sanitation is encouraging community block clean-ups. The process of organizing a block clean-up is much simpler than years past, and you no longer have to file a street activity permit. You and your neighbors merely need to contact DSNY customer service representative Juan Saldana at 212-437-4205. The block clean-up program has been "Volunteer Tool," and DSNY will lend you brooms, shovels, gloves, and refuse bags.

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A SPECIAL PLEA FOR WEEKSVILLE HERITAGE CENTER

Weeksville Heritage Center located in Crown heights on Buffalo Avenue between St. Marks Avenue and Bergen Street, and whose space sits directly behind the Community Board office, is in danger of closing its doors due to insufficient funds to keep the facility up and running. For those that are unaware of the cultural significance of Weeksville Heritage Center, their mission is to document and preserve the history of one of the largest free black communities in pre-Civil War America. Through their arts & culture and educational programming, and historic preservation of three original houses from the mid-19th and early 20th century, Weeksville shares the inspiring story of this site of black freedom, black empowerment and black self-determination.

Unfortunately, rising operating costs and the challenging funding landscape for arts institutions, compounded by an even greater dearth of funds for art institutions dedicated to the black diaspora, have put them in a position where they might be forced to close at the end of June. To meet the necessary funding goal to remain open short term, they have recently launched a crowdfunding campaign to help them continue to operate, fulfill their obligations and start a critical strategic planning process, so that the institution doesn't find itself in this position again.

If you are interested in helping to preserve Weeksville, consider donating to their cause. You can do so by visiting <https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/save-weeksville2019>.



Municipal Services Update

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 04/22/19 through 04/28/19.

	Year-to-Date		
	2019	2018	%Chg
Murder	5	1	400
Rape	5	10	-50
Robbery	49	38	28.9
Felony Assault	70	75	-6.7
Burglary	39	55	-29.1
Grand Larceny	109	122	-10.7
GL Auto	14	16	-12.5

The overall change year-to-date is **-8.2%**.



The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the "scorecard" rating, was **96.7 for clean streets and 96.0% for sidewalks** for the month of April.

Please note that there is still an equipment shortage at the garage, which means that due to capacity issues stemming from the shortage, some blocks may be randomly scheduled for an afternoon or evening pick-up. **If your garbage is not removed by 1 PM, please call the Community Board 8 office at 718-467-5574 so we can arrange pickup when a truck becomes available.**

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.



The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through April 2019.

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	26	107
Non-Structural	5	58
Total Fires	31	165
Suspicious Fires	0	4
Non-Medical Emergencies	203	955
Medical Emergencies	323	1300
Total Incidents	526	2255



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Unfortunately, mental health is not considered with the same urgency as physical health. Mental illness is the invisible disability. Do not take a person's smile or seeming enjoyment of life because they appear happy as truth; people experiencing mental strain can often appear in great spirits, but could be suffering internally.

If you notice your friends or family members acting in a manner outside of their normal self (for instance, sleeping too much or too little, obsessing over things they never had an interest in before, not showing interest in things they used to love, sullen or melancholic attitude, disinterest, hyper-active personality, and so many more), **please do not be afraid to talk to them and ask questions.**

For more information on training programs, signs of mental strain, and suggestions for assisting yourself or your loved ones and friends, please visit <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>.

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### **FREE SLEEPAWAY CAMP FOR CHILDREN**

Are you a parent that would like to give your child the experience of sleepaway camp, but find that the cost is too steep? Great news! Fresh Air Fund applications are currently being accepted! Fresh Air Fund participants are given an opportunity to spend a few weeks at sleepaway camp for free!

Find out more by contacting Legal Hand at 718-619-4248, emailing [marolinh@legalhand.org](mailto:marolinh@legalhand.org), or visiting their office located at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn. Don't miss out on an opportunity of a lifetime for your child. Apply today.

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Applications are currently being accepted for newly created units at 409 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn. Affordable units are as follows:

- 5 studio apartments available for \$1,168 for an individual earning between \$42,000 and \$58,480 or two persons

whose max household income is \$66,800.

- 23 one-bedroom apartments available for \$1,254 for an individual earning \$45,018-\$58,480; two persons with a max household income of \$66,800; or three people with a max household income of \$75,120.
- 7 two-bedroom apartments available for 2 people earning between \$53,863-66,800; 3 people with a max household income of \$75,120; 4 people with a max household income of \$83,440; 5 people with a max household income of \$90,160.

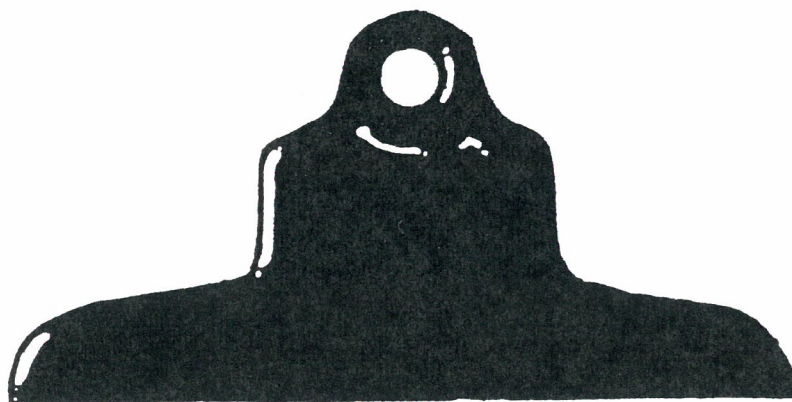
Apply online at www.nyc.gov/housingconnect or by mail at: ATTN: Lottery Unit; Fifth Avenue Committee; 621 Degraw Street; Brooklyn, NY 11217.

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### **CROWN HEIGHTS FARM SHARE**

The Crown Heights Farm Share (CHFS) is seeking to increase their membership, which in turn will increase access to high quality, locally-grown affordable produce. They have a special goal to increase membership for individuals and households that receive SNAP benefits, as they are proudly one of the few farm shares in Brooklyn that accept EBT cards.

CHFS has tiered pricing for both their partial and full share programs. Partial Shares start at \$22 per week and each participant will receive 5-8 items weekly (SNAP pricing is reduced to \$19/week). Full Shares start at \$31 per week (SNAP reduced to \$27/week) and participants receive 8-12 items weekly. For more information or to sign up for the farm share, visit [www.chfarmshare.org](http://www.chfarmshare.org) or email [registration@chfarmshare.org](mailto:registration@chfarmshare.org). Pickups are every Tuesday from 5-8 PM at 691 Prospect Place from June to November.



### **PROM DRESS GIVE-AWAY**

Councilwoman Alicka Ampry-Samuel is pleased to present her Annual Prom Dress Give-Away on **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-6 PM** at her district office located at 400 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn. For more information, please call 718-953-3097. Dresses are available for all middle and high school students.



### **URBAN AGRICULTURAL GATHERING**

The **Health and Human Services Committee** of Community Board 8 is pleased to announce its **2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Agricultural Gathering** on **Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM** at Walt L. Shamel Community Garden (Dean Street near the intersection of Bedford and Rogers Avenues). Presentations on composting, greenhouses/hoop houses, sources of seeds, rooftop gardening, beekeeping, hydroponics, and canning your own food will be made.

For more information, please email Mr. Kwasi Mensah, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee at [mensahbcb8@gmail.com](mailto:mensahbcb8@gmail.com).



We wish a speedy recovery to **Mr. Yves Vilus, Ms. Julia Boyd, and Ms. Sheryl Vassell.**



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

The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, May 28, 2019** at 7:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.



The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, June 10, 2019** at a location to be determined. Please call **Community Affairs** at 718-735-0634 to obtain the location.



The next Community Board 8 general meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 13, 2019** at **Weeksville Heritage Center** located at **158 Buffalo Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn** at 7 PM.



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

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