

# ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2014

VOLUME 36, NO 7

## ***DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT***

In July, Mayor Bill deBlasio signed a directive requiring all Community Boards and 18 other city agencies to provide and distribute voter registration forms to constituents. As a result, Brooklyn Community Board 8 will henceforth provide voter registration forms at each general meeting.

We will also participate with National Voter Registration Day events, hosting a registration drive at our District office on Tuesday, September 23, 2014 with extended office hours of 8 AM to 6 PM. Please stop by and register if any of the following applies to you:

- You have never voted before.
- You have recently moved.
- You were previously convicted of a felony.  
(Voting rights are automatically restored upon completion of parole, and people on probation can vote. Ex-offenders should be re-registered to vote)

Community Board 8 is located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue (between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues).

## ***PLEASE DON'T MISUSE LITTER BASKETS***

Sanitation litter baskets are for **pedestrian litter only**. Placing garbage from your home

or business into a Sanitation litter basket is illegal and carries a fine of \$100. It causes litter baskets to overflow and corners to become dirty, creating an eyesore in the community.

Respect your neighborhood. Please use litter baskets properly. For more information, visit [www.nyc.gov/sanitation](http://www.nyc.gov/sanitation).

## ***EMERGENCIES HAPPEN. GET PREPARED!***

September is preparedness month. Don't wait until the threat of a natural disaster like Hurricane Irene or Superstorm Sandy to prepare.

September, National Preparedness Month, is a nationwide effort co-sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to encourage individuals to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools.

Despite the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attacks, New Yorkers must be more vigilant than ever about preparing for all types of emergencies. Being prepared for any emergency—whether a house fire, power outage, hurricane or terrorist attack—is as easy as planning ahead. Take the time to work out a disaster plan, gather supplies to keep in your home and put together a Go Bag. A few simple steps can go a long way when disaster strikes.

For more information about Ready New York a guide and National Preparedness Month in New York, call 311 or visit OEM's website at [www.NYC.gov/oem](http://www.NYC.gov/oem).

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### ***CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY?***

Want to assist the Board in vital service delivery? Want to participate in the Board's functions and help determine what comes into the community? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you are urged to join one of the many committees of Community Board No. 8. Most of the work completed by the Board is handled first in committee, and membership on a committee is your surefire way of staying active and having a voice in your community.

For a complete list of committees including responsibilities, meeting dates, and locations, visit our website at [www.brooklyn8.org](http://www.brooklyn8.org).

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### ***CITY BENCHES AND BIKE RACKS***

The following sites have been identified for a City Bench:

443 St. Marks Avenue  
760 Prospect Place  
1476 Bedford Avenue  
726, 775, 802, and 805 Franklin Avenue  
647 and 649 Sterling Place  
572 Lincoln Place  
1600 Park Place  
130 Rochester Avenue  
630 Washington Avenue

Installation of the above benches should be completed within the first week in October.

The following sites have been approved for bike racks:

617, 1116 and 1160 St. John's Place  
263 Flatbush Avenue  
466 and 469 Lincoln Place  
565 and 603 Vanderbilt Avenue  
667 and 843 Classon Avenue  
736 and 738 Franklin Avenue

If you have a suggestion for a City Bench or bike rack location, please contact Community Board No. 8.

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### ***SENIOR CITIZEN RENT INCREASE EXEMPTION (SCRIE)***

In July, the NYC Council increased the maximum income from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for seniors to be eligible for the SCRIE program. It is a milestone vote and helps to alleviate the financial burden of many seniors throughout the city, but especially Community Board 8. Additional information is available by calling 311 or at the Dept. of Finance's website at [www.nyc.gov/finance](http://www.nyc.gov/finance).

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### ***77<sup>TH</sup> PRECINCT AUXILIARY UNIT***

The Auxiliary Police of the NYPD exists to be the "eyes and ears" of the police department by performing uniformed foot, vehicle, and bicycle patrols. Auxiliary officers are trained to observe and report conditions requiring the services of the regular police. Whenever possible, auxiliary officers assist in non-enforcement and non-hazardous duties.

The 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Auxiliary Unit is always looking for qualified volunteers to help the NYPD. For information on joining the Auxiliary Police, call Police Officer Ruth Sadl or Auxiliary Lt. Campo at 718-735-0675.

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## ***CLOTHING DRIVE***

The Crow Hill Community Association will be conducting a clothing drive for Georgia's Place, located at the corner of Prospect Place and Bedford Avenue. Georgia's Place is an innovative supportive housing residence for 48 formerly homeless and low income adults.

The clothing drive will run throughout the month of September. Donation drop-offs can be dropped off on Saturdays from Noon to 3 PM in front of the 730 Franklin Avenue between Sterling and Park Places. Alternatively, donation drop offs can be made on Tuesdays from 5 to 7 PM at Georgia's Place. Slightly used men's and women's clothing is needed.

For more information, contact Mr. Frank at 718-230-1447.



## ***TIPS FOR SHARING THE ROAD WITH SCHOOL BUSES***

1. Remember buses make frequent stops. Be prepared to stop for them.
2. NEVER pass a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing on the right or left.
3. Watch for children who cross in front of the bus when the bus is stopped.
4. Look for children at bus stops and those running to bus stops.
5. By law school buses are required to stop at railroad crossings.



## ***OPERATION SAFE CYCLE***

Bicycling in New York City can be a wonderful experience, but safety should always be a cyclist's priority. The Police Department wants to help ensure the well-

being of cyclist and the security of their bicycles. The following information is designed to promote safety by informing cyclist of the rules of the road as they pertain to bicycles, as well as security issues related to owning and storing a bicycle in New York City.

As per the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law, bicyclists are granted all of the RIGHTS and are subject to the DUTIES of a motor-vehicle operator. Furthermore, the New York City Traffic Rules are also applicable to bicycles. If a bicyclist violates the law and the bicyclist does not have photo identification, the bicyclist is subject to arrest. Before you set out to travel the City's hundreds of bike lanes and trails, you should be familiar with these regulations.

**BICYCLE COLLISIONS:** A cyclist involved in a collision that results in injury or property damage must stop and supply information to the other party. If the collision involves injury, the cyclist must notify a Police Officer.

**COMMERCIAL BICYCLES:** When utilizing a bicycle for business, the company must be identified on the bike by name & identification number. The operator must wear upper-body apparel with the business' name and operator's number on the back. Operator shall wear a helmet provided by the business. The operator must carry and produce on demand a numbered ID card with the operator's photo, name, home address, and phone number. Motor assisted bicycles are not permitted.

**BICYCLE SECURITY:** When a bicycle is left unattended in the public, the bicycle should be securely chained to a bike rack. Do not chain a bicycle to a parking meter. Chaining a bicycle to a City tree is illegal. Bicycles that are trip hazards, block pedestrian traffic, or become derelict may be removed by the city.

**HAZARDOUS VIOLATIONS:** Disobeying traffic signals or signs, Riding in the wrong direction against traffic, Riding on the sidewalk, Missing white headlight and red tail light if riding 30 minutes after sunset, Riding without at least one hand on the handlebars, Clinging to a vehicle, Carrying more passengers than bicycle is designed for, Cyclists may not wear more than one earphone attached to an audio device while riding.

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT:** Between DUSK and DAWN, bicycles must have a WHITE headlight and RED tail light. At all times, bicycles must have reflectors, working brakes, and a bell.

**CHILDREN CYCLIST:** Children under age 14 must wear a helmet. Children under 14 may ride on the sidewalk. Wear reflective clothing, Stay Alert.

**BICYCLES IN NYC PARKS:** Except in places designated for bike riding, bicycles are not permitted in parks. Cyclists may push bikes in single file to and from such places, unless otherwise posted. Generally, bicycles are excluded from NYC beaches and boardwalks, except during posted early-morning hours (usually between 5am and 10am).

**MOTORISTS:** Vehicles may not obstruct marked bicycle lanes. Crossing bike lanes is permitted in limited circumstances. Motorists should look for on-coming bicyclists before opening the car door. Turning vehicles, especially turning trucks, should stay alert for bikes due to blind spots.

**BIKE LANES:** Bicyclists must use bike lanes when provided, unless they are blocked or otherwise unsafe. When riding on Greenways, stay in the designated path, do not ride on pedestrian paths.

## ***EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FORUM***

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams invites you to an Emergency Preparedness Forum on **Tuesday, September 16, 2014** at 6 PM. Registration begins at 5:30 PM. Special Guests include Joseph Esposito of the Office of Emergency Management.

For more information, call 718-802-3717 or email [programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov](mailto:programs@brooklynbp.nyc.gov).

## ***FAMILY ADAPTIVE TOOL-KIT: MY LOVED ONE HAS A MENTAL ILLNESS?***

Mental illness affects more than just sufferers of it; it affects their families and communities. Learn about how to cope as a family member and what you can do to help your loved ones by attending Behavioral Health Services at Kings County Hospital Center forum discussing diagnosis, recognizing early symptoms, treatment options, communication tools, and financial support for those coping with mental illness.

The Family Adaptive Tool-kit is one of the best ways to learn about coping with mental illness. Please attend the workshop on **Tuesday, September 16, 2014 from 7 to 9 PM** at Kings County Hospital Center R Building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, PHP Room 3022.

## ***HOOPS FOR A CAUSE***

Catalyst Network Foundation is pleased to present **“Catalyst Classic: 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament.”** Hoops for a Cause will be held on **Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 11 AM to 5 PM** at Achievement First Brooklyn High School located at 1485 Pacific Street (near Kingston Avenue).

The event will host 16 teams competing for a \$300 cash prize. 6 partner schools are participating in the event which will have a 3 point shooting competition and dunk contest as well as 2 DJs. Admission to Hoops for a Cause is \$5/person.

To register a team or become an event sponsor, call 646-397-8006 or email [catalystclassic@catalyst-network.org](mailto:catalystclassic@catalyst-network.org).

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***PS 9 BOUNCE BACK TO SCHOOL CARNIVAL***

On Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 11 AM to 5 PM, a mini carnival will be held at PS 9 Playground located at 80 Underhill Avenue. This year's carnival will feature 5 bouncy houses, including one for toddlers, face painting, carnival games, raffles, and an outdoor dance party. There will be food, drinks, and snacks for all to enjoy. Should it rain, the rain date will be September 21<sup>st</sup>.

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***BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL***

On Sunday, September 21, 2014, Borough President Eric Adams will co-sponsor the 9<sup>th</sup> annual **Brooklyn Book Festival**, taking place at Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street. For more information, please visit [www.brooklynbookfestival.org](http://www.brooklynbookfestival.org).

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***HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH***

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer cordially invites you to celebrate **Hispanic Heritage Month** on **Tuesday, September 23, 2014 from 6-8 PM** at Surrogate's Courthouse located at 31 Chambers Street, New York, NY.

To RSVP, email [rsvp@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:rsvp@comptroller.nyc.gov) or call 212-669-4466. To arrange special accommodations, please call 212-669-4315.

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***ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE***

Access to Independence is an **accessible Transportation Expo designed to educate the public about accessible transportation options in New York City**. The expo will be held on **Tuesday, September 30, 2014** from 10 AM to 2 PM at Columbus Park, Downtown Brooklyn, adjacent to Borough Hall.

To participate, please register online at [www.nyc.gov/mopd](http://www.nyc.gov/mopd) or call 311.

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***MUNICIPAL ID CARD PUBLIC HEARING***

As you know, the City is implementing a New York City identification card program to ensure that every New Yorker is provided with the opportunity and peace of mind that comes with possessing a government issued photo identification. The NYC Human Resources Administration (HRA) is proud to have been designated by Mayor de Blasio as the administering agency of the program and anticipates issuing Municipal ID Cards to New Yorkers beginning in early 2015.

**There will be a public hearing concerning HRA's proposed rule regarding the Municipal ID Card Program on October 8, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** in the Mezzanine of the Municipal Building, located at One Centre Street in Manhattan.

## **CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH HOUSE TOUR**

Join the Crown Heights North Association in celebrating the remarkable architectural jewels of Crown Heights North on **Saturday, October 4, 2014** from 11 AM to 4 PM. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.crownheightsnorth.org](http://www.crownheightsnorth.org) or contact CHNA via email at [chnhousetour@gmail.com](mailto:chnhousetour@gmail.com).

### **RENT STABILIZATION: ARE YOU COVERED?**

Is your apartment rent stabilized? It likely is as almost **half of the nearly 2 million apartments in NYC fall under the state's rent stabilization law**. Regardless of whether you have lived in your place for years or if you are newcomer to Crown heights, knowing if your apartment is rent stabilized is extremely important.

The terms "rent control" and "rent stabilized" are often used interchangeably, but they actually mean two different things. Rent control only applies to less than 2% of NYC apartments and only exists when a person has been living continuously in an apartment since 1971. With few exceptions, rent stabilization applies to apartments in buildings built before 1974 that have more than 6 units.

If you live in a rent stabilized apartment, your rent can only increase by a certain amount every time you renew your lease. In addition, **rent stabilization disallows a landlord from failing to renew a tenant's lease** to make way for a higher paying renter. There are a few exceptions to the automatic lease renewal, including when the apartment is not used as the tenant's primary residence, or if the owner wants to use the apartment for his or her personal use.

To find out if your apartment is rent stabilized, visit the **Brooklyn Boro Rent office at 55 Hanson Place, Room 702** or call the Dept. of Homes and Community Renewal (DHCR) Rent Info Line at 718-739-6400. Make sure to ask for your rent history to find out what the legal rent for your unit is. If you are being illegally overcharged, you might be able to be reimbursed for rent you overpaid.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Open Competitive Exams**

**Police Officer**, Exam No. 5306, file through September 30<sup>th</sup>

**School Safety Agent**, Exam No. 5307, file through October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Traffic Enforcement Agent**, Exam No. 5308, file through October 31<sup>st</sup>

**Associate Contract Specialist**, Exam No. 5000, file through September 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Dental Assistant (HHC)**, Exam No. 5005, file through September 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Emergency Medical Specialist—Paramedic(Fire)**, Exam No. 5004, file through September 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Emergency Medical Specialist—EMT (Fire)**, Exam No. 5003, file through September 23<sup>rd</sup>

For further information on any of the exams above or to file, go to [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs) and search for the specific exam number. Some exams have daily walk-in testing available.

#### **Sanitation**

The Dept. of Sanitation will begin the filing process for an upcoming Sanitation exam. Filing will be open from October 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 31<sup>st</sup>. To obtain more information or to apply, visit [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs).

### ***LIRR Signal Helper***

The MTA has re-opened its search for Signal Helpers at the Long Island Rail Road. From now through November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the filing period for Signal Helpers is open. To file for the exam, visit [www.new.mta.info](http://www.new.mta.info) and click the "Employment" button at the bottom left corner of the page. You must attach a resume during the application process, so please read through the job requirements and qualifications carefully.

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### ***NYS Court Officer Trainee***

On Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, the NYS Court Officer Trainee will be given. The filing fee for the exam is \$30, which can be waived if you are receiving public benefits. For more information on the job description and minimum qualifications, please visit [www.courts.state.ny.us/careers/cot/](http://www.courts.state.ny.us/careers/cot/).

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### ***SOS Crown Heights and SOS Bed Stuy***

Save Our Streets (SOS) Crown Heights and the newly created SOS Bed Stuy are hiring street wise young individuals with intimate knowledge of gang life to serve as Violence Interrupters. Violence Interrupters roam the streets, defusing situations that may erupt in gun violence.

For a greater understanding of the qualifications for the position and requirements, please visit [http://www.courtinnovation.org/CHMC/ID\\_EAL\\_CANDIDATES\\_CH.pdf](http://www.courtinnovation.org/CHMC/ID_EAL_CANDIDATES_CH.pdf).

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### ***Part-time Tutors***

ReServe is offering paid, part-time positions to serve as afternoon Tutors through the MS

ExTRA program with the New York City Dept. of Education and The After-School Corporation. Tutors will provide daily guided reading instruction to middle school students in a small group setting.

To learn more, email your name and telephone number to [tutoring@reserveinc.org](mailto:tutoring@reserveinc.org) to register for an upcoming information session. If you have any questions, call 212-727-4335 or visit [www.reserveinc.org/reserve-tutoring](http://www.reserveinc.org/reserve-tutoring).

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The 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 23, 2014 at 7:30 PM** at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct's stationhouse located at **65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue** (corner of Bergen Street).

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The next meeting of the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council will be held on **Monday, October 13, 2014** at a location to be determined. Please contact Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 for more information.

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The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be **Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7 PM** at the **Brooklyn Children's Museum** located at **145 Brooklyn Avenue** (corner of St. Marks Avenue).

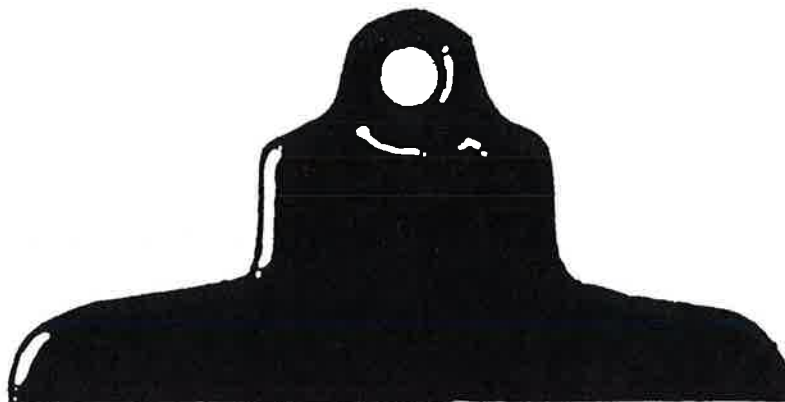
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We would like to wish the following members a happy birthday: Ms. Mary Aikens-Reed, Mr. Desmond Atkins, Ms. Helen Coley, and Mr. Robert Matthews.

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We congratulate Ms. Priscilla Maddox, who was recently honored by the Health and Hospitals Corporation.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Shalawn Langhorne who recently lost her mother, and 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council President James Caldwell, who recently lost his wife, Shirley.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 09/01/14 through 9/07/14.

	Year-to-Date		
	2014	2013	%Chg
Murder	6	10	-40
Rape	15	17	-11.8
Robbery	197	267	-26.2
Felony Assault	283	278	1.8
Burglary	192	189	1.6
Grand Larceny	326	365	-10.7
Gr. Larceny Auto	94	66	42.4

The overall change year to date is **-6.6%**.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date **F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics** through **August 2014**.

|                         | Month | YTD  |
|-------------------------|-------|------|
| Structural Fires        | 36    | 258  |
| Non-Structural          | 14    | 170  |
| Total Fires             | 50    | 428  |
| Suspicious Fires        | 2     | 23   |
| Non-Medical Emergencies | 209   | 1953 |
| Medical Emergencies     | 267   | 2030 |
| Total Incidents         | 539   | 4540 |

The **Scorecard rating** for the month of August for **clean streets** in District 8 was **79.4** and for **clean sidewalks** **80.9**.

The **Department of Sanitation** is enforcing **daily routing times** between **8:00 AM to 9:00 AM** and **Noon to 1:00 PM**. Remember to Sweep!!

We continue to encourage you to **maintain the cleanliness of the sidewalk area** adjoining your property and sweep **18 inches from the curb into the street**. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly.

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

**Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Mgr/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Comm. Assoc.**  
**Melanie Grant, Comm. Asst.**

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