

ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2018

VOLUME 40, NO. 7

A Message from the District Manager

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.brooklyncb8.org.

SCHOOL'S OPEN

New York City schools have re-opened and it is important for residents to know the hours of their local libraries. The Central Library at Grand Army Plaza will be open from 9:00 AM until 9:00 PM on Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to 6 PM on Friday and Saturday. Sunday hours are 1-5 PM. The Central Library is located at 10 Grand Army Plaza. For more information, call 718-230-2100.

The Brower Park Branch located at 725 St. Marks Avenue opens every day at 10 AM and is open late two nights per week on Wednesday and Thursday until 8:00 PM, and closing at 6 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday. The

library also has hours on Saturday, open from 10 AM to 5 PM. It is closed on Sunday. For more information, call 718-773-7208.

EMERGENCIES HAPPEN. ARE YOU PREPARED!

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

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.

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.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

On September 25, 2018, cities across America will celebrate our democracy on National Voter Registration Day (NVRD). NYC Votes will lead and coordinate New York City's efforts by hosting nonpartisan voter registration drives, events, and programs that will help increase awareness and the number of registered voters in our city. NVRD is a nonpartisan national voter registration effort that includes a broad coalition of national, state, and city sponsors & affiliates.

We at Brooklyn Community Board 8 will participate in the voting registration drive by opening our doors to all members of the community that would like to register to vote. Paper forms will be made available as well as access to a computer if you would like to register online. Come in from 10 AM to 4 PM to 1291 St. Marks Avenue (between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues). If you or someone you will know will turn 18 by November 5th (the cutoff for voting eligibility for the November 6th election), and are currently not registered to vote, please feel free to drop by our office. Additionally, if you or someone you know will turn 18 in time for next year's elections, you can pre-register to vote. Register to vote.

If you would like to register before NVRD, please visit www.voting.nyc to download a digital voter registration form (available in 10 languages) and register.

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## ***GREAT NEWS!***

Kings County District Attorney Eric Gonzalez recently announced a new program to erase misdemeanor marijuana convictions! As the vast majority of marijuana cases are no longer being prosecuted in Brooklyn, DA Gonzalez will consent to defense counsel motions to vacate past convictions of small amounts of marijuana. The first opportunity to file motions will be during the next **Begin Again Event** on

**September 21<sup>st</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018 between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.** at Lenox Road Baptist Church located at 1356 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn. Additional sessions will be held periodically on future dates.

At the Begin Again event, those with a low-level conviction for marijuana possession will have the opportunity to erase that criminal record completely in the first initiative of its kind in New York State. Under this program, anyone convicted of low-level marijuana possession (PL 221.15, PL 221.10 or PL 221.05) will be eligible to file a motion asking to vacate that conviction and dismiss the underlying charge.

The program, which is one of the recommendations DA Gonzalez adopted as part of his Justice 2020 Initiative, will run in partnership with The Legal Aid Society, Brooklyn Defender Services, Brooklyn Law School and the Center on the Administration of Criminal Law at NYU School of Law. Those eligible will not have to appear in court when a judge decides to vacate their past convictions on a later date. This program follows DA Gonzalez's decision to stop prosecuting all but the most egregious cases involving possession and smoking of small amounts of marijuana.

For more information, contact the District attorney's office at 718-250-2000.

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ST. JOHN'S RECREATION CENTER

We regretfully inform you that the renovation project at St. John's Recreation Center is behind schedule. The center will be closed through December 2018 instead of re-opening in October as initially reported. The center is closed to complete renovations that 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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**The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through August 2018.**

|                                | Month | YTD  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 32    | 236  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 13    | 133  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 45    | 369  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 2     | 20   |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 261   | 2042 |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 348   | 2513 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 673   | 5098 |

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 09/03/18 through 09/09/18.

	Year-to-Date		
	2018	2017	%Chg
Murder	1	3	-66.7
Rape	27	17	58.8
Robbery	111	150	-26
Felony Assault	201	214	-6.1
Burglary	118	128	-7.8
Grand Larceny	273	259	5.4
GL Auto	49	44	11.4

The overall change year-to-date is -4.3%.

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The Dept. of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the "scorecard" rating

for the month of August was **93.6% for clean streets and 97.1% for sidewalks.**

The District office of CB 8 has been receiving numerous complaints of overflowing corner baskets. As a result, we encourage members of the community (both residents and merchants) to adopt a corner basket. As a basket sponsor, you would be given garbage bags and all you need to do is 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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RAT ACADEMY

As the number of rodent complaints and sightings have dramatically increased in Community Board 8 and borough-wide, the NYC Dept. of Health has been partnering with community based organizations, elected officials, and community boards to host "Rat Academies," which provide free training for building supers, maintenance personnel, homeowners, tenants, managing companies, and businesses in combating rats.

On September 13, 2018, from 6 to 8 PM at Brooklyn Borough Hall (209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn), Borough President Eric Adams will host a Rat Academy for Brooklyn residents to learn the tools they need to assist in eliminating these pesky vermin. Free rodent-resistant bins will be raffled off to participants who RSVP. Please RSVP to 718-802-3940 or visit www.brooklyn-usa.org/rats.

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## ***BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL***

The Brooklyn Book Festival, NYC's largest free literary event, returns the weekend of September 15<sup>th</sup>. This year, over 150 authors plan to attend. The Brooklyn Book Festival will take place at Brooklyn Borough Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. The festival is known for fostering dialogue among authors, presenting new literary voices, as well as established authors, and crafting unique conversations and discussions for a total of nearly 100 programs on 13 stages on Festival Day. For more information, call Borough Hall at 718-802-3700.

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PLANT-BASED FAMILY AFFAIR

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams welcomes you to the "Green Age of Hip Hop," a Plant-Based Family Affair on **Tuesday, September 18, 2018 from 6-8 PM** at Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. The workshop will focus on healthy plant-based food and eating, with a plethora of music styles and guest speakers.

To RSVP, visit www.brooklyn-usa.org/plantbased.

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## ***FAIR CHANCE ACT WORKSHOP***

Do employers keep asking you about your conviction record? Have you ever been denied a job based on it? Do you know anyone who was fired for getting pregnant, or anyone (yourself included) that cannot get a job because employers keep checking your credit history? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, the NYC Commission on Human Rights will be able to help.

On **Wednesday, September 19, 2018 from 11 AM to 1 PM**, the Commission on Human Rights will host a **Fair Chance Act Workshop**

at Medgar Evers College/Transition Academy, Edison Jackson Auditorium, 1638 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn. Refreshments will be served and the facility is wheelchair accessible.

For more information, contact Waleek Boone at 718-804-8269 or email [wboone@med.cuny.edu](mailto:wboone@med.cuny.edu).

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HOMEOWNERS AND TENANTS ENROLLMENT EVENT

The NYC Dept. of Finance, in partnership with Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, invites you to a Homeowners and Tenants Enrollment Event on **Friday, September 21, 2018 from 10 AM to Noon** at Brooklyn Heights Public Library, 109 Remsen Street, Brooklyn.

Homeowners can apply for an exemption to lower their property tax bill under the STAR Program (available to homeowners with an annual income of less than \$500,000); E-Star (available to seniors age 65 or older or disabled homeowners with annual incomes of \$86,000 or less); SCHE/DHE (eligible to seniors 65 or older or disabled homeowners with annual income of less than \$58,399); Veterans, and Clergy.

Senior tenants can apply for SCRIE (eligible to tenants 62 or older with a household income of less than \$50,000) and disabled tenants can apply for DRIE (18 or older with an annual income of less than \$50,000), which are programs geared at freezing rents for tenants in rent stabilized apartments than spend more than one-third of their income on rent. NYCHA and Section 8 recipients are not eligible.

For more information, to find out what documents to bring, and to RSVP, call 718-246-4889.

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## ***A BETTER YOU***

AARP is pleased to offer a workshop, “A Better You,” to assist individuals aged 50 and older helpful Medicare related information. With the changing dynamics of the healthcare industry, “A Better You” seeks to focus on wellness. The event will take place on **Saturday, September 22, 2018** during two sessions: morning session at 10 AM and afternoon session at 2 PM at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, BAM Fisher (Fishman Space), 321 Ashland Place, Brooklyn.

For more information, contact Ricky Day at [ricky.day@interlexusa.com](mailto:ricky.day@interlexusa.com).

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FREE HOUSING HELP CLINICS

Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn is offering free mortgage help and foreclosure avoidance/prevention as well as tenant support. These services are free! Do not get scammed into paying for information that is free for you and your neighbors.

Clinics are available in Canarsie at 9701 Avenue L (corner of Rockaway Parkway) on **Thursday, September 20, 2018 from 5-7 PM** and in East Flatbush on **Tuesday, September 18, 2018 from 3-5 PM** at 2806 Church Avenue (between Nostrand and Rogers Avenues). RSVP today to meet with a HUD certified counselor by calling 718-469-4679 or emailing info@nhsbrooklyn.org.

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## ***CHINESE AUTUMN FESTIVAL***

The office of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, in partnership with Sino America New York Brooklyn Archway Association, invites you to celebrate **Chinese Culture Day: 2018 Autumn Festival** at on **Sunday, September 30, 2018 from Noon to 5 PM** at Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 1, entrance at Old Fulton and Furman Streets.

There will be a myriad of activities and festivities, including activities for children. The event will occur rain or shine. For more information, contact the Borough President’s office at 718-802-3700.

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ADVOCACY COUNSELING AND ENTITLEMENT SERVICES (ACES)

The ACES Project of the Community Service Society is recruiting retired individuals age 55 and older to serve as volunteer public benefit counselors. ACES Volunteers assist clients with completing public benefit applications such as SNAP, SCRIE, DRIE, reduced fare metrocards, and resolving benefit related problems. For more information on the project, please visit www.cssny.org/programs/entry/the-aces-project or call Rebecca Haase at 212-614-5482 or email her at rhaase@cssny.org.

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## ***NYS CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS CORPS***

Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright is pleased to present the **NYS Citizen Preparedness Corps** on **Wednesday, October 10, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** (doors open at 6 PM) at Restoration Plaza, 1360 Fulton Street, Lower Level, Brooklyn. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies and what to do in case of an active shooter in your area.

Register at <https://prepare.ny.gov/training-events>. The event is free and open to the public. For more information on this or any other issue, please call the Assemblywoman’s office at 718-399-7690.

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FREE FLU SHOTS

Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon is pleased to offer free flu vaccines at her district office located at 341 Smith Street (at Carroll Street), Brooklyn, on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM**. To register for an appointment, or for information on any other state or local issue, please call 718-246-4889.

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### ***FREE FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER SEMINAR***

Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn will host a First Time Homebuyer Seminar on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018 from 6:30-8:30 PM** at the Flatbush YMCA located at 1401 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn. Learn about grant opportunities and closing cost assistance; affordable mortgages; home inspections; renting vs. owning; becoming a landlord; building your homebuying team; benefits of homebuyer education; and real estate as an investment.

Pre-register for the event by visiting <https://bit.ly/2Aad3Kt>, call 718-469-4679, or email [info@nhsbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@nhsbrooklyn.org).

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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo will be hosting Community Conversations, highlighting her councilmatic area, where community members can speak with senior leaders and commissioners from different Brooklyn and citywide agencies and organizations about issues impacting residents and business owners. Participants can also get information from local advocacy, housing, justice, and preservation organizations.

The event will take place on **Thursday, October 18, 2018 from 6-8 PM**, at St. Joseph's College, Brooklyn Campus, Student Lounge, Tuohy Hall, 245 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn

11238. For more information, call the Majority Leader's office at 718-260-9191.

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### ***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, October 20, 2018 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at Brooklyn Neighborhood Improvement Association (BNIA) located at 465 Sterling Place, 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 [cb8healthfair@gmail.com](mailto:cb8healthfair@gmail.com).

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

State of New York

Health/Safety Representatives

The state has scheduled exams for Agency Safety and Health Representatives. The application deadline is **September 19th** and the nonrefundable application fees are \$35 and \$40 respectively.

The exam number for Agency Health and Safety Representative is 26-622. To apply, please visit the Dept. of Civil Service's website at www.cs.ny.gov and searching either the exam number or for positions available to the public.

Assistant Office Services Manager

The state has scheduled an exam for Assistant Office Services Manager in various agencies located in Essex, New York, and Onondaga counties and in the Capital District area. The application deadline is **September 19th** and the nonrefundable application fee is \$35.

The exam number for Assistant Office Services Manager is 26-542. To apply, please visit the Dept. of Civil Service's website at www.cs.ny.gov and searching either the exam number or for positions available to the public.

Brooklyn Navy Yard

Are you interested in opportunities within the Brooklyn Navy Yard? The Albert C. Wiltshire Employment Center connects local residents to jobs and careers available in the Brooklyn Navy yard. Their team works with 400+ companies on the Yard to understand their staffing needs and connect them with talent. More than 2500 individuals have found jobs with the Employment Center to date, and you can join that growing that number.

They recruit for the following positions: construction; industrial and manufacturing; warehouse; administration; operations; marketing and sales; engineering; and much more!

To learn more, attend an orientation session and gather information about jobs within the Brooklyn Navy Yard and speak with staff about your interests and skill set. **Orientations are held every Tuesday at 9:30 AM and 1:30 PM at Building 92, 3rd Floor, 63 Flushing Avenue (at Carlton Avenue), Brooklyn.** For more information, visit www.bldg92.org, call 718-907-5996, or email recruit@bnydc.org.

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### **Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (BWI)**

BWI's next round of classes begins in January 2019. Their 6-week intensive training program

prepares candidates for entry level work in telecommunications cabling. Graduates with no prior experience before the training earn starting wages between \$15 and \$18 per hour. Interested candidates must first attend an information session before applying. Starting on September 18, 2018, information sessions will be held every Tuesday at 10 AM at BWI, 621 DeGraw Street, Brooklyn.

Basic requirements for the program include: minimum age of 18, NYC resident for the last 6 months, physical ability to do the work as a cable installer, possess at least a valid Learner's permit, ability to commit to 6 weeks of full time training, be ready, willing, and able to work upon graduation.

For more information, contact Monique Booker, Program Coordinator, at 718-237-2017, ext. 149 or email [mbooker@bwiny.org](mailto:mbooker@bwiny.org).

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Erasmus Neighborhood Federation

The Erasmus Neighborhood Federation is seeking a part-time Community Organizer. Responsibilities involve the following: assist the housing director in counseling tenants and senior residents on their rights and issues regarding safe, affordable housing both at ENF and off-site. Interface with landlords and attorneys on tenants' behalf, advise on solutions to problems, act as guide and to tenants in housing court, assist in the administering workshops and outreach program and maintain office records and reports.

Interested candidates with knowledge of the housing situation in Brooklyn with good conversation skills and a personable attitude are encouraged to email their resumes and cover letters to yvilus@erasmusfederation.org.

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## **CitiBike**

Citi Bike is currently looking to hire Hardware Technicians to help on their e-bike efforts. Hardware Technicians work citywide to help maintain the e-bike fleet as it grows.

Desired qualifications are:

- Valid Driver's license
- Experience riding a bicycle through busy city streets
- Knowledge / ability to navigate of New York City streets

This position is full time, seasonal, and part of the Transportation Workers Union. There are seven (7) available positions.

Interested candidates must apply online at <https://www.citibikenyc.com/careers>.

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The next **78th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 25, 2018** at 7:30 PM at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY.

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, October 8, 2018** at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs to confirm the location at 718-735-0634.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to **Ms. Helen Coley, Mr. Elijah Gray, Ms. Elaine Mahoney,**

Mr. Robert Matthews, Ms. Sheryl Vassell, Mr. Desmond Atkins, and Ms. Tamika Gibbs, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of September.

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We continue to send prayers for long-time Board member, Robert Matthews, who is still recovering from multiple ailments.

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The next **Community Board 8** general meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 7 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum, located t 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn.

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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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