

ACROSS THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 2019

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District Manager's Report

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We would like to welcome the following new members to Community Board 8:

- Ms. Marva Henry
- Ms. Eunice Ko

May your membership be fruitful and rewarding.

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A Much-Anticipated Opening

After 14 years of being closed, the old St. Mary's Hospital building has been completely renovated. It is now the new home of the Centers Health Care Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, which currently operates at a much smaller facility on Coney Island Avenue and will relocate to 170 Buffalo Avenue within the next few months. As this site is more than double the size of the current location, that means there will be many job opportunities available for the community.

Positions range from specialized: nurses (RN, LPN), Certified Nurses Assistants (CNAs) radiologists, etc., to standard support staff: clerical, administrative, dietary staff, maintenance staff, custodial staff, etc. The facility is a union building and most positions are unionized. Please visit

www.centershealthcare.com, and search for the Brooklyn Center. Email your resume to Elie Schiff at ESchiff@brooklynrehab.net and in your email, inform them that you are from the Community Board across the street from the new Brooklyn Center.

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## *Good News for Homeowners*

Mayor de Blasio recently announced that the City of New York **will no longer issue violations to homeowners for sidewalk damage caused by City trees**. The City will also ramp up sidewalk repairs under the Trees & Sidewalks program to address 5,500 priority sites over the next three years.

The City will stop imposing liens on one, two and three family properties that have sidewalk damage caused solely by City trees. The Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and the Parks Department will still inspect for dangerous sidewalk conditions, but the City, not the homeowner, will be responsible for fixing them if they are exclusively tree related.

DOT will review the 50,000 existing notices of violation to determine which were caused exclusively by street trees and cancel the lien for any that meets the criteria they set forth. If the homeowner of the qualifying property is selling or refinancing their home, the City will expedite this re-evaluation.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/services/forestry/request/submit?tab=trees-and-sidewalks>.



### ***Great News About Weeksville Heritage Center***

In June 2019, there was fear that one of District 8's beloved cultural institution, Weeksville Heritage Center, would close or be near closure due to lack of funds to cover operational costs. Weeksville's President, Rob Fields, started a crowdfunding campaign to raise the necessary operational costs and bring awareness to the cultural institution while negotiations were underway to secure a line of funding for the museum each year.

We are pleased to announce that shortly after our June 2019 Community Board 8 general meeting, it was announced that New York City Council Majority Leader Laurie A. Cumbo, along with support from Speaker Corey Johnson and fellow council members officially secured Weeksville Heritage Center as a Cultural Institutions Group (CIG). Weeksville now joins three dozen other groups with such designations, all of whom receive grants to meet basic operating needs throughout the year. The 19th Century pre- Civil War African American settlement is sacred ground, which served as a community for freed blacks, will also become the first black CIG in Brooklyn.



### ***DEED THEFT LEGISLATION***

Senator Velmanette Montgomery and a number of other state officials have been working together to pass legislation at the state level to tackle the issue of deed theft, a phenomenon rampant in the communities known as "brownstone Brooklyn," including many segments of Community Board 8. The Senator issued an information fact sheet, which is excerpted.

Much light was shed on predatory practices that made deed theft both easy and quite lucrative, and it was stated that more deed theft complaints come to the New York State Attorney General's office from Brooklyn than the other four boroughs combined. Deed theft can range from outright forgery of documents to intricate scam operations. When a property has multiple owners, generally any owner can force its sale by filing a "partition action" in court. A growing number of investors are using partition actions to prey on homeowners by purchasing a stake in a home that, through inheritances, are owned by multiple family members. They then use that ownership stake to file a partition action to strip the remaining owners of the property through a forced sale, often for pennies on the dollar relative to the actual value of the property. Lower and middle-class families are particularly susceptible because it requires sophisticated estate planning to prevent these schemes.

The New York State Legislature passed a number of measures, most of which have been signed into law by Governor Cuomo, and others that are awaiting to be signed into law. The Deed Theft Bill (S1688 – Montgomery / A5615 – Weinstein) does the following:

- Prohibits abusive and deceptive behaviors such as pretending to be law enforcement or government representatives, taking temporary ownership of a deed, or engaging in harassment of the homeowner or the homeowner's family
- Eliminates the requirement that a homeowner post a bond in order to file a lawsuit to stop a deed transfer.
- Prohibits loan modification consultants from requiring upfront fees for services.
- Extends the amount of time a homeowner has to rescind transactions with distressed property consultants from 5 days to 14 days.

- Provides a clear legal path to restore the title of a property when there has been a criminal conviction based on fraudulent actions concerning a property transfer.
- Forces sales to take place through brokers, on the open market, not at auction. The homes cannot be sold at a bargain price, which will deter speculators. The uniform act has been adopted by 11 states and introduced in 9 others, but not New York.

For more information on the Deed Theft Bill, please contact Senator Montgomery's office at 718-643-6140.



### ***FREE AFTERSCHOOL COMPASS PROGRAM***

Fort Greene Council, Inc. is pleased to announce **open enrollment** for a **free afterschool COMPASS program** funded by the NYC Dept. of Youth and Community Development. Benefits of the program are a safe environment complete with meals, STEM activities, enrichment and development, and family engagement for participants.

The program is open Monday-Friday from 2 PM to 5:55 PM and is located at Young Minds COMPASS, 972 Fulton Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor (between Grand Avenue and St. James Place), Brooklyn.

For more information or to register your child, please call 718-622-8622, ext. 2 or visit [www.fortgreencouncil.org](http://www.fortgreencouncil.org).



### ***COMMUNITY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES***

**The Citizens Committee for New York City** currently has a number of community grants available for various initiatives.

**The Composting Grant** offers grants to start, expand, and grow composting programs in all five boroughs of New York City. Grants of up to \$750 are awarded to community groups working on neighborhood composting programs. Groups eligible for funding include community associations, community gardens, friends of parks groups, housing development groups, nonprofits, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, and private businesses. Grants can be used to purchase materials to start or expand upon a composting program.

For more information, contact Katie at [KGrassle@citizensnyc.org](mailto:KGrassle@citizensnyc.org) or call 212.822.9567. To apply online, go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4749856>. **The application deadline is September 16, 2019.**

**The Reduce, Reuse, and Repair Grant** is designed to support New York City in reusing, repairing, and refurbishing 100% of all discarded products that can be reused in some capacity, with the balance being recycled. Grants of up to \$2,000 will be awarded to start new reuse or repair projects, undertake related research projects, or initiate other activities which will help lead to replicable reuse or repair models in all five boroughs of New York City.

For more information, contact Carla at [crodriguez@citizensnyc.org](mailto:crodriguez@citizensnyc.org) or call 212.822.9579. To apply online, go to <https://www.tfaforms.com/4752147>. **The application deadline is September 16, 2019.**

Finally, the **Public School Green Team Grant** offers grants up to \$1,000 to start or support a sustainability-minded Green Team in your school. Examples of projects supported include building or expanding a school garden, enhancing a school recycling program, creating school sustainability events, purchasing eco-friendly giveaway items, and providing uniforms/t-shirts for the Green Team.

Applications are collected through the DSNY Zero Waste Schools website at <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/zws/index.shtml>.

For more information, contact Andre at [AMozeak@citizensnyc.org](mailto:AMozeak@citizensnyc.org) or call 212.822.9595. **The application deadline is November 8, 2019.**

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GRANTS FOR THE ARTS

Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) is pleased to announce their 2020 Community Arts Grants. Artists, collectives, and nonprofit organizations are invited to apply for up to \$5,000 to support artistic or cultural projects taking place across Brooklyn in 2020. Community Arts Grants consist of the Brooklyn Arts Fund, Local Arts Support, and the Charlene Victor & Ella J. Weiss Cultural Entrepreneur Fund.

For more information on any of the grants and also instructions on how to apply, please visit <http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org/documents/2522>.

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### ***PAID INTERNSHIP***

The Economic Solution Center at Restoration Plaza, 1368 Fulton Street, Brooklyn is offering Paid Internships during a 14-week program targeting career interest in Technology, Food, Construction, and Housing for individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 that are currently out of work and out of school, and are seeking to expand their work experience. There is a job readiness program to assist participants in obtaining all necessary skills to become job-ready. Employment assistance is available upon completion of the program.

All interested parties should contact 718-636-6942 or email [barthur@restorationplaza.org](mailto:barthur@restorationplaza.org).

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RALLY IN SUPPORT OF HOMEOWNERS

Join Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Assemblywoman Tremaine Wright, and Brownstoners of Bedford Stuyvesant to **Rally in Support of Homeowners on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 11:30AM** in the Community Room of Interfaith Hospital, 1545 Atlantic Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11213.

The Rally will celebrate the recent signing of Senator Montgomery's Deed Theft Bill, announcing the release of the legislative report on crises facing homeowners in Brooklyn and discussing what our next steps need to be.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Shakti Robbins-Cubas at cubas@nysenate.gov or 718-643-6140.

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### ***PARTY WITH SENATOR ZELNOR MYRIE***

Senator Myrie is pleased to host his **First Annual Block Party on Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 11 AM to 6 PM** on Lincoln Road between New York and Nostrand Avenues. Join the Senator, staff, and the community for music, food, a bouncy house, and giveaways of backpacks and school supplies (first-come first-served).

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

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SAFE DISPOSAL EVENTS

Get rid of harmful household products safely on **Sunday, September 15, 2019 from 10 AM to 4 PM** at Floyd Bennett Field, Flatbush Avenue and Marine Parkway (cars enter along Flatbush Avenue and make a left into the main entrance, immediately before the toll bridge). The SAFE Disposal Event is your opportunity to safely discard solvents, automotive, flammable, and electronic items safely and legally. Appliances, air

conditioners, humidifiers, refrigerators, and tires will not be accepted at the SAFE Disposal Event.

To package materials for discarding, look for items labeled with stickers that state “Danger, Poison, Warning, or Caution,” and tightly seal and package all containers, ensuring all products are clearly labeled. Only NYC residential waste will be accepted and commercial vehicles are not allowed on the premises. Proof of New York City residency is required. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/safedisposal.

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***CENSUS 2020 DISCUSSION***

Make sure Crown Heights is counted! Join Senator Zellnor Myrie and Census 2020 on **Tuesday, September 17, 2019 from 6-8 PM** at First Baptist Church of Crown Heights located at 450 Eastern Parkway to learn more about what the Census is, how we can make sure we are all counted, and also to learn about job opportunities with the Census Bureau.

To RSVP, call 718-284-4700 or go to <https://zmcensus2020ch.eventbrite.com>.

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STUDENT LOAN DEBT CRISIS CONVERSATION

Impact Ministry and Emmanuel Baptist Church are pleased to present a Conversation on the Student Loan Debt Crisis on **Saturday, September 28, 2019 from 10 AM to 4 PM** at Emmanuel Baptist Church, located at 279 Lafayette Avenue, Brooklyn.

If you or a loved one are preparing for higher education, already enrolled in an institution of higher learning, currently repaying a loan, or even in default on a student loan, please consider attending the event to gain the resources to invest in education and the tools needed to tackle debt wisely. There will be panel discussions, workshops, and one-on-one counseling.

Text GoEBC to 77948, email info@ebc-ny.org or call 718-622-1107 to register.

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***LAW AND JUSTICE TOWN HALL MEETING***

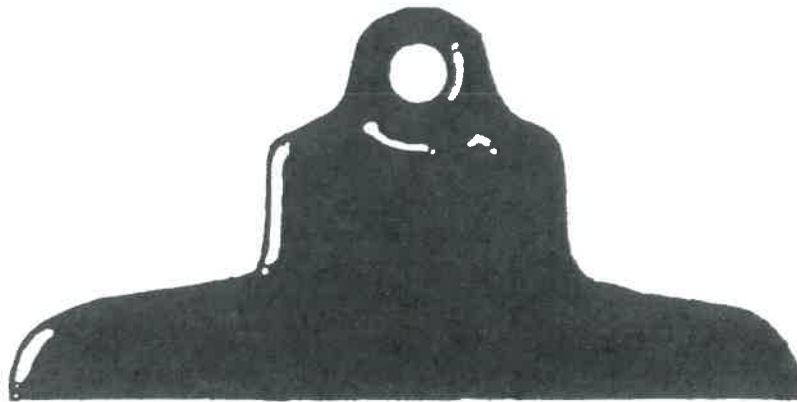
On **Monday, September 23, 2019 at 6 PM** at Pratt Institute, Memorial Hall, 205 Ryerson Street (near Willoughby Avenue), there will be a **Law & Justice Town Hall Meeting** featuring NYS Attorney General Letitia James and Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez. For more information call 718- 250-2001.

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Municipal Services Update

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

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	23	198
Non-Structural	7	98
Total Fires	30	296
Suspicious Fires	3	11
Non-Medical Emergencies	279	1974
Medical Emergencies	410	2788
Total Incidents	744	5202

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Great news from the Dept. of Sanitation: the DSNY garage that services District 8, has informed us that by the end of September or the first week of October, all equipment levels at BK8 should be back to normal. What does this mean for garbage pickup? It means that aside from the section to be identified for snow season, all garbage and recycling pickup should be completed on the standard 6 AM to 2 PM shift. The section on the snow route will have standard afternoon/early evening pickup on the 4 PM to midnight shift, and the section will be identified in October.



We thank you all for your continued patience as the Dept. of Sanitation contended with an equipment shortage that caused staggered garbage and recycling collection and left garbage on the street much longer than usual. We are all hopeful that once all necessary trucks are online again, the community will see a reversion to the normal garbage collection.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 08/26/19 through 09/1/19.

	Year-to-Date		
	2019	2018	%Chg
Murder	6	1	500
Rape	10	26	-61.5
Robbery	124	109	13.8
Felony Assault	161	189	-14.8
Burglary	69	120	-42.5
Grand Larceny	233	271	-14
GL Auto	47	47	0

The overall change year-to-date is **-14.81%**.

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We wish a speedy recovery to Michelle George, District Manager.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Ms. Helen Coley, Ms. Elaine Mahoney, Mr. Robert Matthews, Ms. Sheryl Vassell, Mr. Desmond Atkins, and Ms. Tamika Gibbs, who will all celebrate a birthday in the month of September.

The next **78th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019** 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 14, 2019 at 7:30 PM** at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to confirm the location.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 7 PM** at the Brooklyn Children's Museum located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn.

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

**Ethel Tyus, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**

**Community Board No. 8**  
**1291 St. Marks Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, NY 11213**  
**Phone: 718-467-5574**

Website: [www.brooklyncb8.org](http://www.brooklyncb8.org)  
 Email: [brooklyncb8@gmail.com](mailto:brooklyncb8@gmail.com)  
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