

ACROSS THE BOARD

MAY 2014

VOLUME 36, NO. 5

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

CROWN HEIGHTS NORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has listed the Crown Heights North Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places as of March 31, 2014. The National Register is the nation's official list of properties worthy of preservation. Listing on the National Register recognizes the importance of these properties to the history of our country and provides them with a measure of protections.

In addition, owners of income producing properties may qualify for federal and/or state income tax benefits. Homeowners in qualifying census tracts may qualify for state income tax benefits for approved work. Properties owned by municipalities and not-for-profit organizations are eligible to apply for state historic preservation matching grants.

For more information on the benefits of being included in the National Register, please visit www.nysparks.com.

NEWS ABOUT THE SENIOR CITIZEN RENT INCREASE EXEMPTION (SCRIE)

The recently passed New York State budget includes a provision that will increase the

SCRIE eligibility income limit from \$29K to \$50K, a much needed increase that will help hundreds of thousands of seniors city-wide. If the groundbreaking increase is approved by the City Council, the change will go into effect as of July 1, 2014.

For information on SCRIE or to get an application, call 311, visit the SCRIE walk in center located at 66 John Street, 3rd Floor, Manhattan, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday, or visit www.nyc.gov/scrie.

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

	Month	YTD
Structural Fires	31	125
Non-Structural	9	116
Total Fires	40	241
Suspicious Fires	2	12
Non-Medical Emergencies	229	1045
Medical Emergencies	276	975
Total Incidents	505	2020

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.

The **scorecard rating** for the month of April in District 8 was **86.7 for clean streets and 90.3 for clean sidewalks**.

We urge everyone to adhere to **the Dept. of Sanitation's routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and Noon to 1 PM daily**. The front of your property should be swept and free of debris 18 inches into the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Remember to sweep!

In the past, Community Board 8 was seeking a reduction in the number of Alternate Side Parking days (ASP). Please be advised that in order for this to occur, our scorecard rating **must remain above 90% for 2 consecutive years**. If you would really like to see a reduction in ASP, you must do your part in helping to keep the streets clean!

The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 04/21/14 through 04/27/14.

	Year-to-Date		
	2014	2013	%Chg
Murder	1	2	-50
Rape	8	6	33.3
Robbery	87	121	-28.1
Felony Assault	112	97	15.5
Burglary	99	56	76.8
Grand Larceny	134	116	15.5
Gr. Larceny Auto	39	30	30.0

The overall change year to date is 9.1%.

2014 YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

The NYPD is accepting applications for the Youth Police Academy, which is designed to establish a positive relationship between the NYPD and the city's youth.

Any New York City resident attending school and between the ages of 10 and 16 are eligible to attend the academy. Participants will be provided with a uniform shirt and lunch.

Goals of the academy are enhancing responsible citizenship; providing positive interaction with police officers and to educate youngsters about the challenges and responsibility of police work; encouraging youngsters to take part in other youth programs offered by the NYPD such as the Police Athletic League (PAL), Explorers, and Cadet Corps.

The Youth Police Academy is a 6 week program that will hold sessions five days a week from 8:30 Am to 2 PM. Students will attend classroom sessions with lectures, role-plays, and topical demonstrations by police officers in the areas of law, behavioral science, drug prevention, and gang resistance. Field trips are also part of the curriculum. The academy runs from Monday, July 7, 2014 through Friday, August 15, 2014.

Applications will be accepted through June 27, 2014 and can be obtained from the District office.

MORTGAGE HELP FOR FIRST TIME HOMEBUYERS

It is not easy being a first time homebuyer, but the **State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA)** has a program

designed to assist first time homebuyers in their quest for homeownership.

The SONYMA program allows homebuyers that have not owned a primary residence home in the previous 3 years to buy a new home with **only 3% down** on a 30 year fixed rate loan.

To be eligible for the program, good credit is a must as is maintaining a stable job for the 2 previous two years. There are also income restrictions, with a maximum annual earning limit for a single person of \$98,160 or \$114,520 for a family of three. In addition, the cost of your purchase must be less than \$666,000 and apartments must be at least 500 square feet.

For more information, call 1-800-382-4663.

~~~~~

***UNCLAIMED FUNDS***

NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli invites you to check if you have **unclaimed funds**. A free event will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 10 AM to 2 PM at Cornerstone Baptist Church located at 562-74 Madison Street, Brooklyn.

Unclaimed funds can come from various sources including insurance refunds and reimbursements, old bank accounts, DMV refunds, and even unknown inheritances.

Information on, and an online application for unclaimed funds can also be obtained by visiting <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/>.

~~~~~

ANGER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Family Consulting Services is currently enrolling participants for its **Anger**

Management Group 12-week certificate course. Topics covered in the course include “what is anger and what are your anger triggers;” “when does anger become a problem;” and “how to manage anger.”

Participants will be awarded a certificate upon completion of the course, and light refreshments will be served during each session. For more information on the course or to register, call 718-771-3136 or email familyconsultingservices@gmail.com.

Family Consulting Services is located at 1195 St. Marks Avenue (between Utica and Rochester Avenues).

~~~~~

***IDENTIFY AND REPORT GAS LEAKS***

In wake of the deadly gas leak and explosion in Harlem, Con Edison and National Grid (in Brooklyn) are urging customers to be diligent in noticing and reporting gas leaks.

Natural gas has a distinctive, strong odor similar to rotten eggs. If you see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, blowing dust, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no reason, or hear a roaring, hissing, or whistling sound, it may be an indication of a gas leak.

If you suspect a gas leak, evacuate immediately and inform your neighbors to do the same. If the smell is very strong, open your windows before evacuating to give the gas an opportunity to escape rather than collect in a confined space, thus increasing the chances of an explosion. Call Con Ed (if outside of Brooklyn) immediately at 1-800-752-6633 or National Grid (only in Brooklyn) at 718-643-4050.



Do not do anything that could create a spark, thus igniting the gas and causing an explosion. Sparks are caused by many normal activities and things that we would not suspect. Do not light matches, turn on or off appliances and light switches, use a telephone of any kind, ring a doorbell, or start a car. Any of these activities would be enough to cause a deadly explosion if indeed there is a gas leak.

For additional information and safety tips on natural gas, visit [www.coned.com](http://www.coned.com) or [www.nationalgrid.com](http://www.nationalgrid.com) and go their customer support sections.

~~~~~

MEN'S CLOTHING DRIVE

Akosua Albritton, Chairperson of the Community Board 8 **Youth/Family Services Committee**, is sponsoring a men's clothing drive for Pamoja House, a men's shelter in Bedford Stuyvesant. Slacks, jackets, vests, and dress shoes of all sizes are needed to outfit the men for job interviews and work. Items can be brought to the next general meeting and given to Ms. Albritton or dropped off at the District office located at 1291 St. Marks Avenue (between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues) Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM.

~~~~~

### ***TIRED OF JUNK MAIL?***

With an increased reliance on technology and shared information between companies, there is an increase in unwanted mail delivered to mailboxes across the country. Unwanted paper mail destroys the environment in numerous ways including increasing unnecessary carbon emissions

and deforestation to make the paper that simply gets discarded.

To stop delivery of the unwanted mail addressed directly to you, simply download **PaperKarma**, a free app for Android and iPhones, that lets you take photos of the unwanted mail you want to stop. PaperKarma will automatically contact the mailer of the unwanted mail and remove you from their distribution list.

~~~~~

THE BEST HEALTH SCHOOL

Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center hosts **The Best Health School**, which provides a year-long curriculum for **free** health and wellness education for the community. The program provides certificates of completion along with CPR and Stroke Awareness Education for those taking 4 classes or more. Participants can also take classes without a certificate of completion whenever they would like. Additional classes include obesity, Nutrition, Breast Health, Domestic Violence, and Stress Management for Women.

A list of classes and schedules is available online at www.kingsbrook.org under Community Events. For more information on the program, call 718-604-5062.

~~~~~

### ***COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

**Crown Heights Youth Initiative** is looking for **volunteer grandparents, parents, foster parents, and adult guardians** to supervise children at a private community playground located on the premises of Calvary Community Church, which is

located at 1575 St. John's Place (corner of Buffalo Avenue).

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rev. Cecil Henry of Calvary at 718-467-4108.

### ***SUMMER ENERGY ACADEMY***

The **American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE)** is once again offering the **Summer Energy Academy**. The purpose of the academy is to assist in meeting the global energy challenge by exposing students from grades 6 thru 9 to the concepts of energy and STEM disciplines at an early age.

This year's energy academy will be held on **weekdays from July 7, 2014 to August 15, 2014 from 8:30 AM to 3 PM** at Bedford Academy located at 1119 Bedford Avenue.

All applications must include the following or they will not be evaluated:

- Completed application form
- 2013 Math Citywide/State Exam Scores
- 2013 ELA Citywide/State Exam Scores
- 2013 NYS science performance Exam Scores (5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders only)
- Copy of most recent report card
- 1 essay of 400 words or less outlining student's interest in math, science, engineering, or technology and future career goals

Applications can be obtained from the Community Board office by calling 718-467-5574. The application will be scanned and emailed to you in PDF format so that

you can print it out and complete it. **Completed applications are due by May 19, 2014** and must be emailed to the SEA Application Review Board at [summerenergyacademy@gmail.com](mailto:summerenergyacademy@gmail.com).

### ***COMMUNITY AWARENESS DAY***

The **Parks Committee** of Community Board No. 8 is pleased to announce its **Annual Community Awareness Day** on **Saturday, June 7, 2014 from 11 AM to 3 PM** at St. John's Recreation Center located at 1251 Prospect Place (between Schenectady and Troy Avenues).

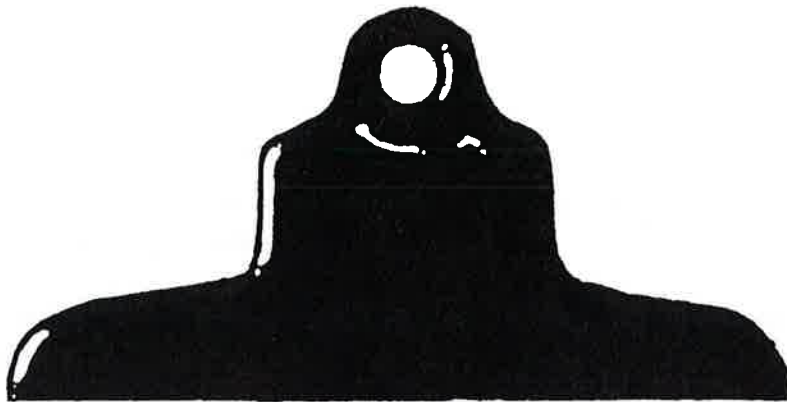
Come out to learn about various programs and community organizations in the community. Organizations that would like to participate and set up a table are required to complete a registration form that can be obtained from the District office by calling 718-467-5574. Registration deadline is Friday, May 30, 2014.

### ***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, May 31, 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 \$600 cash prize. 5 partner schools are participating in the event which will have a 3 point shooting competition and dunk contest as well as 2 DJs.

Email [catalystclassic@catalyst-network.org](mailto:catalystclassic@catalyst-network.org) to register a team or become an event



sponsor. Admission to Hoops for a Cause is \$5/person.

~~~~~

**COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES
AND WELLNESS FAIR**

Medgar Evers College is pleased to present **“Be Healthy! Eat Well, Live Well”** community health services and wellness fair. The event will be held on **Thursday, June 5, 2014** from 10 AM to 4 PM at 1638 Bedford Avenue, AB1 Building.

Dental screenings, wellness counseling, acupuncture, HIV testing, cholesterol and diabetes screening, massages, and fitness demonstrations will be available.

~~~~~

We wish the happiest of birthdays to Dr. Flize Bryan, Mr. Curtis Harris, Mr. Kwasi Mensah, and Ms. Deborah Young, who will all celebrate birthdays in the month of May.

~~~~~

We send our heartfelt condolences to Ms. Michelle George, District Manager, who recently lost her brother. Condolences can be sent to Community Board No. 8, 1291 St. Marks Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11213.

The next **78th Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 7:30 PM** at the **78th Precinct** located at 65 6th Avenue (corner of Bergen Street).

~~~~~

The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council meeting** will be held on **Monday, May 12, 2014 at 7 PM**. Call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 for the location.

~~~~~

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 12, 2014 at 7 PM** at Concern for Independent Living, 151 Rochester Avenue (between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place).

~~~~~

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

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

**Community Board No. 8**  
**1291 St. Marks Avenue**  
**Brooklyn, N.Y. 11213**  
**718-467-5574**

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