

ACROSS THE BOARD

OCTOBER 2014

VOLUME 36, NO. 8

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT

October 1, 2014 marked the first day of heat season in NYC. The Dept. of Housing, Preservation, and Development has strict minimum heat guidelines that all landlords must follow.

From now until May 31, 2015, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 10:00 PM, if the outside temperature falls below 55 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM, if the temperature outside falls below 40 degrees, the inside temperature is required to be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit. Any landlord that fails to adhere to these guidelines should be reported to HPD via 311 immediately.

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## ***BEWARE OF ENERGY SUPPLY COMPANY MARKETERS—A NOTE FROM YOUR NEIGHBOR, MS. ETHEL TYUS, ESQ.***

These are people who ring your bell or call you on the phone and offer to change your Energy Supply Company (ESCO) to help you save money. When one rang my bell, I was interested in her sales pitch because I had noticed a repetitive charge on my electric bill – a GRT (Gross Receipts Tax) with three instances on the same bill, each was a little over \$5, adding more than \$15 to my monthly bill. The Marketer explained that the GRT will be higher when the ESCO is from outside

New York State, and that Con Ed and National Grid can change the ESCO every three months. She further explained that I should choose an in-State ESCO to lower my bills. These parts of the pitch are accurate. I agreed and signed up for monthly contracts for gas and electric.

This Marketer later doubled her commission by forging my signature on another application/contract to change to my supply services a second in-State ESCO a few weeks later. I filed a fraud complaint with the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC) and they denied it saying the new ESCO had my signature on a contract for the disputed services. (How does the PSC know my handwriting? This ill-considered denial by the PSC deserved and got an angry email from me to the PSC Secretary with copies to CB 8 and my State elected officials.)

Undeterred by the denial and advice from the PSC to file an expensive law suit, I called National Grid and Con Ed and discussed the issue with them. Con Ed offered to place a block on any changes to my supply services unless I call them personally. National Grid offered the same blocking service and also explained that National Grid's supply charges per therm are currently approximately 50% less than the ESCO I had subscribed to. So, I will be moving my supply subscription to National Grid through 2016. My electric supply GRT is down to less than \$3 per month. Funny how things work out if you stand up for yourself! Your neighbor, Ethel Tyus.

**SANITATION RATING BREAKDOWN**

The **scorecard rating** for the month of September in District 8 was **74.9 for streets and 80.5 for sidewalks**. These numbers are much lower than normal.

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.

Please note that because of the low scorecard numbers, extra cleaners will be seen periodically sweeping the streets along certain commercial corridors. This does not mean that you do not have to clean in front of your property! Remember to sweep!

The abuse of corner waste litter baskets, property owners not doing their part by sweeping, and motorists that do not move their vehicles during alternate side parking (ASP) hours do not help increase the scorecard. In fact, these three things are the reason the scorecard rating is so low. Let's work as a community to ensure that these three things cease, and also work to increase the scorecard.

Furthermore, illegal dumping is becoming more than just a nuisance to the community. It is becoming dangerous, an eye sore, and is affecting the scorecard rating and quality of life. To help combat illegal dumping, the Dept. of Sanitation has a policing unit responsible for watching out for chronic dump sites. To aid Sanitation Police, we ask CB8 residents and business owners to take pictures of illegal dumping within the District (whether at corner waste baskets or other locations) with the time observed and location. These pictures will be forwarded to Sanitation Police for enforcement if the same site is used habitually.



The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 09/29/14 through 10/05/14.

|                         | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|-------------------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                         | 2014         | 2013 | %Chg  |
| <b>Murder</b>           | 6            | 11   | -45.5 |
| <b>Rape</b>             | 18           | 18   | 0     |
| <b>Robbery</b>          | 222          | 307  | -27.7 |
| <b>Felony Assault</b>   | 299          | 305  | -2.0  |
| <b>Burglary</b>         | 219          | 211  | 3.8   |
| <b>Grand Larceny</b>    | 368          | 415  | -11.3 |
| <b>Gr. Larceny Auto</b> | 106          | 80   | 32.5  |

The overall change year to date is **-8.1%**.

Once again, the 77th Precinct experienced a pronounced decrease in shooting incidents. During this period there were no shooting incidents and zero homicides. This number represents a 100% decrease (0 versus 2 in 2013) in shooting victims.



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

|                                | Month | YTD  |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 30    | 288  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 10    | 180  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 40    | 468  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 0     | 23   |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 250   | 2203 |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 254   | 2284 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 566   | 5106 |



**FLU SEASON**

Flu season is upon us once again. As last year's flu epidemic was one of the worst in years, this year's flu season is expected to be the same if not worse, and other infectious disease cases are on the rise with flu like symptoms, making this season even more dangerous than years past. Everyone,

especially seniors, are encouraged to get a flu shot. Local pharmacies such as CVS and even Target offer low-cost flu shots. If you have an elderly relative, it is essential that you encourage them to get vaccinated against the flu.



### ***BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY***

**Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)** is pleased to announce a major **expansion of library hours**, nearly doubling the number of branches offering six- or seven-day service, as well as increasing Saturday and evening hours.

In total, BPL branches will be open for more than 200 extra hours each week, effective Saturday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. This increase is made possible by new City Council funding, a marked change from the consistent cuts to public libraries over the past decade. Visit BPL's website at <http://www.bklynlibrary.org> for library branch hours.



### ***STD/INFECTIOUS DISEASE CLINIC AT KINGS COUNTY***

**The STD/Infectious Disease Clinic of Kings County Hospital Center: Center for H.O.P.E.** has re-opened on Fridays. The STD/Infectious disease clinic is located in the E Building on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Suite D, 541 Clarkson Avenue (near E. 39<sup>th</sup> Street).

The clinic's hours are Tuesday and Friday from 1 PM to 4:30 PM (numbers are given out at 10:30 AM and the clinic starts at 1 PM) and Wednesday from 9 AM to 11 AM (numbers are given out at 8:30 AM and the clinic starts at 9 AM).

The clinic is staffed by infectious disease trained physicians and personnel. No appointment is necessary. For more information call 718-245-2800 or 718-245-5412.



### ***FREE MEDIATION SERVICES***

**New York Peace Institute** offers free Mediation services. They can help you see eye to eye when going head to head with a neighbor, business owner, landlord, debtors, civil complaints, or someone you just do not like.

Mediation is a conversation between two or more people that disagree, led by a trained, neutral mediator. Mediation is a less expensive, time-saving alternative to court. In mediation the disputing parties have the chance to settle their differences in a safe, confidential and efficient manner. It helps people get what they need, whether it's peace and quiet, family unity, a financial settlement, or just a chance to be heard.

New York Peace Institute mediators include staff members and community volunteers who are professionally trained and committed to promoting peace in our communities. They also offer fee-based facilitation, dialogue, consensus building and decision making processes for groups. They will work with you to figure out a process works best for your group's specific needs. Email [info@nypeace.org](mailto:info@nypeace.org) for more information including availability and options.



### ***BREAST CANCER AWARENESS***

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Community Board No. 8 will participate in the **"Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk"** on Sunday, October 19, 2014 in Prospect Park. Participants and donations are welcome as breast cancer remains one of the top killers of women. We must be mindful, however, that breast cancer does not only affect women; it affects men as well. **Breast cancer is an uncontrolled growth of breast cells and can affect men as well.**

Cancer occurs as a result of mutations, or abnormal changes, in the genes responsible for regulating the growth of cells and keeping

them healthy. Over time, mutations can “turn on” certain genes and “turn off” others in a cell. That changed cell gains the ability to keep dividing without control or order, producing more cells just like it and forming a tumor.

A tumor can be benign (not dangerous to health) or malignant (has the potential to be dangerous). Benign tumors are not considered cancerous: their cells are close to normal in appearance, they grow slowly, and they do not invade nearby tissues or spread to other parts of the body. Malignant tumors are cancerous. Left unchecked, malignant cells eventually can spread beyond the original tumor to other parts of the body.

Early breast cancer usually does not cause symptoms. This is why regular breast exams are important. As the cancer grows, symptoms may include:

- Breast lump or lump in the armpit that is hard, has uneven edges, and usually does not hurt
- Change in the size, shape, or feel of the breast or nipple -- for example, you may have redness, dimpling, or puckering that looks like the skin of an orange
- Fluid coming from the nipple -- may be bloody, clear to yellow, green, and look like pus

Symptoms of advanced breast cancer may include bone pain; breast pain or discomfort; skin ulcers; swelling of one arm (next to breast with cancer); and/or weight loss.

Early detection is your best remedy as there is no cure for the ailment. Women are advised to perform monthly self-breast examinations and women over the age of 40 are urged to get their yearly mammograms.

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MULTIPLE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION

If you are a parent, school teacher, elected official, or community stakeholder, you need to know what the **New York State**

Education Department’s Proposal for Multiple Pathways to Graduation are, how they will affect your children, and how this opportunity will impact graduation from high school.

As such, on **Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6 PM**, Dr. Lester Young, Regent at Large, will be the key presenter of a forum explaining the proposal for multiple pathways to graduation at Medgar Evers College, Founders Auditorium, located at 1650 Bedford Avenue.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to lyoung11@ix.netcom.com.

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### ***INFORMATION SESSIONS ON GIFTED AND TALENTED ADMISSIONS FOR KINDERGARTEN, 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE***

**Beginning Wednesday, October 8, 2014** you can submit a Request for Testing (RFT) form to have your child tested for a G&T program. The deadline to submit a RFT form is **Friday, November 7, 2014**.

Requests can be made at Clara Barton High School located at 901 Classon Avenue on **Wednesday, October 15, 2014 from 6-8 PM**.

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YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

The **Youth Advisory Council of the Bedford Stuyvesant YES Task Force** is a “youth civic engagement” and internship program for in-school and out of school young people interested in public service, service learning, leadership development and/or community activism. Participants of the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) will have an opportunity to work on multiple projects and events that address the needs and concerns of young people in Central Brooklyn.

YAC is looking for young people between the ages of 14 and 21 from a wide range of

experiences for available volunteer and internship opportunities. Applicants must live or go to school in Central Brooklyn. Each applicant must be available to meet twice a month on Tuesdays and also at least one Saturday per month. 25 positions are available. A small stipend or other incentives will be offered per session.

Applications can be obtained from Oma S. Holloway, Co-Chairperson, Bedford Stuyvesant YES Task Force by emailing osholloway@gmail.com or by picking one up from SCO Family of Services/Family Dynamics Beacon Center Office at MS 35, located at 272 MacDonough Street, Room 101. Completed applications can be emailed to Ms. Holloway or dropped off to MS 35 as well. **The application deadline for is October 15, 2014.**

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### ***SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU***

The **Brooklyn Grandparents' Coalition and the Dept. of Social Work at LIU Brooklyn** are pleased to co-sponsor a **free forum** for NYC Relative Caregivers.

The forum, titled "Addressing Community Violence: Promoting Family Safety," will be held on **Friday, October 24, 2014 from 9:30 AM to 2 PM at LIU Brooklyn, Arnold and Marie Swartz Gymnasium** (at the corner of DeKalb and Flatbush Avenues, Downtown Brooklyn).

**To attend, you must register by October 17<sup>th</sup>.** To register, email [jwatkins@jbfcs.org](mailto:jwatkins@jbfcs.org) or call John Watkins at 718-676-2451.

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COMMUNITY PET PARTY

The **ASPCA and the 77th Precinct** invite you to a Community Pet Party on **Saturday, October 18, 2014 from Noon to 4 PM** at Brower Park (Park Place and Kingston Avenue).

Meet and adopt lovable cats and dogs. Free vaccinations and micro-chipping is available for cats and dogs while supplies last. In addition, ID tags, Halo Pet Food, and Blanket giveaways plus important information about pet care and disaster preparedness will be distributed.

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### ***HOME BUYER SEMINAR SERIES***

**Bedford Central Community Development Corp.** is bringing a **comprehensive home buyer course** to Central Brooklyn. Each course in the 4 course system is held for four consecutive weeks starting with Course 1, Getting Ready for Home Purchase, which begins on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 6:30 PM. All courses take place at Bedford Central Presbyterian Church located at 1200 Dean Street (corner of Nostrand Avenue).

Course 2, Repairing and Building Your Credit, begins on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Course 3, Budgeting for your Home Purchase and Getting pre-Qualified or Approved, begins on January 6, 2015, while the final course, Minor Repair and Maintenance of your Home or Apartment, begins on February 3, 2015.

The cost is a mere \$20 for all 16 weeks of classes. Take one or all courses to help educate yourself on homeownership and how to make it possible, and also how to maintain your home after achieving your goal.

For more information or to register for courses, contact Wayne Devonish at [wmdkaos@aol.com](mailto:wmdkaos@aol.com) or call 917-297-2365.

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BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The Brooklyn Children's Museum, located at 145 Brooklyn Avenue (corner of St. Marks Avenue) is pleased to host a series of fun events and new exhibits this Fall.

The Museum is pleased to announce that ***Monster Mash***, its annual Halloween party, is back! **On Friday, October 24, and Saturday October 25, 2014 from 4-8 PM**, join the Museum for their annual “Monster Mash.” Come dressed to impress as the museum celebrates Halloween. There will be enchanting musical performances, epic dance parties, kooky crafts, and exciting games. Face your fears and touch creepy crawlers from the land and sea, search for all things ghoulish and grim on a scavenger hunt around the Museum, curl up at story time for little monsters, then shake it up at their Thriller master class.

In addition, the Museum is pleased to unveil the ***More Than Meets the “I,”*** a four-month long exhibition in which young scientists can explore innovations in biology, health, robotics, and technology. **“More Than Meets the “I”” runs from October 9, 2014 through January 19, 2015.**

This exhibition teaches children of all ages about innovations in science and technology, including photomicrography, molecular biology, nanotechnology, robotics, and 3D printing. While many of these concepts are not visible to the naked eye, this exhibit allows even the youngest museum visitor to take a closer look at these advanced scientific concepts.

The Brooklyn Children’s Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Admission is \$9 per person. Museum members and children under one are free. Admission to the museum is free on Thursdays from 3 to 5 PM and every third Thursday from 3 to 7 PM. For more information, call 718-735-4400 or visit www.brooklynkids.org.

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***CENTRAL BROOKLYN MARTIN  
LUTHER KING COMMISSION***

Central Brooklyn Martin Luther King Commission is pleased to announce their 30<sup>th</sup>

**Annual “Education—The Key to the Future” Essay, Poetry, and Art Contest** for students in grades 4 through 12.

The contest is designed to encourage students to learn about the wisdom and vision of Dr. King. It provides an opportunity to express critical thinking and creative communication skills while reflecting the philosophy of Dr. King.

Contest winners will receive awards, money, and other prizes at the Family Celebration of Dr. King’s birthday on Monday, January 19, 2015 at Prospect Heights High School Campus. All submissions must be received on or before November 14, 2014. Entries should be mailed or delivered to “The Essay and Poetry Contest, 316 State Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. For additional information and contest guidelines, please call 347-599-2061.

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***NYC PARKS 32ND ANNUAL WREATH
INTERPRETATIONS***

Celebrate the holiday season with NYC Parks by crafting an original, handmade wreath for exhibition at Central Park’s historic Arsenal Gallery. This juried exhibition features artistic versions of the traditional holiday form in all varieties of material and subjects.

To submit your wreath for consideration, please send a proposal according to the following guidelines:

- Sketch or photograph of your design.
- Self-addressed stamp envelope for the return of materials.
- Brief written description, including exact dimensions and media/materials.
- Name, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Wreaths exhibited in past Arsenal Gallery shows will not be considered. Wreaths will be hung from gallery molding, not mounted on the wall, so please incorporate loops (above

the midpoint of your wreath) in your design. Wreaths must be engineered so that they hang properly against the wall.

The **submission deadline is Sunday, November 2, 2014**. Send submissions to: Attn: Arsenal Gallery; City of New York/Parks & Recreation; Arsenal, Central Park; 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 20; New York, NY 10065.

For more information email artandantiquities@parks.nyc.gov or call 212-360-8163.

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### **TED YOUTH**

**TED has just announced details for TEDYouth 2014.** Themed "Worlds Imagined," the event will take place at the Brooklyn Museum located at 200 Eastern Parkway on Saturday, **November 15, 2014 from 11am to 6pm.**

TEDYouth is a day-long event for middle and high school students, with live speakers, hands-on activities and great conversations. Scientists, designers, technologists, explorers, artists, performers (and more!) share short talks on what they do best, serving both as a source of knowledge and inspiration for youth around the globe.

The event is free to attend for 400 middle and high school students in the New York City area. Applications to attend for individuals and groups of up to five students are now open at [ted.com/tedyouth](http://ted.com/tedyouth).

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Crown Heights Mediation Center (SOS)

Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets (YOSOS) is now recruiting for the 2014-15 cohort. If you or anyone you know between the ages of 14 and 17 who would like to make a change in the community, help stop the

violence, gain community service experience, earn money, and become a leader, please encourage them to join the 2014-15 YOSO cohort. Workshops will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:45 to 6 PM from October through May.

Have interested parties complete an application at www.yosos.org/participant-application.html. For more information, email dayh@crowheights.org or call 718-773-6886. Crown Heights Mediation Center is also recruiting participants for "Make it Happen!", a group of young men of color ages 16-24. To apply or for more information, email Kenton at kkirby@crowheights.org or call 718-773-6886.

City Jobs:

School Safety Agent, Exam No. 5307, file through October 31st

Traffic Enforcement Agent, Exam No. 5308, file through October 31st

Sanitation Worker, Exam No. 5001, file through October 31st

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

Custodial Positions

Borough of Manhattan Community College is hiring multiple Custodial Assistants. The filing deadline is October 17, 2014. To apply, go to <http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu/jobs/detail.jsp?jid=1912> and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.

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**Congratulations to Police Officer Sacha Pierre-Louis** of Community Affairs at the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct, on his promotion to Detective.



**Congratulations to Ms. Vilma Zuniga**, Kings County Hospital Community Advisory Board Member, who was featured in the Kings County Hospital newsletter for her work promoting Garifuna heritage. Ms. Zuniga has served on Community Board No. 8 for almost 10 years.



Congratulations to **Ms. Monemia Jorsling**, a resident of David Chavis Senior Citizen Apartments, who **celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday**. Michelle George, District Manager, presented Ms. Jorsling with a Centenarian Certificate on behalf of Community Board No. 8 on September 12, 2014.



The next **Crown Heights North Association** meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 15, 2014 at 6:45 PM** at St Gregory's Church located at the corner of St Johns Place and Brooklyn Ave. Invited speakers from the 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct and SOS (Save Our streets) will talk about community safety. For more information, contact CHNA via email at

[info@crowheightsnorth.org](mailto:info@crowheightsnorth.org) or by calling 718-774-3834.



The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, October 13, 2014** at 7 PM at Berean Missionary Baptist Church located at 1635 Bergen Street (between Utica and Rochester Avenues).



The next **78<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 21 2014** at 6:30 PM at the 78<sup>th</sup> Precinct located at 65 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.



The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, November 13, 2014** at 7 PM at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church located at 856 Pacific Street (near Vanderbilt Avenue).



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

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

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