

ACROSS THE BOARD

FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 39, NO. 2

A Message from the District Manager

REPORT STREET DEFECTS

GOOD NEWS!

The Dept. of Transportation has approved the installation of two new city benches for Lincoln Terrace Park, between Rochester and Buffalo Avenues.

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***AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR RENT***

Pacific Park aka Atlantic Yards, has luxury housing at affordable rents now available at 38 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue for households making \$20,126 to \$173,415.

Currently, 303 newly constructed apartments are being marketed. The expected occupancy date is Summer 2017. Units are available at various rates across multiple income bands. You can apply directly online at [www.nyc.gov/housingconnect](http://www.nyc.gov/housingconnect). You can also request an application by mail by sending a self-addressed envelope to 38 Sixth at Pacific Park, PO 25136, Brooklyn, NY 11202. Only send one application per development. Do not apply online and also by paper; this will lead to your application being discarded.

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Now that winter is in full swing, our roads may need repair—especially after snow storms. There are differences in the type of street defects that are reported. There are potholes, cave-ins, hummocks, failed utility cuts, missing street hardware, defective hardware, and ponding. Each is treated differently, so you must know the differences between them. Whichever defect you notice, please report it to 311 and call CB 8 with the 311 complaint number so we can follow up with the repair and ensure that it is resolved in a timely fashion. Below are pictures of the various street defects.

Cave in



Hummock



Failed utility cut



Pothole



Defective hardware



Ponding



Missing Street hardware



Remember, when you report the proper street defect, keep a record of your 311 complaint number and call your local Community Board for effective handling of your complaint!

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### **HOMEOWNER PROTECTION PROGRAM (HOPP)**

Did you know that since 2010, almost 3,000 New Yorkers have been victims of foreclosure rescue scams? Legitimate help with your mortgage is just a phone call away.

Free, professional advice is available through the NYS Attorney General's Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP). Call 1-855-466-9456 (1-855-HOME-456) today to connect with a qualified legal services or housing counseling professional. Or visit [www.AGScamHelp.com](http://www.AGScamHelp.com).

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HELP FOR OLDER HOMEOWNERS

The Center for NYC Neighborhoods is offering assistance to older homeowners. Learn about **free** financial and legal assistance for senior homeowners in New York City. Get help! Before making any financial decisions about your home, make sure you know the facts!

Call 311 and ask for the Center for NYC neighborhoods or reach them directly at 646-786-0888. Their network of professional nonprofit service providers can assist you with the following services at no cost to you:

- Estate Planning and Financial Counseling

- Home Repair and Retrofitting
- Mortgage Loan Modifications
- Tax Liens
- Legal Help

Free help is just a phone call away.

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### **SENIOR MOBILE OFFICE**

Senator Jesse Hamilton of the 20<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District is pleased to offer a Senior Mobile Office on **Wednesday, February 22, 2017 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at Ebbets Field—Community Room, 1700 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn.

Meet with Senator Hamilton's Constituent Liaisons in your neighborhood, providing convenient, easily accessible office services. No appointment necessary. Call 718-284-4700 for more information.

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SCRIE AND DRIE APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) and Disabled Rent Increase Exemption (DRIE) forms are now available for the 2017 year. These applications assist seniors and the disabled with obtaining rent freezes. The applications can be downloaded and completed online or obtained from the CB 8 office. Applications can be obtained at <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/rentfreeze/tols/scrie-applications.page>.

In addition, if you lost your SCRIE or DRIE benefits in the past for failure to recertify on time, the Dept. of Finance (DOF) wants you to know that if you were receiving this benefit from December 1, 2011 onward and were unable to renew you

Rent Free benefit because you needed more time due to a disability or physical impairment, you could still be eligible for the benefit. According to the DOF, tenants/applicants who lost the benefit, then re-entered the program at a higher frozen rent should submit the "application for Additional Time to Renew Lapsed Benefit" form. If you are a tenant/applicant who lost your benefit and have not subsequently re-entered SCRIE/DRIE, you should complete the "Application for Additional Time to Renew Expired Benefit" form. **These forms are available at the SCRIE/DRIE walk-in center located at 66 John Street, 3rd Floor in Manhattan.**

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#### ***FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICES***

**Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo** is pleased to announce that her office will be providing free tax preparation for constituents thru April 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM-4 PM, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. There is no income restriction on the service. Call 347-682-5606 to schedule an appointment.

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SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Applications are now being accepted for the Summer Youth Employment Program that offers jobs to youth ages 14-24. For more information on eligibility requirements and to obtain an application, visit <http://www1.nyc.gov/site/dycd/index.page>.

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#### ***FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR ALL***

**Borough President Eric Adams** is pleased to present Free Legal Services for All at "The People's House, Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

Legal services are offered in a variety of fields including foreclosure intervention and prevention every second Wednesday of the month from 2-5 PM; veterans' issues every Tuesday from 9 AM to 5 PM; domestic violence every third Monday from 10 AM to 4 PM; family law every Wednesday from 4-7 PM; and housing matters, trusts and estates, elder law, and government benefits every second Thursday from 2-5 PM.

Please call 718-802-3777 to make an appointment for this free service as appointments are required.

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FREE UNCONTESTED DIVORCE CLINIC

NYLAG and Legal Hand are pleased to **provide free legal assistance with creating the court papers required to obtain an uncontested divorce on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 from 4 to 6 PM.** The clinic will be held at 250 Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn.

You may be eligible for this clinic if both you and your spouse are over 18; you have no children under age 21 or have a final order of custody and child support; all marital property and debt has been settled; your marriage has been over for at least 6 months.

To be screened for an appointment, please call 718-619-4248.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH TRAILBLAZERS

NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer cordially invites you to "Trailblazers," a program and award ceremony in honor of Black History Month. The event will be held on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017 from 6:30-8:30 PM** at Mist Harlem, 46 W. 116th Street, New York, NY. There will be a performance by the Ailey School.

To RSVP, please call 212-669-4466 or email events@comptroller.nyc.gov. If you need language translation services or other special accommodations, please call 212-669-4315.

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## ***FREE TAX PREPARATION***

**Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, in partnership with Grow Brooklyn Inc.'s VITA Program,** is pleased to offer FREE Tax Preparation. The program is available to individuals claiming dependents making under \$55,000; single individuals making under \$30,000; and those who are self-employed with expenses of \$5,000 or less. Bring all necessary documents including W-2 forms, 1099-R, education payment receipts, child care expenses with proof of payment and payee tax ID number, etc.

The service will be offered on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 PM and on Thursdays March 16<sup>th</sup>, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and April 13<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 4 PM. All services will be provided at Brooklyn Boro Hall located at 209 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 347-682-5606 or visit [www.growbrooklyn.org](http://www.growbrooklyn.org).

## ***THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD: AMERICA'S AWARD FOR YOUTH***

The Congressional Award is about challenge. It is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something you would like to try for the first time. You can register for the award once you turn 13 ½ years old and only need to register once. To earn the award, you set goals in the following four areas: Voluntary Public Service; Personal Development; Physical Fitness; and Expedition/Exploration. You select an adult advisor other than your parent, relative, or peer, who will help you set challenging but achievable goals and plan activities to reach your goals.

For more information or to register online, please visit [www.congressionalaward.org](http://www.congressionalaward.org).

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TUITION FREE JOB TRAINING

Grace Institute helps women transition back into the workforce. They teach the technical and professional skills that are in demand.

Classes begin in March 2017. They offer the following:

- Five months of tuition-free computer and professional training
- One year of job-placement services in administrative and customer support positions
- Workshops with corporation and executives
- Participant Assistance Department
- A community of collaboration and confidence

Eligibility requirements are English proficiency, U.S. work eligibility, HS diploma or GED/TASC, ages 18-64, available 9 AM-4 PM Monday thru Friday.

Attend an open house and learn more! Tour classrooms, meet the staff, and learn more about the application process. Please visit www.graceinstitute.org to register for an open house. To apply, email admissions@graceinstitute.org.

Grace Institute is located at 40 Rector Street, 14th Floor, Manhattan. Their telephone number is 212-832-7605.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 02/06/17 through 02/12/17.

Year-to-Date

|                       | 2017 | 2016 | %Chg  |
|-----------------------|------|------|-------|
| <b>Murder</b>         | 0    | 1    | -100  |
| <b>Rape</b>           | 4    | 2    | 100   |
| <b>Robbery</b>        | 23   | 25   | -8    |
| <b>Felony Assault</b> | 31   | 56   | -44.6 |
| <b>Burglary</b>       | 33   | 20   | -65   |
| <b>Grand Larceny</b>  | 40   | 49   | -18.4 |
| <b>GL Auto</b>        | 8    | 14   | -42.9 |

The overall change year-to-date is -16.8%.

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We thank the individuals that are doing their part in keeping the District clean. Because of your efforts, the **scorecard rating for the month of January** was **88.6 for streets** and **89.6 for sidewalks**.

We urge everyone to adhere to the **Dept. of Sanitation's residential enforcement**

routing times of 8 AM to 9 AM and 5 PM to 6 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. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep our District clean.

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The following is a summary of the year-to-date F.D.N.Y Emergency Statistics through January 2017.

|                                | Month | YTD |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|
| <b>Structural Fires</b>        | 30    | 30  |
| <b>Non-Structural</b>          | 17    | 17  |
| <b>Total Fires</b>             | 47    | 47  |
| <b>Suspicious Fires</b>        | 0     | 0   |
| <b>Non-Medical Emergencies</b> | 262   | 262 |
| <b>Medical Emergencies</b>     | 270   | 270 |
| <b>Total Incidents</b>         | 595   | 595 |

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INTERNSHIP AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Mayor's Office

The Mayor's Office Internship Program Summer 2017 application is now open. The internship program provides a unique opportunity to gain experience and develop the capacity to solve New York City's most pressing issues. The mission of the program is to build a diverse pipeline of public service leaders. The Mayor's Office Internship Program offers interns opportunities for professional development through workshops, government engagement, and real world experience.

To apply and for more information, please visit the Internship Program website at <http://on.nyc.gov/nycmointernship>. **The application deadline is April 9, 2017.** For questions about the internships, email interns@cityhall.nyc.gov.

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### **Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office**

The Comptroller's Office is committed to providing a wide range of learning and work opportunities to students with an interest in public service.

Over the course of the nine-week program, interns will participate in hands-on departmental projects in their assigned bureau as well as an overall enrichment program that includes networking opportunities, professional development programming and community service activities.

Students are expected to work 28 hours a week on a Monday – Thursday schedule from June 5<sup>th</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

For more information or to apply, go to <http://comptroller.nyc.gov/jobs/summer-internship-program/>. **The deadline to apply is March 31, 2017.**

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Public Advocate Letitia James's Office

The Office of the Public Advocate offers several full-time, part-time, and summer internship opportunities with academic credit from colleges and universities.

The Office of the Public Advocate also offers a number of volunteer opportunities. Please note that volunteer opportunities do not require college

experience. However, those with work experience in law, social work, public policy, and journalism are especially welcome. Please email cover letter and resume to their volunteer coordinator, Joan Laufer at jlaufer@pubadvocate.nyc.gov.

There is a rolling application process.

For more information on internships or volunteering, please visit <http://pubadvocate.nyc.gov/internships-volunteer-employment-opportunities>.

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### **Brooklyn Navy Yard**

The BNYDC Summer Internship Program connects college-attending or college-bound young adults with Navy Yard-based businesses for 8 week summer internships. The Summer Internship Program gives students an opportunity to gain real work experience, exposure to the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the industrial sector, and the opportunity to earn a salary during the summer that may supplement their college costs.

Two sessions are available to accepted interns. Each student is required to choose only one (1) session in which they will participate in.

- Session 1: June 5, 2017 to July 28, 2017
- Session 2: June 26, 2017 to August 18, 2017 (graduating high school seniors from public schools will have a late start on June 29, 2017 since their classes end the previous day)

Before the start of their session, all interns must attend a BNYDC Internship Orientation Session. All interns commit

to a 40 hour work week with a one hour unpaid lunch break each day. This totals to 35 paid hours each week. All interns are compensated at \$11/hr. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. **The deadline for all applications is April 15, 2017.**

For more information or to apply, go to <http://brooklynnavyyard.org/employment/summer-internship/>.

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DYCD Ladders for Leaders

The NYC Ladders for Leaders program provides high school and college students the opportunity to participate in summer internships with some of the most dynamic corporations and businesses in New York City.

The NYC Ladders for Leaders program, a component of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), provides professional internships to NYC youth between the ages of 16 to 22. This competitive process differs from the traditional SYEP model in that it requires applicants to submit an application to one of several community-based organizations (CBO) serving the five boroughs. Applications are evaluated based on academic performance, response to an essay question, and resume. Once participants have been selected, they are engaged in 30-hours of pre-employment training designed to teach essential workplace readiness skills and business etiquette. Interviews for summer internships are scheduled by our partnering CBO's in a variety of industries from the public and private sectors. Final selections for the six-week internship are made by our partnering employers.

If you are interested in applying to the Ladders for Leaders Program, you MUST complete an SYEP application first to be directed to the Ladders application page. Visit <https://application.nycsyep.com/> to begin the application process and to obtain more information.

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### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Dept. of Corrections (DOC)**

The DOC is looking to hire about 1500 new COs in the next year. They are looking to hire from the City first, and are looking for energetic individuals and people looking to have solid careers. The starting salary for a Corrections Officer (CO) is \$44,000/year but after 5 years, the base salary can jump to \$90,000. Tests are being administered in two testing centers, at 2 Lafayette Street in Manhattan, and 210 Joralemon Street, Downtown Brooklyn.

For more information on the CO position visit [www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs](http://www.nyc.gov/examsforjobs) for go to [www.nyc.gov/jointheboldest](http://www.nyc.gov/jointheboldest). Testing will be offered thru February 28<sup>th</sup> (Exam No. 7322) and from April 1<sup>st</sup> thru April 29<sup>th</sup> (Exam No. 7324).

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PHNDC ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual meeting of the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council will be held on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** at 7:30 PM at PS 9 located at 80 Underhill Avenue (between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue), Brooklyn.



In addition to community updates and reports from PHNDC's Housing, Landmarks, and Livable Streets committees, elections will be held for Chairperson, Secretary, and three at-large Directors. Only PHNDC members in good standing are eligible to vote, but the meeting is open to everyone. Member dues must be current in order to maintain good standing. Members owing dues may pay on site prior to the start of the meeting by arriving no later than 7:15 or may pay online in advanced (preferred method) by visiting www.phndc.org.

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We send our heartfelt condolences to the family of Mary Aikens-Reed, a long standing Community Board 8 member who recently passed away.

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The next **78th Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 28, 2017** at 7 PM at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue.

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The next **77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council** meeting will be held on **Monday, March 13, 2017** at 7 PM at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 to confirm the location.

The next meeting of **Community Board No. 8** will be held on **Thursday, March 9, 2017** at 7 PM at 1000 Dean Street (between Franklin and Classon Avenues), Brooklyn.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to Mr. Fred Frazier, Ms. Atim Oton, Mr. Robert Puca, and Mr. Yves Vilus.

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

**Nizjoni Granville, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, Dist. Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Melanie Grant, Community Assistant**

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