

BROOKLYN BY *THE* BLOCK

New York City is both America's most populated city and a large collection of small towns. As its largest borough, Brooklyn is also a cluster of small towns, and as far as population goes, sits in between Chicago and Houston with 2.6 million people, which would make us the 4th largest city in the country!

It is our individual neighborhoods that define us. Throughout the city, crossing from one block to the next can seem like travelling from one country to the next. And our community identities anchor us as well.

In Park Slope, like much of the City, our blocks are where we define home. Our blocks serve as community commons - proxy living rooms when we stoop-sit; safe harbor and refuge in storms literally and figuratively. In September 2001, many of us knew that if our children found their way to their block they could knock on any door, be immediately home and sheltered.

From our blocks we organize, advocate, occasionally agitate and together maintain the foundation of our vibrant and inclusive community.

Block parties are long-cherished traditions throughout the City. How they happen, what they do and why they are important are featured in this edition of the Civic News. And with this feature, contributed generously by block party veteran John Telesca of First Street, we launch what we hope will be a regular part of the Civic News. **Brooklyn By the Block** will introduce and celebrate our micro-communities. Their traditions, accomplishments and experience will serve as a resource for us all.

We look forward to your feedback and contributions for future issues. We also hope to visit blocks citywide. Enjoy! And let us know what you think.

TIME FOR A BLOCK PARTY!

By John Telesca, 1st Street Block Association

Block Associations, and particularly block parties, have long been a way to build community among our neighbors. Block parties bring us together and are a great way to meet new neighbors and catch up with others.

For a day, kids can enjoy a car-free block, and for neighbors, new and old, block parties provide a sense of continuity and reinforce an enduring sense of togetherness. For me, our two parties each year remind me that we live in a village that is more than just a place to live.

Continued on page 4/5

59th Annual Park Slope House Tour!



photo credit: Jacob Snavely

Pictured above, custom wallpaper adorns one wall of this 1911 Chappell and Bosworth designed home

By Candace Woodward, Chairperson House Tour Committee

The 2018 **Park Slope House Tour**, a self-guided tour organized by the **Park Slope Civic Council**, will take place **Sunday, May 20th, from 12:00 PM to 5:30 PM**. Following the Tour at 6:00 PM, there will be a lecture by local architect-historian Francis Morrone.

Tickets are now available at \$25 via the Park Slope Civic Council's website and can be purchased at \$25 at local merchants and realtors starting on May 1st. Beginning at 12 Noon on May 20th, tickets will be sold at \$30, shoe covers will be available and House Tour brochures will be distributed at our **starting point - Poly Prep Lower School, 50 Prospect Park West at 1st Street**.

Highlights of some of the homes on the tour:

The beautiful home above is one of a pair of houses that the Brooklyn architectural firm Chappell & Bosworth designed in 1911. Upon entering, a stairway from the spacious foyer leads to the parlor floor, which features beautiful moldings, quarter sawn oak floors, leaded glass windows and a built-in settee at the base of the stairway. Custom wallpaper adorns one wall. The dining room has a coffered ceiling, high mahogany wainscoting,

Continued on page 5

Also in this Issue

President's Letter - Growing, Serving & Honoring Our Communities . . .	page 2	Restoration & Development News	pages 6-9
A View From the Street - A Link Between Schools & Community . . .	page 4	Community and Small Business Update	pages 10-11
		Upcoming Events for the Whole Family	pages 10 and 12

President's Letter - Growing, Serving & Honoring our Communities

Thinking about the past fall and winter, and looking ahead to spring and summer, we acknowledge that each of us belongs to many different communities, and the Civic Council touches many of them. In this issue, we celebrate our neighborhood blocks. We collect each other's mail when someone is out of town, we stop on the sidewalks and stoops to talk, we babysit, we shovel snow – we look out for each other. Block associations bind us together, and now is the time for block parties! In “**Brooklyn by the Block**,” look for tips on how to plan a block party and who to contact for permits. In “**A View from the Street**,” we learn about a District 15 school garden consortium launched just three months ago that strengthens ties between schools and community, and provides a vehicle for teachers, parents and community members to share ideas and resources, and work together.

We've also given back to our community. We awarded nearly \$5,000 in **Civic Council Grants** to eight local community non-profits – read more information about each of these important organizations in the article on this page.

You'll also find write-ups on 2018's **Ortner Award** winners. The Ortner Awards honor Everett and Evelyn Ortner for their transformative work in Park Slope, and are given to encourage renovations, new constructions and interventions that enhance the neighborhood's appearance. You will find an article from the Brooklyn Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN) offering helpful advice on **Residential Restoration and Renewal**, and an update on the Ample Hills Creamery and Nitehawk projects at **Bartel-Pritchard Square**.

There's also news about plans for a garden at the **Pacific Branch**

Continued on p. 5

The Civic Council Awards nearly \$5,000 in Grants to Local Groups & Non-Profits

As part of PSCC's mission to support our community, we award grants to local community non-profits to help them fund important projects. The criteria that we look for are the community impact, the communities that are served and the overall quality of the application. This year we are pleased to announce that we awarded 8 grants to local organizations:

CAMP FRIENDSHIP: was established in 1973 as a committee of concerned neighbors working to raise funds to send children in need to summer camp. Camp Friendship has requested funding for the start up of a JOAD (Junior Olympic Archery Development) club. JOAD is a nationwide program of USA Archery that provides youth ages 8 to 20 with ongoing archery classes, helping them progress from beginner to advanced level archery at their own pace. This program will provide underserved youth from the community with the health and fitness benefits of archery. To start the program, Camp Friendship will need the equipment necessary to set up a safe indoor archery range.

GREENSPACE ON FOURTH COMMUNITY GARDEN: is a community garden on 4th Avenue between Union and Sackett Streets. Our grant will help fund microscopes and supplies to launch a new Plant and Soil Workshop program. The Workshops will instruct children and adults in the identification and close study of native plants and soil components in the garden. For adults, the workshops will also focus on the cultivation of native plants in home gardens, street tree bed maintenance, and related topics.

HEIGHTS AND HILLS: is a 46-year-old service organization that, amongst many other initiatives, runs the Park Slope Center for Successful Aging. They recently recruited an experienced art therapist who will teach drawing and painting classes at the center on a pro bono basis. They require funding to purchase brushes, drawing pencils, paint and other supplies for the program, which will include two 8-week sessions.

ONE BREATH RISING INC: is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for diverse artists working in the African American tradition, to support their partnership with the 440 Gallery on 6th Avenue and 9th Street. There are 10 performances scheduled for 2018 and our grant will help pay to bring musicians to the space, supplementing funding already in place that will pay to showcase writers.

FRIENDS OF PACIFIC LIBRARY: The grant will be used to pay for 2 benches in the garden space planned for the library's backyard. Library patrons will use the space for reading and socializing, and the area will serve the community as a green space, and host library events such as storytime and small concerts.

PIPER THEATRE PRODUCTIONS: is a Brooklyn-based education company committed to creating exciting performance opportunities for emerging theater artists ages 7 to 70. In residence at the Old Stone House and Washington Park since 2005, Piper serves families from our local neighborhoods and audiences across the city. Piper is looking for funding for their Library Project that will bring free outdoor performances at local libraries.

PS 39 PTA/GREEN COMMITTEE: is a group of 20 4th and 5th graders selected to help improve sustainability practices at the schools by overseeing the Zero Waste school recycling initiatives and facilitating work in our Community Garden. The grant will support promoting green living by planting bulbs and flowers and constructing tree pit bench fences around the 7 trees along 6th Avenue and 8th Street, adjacent to the Park Slope Library.

T.E.A.L – Tell Every Amazing Lady: TEAL's mission is to promote public awareness and education of the signs, symptoms and risk factors of Ovarian Cancer, while providing support to survivors and raising funds for research in order to find the cure for Ovarian Cancer. The grant will help support the further development of their Youth Ambassador program. Applicants must be enrolled full-time as a student and must reside in Park Slope. The Ambassadors will help educate, engage and empower women and girls in Park Slope through awareness events, strategic partnerships, campaigns, wellness activities, volunteerism and additional opportunities.



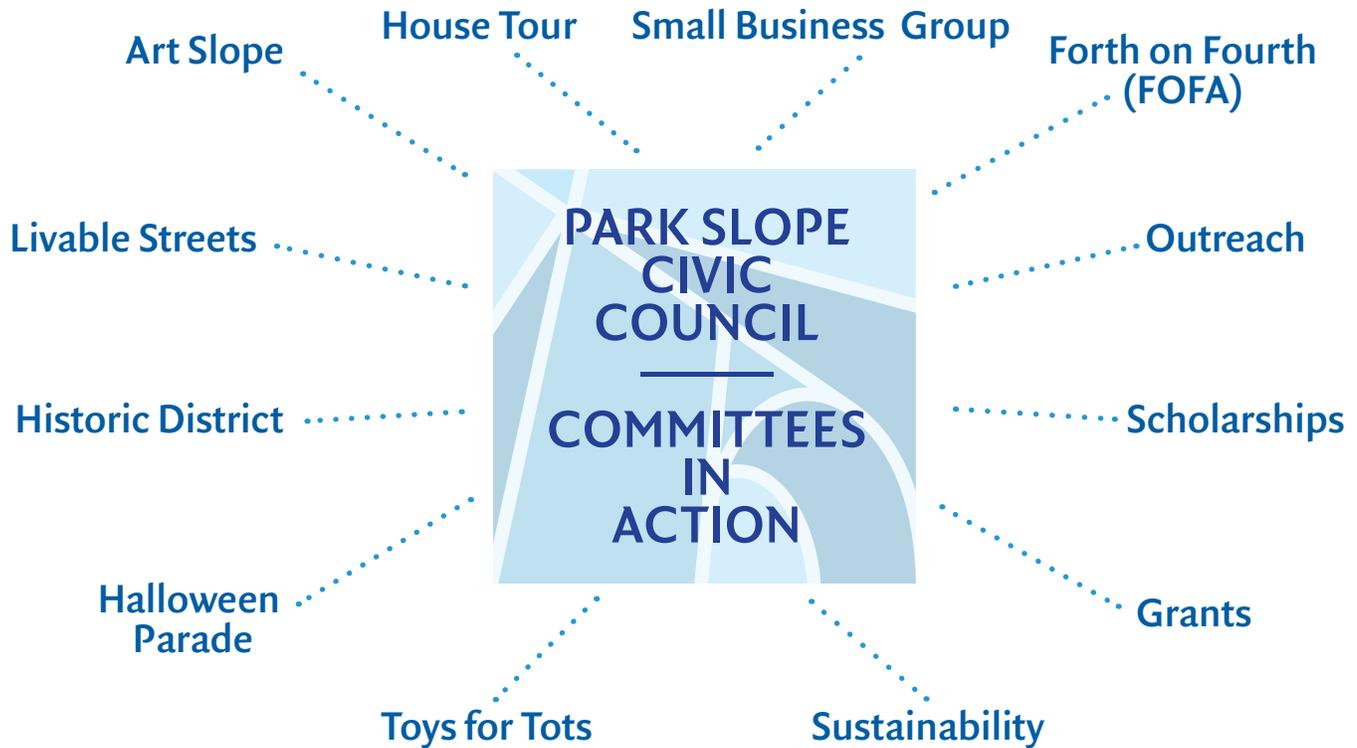
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Our Most Important Goal this Year - Increase Membership by 25%
 Become a Member, Stay a Member and Support your Community
 A Strong Membership Makes Us a Strong Organization!



Our Mission Statement

The Park Slope Civic Council promotes the health, vitality and character of the Park Slope neighborhood and advocates for the interests of residents, businesses and others with a stake in the community.

Join or renew now and help us nurture, defend, celebrate and invigorate this community we call home.

Make your check payable to The Park Slope Civic Council and mail with this form to:
 Box 172, 123 Seventh Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215, or sign up online at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org

 Primary Contact (and company name if applicable) Email

 Other Adult Member of Household (if applicable) Email

 Street Address

 City State Zip Phone

- Enclosed is my check for:
- Household: \$40
 - Business/Professional: \$100
 - Benefactor: \$250
 - Non-Profit/Organization Partner: \$50
 - Student/Elder Community (65+): \$25
 - Other: Contribution of \$_____

LEARN MORE! at parkslopeciviccouncil.org
 Like us on Facebook: Park Slope Civic Council and follow us on Twitter: @PkSICivCouncil

Brooklyn By The Block

Time for a Block Party, continued from p. 1.

I have been fortunate to live in Park Slope, working over the years with my neighbors to maintain the traditions established over the decades, and am pleased to share my experiences from those years.

Having a well-organized block helps. We have a Yahoo group to keep in touch with one another, sharing and maintaining a block directory to stay connected. We collect dues to support block activities and we organize an annual fundraiser event to cover costs of the block, plant and clean tree beds, and support regular block events.

Volunteers are key to organizing our block parties. Planning starts months in advance with scheduling and permit requests required by the City. Applications must come from a Block Association or be signed by at least twenty residents of the block. And requests must be approved at least sixty days in advance.

On 1st Street, we hold two block parties per year (each block is entitled to three street closings per year and they must be at least 90 days apart), one each in Spring and Fall.

Other important considerations include:

- Saturdays are preferred...no one wants a Sunday party.

- Schedule before the public schools close at the end of June, to include families that may be away July 4th or are leaving for summer vacation.
- Street closings cannot be scheduled during an avenue closing like a street fair or parade (Little League opening, Brooklyn Pride, etc.).
- Avoid Memorial Day, July 4th and Labor Day weekends as too many people are away.
- Finally, apply early and be ready with an alternative date in case your first choice is rejected. For example, a new rule dictates that there cannot be a street closing within two blocks of another.

Lastly, before applying, decide if there will be any kind of entertainment, live music, movie screening, pony rides, inflatable structures, etc. Once issued, permits are difficult to change.

Street closing permits and the \$25 fee can be filed online at <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cecm/permitting/permit-types/block-parties.page>. Also notice must be provided to the Community Board (ours is CB6) requesting final approval at info@BrooklynCB6.org.

Once your block has its permit and approvals, the fun starts! Plan activities that encourage people to mingle and for kids to gather.

A VIEW FROM THE STREET

Newly-Launched Garden Train Roots For School Gardens, A Link Between Schools and Community

By Kathy Park Price, Co-VP of CEC15 and Administrator, Garden Train



District 15's Garden Train, New York City's first and only districtwide school gardens consortium, launched on November 27, 2017 on the idea that our school gardens are the ideal vehicle to connect schools with community. What do most of us know about a school that our own kids don't attend? Often, the answer is a school garden because many times they're the only living part of a school that is outside the building. You can only walk a few blocks before you walk past a school garden in Park Slope and the other neighborhoods of School District 15 (Gowanus, Red Hook, Sunset Park, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill, Ft. Greene, Kensington and Windsor Terrace). Our schools that are within blocks of each other didn't have channels to communicate with each other, but organizations like Garden Train and CEC15 strengthen those ties and expand our sense of community in the process.

As a parent advocate from Community Education Council District 15 (CEC15) with a districtwide perspective, I saw that our school garden leaders, who are both parents and teachers, could benefit from sharing ideas and resources with each other, working with community partners and going after fundraising opportunities as a larger group. We launched three months ago, but are already adding value to our schools and achieving our mission to grow community. Our schools are not just buildings on a block, but important institutions in our community, and both schools and the community become stronger when we work together and support each other.

One example of districtwide school-community connection as a result of Garden Train took place when Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC) hosted a Native Plants workshop specifically for Garden Train and tailored the content to the special needs of school gardens, which have tight budgets and space constraints. Though GCC has reached out to schools one at a time, they were able to reach 20 district schools at once

since Garden Train exists. With Garden Train, it's easier for school garden leaders to connect with each other and for community leaders, partners and businesses to connect with school gardens. We're also exploring the creation of a Garden Train Tool Lending Depot housed at the Old Stone House and a school gardens crawl where the community could tour and learn about our school gardens.

Our members are not only school gardens, but also community partners, including the Park Slope Civic Council. We have a growing list of Garden Buds, which are the community partner members who root for school gardens. We are grateful for the Park Slope Civic Council's interest in Garden Train's mission to grow community. If Park Slope Civic Council members would like to become a Garden Train member or connect with school garden leaders, please reach out. We'd love to grow community with you!

Follow us on [Facebook.com/GardenTrainD15](https://www.facebook.com/GardenTrainD15) or on [Instagram @GardenTrainD15](https://www.instagram.com/GardenTrainD15), and if you'd like to receive our monthly newsletter, please email kathyparkpriceCEC15@gmail.com.

Our block has had lots of fun and great success with:

- Rent inflatable slides, bouncy castle or dunk tank.
- Volunteers have led face painting, arts & crafts, or games including relay and sack races and tug-of-war.
- Serve bagels and coffee in the morning, grill burgers and franks for lunch, and finally finish up with a pot luck supper with everyone coming together.
- Live music and dancing is always fun, and in recent years, we have included a family-friendly movie at the end of the day.

The options are endless. As the day approaches, these tasks need to be assigned:

- Create & post “No Parking” signs one week before the party.
- Contact any businesses with a public driveway on the block to avoid unintended traffic (our block has an entrance to a bank parking lot).
- Create and share a schedule of activities with the block.
- Close the block the morning of the party between 9 AM and 10 AM.
- When the party concludes, remove the “No Parking” signs.

QUICK CHECKLIST

10 tips for a successful block party:

1. Plan ahead and communicate with your block.
2. Organize a committee and assign responsibilities.
3. Determine a preferred and alternate date.
4. Arrange entertainment, activities and food for adults and kids.
5. Submit permit online applications early, and confirm date and activities with your Community Board.
6. Create, post and later remove “No Parking” signs.
7. Alert businesses with public driveways to street closures.
8. Share a schedule of day and evening activities with neighbors.
9. Prepare easy-fix and popular foods for breakfast/lunch and plan a potluck dinner and any evening snacks.
10. Mingle with neighbors, make new friends, HAVE FUN!

President’s Letter, continued from page 2

Library, an 114-year-old Beaux-Arts library donated by steel baron Andrew Carnegie.

And we have our **Civic Sweep** on April 22nd! In addition to painting over graffiti and picking up litter throughout the neighborhood, this spring’s Civic Sweep features a “**Chalk Bloom**” – kids using colored chalk to draw beautiful spring flowers and designs.

The PSCC’s “**We’re All In This Together**” initiative got off to a great start with fun programs at the Park Slope Center for Successful Aging, a caregiving workshop and an online program that tracks and reports problems with obstructed storm drains.

We have a bunch of great upcoming events, including this year’s **House Tour** on May 20th – don’t miss it! Seven historic homes are lined up for the tour, and the money we raise funds the Civic Council’s grants program. Visit www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org to get your tickets! And come to the PSCC general meeting on June 7th at the Old Stone House where we will award scholarships to students from the John Jay high school campus, elect new trustees, and celebrate with food and drinks.

With the wam weather coming, get energized! Help us serve and give back to the communities we live in. Become a Civic Council member today or renew your membership! We need involved neighbors – a strong membership makes us a strong organization!!

- Ron Daignault and Kedin Kilgore

59th Annual House Tour, continued from page 1



photo credit: Cynthia Dantzie

Pictured above, this beautiful home features a sleek, contemporary interior and a split-level garden where bamboo grows.

built-in China cabinets and a charming window seat. The kitchen boasts a Wolf stove, Caesarstone counters and a painting by Oliver Gal; large picture windows bathe the room in natural light. The upper floors include spacious bedrooms and a handsome study.

A full-fledged gut renovation of the 1886 Neo-Grec home pictured above has resulted in a sleek, contemporary interior featuring handsome leather seating, Bocci lighting, epoxy concrete flooring and extensive storage space. The beautiful dining room table was made of one slab of oxidized maple by an artisan in New Hampshire. The spacious kitchen boasts quartzite and soapstone countertops; floor to ceiling windows let in a wealth of natural light.

Many thanks to our sponsors **Brown Harris Stevens, Brooklyn Solar Works, Corcoran Group, Halstead Property** and **Douglas Elliman Real Estate**.

Proceeds from the House Tour fund the Civic Council’s Grants Program. Look for descriptions and photos of Tour homes and get tickets for this year’s Tour on our website at: www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org/housetour2018/

The 78th Precinct Launches Its Neighborhood Community Officers (NCO) Initiative

In October of 2017, the 78th precinct rolled out its NCO program (Neighborhood Community Officers). In a nutshell, different parts of the precinct are split into sectors (A,B,C and D) and specific officers are assigned to those areas, and anyone in the neighborhood can personally contact them by phone or email for any reason.

The goal is for officers to really get to know their community, and vice versa. This NCO program has already been piloted in other sections of Brooklyn, such as Red Hook, and it’s been very successful thus far.

Community and civic group members, as well as business owners, have all provided glowing feedback about the effect of the program on their communities. This program promises to be a great boon to Park Slope and our surrounding neighborhoods, and will serve to make our community safer, stronger and better.

You can join the conversation about public safety and policing in our neighborhood by attending a local **BuildTheBlock** meeting; get more information by visiting their website at <https://buildtheblock.nyc/>.

Since the program rolled out late last year, 18 new officers have been added to the precinct, further strengthening this new initiative. A hearty congratulations to the 78th Precinct!



Restoration & Development

Four Park Slope Buildings Recognized for Renovation and Restoration

This year's winners all have historically renowned architectural pedigrees and include an Iconic 4th Avenue building, a classic Gothic Church, a Limestone Mansion, and a former Hotel:

227 4th Avenue, Public Bathhouse #7, for Exterior Restoration - Award presented to: Greystone Development, Owner; Higgins Quasebarth & Partners, Historic Preservation Consultant; Daniel Goldner Architects, Design; Walter B. Melvin Architects, Preservation Architects. The landmarked building on 4th Ave and Union Street designed by Raymond Almiraal – the noted Beaux Arts architect – underwent extensive historic review and refurbishing. The foundation needed steel reinforcement and rebuilding before the work could commence. Painstaking work to restore the polychrome terracotta reliefs along with making the public building ADA compliant were but a few of the obstacles the team of architects and builders had to overcome. **105 8th Avenue, The Tracy Mansion, for Rehabilitation of a Historic Structure** - Award presented to: ZR Empire & Assoc., Leonard Colchamiro Architects and Scott Henson Architect. After years of being used as a Montessori school, the Tracy Mansion needed some serious TLC. ZR Empire purchased the building for repurposing into condos, but still honored the original details both inside and out. Rather than discarding an original stained-glass window to accommodate a new passageway from the original house to the rear addition, the architects reconfigured the window into a pair of double doors, blending them seamlessly with the original woodwork. **126 7th Avenue, Old First Reformed Church, for Exterior Restoration** - Award presented to: Pastor Daniel Meeter, Jan Hird Pokorny Assoc., and PRESERV Building Restoration Management. Indiana Limestone, the material used for the façade of this neighborhood institution, is a hard material to work with. Wherever possible, the deteriorated limestone was retooled to preserve the original material. When that couldn't be done, composite patching mix was used to repair the facing. All work was done to comply with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation. **153 Lincoln Place, for Exterior Restoration** - Award presented to: RAND Engineering and Architecture. It's not often you get to honor a former hotel with hourly rates.... When it was converted to a condo building, the developer at the time used less than quality techniques. The current condo association remedied that by, among other things, replacing PVC piping with spray foam insulation atop the chimney with historically appropriate clay flues. Restoration to the exterior was handled with meticulous attention to detail as shown in the outstanding stone ornamentation treatment in the far right photo below.



photo by Tim Waltham of Evan Josephs



photo by Jan Hird Pokorny Associates



photo by John Mazurek



photo by Peter Bray

Pictured above left to right: the Tracy Mansion, Old First Reformed Church, Public Bathhouse #7 and 153 Lincoln Place

The Ortner Awards honor Everett and Evelyn Ortner for their work in Park Slope, transforming a neighborhood in disrepair to the vibrant community of today. They are given to encourage renovations, new construction and interventions that enhance the neighborhood's appearance. Since their inception, the awards have been sponsored by Tarzian Hardware.

The "Scoop" on the Latest Developments at Bartel-Pritchard Square

by Peter Bray, Chairman, Historic Committee

For many years, the former Circles Restaurant on Bartel-Pritchard Square has sat vacant awaiting a new lease on life. In 2015, Hidrock Realty sought to redevelop it and the adjacent Pavilion Theater into a mixed-use building with high-end condos, retail space and several movie screens. Since both buildings were in the 2011 extension of the Park Slope Historic District engineered by the Civic Council, the project's design was subject to Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) approval. The review process enabled the Civic Council and the 14th Street Block Association to raise strenuous objections to the scale and unsympathetic design of the 5-story building that would have replaced the one-story Circles building.

In a much happier outcome for the community, the LPC approved in January of this year Hidrock's design for the Circles site that will resemble the building's original character by sporting a 19th century cornice and striped brick façade. In a further return to its past glory, it will house **Ample Hills Creamery**, which will pay homage to the ice cream parlor that inhabited the building in the 1930s.

There will be an outpost of **Nitehawk Cinema** at the old Pavilion Theater, which was purchased by an investor group from Hidrock and leased to Nitehawk. It is currently undergoing a \$10 million renovation with plans to open in late spring 2018 with seven theaters, two bars and a kitchen. The theater will feature restored elements of the original Sanders Theater that were uncovered during its renovation.

Together, these two projects represent a definite win-win for Park Slope and the advocacy efforts by the community.



photo credit: Building Studio Architects, LLP



photo credit: Nitehawk Cinema

Pictured above proposed Bartel-Pritchard Square developments include (top) Ample Hills Creamery and (bottom) Nitehawk Cinema

Advertisement

Has your home suffered water damage and you suspect mold contamination? Do you have health concerns as a result?

For the past ten years EnviroBliss has been the leading specialist in indoor air quality and remediation. Located in the heart of Park Slope at 325 Flatbush Avenue, Pierre M. Cajuste and his crew specialize in the least toxic and effective treatment of water damage to homes and offices. In contrast with conventional mold remediation firms, EnviroBliss uses non-toxic products that have stood the test of time, which not all green products do. Their vision is to enable sustainable cleaning using the least toxic methods in order to enhance the quality of overall life. EnviroBliss promotes cleanliness in all surroundings to ensure safety, home health, comfort and productivity. Their mission is to boost higher productivity through high skilled engineering in the removal of mold and other indoor inhabitants that threaten the safety of the



environment of millions of homes and businesses throughout the tri state area.

Pierre is licensed and highly experienced in mold remediation. He has spent over 20 years performing all levels of hygienic maintenance, and refurbishment work on heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Pierre is also certified by the ACAC, American Council for Accredited Certification, formerly known as the American Indoor Air Quality Council. EnviroBliss only staffs experienced, licensed technicians. They supply cleaning solutions that bring value to their clients whether at home or at the workplace. EnviroBliss' concern is to make the lives of all their clients stress free and as smooth as possible. For the past decade EnviroBliss has worked with countless families with individuals that suffer from asthma, bronchitis, allergies, and other respiratory diseases that are extremely susceptible to mold and chemicals. Expect the best quality HEPA filtered vacuum cleaners and the latest in least-

toxic methods that capture and remove suspended micro particles left behind after conventional remediation. EnviroBliss can assist your family to a healthier home, as they have with so many other individuals and families.

May Dooley, mold inspector and owner of EnviroHealth Consulting, Inc., says of EnviroBliss: "Pierre has worked with many of my mold inspection clients. These individuals largely come through doctors' referrals and tend to be very sensitive to mold. Invariably they comment on how accommodating and detail-oriented he and his workers are. A recent comment from a couple living in Manhattan was, 'Pierre is amazing! We are so happy with his work!' I have worked with Pierre for over ten years, since the company was founded in 2007. Clients even beyond the tri-state area, as far away as Pennsylvania and Delaware, have spoken highly of his work. I relax when I know that EnviroBliss will be on the job."

What clients have to say on **YELP** about EnviroBliss:

- "A fantastic job of removing the mold by hand, so I didn't have to breathe in any chemicals. I have not suffered from any mold-related illness since [they were] here several years ago. I call [EnviroBliss] whenever I see any kind of discoloration in my home to see if it's mold, and [they] always tell me honestly when it isn't!"
- "[They are] very meticulous and super clean...Mold remediation is not a pleasant process, but EnviroBliss makes it as smooth as possible."

Give a call with your questions and concerns. Pierre will be glad to speak with you.

Phone: (718) 252-0404

Email: enviroblissllc@verizon.net





Restoration and Development

Residential Restoration and Renewal - A Primer for Success!!

We live in a neighborhood of wonderful old buildings where opportunities for restoration and renewal abound. For many homeowners, events like the PSCC House Tour inspire dreams of renovating.

AIA Brooklyn's Custom Residential Architects Network (CRAN) is an organization of local professionals dedicated to the thoughtful restoration and renovation of our unique homes and apartments. CRAN members have been assisting the House Tour Committee with planning for this year's event, and we'd like to offer a primer of steps to consider as you contemplate a renovation project.

First, you need to dream. What do you hope to accomplish? Do you need more space? A more functional kitchen? A façade that isn't crumbling? What have you seen that inspires you? A written wish list along with a collection of images can be a great place to start. In addition, you need to consider budget and schedule. Keep in mind that each project has soft costs such as of professional fees and filing fees in addition to the actual costs of construction. Architects and contractors you speak with can help you develop a realistic budget and time frame for construction.

Talk to friends and neighbors who have renovated. Ask them for recommendations for professionals that they have worked with. Also, find out what they wish they had known beforehand. Speak with architects, interior designers, and contractors whose work you admire. They are usually more than happy to discuss the process and what might be required. They can help you envision options or solutions that haven't even crossed your mind. An architect will also help you understand if regulatory approvals will be needed.

There are a number of online directories and blogs that can help you identify

professionals to consult with. One such potential pool of architects, designers, and contractors is CRAN; you can email us at cran@aiabrooklyn.org.

Keep in mind that the size and type of your renovation may dictate who you need to hire. Smaller jobs, particularly those that consist primarily of repair work, may be accomplished by a contractor without requiring a design professional. For work that is primarily aesthetic you may elect to work with an interior designer. More substantive jobs are best accomplished under the direction of an architect, who can coordinate a larger team of subconsultants and guide you all the way through to the project's completion.

Interview the firms that most interest you. Most architects will do a preliminary walk-thru with you as part of the interview process and that is an excellent opportunity to discuss your project goals and learn how they might address them. Those interviews will better inform you about how a renovation project is typically managed, and they will also reveal differences in approach that may lead you to select one firm over another. One of the most critical aspects of your choice will be finding someone that you not only have confidence in, but would enjoy working with. Request proposals from the firms that seem to be the best fit for your project.

Moving thoughtfully through these initial steps, you will have positioned yourself for a successful project. There remains a lot of work to do; but once construction is complete, you will have enhanced your own home as well as helped to maintain and update the built environment that makes our neighborhood so unique.

Courtesy of AIA Brooklyn Custom Residential Architects Network

CRAN is proud to support the work of the Park Slope Civic Council. Our thanks for all you do from historic district expansion to the Ortnier Award and annual house tour.



AIA
Brooklyn

CRAN

Custom Residential
Architects Network

David Cunningham Architecture Planning
Design and Construction by Vincent Nativo, llc
Joseph Koelbel Architect, PLLC
Jordan Parnass Digital Architecture
LMA Group Inc.
Matter of Architecture
Neuhaus Design Architecture PC
Robinson + Grisaru Architecture PC
TOLA architecture pllc

aiabrooklyn.org/cran



Shared For All

Affordable Solar for Affordable Housing

FAC Solar is a Gowanus Grid & Electric shared solar project developed with Brooklyn's Fifth Avenue Committee to serve 300 families living in supported and affordable housing.

Brooklyn Solar Works - Installation Partner

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Community & Small Business



Once-Threatened Pacific Branch Library Rolls Out Plans for New Garden

On February 2nd, freezing weather didn't stop Friends of the Pacific Branch Library, Brooklyn Public Library Central Office and Pacific Branch staff, neighbors and long-time supporters from the Park Slope Civic Council (PSCC) and the Boerum Hill Association (BHA) from meeting to discuss creating a garden on long-unused library grounds.

Joined by advisors from New York Restoration Project and Brooklyn Bridge Park, the group walked through the back and side yards and began to envision where flower beds, new trees and shrubs, garden paths and spaces for visitors to sit and enjoy the garden might be located.

The garden project was started by a BHA fundraising effort, to which PSCC contributed funding for two benches. Participants at the meeting agreed to start small, perhaps with woodchip paths and movable containers, but to also keep in mind a larger, permanent design.

The knowledge that barely five years ago, community activists had blocked the Brooklyn Library plan to move the branch to the "BAM South" site and demolish the beloved historic library building, made the meeting all the more memorable for many attendees. The nearly 114-year-old Beaux-Arts library is the first Andrew Carnegie-endowed library in Brooklyn to be followed by 20 more in the Borough.

To contribute to the garden or get involved with Friends of the Brooklyn Branch Library, contact Leann Kumin, Friends Liaison (lkumin@bklyn-library.org).



photo credit: Brooklyn Public Library

Built from funds donated by steel baron Andrew Carnegie and designed by noted Brooklyn architect Raymond Almira, the Pacific Branch opened to the public on October 8th, 1904.

For more information about PSCC involvement in saving the library building, check old editions of the Park Slope Civic News at:

- <http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org/whats-next-for-pacific-streets-library/>
- <http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org/civic-council-to-cpc-keep-bam-south-pacific-library-plans-separate/>
- <http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org/i-really-love-this-library/>

Park Slope Business Owners Problem-Solve for Shared Concerns

The Park Slope Civic Council's **Small Business Committee** formed in late 2017 and meets at the Old Stone House and other neighborhood locations. Their first meeting of 2018 was on January 31st when approximately 30 Park Slope business owners braved the cold to network, discuss issues, and problem-solve with their peers.

The meeting was led by Committee Chairman, Mark Caserta, PSCC Trustee and Executive Director of the Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID and Joanna Tallantire, Deputy Director of the Park Slope Fifth Avenue BID. The Park Slope 5th Ave BID represents 520 local businesses, and is one of 76 BIDs in New York City. Some of the topics discussed were possible tax abatements, social media, delivery services, and the possibility of a creating a new digital community of local business owners.

The April 19th meeting of the Small Business Forum features guest presenter Ali Schwartz, Yelp's Local Business Partner, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM at Ground Floor Gallery, 343 5th Street in Park Slope.

In Memoriam

Please join us in remembering those whose lives have touched the PSCC.

Elisabeth Hall Elkind, the wife of former PSCC trustee David Alquist, who is a long-time member of the Civic Council's Historic District Committee and the author of the house biographies for the House Tour. Elisabeth is survived by her husband David and daughters, Miranda and Cordelia Alquist.

Joseph Milnikiewicz, the husband of former trustee and Membership Secretary Cathy Milnikiewicz, passed away on December 3, 2017 after a long battle with ALS. He was a long-time and active resident of 3rd Street and Park Slope, and is survived by his wife Cathy and two children, Michael, 26 and Sofia, 21.

Leslie Beller, former Trustee of the Park Slope Civic Council, member of the Board of Trustees of the Prospect Park Alliance from 1993 onward, and member of the Board of Trustees of The Brooklyn Museum from 2002 onward. She is survived by her husband Alan, her daughter Elizabeth, and her son David.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 20th
Sunday,
12pm-6pm

The Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair
Famous Street Fair shopping,
eating and drinking

5th Ave
Sterling to
12th Street

June 9th
Saturday,
11am-5pm
& evening parade

Brooklyn Pride Fair & Parade
Famous Street Fair shopping,
eating and drinking

5th Ave
Sterling to
9th Street

June 21st
All Day

Make Music NY
Music fills the sidewalks of
#theother5th and watch out
for the marching band!

5th Ave
Dean St. to
18th Street

July 21 & 28th
Saturday,
5pm-9pm

Summer Strolls
South Slope's loved block party with a
Doggie Fashion Show, a Shakespeare
Performance, outdoor fun, outdoor
restaurants and a pop up park.

5th Ave
12th St. to
18th Street

August 11 & 18th
Saturday,
5pm-9pm

Summer Strolls
North Slope's fun block party with a
Pizza Eating Contest, outdoor fun,
outdoor restaurants and pop-up park.

5th Ave
Dean St. to
Sterling



For Event Details Go To
parkslopeciviccouncil.org

#theother5th





“We’re All In This Together” Age Friendly Park Slope

The award of a grant from the NYC Department for the Aging through the office of Councilmember Brad Lander, propelled the creation of a PSCC ad hoc team effort to develop program activities valuable to a wide spectrum of age groups. Mindful of the fact that we are neither a service provider nor a full-time staffed organization, the team has created a menu of programs/projects for the spring and early summer that build on our connections to direct service agencies, the feedback from civic partners about questions related to eldercare, our personal connections with instructors and artists skilled in interactive work, and our ability (through our website) to identify public accessibility problems equally challenging to toddlers, their parents, and their grandparents.

Follow the News/Blog or Community page on our website to learn more about these programs as they roll out. “We’re All In This Together” projects include:

Long Distance Caregiving Workshop Collaboration with Heights and Hills

As parents grow older, adult children are often faced with the difficult task of caring for their aging parents who live in other states. Collaborating with Heights and Hills, our April forum on long distance caregiving, addressed such topics as how one can identify helpful resources in distant locations, as well as other considerations related to navigating care.

Programming with the Center For Successful Aging A community space, operated by Heights and Hills, for anyone 60 or older

Smartphone Clinics: A series of instructional cell phone clinics, where volunteers are stationed at the Center during lunchtime to address questions and provide assistance with navigating cell phone basics. These multi-generational classes help seniors to access continually-changing technology.

Printmaking Workshops: A series of art classes taught by a Park Slope professional artist that inspires the creative process for developing personalized images as original art cards and prints, incorporated into a final wall mural.

Music/Storytelling/Movement: A series of classes transforming personal memories through song, healthful movement, and dance.

The storytelling and art classes may culminate with a celebration where participants can share their artwork and stories to be announced.

Storm Drain Surveillance and Reporting

Curbs obstructed by snow or water have an impact on pedestrians of all ages. Massive puddles that accumulate in front of curbs cuts make intersections impassable for anyone with limited mobility, whether a parent pushing a stroller, a young child, a caregiver pushing a wheelchair, or a senior.

We have implemented a reporting system to identify these recurring pedestrian hazards, collecting curb condition data that will be collated, reviewed and routinely sent to appropriate City agencies and elected officials.

To report a flooded or obstructed curb condition please complete a brief survey at parkslopeciviccouncil.org/curbs.



Chalk Blooms at the Annual Spring Sweep

The PSCC Sustainability and ArtSlope Committees team up with the community at this year’s annual spring beautification, recycling and clean-up event on April 22nd -- the Spring Civic Sweep, where volunteers are equipped with tools to help spruce up the neighborhood, pick up litter and remove graffiti. Folks bring unwanted electronics for recycling by Lower East Side Ecology Center and get free native perennials from the Greenbelt Native Plant Center, plus enjoy live music performed by “Misery Loves Company” **PLUS** PSCC’s first annual **CHALK BLOOM** -- A new addition to our perennial Spring Civic Sweep where parents and children use colored chalk to create beautiful plots of spring flowers and gardens in their own sidewalk square, and local artists and volunteers help them achieve their artistic vision! Chalk is generously donated by Artist and Craftsman Supply Park Slope. Many thanks to our Sponsors: **Tarzian Hardware, Park Slope Copy Center, Brooklyn Solarworks** and **Artist & Craftsman**, and to our Media Partners: **Park Slope Parents** and **Park Slope Neighbors**.

Check-in on 5th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets adjacent to Washington Park between 10 AM and 2 PM.

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Renew!
Donate!
Volunteer!**

www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org

Upcoming Events

April 22nd – Annual Spring Civic Sweep and First Annual Chalk Bloom: check-in on 5th Avenue, between 3rd and 4th Streets, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM rain or shine, bring your unwanted electronics for recycling by the Lower East Side Ecology Center, express your artistic creativity in chalk and beautify the sidewalks, and get free plants from the Greenbelt Native Plant Center.

Park Slope Civic Council Age Friendly workshops: for adults ages 60+ on Tuesdays, **Printmaking** on May 1st and 8th from 10:00 to 11:00 AM, **Phone Clinic** on 2nd Wednesdays at Noon in May and June, and **Music/Storytelling/Movement** on Fridays, May 4th and 11th from 1:00 to 2:00 PM, Park Slope Center for Successful Aging, 463A 7th Street at the side entrance to All Saints Episcopal Church.

May 3rd and the 1st Thursday of every month (except July & August) Park Slope Civic Council Board Meetings: at the Old Stone House in Washington Park (check website beforehand to confirm), 7:00 to 9:00 PM, **Scholarship Awards ceremony and Potluck at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 7**, open to all, visit our monthly calendar for updates at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org.

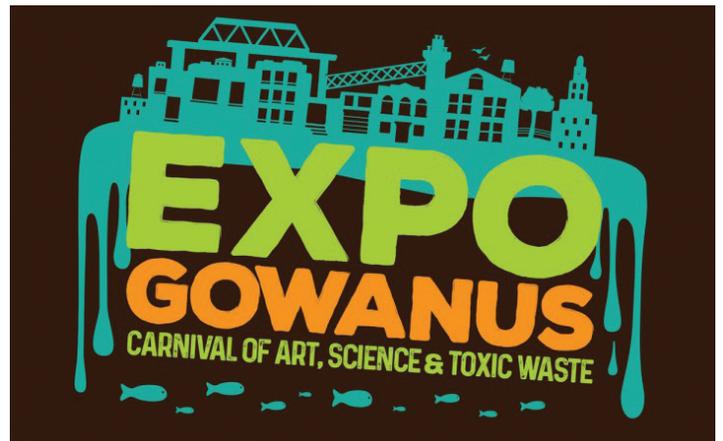
May 15th & the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except July & August) - Office Hours at The Commissioner: 247 5th Avenue, starting at 7:00 PM, an informal way to meet and chat with PSCC and neighborhood folks, brainstorm and schmooze!

May 20th - 59th Annual Park Slope House Tour, self-guided tour of historic Park Slope homes: Noon - 5:30 PM, kicks off at Brooklyn Poly Prep Lower School at 50 Prospect Park West and ends with a lecture by historian, Francis Marrone. Tickets are required and can be purchased in advance for \$25 on the park slope civic council website at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org and at local merchants after May 1st, and for \$30 on site on the day of the tour.

May 20th – The Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair: enjoy famous street fair shopping, eating and festivities, 5th Avenue from Sterling Place to 12th Street, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

June through August – Summer-long lineup of Fairs, Music and Summer Strolls along 5th Avenue: sponsored by the Park Slope 5th Avenue BID, see the fun-packed schedule of activities on page 10 or get event details at parkslopeciviccouncil.org.

For more information go to www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org



May 19th - Expo Gowanus 2018 at Thomas Greene Park on 3rd Ave. and Douglass St., 11:00 AM -3:00 PM: a neighborhood carnival of science, art and toxic waste for families, organized by the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, sponsored in part by the Park Slope Civic Council and other partners. Visit over 30 creative stations with environmentally-themed art, science and design activities and interactive performances. Gowanus artists, poets and dancers, including youth talent, will engage adults and children in playful, spontaneous performances. Everyone is encouraged to join the event finale, a wacky, fun parade with the Hungry March Band! Keep up with this event on Facebook or visit us on the web at: <http://gowanuscanalconservancy.org/expo-gowanus/>



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Mail: Box 172, 123 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215
Facebook: Park Slope Civic Council / Twitter: @PkSicivCouncil
www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org / Telephone: (347) 871-0477

The Park Slope Civic Council is a 501(c)3 organization