

7th Avenue: With and Without the Rose-Tinted Glasses

“BrooklynSpeaks”. . . Calling for Change & Oversight at Atlantic Yards



Photo Credit: OldNYCPhotos.com

Looking south down 7th Avenue, Park Slope’s traditional main street, from the intersection of 1st Street, circa 1920



Photograph by Ezra Goldstein

A view of Pacific Park, formerly Atlantic Yards, which awaits platforming and the construction of six more towers. A seventh, potentially massive tower would rise in Park Slope, over PC Richards, the former Modell’s, and the Pacific Bears Community Garden. The project was supposed to have been completed by 2014.

Catalog the 287 storefronts on 7th Avenue from 15th Street to Flatbush and figures pop out: 50 restaurants and take-outs, 20 bodegas and groceries, 14 real estate offices, 15 spas and nail salons, 15 coffee shops, 7 laundries, 7 opticians, 6 businesses catering to pets.

There are 28 empty storefronts. That’s a vacancy rate of 9.76%, a bare smidgen below the normal city planning threshold of 10% for a healthy commercial strip.

Another figure pops out: zero bars. A few restaurants have full bars, and the tavern American Cheez is just across the traditional border at 16th Street. Still, compare zero bars to 5th Avenue’s pub scene, plus its many destination restaurants, which people go out of their way to patronize. There are few such restaurants on 7th.

Also, as urban planner Michael Berne observes, occupancy rates don’t speak to the vibrancy of the mix. “Businesses like medical and dental offices and real estate aren’t adding that much vitality or interest to the street,” says Berne, head of MJB Consulting and a go-to expert on reviving shopping strips.

So, just how healthy is 7th Avenue, if all the pizzazz is on 5th?

John Shapiro offers some historical perspective. “The alternate lifestyle movement was always further down the hill,” says the Pratt Institute professor and former chair of its Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. “That’s where the students lived, that’s where the first gay bars were.”

Seventh Avenue, by contrast, has traditionally been more of a destination for convenience shopping, which Shapiro defines as items

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Redevelopment above and around the Long Island Rail Road’s rail yard in Prospect Heights—a project known as Atlantic Yards when it was announced in 2003 and now redubbed Pacific Park—slouches along. The project is just 35% complete and has little chance of fulfilling an agreement, made with the community in 2014, for 2,250 units of affordable housing by 2025. No platform has yet been built over the rail yard and construction has not yet begun on seven planned buildings (including one in Park Slope). Meanwhile, congestion, the consequences of poor planning, and displacement only get worse.

The current project developer, Greenland Holdings, an arm of the Chinese government, has been pulling back from its activities in the U.S. The project sponsor, the Empire State Development Corporation, an arm of the New York State government, has been “missing in action.” Since this is a State project, New York City has no defined role.

BrooklynSpeaks recently conducted four public workshops about the project on Zoom: Urban Design, Transportation and Streets, Housing, and Accountability. All were very well attended – over 100 participants in the Transportation and Streets workshop alone – and showed that the community was knowledgeable about and, after all these years, fully engaged with this project.

BrooklynSpeaks is an organization of local civic organizations, community nonprofits, Business Improvement Districts, and elected officials, founded in 2006 to be a community voice on and

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President's Letter for Spring 2022

Dear Members and Friends,

It is a pleasure to report that the Civic Council's pre-pandemic activities are back! As Spring 2022 has arrived, so have the many things for which you've come to know us, as well as several significant new initiatives. The evidence of that abounds in this issue of the *Civic News*.

As you read this, we will just have finished our Earth Day celebration at the Old Stone House, which happened on April 23, and we'll be deeply into planning a major event with Council Member Shahana Hanif on June 12. More about that later.

But first, I am extremely pleased to announce that the Civic Council and Preserve Park Slope (PPS), an organization formed in 2013 to represent the community's interests in connection with the expansion of Methodist Hospital, have agreed that PPS will merge into the Civic Council. For Preserve Park Slope, it gives them a stable institutional home to carry on their important work, and for the Civic Council, it brings into our organization a number of activists deeply committed to the neighborhood.

There's an article elsewhere about the merger, and you can also read about these other initiatives:

- Madeleine Rumely reports on our recent advocacy on the increasingly alarming concerns about pedestrian safety and traffic congestion, including our meetings with the Brooklyn Transportation Commissioner.
- Mitch Szpicek and Stephen Painter write about our new initiative to get more street trees planted and better maintenance of tree beds.
- Ezra Goldstein contributes a well-researched piece about the

state of the small businesses on 7th Avenue. As the recently retired co-owner of the Community Bookstore, Ezra knows the challenges of navigating a constantly changing business environment. His perspective on 7th Avenue is invaluable, and (spoiler alert...) the news is not as bad as you might think.

- Donna Stein, our liaison to the Prospect Park Alliance Community Committee, writes about a clean-up initiative that's open to Civic Council members and their families.
- Stephen Copek highlights five outstanding local organizations that are receiving grants from us this Spring.
- John Casson profiles the two winners of our annual Ortnier Preservation Awards for projects that enhance the neighborhood.
- Michael Cairl updates the disappointing news about the stalled affordable-housing portion of the Atlantic Yards (now called Pacific Park) project.

As noted above, we are delighted that our new Council Member Shahana Hanif has agreed that she and her staff will be featured presenters at a PSCC-sponsored Town Hall on Sunday, June 12. We came up with the Town Hall idea as a way to introduce Shahana to a wider swath of the neighborhood and perhaps help her deepen relationships here. See my story on that.

Finally in this issue, there's a membership enrollment form. If you're excited by what you read about the Civic Council, please join us!

Best Regards,
Timothy Gilles
president@parkslopeciviccouncil.org



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Safety Minded.
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LOCATIONS

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- Traditional Camp
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- On Wheels Travel Camp
- Leadership Experience for Teens
- School Break Mini Camp



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PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

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

Thank You To Our Contributors

Michael Cairl, John Casson, Stephen Copek, Rory Dineen, Timothy Gilles,
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Mitch Szpicek, Kenneth Stevens, Joanna Tallantier and Candace Woodward

The Park Slope Civic Council Working for a Lively, Safe, Green & Beautiful Park Slope!

PSCC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

- The Food for Thought Gala funds four college scholarships for community service

VOLUNTEERISM & GRANTS

- Awarding grants to diverse organizations that enrich the community
- Partnering with neighboring organizations on issues of mutual concern

ADVOCACY

- Creating NYC's largest historic district
- Campaigning for mass transit improvement
- Promoting safer and more livable streets
- Supporting local merchants and businesses
- Advocating for more affordable housing

SUSTAINABILITY

- Sponsoring Civic Sweeps and neighborhood cleanups
- Partnering with Prospect Park Alliance Mulchfest & "Green & Go" cleanup programs
- Participating in climate awareness initiatives



HONORING SERVICE & ACHIEVEMENT

- Celebrating Ortner Awards for projects preserving the character and grace of the neighborhood
- Lovgren Awards honoring individuals and organizations for professional and volunteer service

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- Sponsoring Town Hall meetings on the future of 4th Avenue, reducing our carbon footprint, and expanding the historic district
- Assembling forums for engagement with local elected leaders

SPONSORSHIP

- Orchestrating the Park Slope Halloween Parade
- Running the PSCC Historic House Tour and Virtual Tour
- Providing free Electronics Recycling and Paper Shredding services

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.

Support Your PSCC and help us to

Sustain the Relevance, Viability and History of This Community We Call Home.

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

Primary Contact (and company name if applicable) _____ Email _____

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Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Enclosed is my check for:

- Household: \$40
- Business/Professional: \$100
- Benefactor: \$250
- Student/Elder Community (65+): \$25
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Civic Council Celebrates a Greener Park Slope & Beyond

Celebrating Earth Day 2022



The Park Slope Civic Council was one of five sponsors of the Earth Day 2022 Celebration held at the Old Stone House in Washington Park on Saturday, April 23. A coalition of community organizations sponsored the event along with the Civic Council, including the Park Slope 5th Avenue BID, Park Slope Parents, Forth on Fourth Avenue and the Old Stone House. A fabulous celebration of the 52nd annual Earth Day was enjoyed by the citizens of Park Slope.

Earth Day holds a distinct place in American history. It is one of the few times in our collective citizenry where people from all walks of life join forces to recognize the impact of humans on the planet and to foster change to improve environmental conditions affecting the air, sea, fresh water, land and biodiversity of this precious planet Earth. These efforts start in the home, and the focus of our celebration was on residential solutions and increasing awareness among the families in our immediate community.

The Spring Civic Sweep, a neighborhood cleanup, trash pickup and beautification effort, energized many to revitalize tree pits with fresh mulch and to clean up our sidewalks. We loved seeing people of all ages join us in this wonderful event! Special thanks to Bagel World for their support of this event.



Pictured above at Earth Day 2022 (from left) - Tiff Ziter, PSCC Trustee; SJ Avery, Co-Chairperson, Forth on Fourth Avenue; Timothy Gilles, PSCC President; and New York State Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

Organizations that joined us in celebration included Con Edison, the Big ReUse, Artist & Craftsman Supply and the Billion Oyster Project; we were also graced by Jo Anne Simon, New York State Assemblymember for Assembly District 52.

~~ Rory Dineen and Candace Woodward, Trustees and Sustainability Committee Co-Chairs, and Christina Gutierrez-Williams, Member

Prospect Park “Green & Go” Clean-Up Family Event

The Civic Council is very pleased to be a community partner of the Prospect Park Alliance, the nonprofit organization that works with the city to provide critical staff and resources to keep our park green and vibrant.



As an Alliance partner and member of the Alliance’s Community Committee, Civic Council members have the opportunity to participate in various Alliance initiatives.

This year one of those initiatives will be “Green & Go.” On multiple Saturdays throughout the spring, groups of people, including families with children, assemble at designated locations around the park, receive “Green & Go” kits from Alliance volunteers, and spend a couple of hours picking up litter, sprucing up picnic areas and generally monitoring the condition of the park.

The Civic Council has reserved two Saturdays for our members and their families to participate on May 14 and June 18 at 11 AM. The Alliance requires everyone who volunteers in the park to be fully vaccinated.

The Alliance limits the number of people who can volunteer each day. Please join us and sign up ASAP using our online form at [Bit.Ly/PPApoll1](https://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org/PPApoll1) to secure your spots.

~~ Donna Stein, Trustee and Prospect Park Alliance Liaison

Request a Sidewalk Tree Now!

It’s a little-known fact that anyone can ask the City Parks Department to plant a tree on their block completely free of charge. There’s a simple request form on the Parks Department website, which also has good information on maintaining and caring for street trees at: <https://www.nycgovparks.org/trees/street-tree-planting/request>

All you need to do is fill out the online form requesting a tree to a specific location. A Parks Department forester will visit the location to determine whether the site is appropriate and what species of tree would make sense.

Trees are planted in the spring and fall. It’s too late for this cycle that ends in May, but if you get in your requests now there’s a decent chance the City might plant a tree in the autumn cycle, which runs from October 1 to the end of the year.

This is a great opportunity to get attractive and hardy trees to improve your block and protect the environment. Apply now!

NOTE: Anyone having trouble accessing the website or having questions can call PSCC Trustee Mitch Szpicek at 917-816-8210 for assistance.

~~ Mitch Szpicek and Stephen Painter, Trustees

It's Awards Season

Community Groups Awarded '22 Civic Council Grants

Each year the Civic Council awards grants to community groups working to meet the needs of and improve the quality of life for community members in and around Park Slope. Generally, the Civic Council supports grants with funding raised through our annual House Tour. While we were unfortunately unable to have this year's House Tour due to the pandemic, our trustees felt it was important to approve a limited number of grants to support the great work of groups in and around the Park Slope community. This year's awardees include:

A student-led effort at Middle School 88—their grant will be used to create a native plant and pollinator garden on the perimeter of the Slope Park Playground at 6th Avenue and 18th Street. This project will convert the neighborhood green space into a field study site for 1,200 students, engage students from neighboring schools, residents and passersby in park stewardship, nature appreciation and hands-on environmental activism, and invite community involvement and ongoing stewardship through successive plantings, clean-ups and celebrations.

Arts Gowanus' grant will be used to support the Arts Gallery Dispersed program, an ongoing neighborhood "gallery" using the walls of local businesses and venues, parks, vacant storefronts, and studio spaces, unified through cohesive identity, themed exhibits, art and civic dialogues, and coordinated openings. Based in principles of local art and community building, Gallery Dispersed offers a platform for creative expression and economic development for diverse populations in Brooklyn, including artists, new and long-term residents, and those living in public housing complexes.

Brooklyn Book Bodega's grant will support their work for increasing the number of 100+ book homes for kids 0-18 in New York City. Brooklyn Book Bodega provides access to and ownership of books, builds community, and creates a passion for learning through free events and literacy-based community programming. They hold events all over Brooklyn, giving out books to anyone who needs them. The organization has book drop sites in Brooklyn, including at the Old Stone House.

Camp Friendship will utilize their grant funds to offset some routine costs that are necessary for their day-to-day work. This will likely include the purchase of bins to protect their food, wagons to help them move thousands of pounds of produce from the sidewalk into their building, and folding tables to help them continue to serve food in a client choice model.

~~ Stephen Copek, First Vice President

BrooklynSpeaks - continued from front cover page . . .

watchdog over the Pacific Park project. The Civic Council is one of BrooklynSpeaks' founding organizations.

BrooklynSpeaks is developing a proposal for new governance of the project that would involve the State and City governments; elected officials; Community Boards 2, 3, 6, and 8; and other community stakeholders. The community demands real change and real accountability. Look for reports of progress on this front in *Civic News* and on the Civic Council's website. The community's time to secure real change at Pacific Park is now.

~~ Michael Cairl served as Civic Council President from 2010–2014 and has been the Civic Council's representative on BrooklynSpeaks since 2012.

Venerable Institutions Win Ortner Awards

Two well-known institutions, both founded more than a century ago, are the recipients of the Park Slope Civic Council's 2022 Evelyn and Everett Ortner Preservation Awards.



Photographs by John Casson

Pictured above left: Tarzian Hardware's new storefront features historic embellishments evocative of Park Slope's late 19th century row houses; Pictured above right: the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music's newly transformed back-yard in its floral splendor

Tarzian Hardware opened its doors in 1921 and, by constantly adapting and always offering good service, managed to survive the Depression and the neighborhood's ups and downs. Founded by Charlie and Marty Tarzian, management passed to Charlie's son Harry in 1954, to Harry's wife Paula Ciferni in 1992, and to their son John Ciferni in 2009.

In celebration of the store's 100th anniversary, John installed a new façade whose design pays homage to the history of the store and Park Slope. Complete with cornice evocative of our row houses, it is now one of the most attractive storefronts on 7th Avenue. For this reason, Tarzian Hardware qualifies for an Ortner Preservation Award for Complementing the Appearance of Park Slope.

The recipient of the other 2022 Ortner Preservation Award is the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. Founded in 1897, the school has 7,500 full and part-time students and hosts more than 200 community events annually including singalongs, recitals, dance parties, curated concert series, performances, workshops and festivals. In response to Board of Education cutbacks, the Conservatory has become one of the city's largest providers of music education for school students.

When the pandemic struck, it created an immediate need for an outdoor concert venue. The Conservatory quickly created one in a vacant lot adjacent to its backyard, which it had just begun the process of buying. With the help of many volunteers the space was transformed into a usable space in record time. As it is usually open to the public and has tables, chairs and free Wi-Fi, it has become a pleasant place to read, work and meet.

By transforming an eyesore into an attractive asset for our community, the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music qualifies for an Ortner Preservation Award for Complementing the Appearance of Park Slope.

~~ John Casson, Trustee and Chair, Ortner Awards Committee

Committee Urges Action to Make Streets Safer

The Civic Council's Livable Streets Committee, chaired by Trustee Kenneth Stevens, has spent the last year advocating for pedestrian safety and traffic congestion reduction in and around Park Slope. Sadly, 273 people were killed in traffic accidents in the city in 2021, making it the deadliest year since the 2014 launch of Vision Zero, the citywide initiative to reduce injuries and fatalities. On 5th Avenue in Park Slope, nanny Arcellie "Celi" Muschamp, 52, was struck by a truck days before Christmas but managed to push a baby in a stroller out of harm's way. She died in early 2022.

Last fall, members of the committee and the Plaza Street Block Association met with DOT Brooklyn Borough Commissioner Keith Bray, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, and other local elected officials to push for urgent changes. In December 2021, the committee sent a letter to NYC DOT and elected officials explaining that chronic traffic congestion exacerbated by road and infrastructure work has created dangerous conditions for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers. A particular area of concern is Grand Army Plaza. There have been more than 110 reported injuries in the Grand Army Plaza area since 2011.

The letter requested such traffic calming measures as pedestrian bump outs at crosswalks, allowing pedestrians and drivers to easily see each other. Other improvements would include planters and signage that reminds motorized bikes and scooters to use the street and not sidewalks. If you have questions or would like to get involved, email Madeleine Rumely at Mrumely@gmail.com or Ken Stevens at KenVStevens@gmail.com. With your continued support, we can make Park Slope and Grand Army Plaza a safer, greener and more enjoyable place for everyone!

~~Madeleine Rumely, Trustee and Treasurer

Sign the Petition: Get Repeat Offenders Off Our Streets

The Civic Council's Livable Streets Committee has launched a petition drive to spur the city to "mandate serious enforcement" of the Dangerous Vehicle Abatement Act and to strengthen the act to provide for immediate action against serial offenders. You can view and sign the petition at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org and at <https://www.facebook.com/park.council>. The petition comes in the wake of 27 reported pedestrian deaths in the city through the end of March, and after a driver with myriad moving violations plowed into the World War I monument in Bartel-Pritchard Square, at the border between Park Slope and Windsor Terrace, on March 6.

The act mandates that the city force drivers to take a safe driving course or have their cars impounded if they have been caught on camera speeding in school zones more than 15 times or running more than five red lights in a 12-month period. The car that damaged the monument, which had Texas plates and whose owner fled the scene, had 20 red-light violations and 92 school-zone speeding tickets.

"That this car was still on the road testifies to the failure of the Dangerous Vehicle Abatement Act," writes the committee, and raises "serious questions about the effectiveness of the City's enforcement." The committee notes that it was only luck that no one was killed or injured.

The act, adopted in 2020, was introduced by then City Council Member Brad Lander after a 20-month-old boy and 4-year-old girl were killed in Park Slope by a driver with multiple violations. Lander, now City Comptroller, wrote of this latest incident, "We passed the Reckless Driver Accountability Act in 2020 to start building a policy response to the epidemic of reckless driving. But it's only gotten worse." Once signatures are gathered, the committee will send the petitions to the mayor and all other relevant department heads and elected officials.

~~Lauri Schindler, Trustee

Sloper Shout-Outs:



Pictured above, left to right: Jane Brody (and Max), Mark Caserta, Sue Donoghue and Ezra Goldstein

Jane Brody, on retiring after 57 remarkable years at *The New York Times* and writing a "Personal Health" column that ran in more than 100 newspapers around the country.

Mark Caserta, on being named Executive Director of Business Recovery for the Brooklyn Chamber, after 8+ years running the 5th Avenue BID.

Sue Donoghue, on being appointed City Parks Commissioner after leading the Prospect Park Alliance since 2014 and raising \$130 million for major park improvements.

Ezra Goldstein, on retiring after rescuing Community Bookstore from a near-death experience and building, along with his business partner Stephanie Valdez, a thriving local business.

Credits: (Far Left) Photo of Jane Brody - Joe Rydell; (Third from the Left) Photo of Sue Donoghue - NYC Parks/Daniel Avila

Key Park Slope Organizations To Merge

Preserve Park Slope was formed in 2013 to represent the community's interests in connection with expansion plans announced by Methodist Hospital. Due to PPS's advocacy, the hospital made key alterations to their plans in regard to size, traffic, and other matters to reduce negative impacts on the neighborhood.

Although construction is now complete, PPS has a continuing role monitoring the hospital's ongoing compliance with the agreements that were reached and negotiating any issues that may come up. PPS leaders concluded that their altered mission can best be pursued under the umbrella of the Civic Council, and the membership of the two organizations recently approved folding PPS into the Civic Council.

Timothy Gilles, PSCC president, said: "Preserve Park Slope deserves enormous credit for their leadership in getting a large and powerful institution to agree to significant changes for the benefit of the neighborhood. We are very pleased to welcome them into the Civic Council."

Jarrett Brilliant, PPS president, said: "As our work on the hospital project tapers off, many of us in Preserve Park Slope are looking for ways to continue advocating for the neighborhood. Joining the Park Slope Civic Council is the perfect way to do that."

7th Avenue - continued from front cover page . . .

people want to buy or chores they want to complete within a 10 minute walk: groceries, hardware, picking up the dry cleaning, a quick bite or food that's "grab and go."

Berne observes that "7th Avenue used to be the only game in town, then 5th Avenue started to rise in the world and changed the market. So much of urban leasing is about perceived momentum, the new flavor of the day, the hype about other corridors."

It hasn't helped the contrast between the two avenues that 5th Avenue has a BID—a business improvement district—which aggressively markets its shopping district and, in general, keeps 5th Avenue cleaner and more attractive. Attempts to form a BID on 7th have been blocked by a handful of landlords.

"Fifth Avenue has a support system," says John Ciferni, owner of Tarzian Hardware on 7th and chair of the Civic Council's Small Business Committee. "That's why stores on 5th fared so much better through the pandemic."

And then there's the upsurge in online shopping, which has deeply affected storefront usage citywide. A 2019 study by the city planning department—completed before the pandemic gave an even greater boost to Amazon et al—noted a decline in stores known as "dry retail"—clothes, gifts, housewares—and a rise in food and beverage and personal care, "which are the most difficult to substitute for online."

Note the mix on 7th: 107 food and beverage outlets, 100 storefronts offering services (like barber shops, nail salons and banks), and 50 Dry Retail stores—just 17% of the total.

Those negatives aside, several new stores on 7th make it look better than it did a few years ago. No comparable study was conducted in 2019, but there were vacancies up and down the avenue even before Covid led to even more closures.

"A lot of vacancies were absorbed running from around September, 2020 to March, 2021," says Jeff Kessler, who specializes in commercial real estate as principal broker at Kessler CRE. Landlords and tenants were both suffering through the pandemic and when landlords began lowering rents "many tenants took a risk at discounted rates."

Kessler says that rents along the avenue are now running \$80-100 square foot, down from the highs of a few years ago, when landlords were asking \$110-120. A few landlords are still holding out for the higher prices, which is one reason, he says, that some spaces stay stubbornly vacant for months and even years.

Through it all, a handful of "legacy" stores, including Tarzian, Little Things, J&R, and Community Bookstore, have hung on.

"I do not want to minimize how hard it has been and will continue to be" for small retail stores, says Berne. "But, a few years ago, with the rise of Amazon, no one would have predicted that the number of independent bookstores would actually be climbing nationwide. Bookstores are a good example of how small stores can survive, by being much closer to customers who value service and personal contact and will pay for it."

To give Tarzian's Ciferni the final word, "The avenue looks better than it did, but not as good as it has looked in past."

~~ Ezra Goldstein, Trustee

PSCC To Host New Council Member at Town Hall



Photo Credit: William Akariste, City Council Photographer

The Civic Council is pleased to announce that Shahana Hanif, our new Council Member representing Park Slope and surrounding neighborhoods, will be joining us at a PSCC-hosted Town Hall on Sunday, June 12.

Council Member Hanif will be the featured presenter and will discuss her policy priorities as well as her observations from the first six months in office. She plans to introduce several key members of her staff and their areas of responsibility, so that people in the neighborhood can get to know the best contact for various issues that may come up.

The Town Hall will be held from 2–4 PM outdoors on the 4th Avenue side of the Old Stone House, between 3rd and 4th Streets in Park Slope. In the event of rain, it will be moved to MS 51, just across 4th Street.

~~ Timothy Gilles, President



Park Slope 5th Ave BID



Open Streets
April to October
Events Include Circus, movies, disco, salsa and more — various sections on 5th Ave

Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair
May 15th — Sterling to 12th

Brooklyn Pride Fair and Twilight Parade
June 11th — Union to 9th

Tree Lighting
November 26th — 4th St

Menorah Lighting
December 18th — 4th St

Community Giftcard
Buy and send a Community Gift Card through our Yiftee portal. One gift card can be used in 80 plus small businesses around Park Slope and the Gowanus. Send someone the gift of a Park Slope experience and support local at the same time.

#theother5th



parkslopeciviccouncil.org



Box 172, 123 Seventh Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215



Join! Renew!
Donate!
Volunteer!

www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org

UPCOMING EVENTS! *

Saturdays now through October 29 & Sundays in May and June (except 6/19) - Open Streets on #theotherfifth, 11 AM-10 PM along 5th Avenue in Park Slope: for more 5th Avenue events see the ad on p. 7 or visit parkslopefifthavenuebid.com/event/open-streets-on-theother5th/

Thursday, June 2 & the 1st Thursday of every month (except July-August), 7-9 PM - Park Slope Civic Council Board Meeting: meetings are presently held via zoom until further notice, all are welcome, visit our website at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org for meeting updates.

Sunday, June 12, 2-4 PM, PSCC - hosted Town Hall featuring NEW Council Member Shahana Hanif; outdoors at Washington Park on the 4th Avenue side of the Old Stone House between 3rd and 4th Streets: in the event of rain the Town Hall will be held just across 4th Street at Middle School 51.

On view now through Sunday, June 26 - Arts Gowanus and the Old Stone House (OSH) present "Brooklyn Utopias, Along the Canal" an indoor and outdoor exhibition: indoors at the OSH (Fridays through Sundays, noon-3 PM) and a public outdoor exhibition of banners hung on fences surrounding JJ Byrne Playground, free and open to the public.

Throughout Spring and Summer - Gowanus Canal Conservancy Lowlands Nursery open hours every Thursday and Saturday, 10 AM-2PM: for more information or to make an appointment contact Joanne Zhao, Youth Stewardship and Nursery Manager, joanne@gowanuscannalconservancy.org.

Tuesday, June 28 - Primary Election Day; polls are open from 6 AM-9 PM, early voting runs June 18 through June 26: for information about registration deadlines and how to register, locating your poll site, and voting in-person or by absentee ballot, contact the Board of Elections in the City of New York at 866-VOTE-NYC, or visit them on the web at <https://vote.nyc> - Your Opinion Matters - Remember to Vote!



THE FABULOUS 5TH Ave FAIR

Sunday May 15th
10am to 6pm

The Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair is a Park Slope tradition! We fill eighteen blocks of #theother5th with local eateries, bars, stores, local art and non profits showing off their products and services. Explore from Sterling to 12th streets, listen to music, watch performances and celebrate the spring with your neighbors!

See you on 5th! @theother5th

*Check Ahead for Covid-19 Safety Protocols