

ACROSS THE BOARD

MARCH 2024

VOLUME 45, NO. 3

**COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER
SPOTLIGHT!**



Ms. Gail Muhammad

was appointed to the Board in 2006 and currently serves as First Vice Chairperson of Community board 8, and Chair of the Seniors Committee.

Ms. Muhammad states, "Initially I joined CB8 because I had an interest in community service and I wanted to have a positive impact on the children, youth and families in my neighborhood, and the Community Board appeared to be a great place to start."

Ms. Muhammad is President of the 1200 block of Dean Block Association and also serves as the Vice Chair/Vice President of the Crown Heights North Association Inc. (CHNA). She has worked with the CHNA board, elected officials and other community stakeholders to pursue landmark status for the homes in Crown Heights North. To date, over 1,700 homes have received landmark designation, and CHNA has received several honors for their work in this regard.

Her commitment to the community has not been unnoticed, and she has received numerous governmental, community and ecumenical awards. Ms. Muhammad shares a strong love for family and community and is happy to call Crown Heights home.

District Manager's Report

***MANDATORY COMMERCIAL GARBAGE
CONTAINERIZATION***

As of March 1, 2024, all businesses in New York City must use bins with secure lids. If your business does not use a bin with a secure lid, it will be **FINED**. Keep bins inside, outside facing the building, or within three feet of the building line. Set bins out after 8 PM, or an hour before your business closes.

Use a secure lidded bin to avoid a fine and keep rats away. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/usebins or call 311.

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***Municipal Services Update***

The Department of Sanitation cleanliness rating of our streets, better known as the "scorecard" rating, was 90.5% for clean streets and 99% for clean sidewalks for the month of February.

We continue to urge everyone to adhere to the Dept. of Sanitation's residential enforcement routing times of 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Please clean in front of your properties and 18 inches into the gutter area of the street. All sweepings must be bagged and disposed of properly. Thank you for your assistance in helping to keep the District clean.

**The following is a summary of the year-to-date CompStat Crime report covering the week of 02/26/2024 through 03/03/2024.**

|                | Year-to-Date |      |       |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------|
|                | 2024         | 2023 | %Chg  |
| Murder         | 3            | 1    | 200   |
| Rape           | 3            | 6    | -50   |
| Robbery        | 28           | 32   | -12.5 |
| Felony Assault | 46           | 58   | -20.7 |
| Burglary       | 25           | 21   | 19    |
| Grand Larceny  | 61           | 72   | -15.3 |
| GL Auto        | 17           | 30   | -43.3 |

The overall change year-to-date is **-16.82**.

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HELP IDENTIFY SMOKE SHOPS

To date, there have not been any cannabis licenses issued in Community Board 8 for retail sale of THC containing cannabis products. As such, if you see any shops or storefronts, mobile vans, and the like advertising THC containing cannabis or “weed,” they are operating illegally, and we need your help in identifying the unlicensed smoke shops in District 8. If there is a smoke shop near you, please email the name, address, and hours you witnessed activity of the shop, and any other details to BrooklynCB8@gmail.com.

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**A MESSAGE FROM ASSEMBLYWOMAN STEFANI ZINERMAN**

“The opening of unlicensed and unregulated cannabis stores poses significant risks, including the sale of potentially unsafe products, the attraction of criminal activity,

and the undermining of our legal and regulatory frameworks designed to ensure public health and safety.

“In light of these concerns, I propose we unite for a Day of Community Action on Friday, March 15th. This initiative will serve dual purposes: to educate our neighbors about the risks associated with patronizing illegal cannabis shops and to coordinate with local law enforcement.

“The importance of community resistance in addressing this issue cannot be overstated. A recent article highlights the significant role that local communities and authorities play in enforcing cannabis oversight and regulation. The piece underlines the necessity for community and law enforcement collaboration to tackle the challenges presented by the unauthorized sale of cannabis. By assuming local control and taking decisive action, we can protect public health, ensure safety, and uphold the integrity of our legal and regulatory systems.

“To effectively counteract the spread of illegal cannabis shops, it is imperative that we come together as a unified front. Our proposed Day of Community Action on Friday, March 15, 2024, will involve educational outreach to increase awareness of the dangers these shops present and coordinated efforts with law enforcement.”

You are invited to join the Assemblywoman and community stakeholders and law enforcement on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 3PM at Restoration Plaza located at 1360 Fulton Street, Brooklyn. Take a stand against unregulated products that pose immediate public health and safety concerns. For more information, call the Assemblywoman’s office at 718-399-7630.

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ITS MY PARK DAY AT BROWER PARK

Brower Park is your park! Join Friends of Brower Park and NYC Parks for some spring cleaning in the monarch butterfly habitat. Volunteers are needed for raking, weeding, and spreading mulch - tasks for the whole family. Help to get the garden in tip top shape for our winged visitors - coming this summer!

The event will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 10 AM to 1 PM at Brower Park Butterfly Habitat and Garden. To RSVP, email ContactUs@FriendsofBrowerPark.org.

Additionally, Friends of Brower Park is looking for volunteers to help fulfill their mission of preserving this historical rare parkland for the Crown Heights community. Join them at their next virtual meeting to find out how your talents and interests can enrich the Brower Park experience.

Join Zoom Meeting on March 26, 2024 at 7PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89089162160?pwd=TnA4VGdienhydXMrQ0FTeDVMSjhvUT09>

Meeting ID: 890 8916 2160
Passcode: FOBP1892

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***BLACK FAMILY WELLNESS EXPO***

The Brooklyn Chapter of The Links invites you to the Black Family Wellness Expo on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 10AM to 2PM. The expo will be held at Medgar Evers College located at 1638 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn, and will feature specialty fields such as dental care, podiatry, primary care, pediatrics, dermatology, breast health, and will even have voter registration on site.

***MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID FREE CERTIFICATION COURSE***

Friendship Baptist Church Women’s Ministry is pleased to present Mental Health First Aid, a free certification course to help you learn to recognize the signs and what to say to support and help each other. The course will be offered on in the Saturday, March 16, 2024 from 9AM to 5PM at Friendship Baptist Church located at 92 Herkimer Street (corner of Nostrand Avenue), Brooklyn.

Every year, 1 in 4 people in New York City will deal with a mental health issue. As such, it is crucial that as many of us as possible learn to identify the signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression, and other mental illnesses; learn how to respond when we see these signs in ourselves, our friends, family, loved ones, and youth we encounter; and be able to connect persons to appropriate professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

All participants will receive a 3-year certification in Mental Health First Aid. To register, visit <https://friendshipbc.timetap.com/>.

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FREE TREES

The 2024 NYRP free tree giveaway season kicks off on Saturday, April 13 and will continue on Saturdays and Sundays through Sunday, May 12. Learn more about the tree giveaway program, including event dates and locations, the tree care guide, and more resources at <https://www.nyrp.org/en/get-involved/tree-giveaways/>.

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***FREE CLASSES FROM NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF BROOKLYN***

Neighborhood Housing Services of Brooklyn is offering the following classes and courses to constituents:

**Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 7:30PM: Resolving Mortgage Arrears and Avoiding Foreclosure:**

Learn your options if you are behind paying your mortgage and how to recognize deed fraud and real estate scams. If you are struggling to pay your mortgage, are receiving mail about your mortgage that you don't understand, have a forbearance that has ended or will soon end, or if you have been approached by someone offering to help you keep your home, this workshop is for you. Register at [www.bit.ly/mortgage031924](http://www.bit.ly/mortgage031924).

**Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> from 6PM to 7PM: Property Management Program for owners of 1-4 unit properties:**

If you own a 1-4 unit home and rent, this affordable property management program frees up your time and helps to reduce stress; relieves you of managing your tenants; and provides professional management of day-to-day operation of your property. To learn more, register at [www.bit.ly/property032124](http://www.bit.ly/property032124). Owners do not need to live on site, and mixed use buildings are accepted.

**Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1:30PM First-time Homebuyer:**

If you are a first time homebuyer, this course will help you identify grant opportunities, receive credit counseling, affordable mortgages, "your home-buying team," home inspections, and a lot of other home buyer education. To register, visit [www.bit.ly/homebuyer032624](http://www.bit.ly/homebuyer032624).

**Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 6PM to 7:30PM: Financial Capability:**

Whatever your life goals, from buying a first home to getting a new car or planning for college, learn how to manage your money, improve your credit and access money-saving resources. Topics will include budgeting and money management, reducing debt, increasing savings, establishing and improving credit, and money-saving resources. Register at [www.bit.ly/finance032824](http://www.bit.ly/finance032824).

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STREET SMARTS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS DURING POLICE ENCOUNTERS

East Kings County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Kappa Beta Sigma, along with community partners are pleased to present Street Smarts: Know Your Rights During Police Encounters and Key Changes in the New NYPD Administration. Join for a discussion about your rights and to get a deeper understanding of how the criminal legal system operates.

The event is for all ages, and young people are especially encouraged to participate. It will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2024 from Noon to 2 PM at Kappa V. Middle School located at 985 Rockaway Avenue, Brooklyn. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3ThWem9> (Note: this link is case sensitive.)

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***EASTER EGG HUNT***

Join Councilmember Chi Osse and Friends of Brower Park for their Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30, 2024 from 1 to 3 PM at Brower Park (Brooklyn Avenue and Prospect Place). Bring your children for a fun-filled time.

## ***YOUTH EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOP***

Join Bethany United Methodist Church for a Youth Empowerment Workshop on Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 10 AM to 4 PM at 1208 St. John's Place, Brooklyn. Issues pertaining to youth between the ages of 5 and 17 will be discussed, including bullying, social media engagement, drugs, gangs, and so much more. Exciting guest speakers, light refreshments, and a day filled with fun and learning will be had by all participants.

RSVP your child's spot by March 20<sup>th</sup> to avoid missing out on a fantastic opportunity. To RSVP, call Colleen at 347-613-5753.

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SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE FAIR

The NYC Mayor's Community Affairs Unit is pleased to announce its NYC Small Business Resource Fair. A fair will be held in each of the five boroughs between April and June 2024. The purpose of this Resource Fair is to encourage small businesses to become vendors for the City. In addition, information will be provided for the Non-Profit Sector. On hand to initiate the facilitation of this process will be representatives from the following:

- NYC Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE)
- NYC Small Business Services
- NYC Nonprofits
- NYC Mayor's Office of Contract Services

Regardless of borough and location, the fair will be held from 9AM to 1PM and is a great opportunity for networking. Space is limited, so be sure to register for an event as soon as possible via this link: <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/sbs-resource-fair-form.page>.

Dates and locations are as follows:

April 23rd: Queens College, Lefrak Concert Hall, 65-30 Kissena Blvd (Queens)

April 25th: Lehman College, Lovinger Theater, 250 Bedford Park Blvd (Bronx)

April 30th: College of Staten Island, Williamson Theater, 2800 Victory Blvd (Staten Island)

May 16th: NYC Police Training Auditorium, 235 E. 20th Street (Manhattan)

June 4th: Brooklyn College, Ingersoll Hall, 2900 Bedford Avenue (Brooklyn)

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## ***NOONTIME JAZZ***

Central Brooklyn Jazz consortium presents the 2024 Noontime Jazz at Fort Green Council located at 966 Fulton Street, Brooklyn.

In service of seniors, Central Brooklyn Jazz Consortium will host a series of free live jazz concerts once a month at noon. The lineup is as follows:

April 10<sup>th</sup>: Joyce Davaron

May 8<sup>th</sup>: Andrew Lewis

June 12<sup>th</sup>: LA Blacksmith and Jazz Plus

We hope you will support the jazz concert series.

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PROM PROJECTS

It's that time of year again to think about prom! The following is a list of prom projects that have been submitted to our office:

- Brooklyn Prom Project is hosting its Annual Prom Wear Drive, and will be accepting new and gently used prom and formal dresses; tuxedos, suits, ties/bow ties; clutches/purses; shoes; and jewelry and other accessories. Donations will be accepted through March 20, 2024. If you have any donations, please email brooklynpromproject@gmail.com.

The giveaway will occur on March 23rd from 11AM to 4PM at UA Institute of Math and Science for Young Women located at 283 Adams Street, Brooklyn. The event is open to high school graduating students and advance registration is required via this link: <https://bit.ly/3TgYXMX>. (Note: this link is case sensitive.)

- NYPD Brooklyn North is hosting its 3rd Annual Prom Drive and Giveaway and will be collecting new and/or gently worn suits, dresses, shoes, accessories, makeup, ties, accessories, etc.

They are also accepting donations such as clothing racks, giveaways, hair stylists, barbers, nail techs that may be interested in donating their services, etc. The Drop Off location is 179 Wilson Avenue, or they can come pick up from you directly. If you have donations for collection, please contact Lauren Sylvester, NYPD Community Ambassador of Patrol Borough Brooklyn North at 718-573-5037 (O) or 917-943-5715 (C).

NYC H2O

NYC H2O's mission is to inspire and educate New Yorkers of all ages to learn about, enjoy and protect their city's local water ecology. Through providing public and school programs at historic reservoirs, parklands, watersheds, bays, rivers and wetlands, they encourage diverse citizens to advocate for responsible public policy. Their activities promote science-based knowledge of New York's local ecosystems and of what is needed for urban water resilience in a time of escalating climate change impacts.

NYC H2O provides free Water Ecology and Engineering Field Trips to historic reservoirs and wetlands in all five boroughs for grades 2-12. These field trips meet and exceed NYC and NYS STEM curricular standards.

Each reservoir site has its own dramatic story of how it supplied the city with drinking water. Wetland sites demonstrate how nature protects our City from storm surges and manage stormwater to help the City keep waterways clean and become more resilient in adapting to climate change.

H2O's team of talented field guides engage students in interactive outdoor activities which support STEM learning with a focus on water ecology. H2O guides explain how reservoirs were built so that the city had enough good quality water to support its growth. Students get to experience these seldom visited, yet public 'natural' treasures on field trips and learn how parks were built to protect the reservoirs.

For more information on NYC H2O, to sign your school up for upcoming partnership opportunities, or to volunteer during a clean-up project, please visit <https://nych2o.org/>.

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FRESH AIR FUND

The Fresh Air Fund is a not-for-profit youth development organization that provides free outdoor experiences to children from New York City's underserved communities. The community is invited to attend an informational session to learn more about the youth sleepaway camps offered this summer.

Youth attending sleepaway camps get to explore the environment, learn outdoor skills and make friends at sleepaway camps in New York's mid-Hudson Valley. These camps are available for ages 8 through 15, with offerings based on age, gender and ability. Kids ages 8 through 14 can stay with a host family in a small town or a suburban or rural community along the East Coast.

The information session will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 4 to 6 PM at UFT headquarters located at 52 Broadway, 10th Floor, NYC. For more information on the Fresh Air Fund, visit <https://freshair.org/>.

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## ***PROSPECT PARK YOUTH EMPLOYMENT***

Prospect Park Alliance offers two robust youth employment programs in the heart of Brooklyn's Backyard.

Park Youth Representatives are trained to engage our community in learning about environmental stewardship and wildlife. Park Youth Representatives lead nature walks, actively engage our community of park goers in nature education activities at the Prospect Park Audubon Center and at pop-up locations throughout the park, and care for the Audubon Center's live animal collection including a snake, aquatic and terrestrial turtles, fish and insects.

Woodlands Youth Crew members engage in a variety of projects to help sustain and restore Prospect Park's 250 acres of woodlands. Projects can include trail maintenance and the creation of new rustic woodland pathways, planting native species of flora to create a thriving forest, and removing invasive weeds that impact the health of the woodlands and its waterways. Throughout the sessions, Woodlands Youth Crew members are able to see the areas they work on transform into healthier, more resilient ecosystems and, in turn, come to understand the importance of their individual contribution to the health and longevity of Prospect Park.

The hourly pay for both positions is \$16/hour and applications are due March 20, 2024. To apply, visit <https://www.prospectpark.org/learn-more/what-we-do/engaging-communities/woodlands-youth-crew/>.

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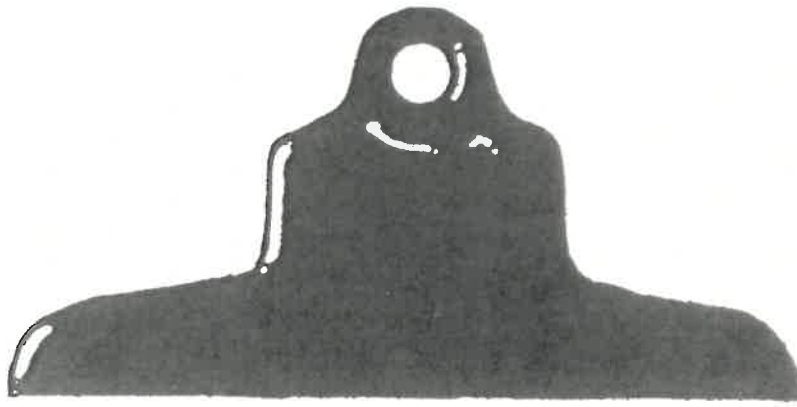
NYC PARKS IS HIRING

NYC Parks is Hiring for the 2024 Spring/Summer Season!

They have a wide range of seasonal positions available. These positions include Aquatic Specialist, City Park Worker, City Seasonal Aide, Summer Camp Counselor, Recreation Specialist, Security Guard, Wildlife Monitor, and much more.

To see a full listing of all job opportunities with NYC Parks, visit <https://www.nycgovparks.org/opportunities/jobs>.

For a quick application to seasonal Maintenance and Security positions, you can



apply via the QR code below or by visiting this <https://linktr.ee/seasonaljobsatparks>.

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We wish the happiest of birthdays to CB8 members, Mr. Drew Gabriel, Ms. Xeerxeema Jordan, and Mr. Meredith Staton, who will celebrate birthdays in the month of March.

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The next 78th Precinct Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 7:30 PM at the 78th Precinct located at 65 6th Avenue, 4th floor.

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**The next 77<sup>th</sup> Precinct Council meeting** will be held on Monday, April 8, 2024 at 7PM at a location to be determined. Please call Community Affairs at 718-735-0634 for more information.

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The next **Community Board 8 general meeting** will be held on **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 6:30 PM** at Chelsea Piers Prospect Heights located at 601 Dean Street (between Vanderbilt and Carlton Avenues).

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

**Irsa Weatherspoon, Chairperson**  
**Michelle George, District Manager/Editor**  
**Julia Neale, Community Coordinator**  
**Zoie Moses, College Aide**

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