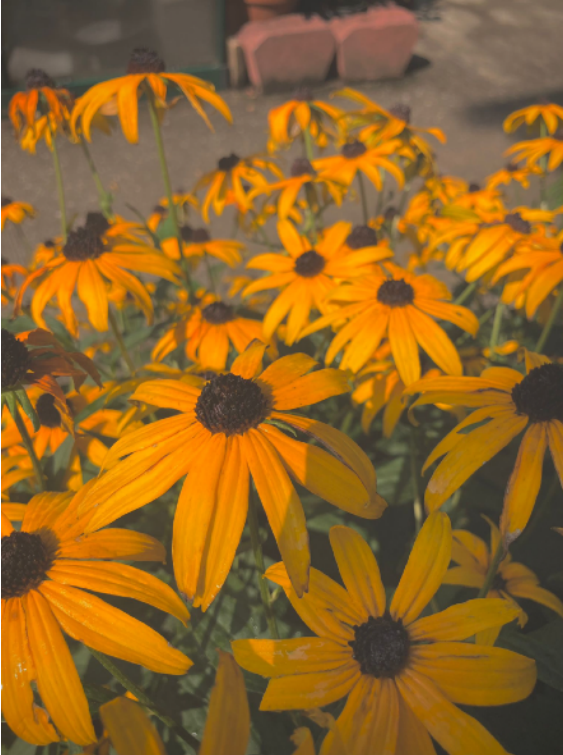


WEST MIDWOOD NEWS

Volume 38

Number 3

September 2024



Summer Has Flown, School is Starting, and There's a Lot Happening in West Midwood This Fall. Read All About It!

Welcome to Fall in West Midwood! We're looking forward to the annual WMCA Block Party to kick off the season, and soon it will be time for our Halloween Party and Parade. Come out and meet your neighbors, catch up on what happened over the summer, and make plans for the rest of the year. As you travel around the neighborhood, walking the dog, taking the kids to school, or enjoying the changing color of the autumn leaves, take a moment to stop and chat with your neighbors — there are a lot of pretty interesting people here, and it's worth starting a conversation to find out a little more about the diverse and talented people in our small town in the big City. (And if you have not yet joined the West Midwood Community Association,

City of Yes: Where It Stands.

By Joe Enright

During local Community Board meetings, a City Planning Commission hearing in Manhattan, and recent Flatbush “Town Halls,” citizens from every corner of Victorian Flatbush this Summer declared their opposition to City of Yes (CoY) proposals for adding apartments on quiet residential streets. Neighborhood groups here have taken no position on the rest of the CoY package, citing the example of Community Board 4 in high density Hell’s Kitchen — a citywide leader in producing new apartments

— which remained silent on the low density proposals, even as it voted “no” on CoY, complaining of its “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Speakers here were particularly upset about homeowners being demonized (the

Daily News twice editorialized they should move to the suburbs if they don’t want to live next to apartment houses). The greatest fear? That free-market profit-driven real estate speculation would lead to land assemblage — hedge fund buyouts of tracts of houses, demolitions and as-of-right construction of apartment and condo buildings with no review at all. Some reasoned that a free market naturally selects development of the choicest locations, leading to bidding wars and ever higher prices. But City of Yes advocates claim that will eventually change.

By way of background, with population booming again, the City has decided the best remaining land for development in the outer boroughs is located in 1 & 2 family neighborhoods. To open up those long-protected areas, a provision already inserted in the zoning code years ago to facilitate senior housing near subways was repurposed and dubbed “Transit Oriented Development.” It would allow new 3-5 story multiple dwellings on any 5,000 square foot lot within a half mile of a subway on a “wide street” (Ave H, Foster, Ditmas, Dorchester, Cortelyou, Beverly, Church and Caton are all defined as



Kirsti Jutila speaking at town hall

Continued on page 4



President's Message Fall 2024



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Upcoming WMCA Events: Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, September 22

West Midwood's Annual Block Party,

Always fun for kids and grownups alike, will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 22, 1 to 4 PM, on Glenwood Road between Rugby Road and the Cut. See you there!

Sunday September 29 (Rain Date October 6)

West Midwood Yard Sale

For all those who love a good treasure hunt and to a those who love to purge! There is no fee to participate! However, you should let Marilyn Cuff know that you want to participate, and what you plan to sell, so she can arrange advertising for the event. Text her at 917 548-7799 .

Thursday October 31

West Midwood Halloween Party and Parade

On Glenwood by the train tracks Starts at 6:30 pm

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Editor: Tori Rosen
Copy Editor: Eric Ost



My grandmother, Catherine Muller, passed away a few weeks ago. She was just 3 weeks shy of turning 100. Her banana pudding is one of the best I've ever had - yes, even better than Magnolia Bakery's. It's sweet, but not too sweet, and the banana flavor isn't overpowering. It does take a little bit of extra work, because you have to make your own custard, but the results are well worth the effort.

Catherine Muller's Banana Pudding

a little less than 4 cups whole milk

1 can evaporated milk

5 eggs

¼ cup cornstarch

1½ cups sugar

1 Tbsp vanilla extract

8-10 large bananas (it never hurts to have extra if you run into brown spots)
2 boxes of Nabisco Vanilla Wafers (1 is not enough - you use about 1/4 to 1/2 of the second box. There are also Mini Vanilla Wafers that are good for filling in gaps)

Use a double boiler that is at least 2.5 quarts, 3 quarts is best if you can find one. If you don't have a double boiler, you can fit a metal bowl on top of a pot of simmering water.

Fill the bottom of the double boiler with enough water so that the water is touching in the bottom of the upper pot. Bring the water to a simmer.

Pour the can of evaporated milk into a large liquid measuring cup (at least 4 cups). Add whole milk until you have 4 cups altogether of evaporated milk and whole milk. Whisk together and set aside.

Whisk eggs together. Combine sugar and cornstarch and whisk together, dry, in the top of the double boiler. Whisk a small amount of eggs (about one egg in volume) into the sugar/cornstarch mixture to form a paste. This helps prevent lumps. Then add the rest of the eggs and whisk. Add some milk, whisk, then slowly whisk in the rest of the milk mixture.

Cook in the double boiler, stirring constantly. (My mom likes to use a wooden spoon with a hole in it to help thicken the custard, but a regular wooden spoon also works.) The mixture will seem like it's never going to thicken, but it does, I promise! You want it to be the consistency of slightly liquid-y pudding. Remove from heat and whisk in vanilla.

Put about one cup of custard in the bottom of a big bowl (at least a 3 quart bowl), swirl around, and then start layering:

—custard

—wafers

—bananas

Repeat until you have a final layer of custard, then the topmost layer will be Vanilla Wafers. Sometimes I like to make a fun pattern on the top.

Let the pudding cool, cover with plastic wrap, and refrigerate. It's best to make the banana pudding the night before, so wafers can soften a bit.



Roast Chicken with Maple Butter and Rosemary

Contributed by Harriet Rhine

1 (3 1/2 pound) chicken

2-3 sprigs rosemary plus 2 1/2 teaspoons chopped rosemary

4 tablespoons butter

2 tablespoons maple syrup

salt and pepper

1. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. Pat the chicken dry and season with salt and

pepper, inside and out. Stuff the rosemary into the cavity

2. In a saucepan, melt the butter. Add chopped rosemary and the maple syrup and cook for 2 minutes.

3. Spoon the mixture over the chicken

4. Baste the roasting chicken every 10 minutes for about an hour

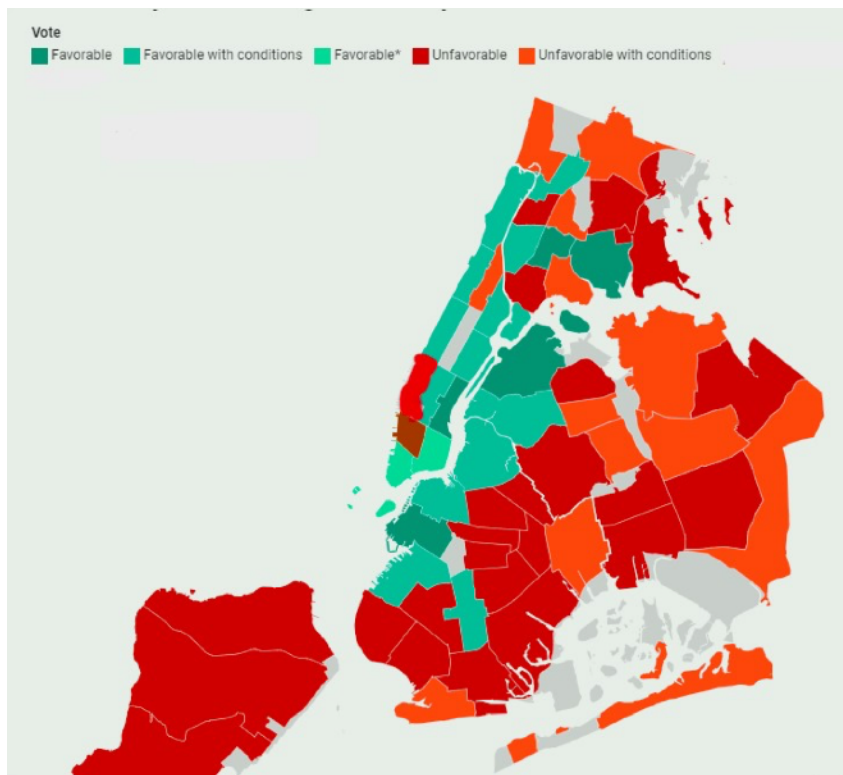
City of Yes: Where it Stands (continued from page one)

“wide”). Moreover, even narrow streets are in play if they have large corner lots, such as the two found at the intersection of DeKoven & Rugby Roads. Our Kirsti Jutila pointed out that height restrictions still in place for West Midwood would limit any new apartment building here to a maximum of four stories.

Two other CoY measures also drew criticism: 1) “District Fixes” will let owners here almost double the square footage of their homes without any pre-approvals. 2) “Accessory Dwelling Units” would also allow as of right 25 foot-tall backyard apartments, conversion of garages to apartments and changing one family homes to two families. One homeowner commented ironically, “We’ll all get to know our neighbors a lot better and have more of them very close at hand.”

Residents in landmarked districts voiced their shock that only the Landmarks Commission – all Mayoral appointees – will stand in the way of these changes on a case by case basis, not much of a guarantee given the anti-preservation movement in ascendancy now. Most speakers pointed to the new large apartment houses lining Coney Island Avenue and others along Foster and Newkirk, the long-brewing successful result of community engagement with City Planning in 2009 to preserve residential blocks and allow bigger buildings on commercial strips. “This time, no engagement, just fancy brochures,” was a common refrain.

The growing pushback from homeowners and preservation groups throughout the City was expected, but the resistance from Community Boards was considered somewhat surprising, given that Borough Presidents had



CB Votes: Shades of Red are Mostly 'No'; Shades of Green are Mostly 'Yes'

been appointing CoY enthusiasts to Boards. Despite that, 28 out of 54 Boards (5 votes are not yet recorded) voted “UNFAVORABLE” on the package and 3 as “FAVORABLE” with the other 23 offering “conditions,” recommending many changes. Ordinarily, this sort of reaction would have doomed a City Planning proposal. But these votes are merely advisory because CoY was crafted so that all it needs is 26 YES votes in the City Council to become law.

CONCERNED ABOUT CITY OF YES?

Subscribe to the West Midwood City of Yes discussion group by sending an email with the single word JOIN to joe@enright.com.

The opinion of this group, formed to strategize opposition, is that if the three City of Yes low density items are enacted, the population here could double in a few years, and a condo row could eventually spring up along Glenwood Road. Moreover, the next round of changes to low density districts would be easier to enact if CoY passes (changing “3-5 story” to “8 story” apartment/condo buildings has already been floated by the Borough President as a future “tweak”).



Police Meet with West Midwood Residents to Address Recent Safety Concerns and Incidents

On Monday evening, July 29, a group of roughly 35 West Midwood residents met on Glenwood Road with Detective Nuzzi from the 70th precinct regarding the recent door kicking incidents in our neighborhood. Also in attendance was Mohammed Zumair, our neighborhood's NCO (Neighborhood Coordination Officer).

Detective Nuzzi had not been aware of this recent vandalism and was not aware of this type of crime plaguing any other neighborhoods. He stressed the importance of calling 911 and filing a police report. I would also add the importance of reaching out to our NCO officer. Although not promised, our NCO officer stated that he would try to patrol our neighborhood's streets more often. If anyone has video footage of the vandals, Detective Nuzzi is interested in seeing it.

If you are the victim of this act, please immediately do the following:

- call the police to report it (911)
- call the 70 Precinct at (718) 851-5511 — call or email our community officers (M. Zumair - 917-244-5475)
- report incident to CB14
- report incident to NYPD Community Affairs, Community Affairs unit, 718-851-5557

In addition, all neighbors can do the following to help out:

- advise CB14 if you are a victim, and urge them to contact N.Y.P.D. to devote more resources to prevention of these types of crimes in our area.
- consider installing a security camera
- keep an eye on your neighbor's houses and report all suspicious activity to police.

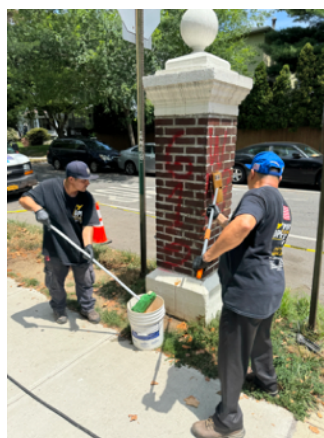
The issue of fireworks was also mentioned. If you have concerns about fireworks being set off in the neighborhood, you should call 911 to report it.



Above: a fluttering visitor on the lilacs.



Left: Two nights in a row, this summer's rain was followed by a rainbow arching over West



Workers from DPH helped clear graffiti from the stanchions in the neighborhood. Last summer.



Then just last wee., the taggers struck again and cleanup starter all over again.

Alternate Side Parking Calendar

Sept 2, Mon -- Labor Day
Oct 3-4, Thurs-Fri -- Rosh Hashanah
Oct 12, Sat -- Yom Kippur
Oct 14, Mon -- Columbus Day
Oct 17-18, Thurs-Fri -- Succoth (2 Days)
Oct 24, Thurs -- Shemini Atzereth
Oct 25, Fri -- Simchas Torah
Nov 1, Fri -- Diwali
Nov 1, Fri -- All Saints' Day
Nov 5, Tue -- Election Day
Nov 11, Mon -- Veterans Day
Nov 28, Thurs -- Thanksgiving Day
Dec 9, Mon -- Immaculate Conception
Dec 25, Wed -- Christmas Day



What Is West Midwood Online?

Want to ask folks in the neighborhood whether they have any recommendations for a plumber or roofer or such? Or maybe what local eateries or merchants they like? Perhaps you'd like to be in the know about issues affecting our area? Then join the West Midwood Online email discussion group, aka The Listserv.

Send an email to joe@enright.com with your street address, name, and the email address that you want to use to post and receive messages. He will add you to the group and send you the simple instructions. There are presently over 200 email subscribers representing about 125 households.

To join you must be a permanent resident of West Midwood and agree not to post messages of a religious, political, or spam nature. Insulting or crude language can also lead to revocation of the ability to post. Finally, new and existing members can also request a daily recap containing all of the activity within the previous 24 hours, rather than receive messages as they occur.

Hey, youze guise and goils, gathuh round here at dis noozpapuh 'cause we's gonna discuss what makes dis borough so you-neek. You wanna talk about celebrities? We got 'em. You wanna talk about characters who are characters? We got 'em. And you wanna heah some stories? We sure got 'em.

Starting with this issue of *West Midwood News*, we will be reviewing and honoring some of the greatest books ever written about Brooklyn. We surely have plenty to choose from. If you would like to review one that you love for publication in the next issue of WMN, youze knows where youze can find us.

A Tree Grows in Brooklyn

by Betty Smith

Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* begins, "Serene was a word you could put to Brooklyn. Somber, as a word, was better." At age ten, my first reading, was I

able to understand these distinctions? Now, they are etched in my mind forever, as deeply as Francie Nolan's memories of her Brooklyn streets – of small, real joys and dreadful low times, of saints and monsters, of death and love. Francie takes us along, moment-by-moment, on a typical summer Saturday, doing her shopping chores for her family, following her younger brother Neely as he meets his chums for sandlot baseball,

watching her mother Katie keep the world intact, and ending her Saturday waiting up late for her beloved father Johnny, an Irish dreamboat, singer of sweet songs, to return in the wee-est of Sunday morning hours.

I learned a thousand things in this book: Smith takes the reader into the shops, the often-wretched schools, observing the scrimping and penny-pinching, the family betrayals and triumphs, the neighborhood "characters." I sat on the fire escape with Francie, hidden and glorying in the Ailanthus tree's curtain; I (latterly) smile wryly at the street names, so many of which now house hipsters and trustafarians, beings unimaginable to the Nolans and their tribe.

That first time I read the book was a couple of days before leaving for my first time away from home at summer camp upstate. It was a library book. I could not bear to leave it – so apposite, given the disappointing librarian in Francie's world. So, I stayed up all night and transcribed the last 50 pages into a notebook which I took

to camp to savor under an imaginary fire-escape and a substitute Tree of Heaven. I have since read this novel at least 50 times and am over-due for a re-read. Join me?

Contributed by Laura Kramer-Carini, Erasmus Hall High School, Brooklyn College, Pacific High School Teacher (Retired), currently dividing time between Kensington and the Catskills.

The Boys of Summer

by Roger Kahn

A long time ago in Flatbush stood Ebbets Field, a cozy 32,000 seat ballpark. From 1913 to 1957, Ebbets Field was home to the Brooklyn Dodgers, originally named because you had to dodge trolleys to cross the street. To their fans, the Dodgers were affectionately called "Dem Bums."

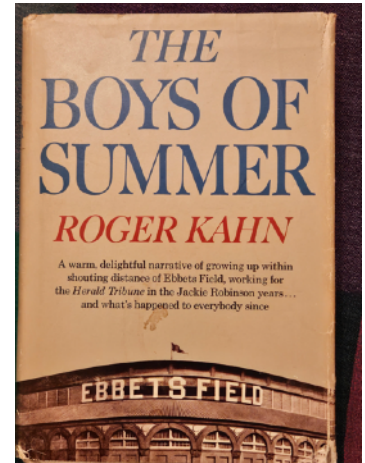
Roger Kahn, the author of *The Boys of Summer*, lived so close to Ebbets Field that he could hear the crowd cheering. In the book's first part, Kahn writes about growing up in Brooklyn, listening to games on the radio, and his family's deep love of baseball.

Kahn grew up at a time when baseball truly was the national pastime. The Dodgers of Kahn's youth lost more than they won, but their ineffectiveness made them more lovable. In words that Mets fans can relate to, Kahn writes, "You may glory in a team triumphant, but you fall in love with a team in defeat."

After Erasmus High and NYU, Kahn worked as a sportswriter and the next part of the book details Kahn's professional rise at several newspapers until he was assigned his dream job, covering the Dodgers for the *Herald Tribune* during the 1952 and 1953 seasons. The athletes on these Dodger teams, to Kahn, were the Boys of Summer, named after a Dylan Thomas poem.

Much of the book recounts the day-to-day grind of the Dodgers' baseball season at a time before free agency and no-trade contracts, when players were at the mercy of management. Through Kahn, we see the Dodgers as not just professional ballplayers but as "outspoken, opinionated, bigoted, tolerant, black, white, open, passionate, in short, a fascinating mix of vigorous men."

The last part of the book, where Kahn interviews the 14 Dodgers twenty years later, is the most affective.



*T*HERE'S a tree that grows in Brooklyn. Some people call it the Tree of Heaven. No matter where its seed falls, it makes a tree which struggles to reach the sky. It grows in boarded-up lots and out of neglected rubbish heaps. It grows up out of cellar gratings. It is the only tree that grows out of cement. It grows lushly . . . survives without sun, water, and seemingly without earth. It would be considered beautiful except that there are too many of it.

Best Brooklyn Books — continued from page 6

Ebbets Field is demolished, the Dodgers are in LA, and the Boys of Summer are older. Campanella is a paraplegic from a car accident, Hodges and Robinson are in bad health. None of the Dodgers is wealthy and all have an interesting, sometimes poignant, story to tell.

Kahn and all the Boys of Summer are now dead as is the way of life Kahn described. However, this praise-worthy book is not an anachronism, but remains a historical insight into a time when the world seemed simpler.

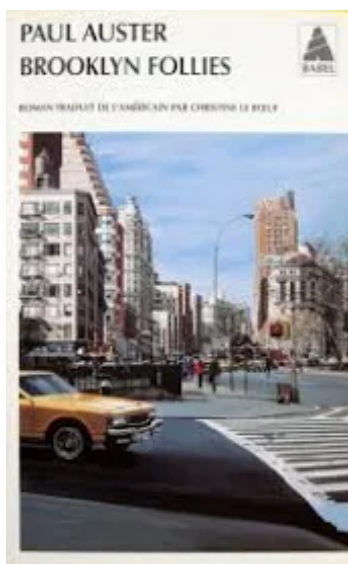
Contributed by Brooklyn-born Judge Larry Tarr (Retired), currently dividing his time between Amherst, MA and Richmond, VA.

Brooklyn Follies, by Paul Auster

Paul Auster's earliest novels are unreadable. These were followed by novels (*Moon Palace*, *Man in the Dark*) which held much parochial appeal, e.g.—his protagonists were my age, were cursed with my (former) bad habits, attended my *alma mater*, but still lacked the magic to call his Brooklyn borough-mates to his side. There was nothing providing insight into escaping our dark future.

Then came *Brooklyn Follies*! The dust jacket (duplicated on the paperback's cover) introduced this cornucopia of delight—a Brooklyn street-scape which will cause you to exclaim, "Oh yeah!" Upon opening to the pages, more of the same. Nathan Glass, a retired insurance salesman, decides to write

his swan song. It is the dreary story of the unavoidable hospice experience which awaits him. Nathan also acknowledges that he is not such a great story-teller, but, fortunately, Auster is, and shows his mastery by using Nathan's Brooklyn-inity to regale us with an eloquent tale. The adventures he has in Brooklyn with his nephew Tom and, then, on the road with Tom and a mute female relative fleeing from something (who knows what?), are perky and joyful and they redeem Nathan. From his original worldview—"There is no escape from the wretchedness which stalks the Earth"—Nathan navigates the hills of Vermont, precipitating a grand finale. Which you won't get me to reveal. Except to say, it is heavily foreshadowed and foreseeable and a complete surprise.



Contributed by Argyle Art Rhine, Midwood High School, Sportswriter for West Midwood News (Retired), currently dividing time between the 3rd floor and the kitchen.

Do you have a favorite book set in Brooklyn? We'd love to include it in a future edition of this column. Send your suggestions, or your review, to :

Editor: WestMidwood News@gmail.com

West Midwood Bookshelf — Joan Greenberg, librarian

Read any good books lately? Have a book recommendation for your neighbors? Please send them to Joan Greenberg at joandavevg@gmail.com.



The End of Drum Time

by Hannah Pylväinen

This novel is set in 1851, in a remote Swedish village close to the Arctic Circle. A Lutheran minister has a goal of trying to convert the indigenous Sami reindeer herders to Christianity. A romance between a young reindeer herder and the minister's daughter is part of this fascinating story.

Recommended by Harriet Rhine



The Women

by Kristin Hannah

The story centers around the nurses who served in Vietnam during the war. Their stories are woven into the politics and social landscape of the war years. It is an education (a primer) for those who were born after the war, and a reminder of what the world was like for those of us who experienced it. It's a good read, I found it hard to put down.

Recommended by Joni Greenberg

Artist's Notebook — Florence Manglani



School News — P.S.217 by Eric S. Ost

The dog days of summer have mercifully given way to breezy, cooler evenings of late. For parents like me, those light winds are blowing in some glorious news: school is starting soon!!!! The summer hustle and bustle of the PS 217 playground --- which has been wholly embraced by thousands of people in our community since its grand reopening in July --- will soon be the scene of a joyous reunion of kids with their teachers and friends.

This year, the first day of school for all NYC public school students is Thursday, September 5. There's some news to share for this upcoming year, which I gleaned mostly from my favorite NYC education news beat, www.chalkbeat.org/newyork. (The reporting at this news organization is top notch, for all things education in the city. They do national coverage as well. I highly recommend it!)

First of all, there is a new Locked Front Door Initiative that is already being rolled out city-wide. It's exactly what it sounds like. By the end of this school year, all NYC public school front doors will be locked during the school day and equipped with a two-way video doorbell system. All visitors during school hours will have to announce themselves to school safety agents

before entering. As always, make sure to bring your ID. For more information about how this new policy is affecting drop-off and dismissal at our most local of schools, PS 217, check out their Instagram page @ps217k for a message from the principal, Mr Bonilla.

Some other news, in no particular order: There are two new holidays added to the school calendar, Diwali (Fri, Nov 1) and Lunar New Year (Wed, Jan 29); Pre-K and 3-K funding has been restored after threats of cuts, and seats are still available throughout the city; the state is instituting a new lockdown drill policy, in which parents will be notified a week in advance of mandatory lockdown drills; and lastly, this year public school students will receive free OMNY cards (instead of Metrocards) that allow them four free rides per day, at all hours, every day of the year.

And that's the latest! Happy almost fall to all! I'd especially like to wish all the NYC teachers and educators a joyous end to their summers and extend my deepest gratitude for all they are about to do for our kids. A shout out to all the teachers! Mr Mayor, give them all a raise!!

IN MEMORIAM

Howard Givner

Long-time West Midwood neighbor Howard Givner died on July 24, 2024. A lifelong Brooklynite, he was born March 25, 1942, attended the brand-new Wingate High School (Class of 1959) and then Brooklyn College (Class of 1962), where he majored in math.

Howard and his wife Laura were married on September 12, 1970. For nine years, they were tenants in a two-family house on Parkville Ave. In May 1979, they bought a house on West Midwood's Argyle Road, where he and Laura have lived for forty-five years! Both Howard and Laura have been deeply involved in the West Midwood neighborhood for many years. Howard was the "techie" during the 27 years Laura was the editor of the West Midwood News (1990-2017). They were the first to prepare the newsletter on a computer, so Howard was in charge of setting up each issue and formatting the pages. In addition, Howard was the anonymous "West Midwood Puzzler," developing original puzzles for this newsletter for every issue. During the time of the neighborhood's volunteer patrol, Howard rode with Dave Knapp. Howard was always happy living in West

Midwood and appreciated its natural beauty and the warmth and friendliness of the neighbors.

Howard put his Brooklyn College math degree to work in software design and development – a career that spanned nearly fifty years. He worked at Brooklyn College from 1962 to 1995, first at the Office of Testing and Research, which eventually became the Brooklyn College Computer Center, and became the Director of Systems and Programming of the Center, where among other innovations, he pioneered the use of mainframe computers for college administration applications, such as online registration. He was also an adjunct lecturer in the math and computer science departments. From 1996 to 2005, Howard worked at Isogon Corporation, a private software development company, where he continued to use his mainframe expertise. IBM acquired Isogon, so from 2005 to 2010, he worked for IBM Tivoli as an advisory software engineer.

In addition to his wife Laura, Howard is survived by their daughters Rachel Givner (married to David Isaacson) and Becky Cartine; and grandchildren Dora Isaacson and Daniel Cartine.

Ester Sciallo

Long-time West Midwood resident Ester Sciallo died July 28, 2024. Born in Pittsburgh in 1945, Ester and her husband Charles, whom she married in 1974, moved to West Midwood in 1979.

Ester worked in the garment center for more than 45 years, and at age 70, after she retired, decided to get a real estate license and she worked in real estate. According to her children, Ester's hobbies were working and keeping her large extended family connected. She loved to cook, and created many recipes that her children encouraged her to collect in a cookbook. Perhaps one day her children and grand-children will finish that project! With a quick wit and a sharp mind, Ester loved to read, and liked knowing at least a little information about everything.

She rarely missed a progressive dinner and was a participant at nearly every West Midwood event. Ester's welcoming smile, sense of humor, and bright-eyed enjoyment of the gatherings, and her genuine interest in everyone in the neighborhood made every event better. She was a much-loved member of our West Midwood community.

As the neighborhood absorbed the news of Ester's death, there was an outpouring of memories and appreciation for the role she had played in so many of our lives. Some who grew up with her children remembered all the neighborhood kids enjoying elaborate birthday parties and celebrations, "pool parties" in the driveway, and Fourth of July celebrations. "She was an incredible



Ester Sciallo, surrounded by her eleven grandchildren.

woman, who taught me about differences, change and empathy in a way I will always remember," said one resident, who grew up in West Midwood and moved back with her own children. Said another, "Ester was an example of what West Midwood is all about. I think of her as one of our founding members. Her energy, spirit and sense of community are part of her legacy."

Ester is survived by her children Sara Canant, Joseph Sciallo, and Naomi Schwartz, and eleven grandchildren.

Neighborhood News



Sue Bolles and Jeff Ewing are proud to announce the marriage of their son, Benjamin Ewing to Casey Patterson on June 1st, 2024



Anthony J. Finkel and Anesta Nadina Glen were married on June 28, 2024.



HALLOWEEN PARADE



West Midwood's Halloween Parade

Thursday October 31st @ 6:30 PM

Gather @ 6PM @ End of Glenwood Rd. @ Q Train Cut off Rugby Rd

Bring cookies, donuts, cupcakes

Call Virginia Waters @ 718-421-3237

39th Annual Halloween Parade

Flatbush Artists

Open Studios 2024

Sept 14 & 15
NOON - 6 PM
Admission is FREE

Contemporary Artists in Victorian Flatbush

painting, illustration, photography, glass, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art, prints and cards, scarves and accessories

Flatbush Food Co-Op
1000 Avenue C, Brooklyn, NY 11225

Altitude & Pangea Out Co.
1000 Avenue C, Brooklyn, NY 11225

San Ramo Pizzeria and Restaurant
1008 Cortelyou Rd.
Kings County Wines
1420 Cortelyou Rd.

Greenfield Pharmacy
1526 Cortelyou Rd.
Jan Rosenberg and Erika Sackin's team
at Douglas Elliman, 1410 Cortelyou Rd.

Crown Supermarket
537 E 16th St
Flatbush Frameworks
1509 Foster Ave

West Midwood Yard Sale!!!

Sunday, September 29 (Rain Date: October 6)

Who You Gonna Call?

When you need help, it's important to call the right number. Here's a list of useful phone numbers with an explanation of when to call which number. It's not a bad idea to cut out this list and stick in on your refrigerator or by your phone.



911—The number to call for emergencies, such as fire, medical emergencies, accidents of any type, a crime in progress, violent behavior, or a person in trouble. Remember to stay on the line until the operator tells you it is okay to hang up. The operator will also ask you your location, so note the nearest house number and street address.

311 — Call this number for non-emergencies such as noise complaints, animal control, air quality, blocked driveway, dangerous tree situation, or to find out where to get other information. For a complete list, see www.nyc.gov/311.

988 — Call this number for mental health crises or suicide prevention. For more information about this service, here is a link: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2022/07/15/1111316589/988-suicide-hotline-number>

If you're unsure, call 911. The operator will either take your information or redirect you to 311. Remember to get a complaint number and write it down.

Air Quality As summer, this is a frequent concern. For up to date info on our AQI (Air Quality Index), you can go to <https://www.airnow.gov/?city=New%20York&state=NY&country=USA>

Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs):

Noah Elrowmeim

noah.elrowmeim@nypd.org, 917-679-4587

Mohammad Zubair

mohammad.zubair@nypd.org

The NCOs are usually on duty Tuesdays to Saturdays from noon to 6:30 p.m. (Sometimes they are unavailable because they have been pulled for training or special duty.) Former West Midwood president Linda Howell reports that she relies on the NCOs for quality-of-life issues, especially situations “where I do not have complete details, only secondhand reports of events. I feel comfortable giving them as much information as I can and asking them to check into the potential problem.” Examples include gatherings at the dead ends, abandoned cars, chronic parking violations, and patterns of package theft from porches. You can also contact them if you feel a 911 or 311 call was not handled correctly. Note that while they will make every effort to assist, they may also be handling other more time-critical issues.

Community Board 14 (CB14), 718-859-6357

info@cb14brooklyn.com

This office and its staff are a valuable resource that can be contacted for a myriad of situations. Call them to find out the status of a 311 complaint, why your recycling wasn't picked up, how you can get a tree planted in front of your home or a dead one removed, or what's going on with construction (or lack of it) at a specific location. They can also help you get in touch with the local representative for a specific city agency. This is by no means a complete list. If you're unsure of how to handle an issue, call them and ask. They are there to help.



Neighbors' Businesses and Services

To add, cancel, or update a listing, contact **Tori Rosen** at editor.WestMidwoodNews@gmail.com

Education and Lessons

Danielle Buonaiuto *Private voice lessons* for high-school age and adult students in classical, musical theatre, and pop styles. Master of Music from Peabody Conservatory, and 10+ years' teaching experience. danielle.buonaiuto@gmail.com.

Rob Garcia *Drum lessons*. I've been teaching private lessons to students of all ages for the past 25 years and have a well-equipped teaching studio at my home. More info www.robgarciamusic.com; Contact: robjgarcia@hotmail.com; 917-273-7875

Udi Hazan *Private table tennis and archery lessons*. Certified coach—level 1 in ping pong and level 2 in recurve bow archery. 718-859-8432.

Laura Campbell-Lui *Literacy Tutor* ELA help for reading strategies. Phonics/decoding help for kindergarten-grade 4. Spelling help with common rules and word root hints. Grammar help with punctuation, capitalization and conjugating. Writing help with sentence construction. New York State-certified Reading Specialist and retired Elementary School Teacher. Licensed in Reading, Common Branches and Early Childhood Education. 30 Years of teaching experience. Email Laura at literacytutor@aol.com

Julian Rhine *Guitar lessons; SAT, SHSAT, and Regents tutoring*. BA in music and English from Vanderbilt University. 917-981-0675; julian.m.rhine@gmail.com

Amy Rowe *Tutoring and Medicare advising*. Tutoring for young people and adults in math, reading, writing, other academic subjects, and test prep, including SAT, Regents, and SHSAT. Advising on Medicare coverage and enrollment. Professional experience in writing, editing, research, and education helps me make complex topics clear. amyrowe.nyc@gmail.com, 917-723-0348

Melissa Scott *Ceramics* Hand-made pottery and workshops/private instruction at Kettle and Kame Clay studio. Contact Melissa 718-781-6509 Kettleandkame.com

Jeannine Umrigar *Collectiv3 Fashion Portfolio Lab*. Individual mentorships for students to build fashion and art portfolios for college entrance and beyond. For more information see our website: www.collectiv3.nyc.

David Wechsler *Flute lessons*. Many years of teaching at all levels from beginner to professional. Currently Principal Flute Queens Symphony and Music Director of The OMNI Ensemble. Long-time member of Brooklyn

Philharmonic and many other groups in the NYC area, including Broadway, recordings, symphony, opera, ballet orchestras, and chamber music. 347-528-6318; davewechs@earthlink.net.

Food

John DeLamar - Bakery Do you need a cake for a special celebration? Cupcakes for a kid's party? Challah for the holidays? I have you covered for all things sweet and savory. Baked with love and backed locally, visit littlebakerbaker.com for photos and info. Reach out to hello@littlebakerbaker.com

General Help

Anthony Finkle —*DPH Property Maintenance Service* DPH offers professional, reliable, and friendly service at reasonable rates for any and all residential and commercial needs - no matter how large or small. Let our team of skilled professionals help you tame your to-do list, so you can spend more time enjoying your home and not just maintaining it! We are here to help you! - Free estimates are always offered. www.DPH.nyc 347-228-2625

Health and Mental Health

Laura Campbell-Lui *Shaklee Distributor* household cleaning products; nutritional skin care; nutritional supplement products; appointments available. 917-767-3579; lauracui@yahoo.com.

Jan Castro. *De-stress with Swedish massage or Thai body work*. Safe, clean, open space. I've had 3 vaccine shots. Credentials & references on request. 60–120 minute sessions, reasonable rates. Phone 314-323-9060.

Andrea Freshman, LCSW Specialty: trauma healing with emphasis on integrating the mind-body connection 718-755-1590.

Sara Hochman *Nutritionist*, MS, RD, CDN. Registered Dietitian specializing in chronic disease management and weight loss, nutrition therapy for all ages. Reasonable rates, in-person or televisit appointments. Sarahoch780@gmail.com

Pet Sitting

Nell Mendlinger and Lauren Sullivan, Owners, Abby on Argyle Pet Sitting & Dog Walking, LLC. Available 365 days a year for your pets. We have been in the neighborhood for 14+ years. Bonded and insured. Member of PetSitters International and an eco-friendly company. www.AbbeyOnArgyle.com.

WEST MIDWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022 - 2023

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