

AT A GLANCE

GOWANUS — Three top figures in the European experimental music scene will present solo performances of their recent works today at the Issue Project Room, 232 Third St. Antoine Chessex, Gilles Aubrey and Valerio Tricoli will offer varied insights on their sonic music in three intense pieces of electro-acoustic sounds. Admission is \$10. Doors open at 8 p.m. Call (718) 330-0313 or visit issueprojectroom.org.

FORT GREENE — The Fulton Area Business Alliance presents a free outdoor festival on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. along Fulton St. from Lafayette Ave. to S. Oxford St. Highlights include a salsa dance party; fashion show; StoryCorps listening sessions; sports, crafts, and giveaways for kids all day; pet CPR and first aid classes; fitness evaluations and information and walking tour of historic Fort Greene and much more. Call (718) 928-3322 or go to faballiance.org.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS — Bring your drum to the Black Brooklyn Drum Call on Saturday at the Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch Plaza and Dweck Center, 10 Grand Army Plaza. The event features performances and drum-making workshops followed by a symposium on African beats from diasporic communities including Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Brazil, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. It's free from 2 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The performers will unite 10 distinct styles of drumming. For info, visit brooklynartscouncil.org.

BAY RIDGE — The Bay Ridge Fifth Ave. BID presents its first Storefront Art Walk from 68th St. to 84th St.

Artists working with a variety of visual media offer individual projects in different storefront windows. Take a stroll to help promote emerging Brooklyn artists and explore the commerce, art and community. **Gayle DeWees**

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KIDS CROWDED OUT

BY BEN CHAPMAN
DAILY NEWS WRITER

A RECORD NUMBER of incoming Brooklyn kindergartners have been pushed out of their home schools because of overcrowding.

Parents of the 220 5-year-olds got letters from the Department of Education last week telling them there's no room at their zoned schools.

Angry parents said they were told to enroll their children at schools that are farther from home.

"This is going to be a nightmare for us," said Borough Park's Lisa Chen, 31, whose daughter Nicole, 5, was turned away from nearby Public School 105.

More than two-thirds of the

Nabe schools turn away 220 kindergartners

kindergartners who were crowded out of their home schools for the 2010-11 school year live in Sunset Park and Borough Park — neighborhoods with growing numbers of Chinese families.

For the first time ever, PS 105, on 59th St., had to turn away more than 60 incoming kindergartners because of a lack of space.

Chen was told to register Nicole at PS 371, which is about a mile from the family's home.

The extra distance is a killer for Chen and her husband, who both work at nearby factories in Sunset Park and commute on foot. "It'll have a real big impact," said

Chen, who still plans to walk her daughter to school.

PS 169 on Seventh Ave. in Sunset Park turned away 67 kindergartners slated to enroll next year, the most of any school in Brooklyn.

Instead of enrolling at PS 169, crowded-out kids have been referred to PS 676 in Red Hook and PS 32 in Carroll Gardens, both about 3 miles away from the Sunset Park school.

PS 169 Principal Josephine Santiago said the school is doing all it can to make room for more students. About three years ago she divided four kindergarten classrooms in half to make space for eight classes.

"We're using every nook and cranny of our school," said Santiago, "but the bottom line is we need new schools in Sunset Park."

In response to the overcrowding, DOE is opening four new schools in the neighborhood next year, adding room for about 250 kindergartners, said DOE spokesman Jack Zarin-Rosenfeld.

The new seats are a good start, Santiago said, but not enough to keep up with the growing demand for education in the neighborhoods with about 150,000 Chinese immigrants.

"The overcrowding we're seeing now is going to continue," said Santiago, whose school is about half Asian. "I see the number of new kids coming here from China and elsewhere, and it's like there's no end in sight."



Assistant Principal Alice Lee at Sunset Park's Public School 105, which turned away 60 kindergartners because of tight space. Photo by Anthony DeMundo

Bid to bar housing for female ex-cons in Prospect-Lefferts

BY MIKE McLAUGHLIN
DAILY NEWS WRITER

FOR YEARS, residents of a Prospect-Lefferts Gardens block lived with a drug-dealing ring near their homes. Now they're fighting a plan to house female ex-cons there.

Opponents of the plan said the women — many with mental illness and drug problems — would be a safety risk and a step backward for the Lincoln Road block where there's less open drug dealing, but where vice still exists.

"We're just afraid to go back to where we were," said Lincoln Road resident Joanne Newbold, 34, a real estate broker. "I know my block. There's still a lot of stuff going on."

Newbold and other neighbors said the friendly street between Rogers and Bedford Aves. where kids play during the day attracts shady characters at night.

The nonprofit developers who want to put up the 26 affordable apartments on the block said the women who live in their other housing sites rarely fall back into a life of crime.

"Our intent is not to bring anything that's going to bring the block down," said Providence House Executive Director Sister Janet Kinney. "This is permanent supportive housing. This is not a shelter."

She added that her group will screen the women before they move into the apartments and that the tenants will all have jobs.

The new building will replace a long-abandoned city-owned property.

In 1986, Providence House opened a similar apartment building one block away. Local critics of the new plan admitted the existing building has a clean history, but worried that concentrating the two sites nearby could hurt their property values.

"We have our fair share. It needs to be spread out," said Lincoln Road resident Eric Gbckle, 51, a developer. "This will be a setback."

The harsh opposition is a break from the recent past in the area.

Similar supportive housing projects at Kings County Hospital and on East New York Ave. were approved without public outcry in the past two years, said Community Board 9 district manager Pearl Miles.

Because the land in question is owned by the city, the proposal must be reviewed by several layers of city government before it can go forward.

Supporter Crystal Felder, 49, a counselor who lives on another Lincoln Road block, was disappointed by the backlash against the proposed housing.

"It's sad," said Felder. "The haves don't want the have-nots in the neighborhood."