

# BROOKLYN

THE BOROUGH

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Condos aren't the only things being built in Brooklyn. The New York Times reports that the borough is seeing a boom in hotel construction, after decades of the Marriott near the Brooklyn Bridge having the lodging market mostly to itself. Now Best Western has three locations, a Sheraton opened Downtown, and boutique hotels are popping up all over the place.

In the second quarter of the year, home sales in Brooklyn jumped 16.2 percent compared to the same period last year. The Wall Street Journal says house prices were also higher, gaining 5 percent, but they still remain 20 percent below peak levels in 2007.

The Brooklyn District Attorney announced yesterday that it would conduct its own criminal investigation into the death of a Fort Greene mother of three who was run down by an SUV that apparently ran a red light last Thursday. According to the Brooklyn Paper, the decision came after the NYPD had ruled that there was "no crime committed" when a Ford Explorer slammed into the 40-year-old mom.

After years of blight, the famous Loew's Pitkin movie theater in Brownsville is set to be transformed into a charter school and ground-level stores. Ken Olson, CEO of Poko Partners, the owner and developer, told the Brooklyn Eagle that the \$45 million project should be finished within 18 months.

The Long Island Press reports that a Brooklyn man has been accused of obtaining \$5.3 million in mortgages from two Nassau County lenders by using fake documents and a dead attorney's signature. The 46-year-old was arraigned Wednesday in Nassau County court where a judge set his bail at \$400,000 bond or \$200,000 cash.