REAL ESTATE: WHAT’S HOT AND WHAT’S NOT AND BRINGING UP A KID IN FORT GREENE

The Real Estate market has been all over the map. Get your bearings with a discussion on the current trends in the Fort Greene market. Bringing up a child here has never been easier. Come participate as parents and experts give tips on raising a kid locally.

Reach thousands of Fort Greene households in the mail, via email and on the web by underwriting the FGA Newsletter.

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FOR NEWSCENES, inclusion by editor’s decision.

Topic:)

& Lafayette Ave.)

En Restaurant & Bar

NEWSCENES

The Little Flower Shop in the Park

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For years the residents of Lefferts Place have been fighting to maintain the architectural history and integrity of their block. In December 2006, the residents won a battle to prevent the Frederick House located at 70 Lefferts Place, the Dwell House, from destruction in order to build a 25-unit luxury condominium.

The residents were able to get the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission to grant landmark status to the block, which sidestepped CNR to build a building. The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission has designated 22 blocks in Fort Greene and Clinton Hill as landmarks.

For more information, visit our website www.HistoricFortGreene.org

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NEXT FGA MEETING:

Monday, November 16, 7:30 pm

Light Refreshments at 7pm. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford Street (corner of S. Oxford & Lafayette Ave.)

LOCATION:

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, 85 S. Oxford Street (corner of S. Oxford & Lafayette Ave.)

Once you receive your virtual entry pass, please go to the Meeting Room, entrance on South Oxford Street. All are welcome to attend. Associates & members only.

NEW BABY

Arrived October 19, 2009 at 7:35 pm, weighing 9 pounds, 20 inches, a boy, Shirenocheh (Dodi) Blackshear, 10 years and 64 inches of loving and happy life to all.

We are coming into the most important shopping weeks of the entire year, the ones with the greatest potential for profit for our businesses community - Fulton/Lafayette - Dutch - Myrtle Avenue. With tremendous variety - for home, family, fashionistas, pets, friends and don't forget yourself! Many of our merchants offer gift certificates - just ask or phone to check. They're easy, quick and fit everyone. Our neighborhood merchants and all of us will have a happier holiday. Shop Fort Greene FIRST! Enjoy the coming season!

We invite you to submit items for NEWSCENES, inclusion by editor’s decision. For any mistakes here, we apologize.
Contact dorris gains gombe at durrisfg@gmail.com

FORT GREENE HOUSE TOUR 2010

Take a tour through history, without leaving the neighborhood.

Save the Date: Sunday, May 2, 2010

Sponsorship opportunities available. Contact House Tour for information.

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November 2009 Newsletter

HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN

November 2009

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Out of Scale Project Threatens the Hard Won R6B Downzoning of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill

The end result of the October 15th meeting stands as follows. None of the elected representatives officially took a stand in regards to this project as they will not provide an “official position” until a proposal is formally submitted to the NYC Department of City Planning or the Board of Standards and Appeals. However, several politicians have already met with CNR to discuss the specifics of the project and have promised to work with CNR on similar projects. The members of the Lefferts Place Civic Association and the Lefferts Place Block Association along with support from the Fort Greene Association, the Society for Clinton Hill and other local community groups spoke unanimously against any CNR proposal up-zoning of Lefferts Place to R7A.

In an attempt to find a solution, residents of Lefferts Place suggested an alternative site for this project which would be within block of Lefferts Place at the underdeveloped corner of Fulton Street and Classon Ave.

LOCATION:

NEXT FGA MEETING:
Monday, November 16, 7:30 pm
Light Refreshments at 7pm.
Topic: Real Estate: What’s Hot and What’s Not and Bringing Up A Kid in Fort Greene

The Real Estate market has been all over the map. It is often misleading to talk about trends in the Fort Greene market. Bringing up a child has never been easy. Come participate as parents and experts give tips on raising a kid locally.

All the goings on in Fort Greene, and don’t forget to come meet your neighbors at 7pm.

Chair’s Notes by Paul Palaza, FGA Chair
A year ago took on the responsibility of Chairperson of the FGA Retail Committee and a what a year it has been. From the exuberant election of November to the financial crisis which still slogs much of Fort Greene it has been a year of extremes. Highs and lows for sure but along the way some progress was made, thank you all.

After an effort launched by the FGA four years ago, neighborhood residents got some relief with the enactment of reduced alternate side of the street parking regulations. We thank Councilperson Tish James and Community Board 2 in making this happen as quickly and smoothly as it did.

The beloved, mysterious, and historically important Admiral’s Row has been partially saved. We can only hope that a savvy developer will recognize the value of this location. This maneuver would redirect this area and would give seniors easy access to subway and bus lines running along Fulton Avenue and Crispus Attucks Avenue. This project would also take advantage of the recent contextual zoning enacted in 2007 which was put in place to allow for affordable housing projects such as this. It would be a better use of the land if some way could be worked out to redirect the traffic in and out of this area.

This is a general bookstall that will have something for everyone, Jessica said. “Furthermore, we want to listen to the neighborhood over the next few months and adapt what we sell to meet their needs. Come in and tell us what you want.”

Greenlight Bookstore will carry new books in all categories fiction, non-fiction, children’s, history, culture, cooking, and travel. They will stock graphic novels, reference guides, books in French and Spanish, and sell cards, journals, and many more.

Greenlight Bookstore is located at 686 Fulton Street at the corner of South Portland Avenue and can be found online at greenlightbookstore.com.

FGA Grants Putting Your Donation Dollars to Work

The Fort Greene Association continues to support local groups working to enhance our community in any number of ways. It is just one of the ways in which your donation dollars go directly back to your neighborhood.

The FGA was a proud supporter of the Tillery Park Foundation Sports Day held on Saturday October 24th. The Tillery Park Foundation under the direction of Daryl Bucker has been working to make the park a vibrant, positive place for recreation for Fort Greene residents who use the park near the Manhattan Bridge. The year’s “Sports Day” included soccer, tennis and golf clinics as well as a running a car display.

The Tillery Park Foundation also solicits the FGA to help drive up the votes for their bid to be one of the winners of the Nike “Build Your Block” grant. A big thanks to all those who clicked through the FGA link to vote for the kid’s Tillery Park Foundation.

The FGA continues its partnership with the Brooklyn Pitt Bulls Warner Football Teams. Through our local connections, the FGA was able to get weight equipment donated to the Pitt Bulls. Items donated included Olympic flat and adjustable benches and two dumbbell racks. Pimp up its, Pitt Bulls.

On the field the Brooklyn Pitt Bulls are having a great season. They are fielding four divisions this year, Mitey Mites, Junior Pee Wees, Junior Midgets and Midgets.

Some of the four divisons will be competing for the NYC Pop Warner Championship, with two divisions already clinching the number one seed for the championship. The championships will be played Saturday November 7th at Poly Country Day School, here in Brooklyn.

And finally in Fort Greene Park the FGA proudly sponsored the Fort Greene Park Conservation's 10th Annual Halloween Festival. Families from all over Fort Greene paraded into the park for hay wagon rides, pumpkin painting, and seasonal activities.

Please think of our local youth groups and organizations when you hear of corporations or well-supplied schools excessing equipment or supplies. Contact us at mary@HistoricFortGreene.org or you have any lead on anything that could be useful to our community groups and community centers.
**OUT OF SCALE PROJECT THREATENS THE HARD WON R&B DOWNZONING OF FORT GREENE AND CLINTON HILL**

The end result of the October 15th meeting stands as follows. None of the elected representatives officially took a stand in regards to this project as they will not provide an “official position” until a proposal is formally submitted to the NYC Department of City Planning or the Board of Standards and Appeals. However, several politicians have already met with CNR to discuss the specifics of the project and have pressured representatives from CNR on similar projects. The members of the Lefferts Place Civic Association and the Lefferts Place Block Association along with support from the Fort Greene Association, the Society for Clinton Hill and other local community groups spoke unanimously against any CNR proposal up zoning of Lefferts Place to R7A.

In an attempt to find a solution, residents of Lefferts Place suggested an alternative site for this project which would be within one block of Lefferts Place at the un-up-zoned of Lefferts Place to R7A. The City Planning Department has not made any final decision in regards to this project. However, we will continue to organize support to ensure that this plan to up-zone Lefferts Place does not occur.

*John Katonis is the President of the Lefferts Place Civic Association and Sounds Eclectic is the Vice President of the Lefferts Place Civic Association.*

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**GREENLIGHT BOOKSTORE: A NEIGHBORHOOD EFFORT**

Anticipation has been building for months over the empty storefront at the corner of Fulton and South Portland. First, there was the foot traffic in and out of the space in June. Then, in July, the paper came off the windows to reveal a wide open space with a lone, newspaper, against one wall. Finally, the sign went up in the middle of the summer: “Coming Soon! Greenlight Bookstore.”

“We can’t wait!” said so many Fort Greene residents popping their heads into the store this summer. “It’s very nice to see a green light come into being.”

In response to a survey conducted by the FGA’s Retail Committee in the fall of 2007, 74 percent of the 380 respondents listed a bookstore as the #1 need in the neighborhood. Shortly thereafter, an article appeared in the Greenlight Section of the Daily News about a young entrepreneur named Jessica Stockton-Bagnud who had won the Brooklyn Public Library’s “Power Up!” business-plan competition with a proposal to open an independent bookstore in the borough. When FGA Retail Committee board member Car- olynn Mayers-Williams spotted that article, all the pieces started to fall into place.

When you talk to Jessica and her co-proprietor Rebecca Fis- hing, they beam as they tell you how independent bookstores across the country are saying theirs is a model for how to keep these stores alive. “Even our loan officer from the World Trade Center Small Business Recovery Fund was amazed at the outstanding of the community. With the evidence in hand from the survey results, the kickoff party last September and the local literary community, he said, Everybody tells me their business has the support of their neighborhood, but you are the first people to back us up.

Greenlight bookstore will carry new books in all categories—fiction, non-fiction, children’s, history, culture, cooking, and travel. They will stock graphic novels, reference guides, books in French and Spanish, and sell cards, journals, and magazines and eventually some children’s toys.

*By Michael Gross*
The Real Estate market has been all over the map. Get your bearings with a discussion on the current trends in the Fort Greene neighborhood. Bringing up a child has never been easier. Come participate as parents and experts give tips on raising a kid locally. All are welcome to attend.

TOPIC: Real Estate: What’s Hot and What’s Not and Bringing Up a Kid in Fort Greene

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FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
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Take a tour through history, without leaving the neighborhood.
Save the Date: Sunday, May 2, 2010

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NEWSPAPER
EN Restaurant & Bar 277 Cumberland Street at Lafayette Avenue, (apparently) opening soon. If you have been wondering about this long-in-the-works site, have a look at what’s happening there. The window treatments are quite interesting and the bar looks good.

TOPIC: Bringing Up a Kid in Fort Greene

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FORT GREENE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
HISTORIC FORT GREENE BROOKLYN

THE LITTLE POWER SHOP IN THE PARK
154A Vanderbilt Avenue at Myrtle Avenue, 718 935-1144. A family business. If you’re lucky you’ll be greeted by a little charmer who helps her parents run the shop. They encourage picking up a book with which you can’t help falling in love. Arrangements for all occasions. Stop by, wish the whole family a happy birthday.

TOPIC: New Baby

NEW BABY
Arrived October 5, 2009 at 7:35 pm, weighing 9 pounds, 20 inches, a girl, Shannon (Misha) Blackshale, 1 year and Kukkara’ Machi, baby and father are doing well. Congratulations and a happy life to all.

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NEWSCENES
OUT OF SCALE PROJECT THREATENS THE HARD WON R6B DOWZONING OF FORT GREENE AND CLINTON HILL
Community Members Organize to Prohibit Developer’s Plan to Upzone Residential Street

Written by John Katsos and Sandy Fouron*

New York State Senator Velmanette Montgomery recently hosted a meeting on October 15, 2009 to discuss a controversial proposal by CNR Health Care Network Inc. [CNR] to build a 71-unit independent living facility for low-income seniors. CNR is looking to build the project at 86 Lefferts Place in Clinton Hill. Lefferts Place, a 2-block long residential street that is tucked away between Fulton and Atlantic Avenues, is known for its architectural richness and diversity. In addition to its Italianate, Greek Revival and Romanesque 19th and 20th century townhouses, Lefferts Place is also the home of two original freestanding suburban villas.

For the residents of Lefferts Place, the proposal to build a 71-unit independent living facility for low-income seniors is not only an affront to their community but would also set a bad precedent for other brownstone communities that are active in preserving the character of their neighborhood. Developers would be able to sidestep current zoning laws and restrictions regardless of the community’s efforts and desires. What kind of message is being made when the 2007 zoning change that was unanimously endorsed and supported by local politicians and representatives is upheld by those same politicians and representatives against an influential developer.

* Continued on next page

Contact doris gaines golomb at dorrisgainesgolomb@optonline.net for any mistakes herein, we apologize.