

## Ikea Spillover Effect? Red Hook Not Yet a Retail Boomtown

by Kevin O'Hanlon



It is no secret that the Red Hook area of Brooklyn has been experiencing a major upswing for the better part of the last decade. Many young people have moved to Red Hook as the rent prices are significantly lower than in other neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Manhattan. With that, there are more opportunities for successful businesses to open as there is more money in the neighborhood, as well as a brand new market to sell to. This creates a community in Red Hook where a motorcycle repair shop that has been servicing people for twenty-five years is just as successful as the vintage clothing store just a couple of blocks away.

One major result of this shift is the project that brought an Ikea to Red Hook. When the idea was first announced in 2005, it was met with heavy criticism from many local people. The most common complaint was that it would bring a whole new mess of traffic to the area. Many people also believed that there would be no spillover to other businesses in the neighborhood and that Ikea could potentially take business away from smaller stores.

After numerous protests and lawsuits led by local activists, Ikea opened up in June 2008. The impact that Ikea has had on Red Hook can be hard for the average person to see, mostly because there is not much of one on the average person. If Ikea were to have an effect on anything in Red

Hook, it would be most likely be on a few businesses in the immediate neighboring area, particularly along Van Brunt street.

Judging from the anecdotal results of a recent informal Star-Revue survey, businesses

within the vicinity of Ikea seem largely unaffected. Lee Reiter of the Mill-



bern Travel Waterfront, which is located a few short blocks from Ikea, explained that she moved her business to Red Hook five years ago because of a new opportunity and an up-and-coming neighborhood. Although Reiter admits that Ikea has not had any identifiable impact on business, nothing negative has come from it. "A lot of people blame the traffic only on Ikea, but I believe Fairway is equally to blame." Reiter identifies Ikea as a major component of the economic upswing in Red Hook as it does bring more people to the area, but it is not the sole source. If anything, Ikea raises awareness of the neighborhood itself and some of the stores or attractions it has to offer.

Other businesses have seen positives



in the past couple years which they credit to the Swedish furniture giant. F&M Bagels is located just a few blocks from Ikea on Van Brunt street. Owner/Manager Frankie

opened up his own business eight years ago and has since seen a stron-

ger community, which he credits to "an increase in positive commercial

activity in the neighborhood."

Frankie believes that Ikea is a major component to the current upswing

and has seen an increase in business since it opened.

Frankie explained that it is not due to spillover from Ikea customers,

but rather the employees who need to buy breakfast or lunch.

Frankie believes that there would be more customer spillover to other local businesses if there were more stores to go to.

With the economic opportunity in the neighborhood expanding, this is perhaps a likely scenario somewhere down the line in the future.

However, others will tell you that there is hardly an increase in traffic.

Ikea has shuttles that take people from other neighborhoods to and from the store in an effort to help with the predicted traffic jams that people worried about before the grand opening.

If one is to pass by Ikea on foot, they are likely to see more trucks on the streets than cars, only some of which are actually going to the store.

Although the traffic jams never quite materialized, there is definitely an increase in traffic in the sense that more people are now coming to the neighborhood.

Perhaps this kind of traffic, which would seem like an average amount in many other areas of Brooklyn, is more of a blessing than anything else.

Anyone who is involved with the community will tell you that Red Hook is one of Brooklyn's oldest and best-kept secrets.

With more and more people coming to the neighborhood, hopefully the secret can be let out, which can really only benefit the community.

Although Ikea was heavily protested and disputed over before it opened up, none of the negatives predicted by the local activists have materialized.

Only time will tell what happens, but the future is looking bright.

One explanation for the Ikea employees using the same laundromat is that Ikea has prioritized employ-

ing residents from the neighborhood.

One of the somewhat unexpected spillovers from Ikea has been at Waterfront Laundry on Van Brunt street.

The laundromat opened at the beginning of 2010 and has seen good business since. This is because aside from the many local residents who do their laundry there, Ikea employees go there as well.

Frances, an employee at the laundromat, has lived in Red Hook her entire life. She believes that Ikea has helped the neighborhood by attracting people from all over the New York metropolitan area and continues to push Red Hook in a direction away from its crime-ridden reputation of past decades.

"Ikea has had a large positive impact on the area, I don't understand why anyone would say otherwise"

One explanation for the Ikea employees using the same laundromat is that Ikea has prioritized employ-

ing residents from the neighborhood.

Lateshia, who specializes in local employment at the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial development Corporation,

explained that since many of Ikea's employees are local, more money is brought into and kept in the neighborhood.

Lateshia grew up in Red Hook her entire life and sees the neighborhood as a dramatically changed place, which she credits to an increase in

commercial activity. With Ikea contributing to local commerce, the upswing that the neighborhood is experiencing is further pushed in a positive direction and away from the violence and crime that Lateshia recalls seeing growing up.

"Although there has definitely been an increase in automobile traffic, people seem happier now".

However, others will tell you that there is hardly an increase in traffic.

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# Celebrating Columbia Waterfront District The Red Hook Star-Revue

Serving the Brooklyn Communities of Red Hook, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill

No. 2, July 2010

Publisher..... Frank Galeano  
Co-Publisher & Editor..... George Fiala  
Reporter..... Kevin O'Hanlon  
Reporter..... Eliza Ronalds-Hannon  
Home Repair Columnist..... Charles White  
Gonzo Columnist and Night Owl..... John McLaughlin  
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The Red Hook Star-Revue is published monthly by Frank Galeano and George Fiala. It circulates by mail and on newsstands throughout the downtown Brooklyn area. Our mission is to be the tie that binds our dynamic communities together, by providing one place for local achievements, art and history to be celebrated, local problems to be identified and solutions discussed, and also by providing an affordable advertising medium for local shops and institutions.

Our mailing address is 101 Union Street, and we can be reached by phone at 718 624-5568 and by email at [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com) or [info@redhookstar.com](mailto:info@redhookstar.com).

We welcome letters to the editor as well as press advisories which can be mailed to us at :

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or emailed to [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com)

If you have story ideas or ideas in general that may interest us, please contact us by all means and methods outlined above. Next issue will be out the first week of August, 2010.



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# What Will Greet the Potential Influx of Joggers Coming From Brooklyn Bridge Park?

by Kevin O'Hanlon

The newest piece of Brooklyn's ongoing Waterfront project opened on June 6th at the bottom of Atlantic Avenue. This brand new park includes a playground by Michael Van Valkenburgh, a Brooklyn-based landscape architect. Alongside the park, which does a nice job of prettifying up the area around the One Brooklyn Bridge Park condo development, a Water Taxi dock was built to take passengers to and from Governor's Island. Pier 6 now joins Pier 1 as the functioning parts of the ongoing project which is supposed to be an 85 acre park upon completion.



With such a large project in the works, there is no doubt that this will bring a large number of people to the Columbia Street Waterfront area. Along with the joggers and bikers who take advantage of their respective new paths, the new parks should lead to increasing pedestrian traffic as well.

Upon leaving the park and walking on Columbia Avenue, the first place that is sure to catch people's atten-



tion is Van Voorhees Park, located directly across the street from the pier. This park offers a nice baseball field along with basketball, tennis and handball courts, as well as a public playground for children.

Sprinkled beneath Columbia street residential apartments are a series of restaurants and specialty shops. As one meanders up Columbia to Kane Street, Iro Sushi, open from 11:30 am till 11:00 pm during the week and 2:00 pm to 11:00 pm on Saturdays and

Sundays merits some pretty rave reviews from Yelp sushi lovers. Whether one is looking for an inexpensive place for lunch or a nice restaurant to take

the family to, Iro Sushi offers some of the area's most reasonable Japanese cuisine.

In between Kane and Degraw streets is the most commercial area along the Waterfront. Winksworth is a women's clothing store with a wide range and variety of items, located at 119 Columbia street. Located directly next door is Melissa deli, which fits the traditional New York City style of bodegas. Next to that is Freebird Books, located at 123 Columbia Street. Freebird opened in 2004 and offers many different kinds of used books at bargain price, as well as a location for community meetings, book clubs and workshops great for any neighborhood reader. The newly opened 5 Burro Café is located at 127 Columbia street and specializes in Mexican dishes, specifically burritos. Along with the Sugar Lounge located just down the street, both places are showing World Cup



matches into the middle of July and are great places to watch the games, as well as enjoy a nice meal. Located in between the two restaurants is the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, which was founded in 1998 and is a non-profit organization responsible for conceiving, planning and coordinating the development of the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway. Located just feet from there is Accardi's Hardware store, which has become a real fixture in the community since opening on Columbia Street in 1915. Accardi's offers tools and materials for any sort of project, commercial or just fixing something around the house. Nine Cakes bakery is down the street from Accardi's and is one of the highest rated bakeries in the area. Specializing in, but not limited to cupcakes, the fruits of their labor are guaranteed to please just about anyone and are available at a relatively low cost.



On the other side of the street is where the New York/ New Jersey Port Authority is located, along with the New York Waterfront Commission Police. The bike lane which runs along the fence doubles as a great place for runners as well, providing a wide lane to the small flow of traffic. Although the dividing fence, as well as the cargo cranes beyond the fence, might be considered a bit of an eyesore by some, the shipping industry has been a staple of the area since the community was built.

Besides all the commercial stores and homes, there are usually familiar faces

along Columbia Street, especially in the summer months. One man, an

Ethiopian refugee named Eshete, is usually seen along the bike path on the corner of Irving Street. It is at that location which he takes care of his six cats before he goes home



to his Manhattan apartment. Eshete has become a daily fixture on Columbia street and is likely to be one for a while.

With many development projects in Red Hook being a thing of the pres-



ent, it is likely that the new park will bring more pedestrian traffic to Columbia Street.



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# Police Story

Last June 18th was not an average night for David Cascia, manager and owner of Elite Fitness Studio. At around 9:45 p.m., Cascia, who was working in his office, noticed a man walk into the gym and approach the counter. Cascia figured that the person was a regular member and did not pay much attention to him. Then, the man opened up the cash register and grabbed around \$6,000 worth of gift cards, which is when Cascia grabbed mace and took action. "I confronted the man and asked him 'what are you doing?' and he said 'I do what I want'". Cascia then realized that he must protect the gym members who were working out in the gym because he realized that this man was not afraid. After repeatedly asking the man to leave, the assailant picked up a bar stool and tried to strike Cascia with it, to which he picked up a stool of his own to defend himself.



David Cascia, from a photo taken from the Elite Fitness website.

From there, the scrap began. The two men began grappling and fighting,

Cascia trying to force the man out of the studio and the man trying to make away with his crime. After about a minute of struggling, Cascia grabbed ahold of the man. "I put him in a headlock from behind and sprayed him with the mace, but I maced myself at the same time." From there, the two blinded men continued to move the fight outside and up the block. "There were about thirty bystanders just watching me fight the guy", Cascia explains, "I was finally able to hold him down until the police came

## We Got A Letter!

Dear Mr. Fiala:  
 Congratulations and Best Wishes to you and your co-publisher, Frank Galeano, for continued success with your new publication, The Red Hook Star-Revue. You are making an important contribution to our community. My fellow community garden members and I were particularly delighted with the special spot (on page 6) you gave to the signs with our garden names. Sincerely, Jeanne Spriter James, Van Brunt Street

*The Star-Revue deeply appreciates letters and articles from local residents. You may mail in your comments to Editor, Red Hook Star-Revue, 101 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231 or email us at editor@redhookstar.com*

and they arrested him." Cascia had to testify in front of a grand jury the following week. The man is still in jail where he awaits sentencing for his assault and robbery charge, for which he faces up to fifteen years behind bars. Cascia believes the situation could have been much worse. "I am only here on Thursday nights, any other night it would have been a woman

behind the counter." Some witnesses said that they saw the man hanging around outside the Elite Fitness Studio, presumably staking the place out. Cascia feels lucky to have walked away from the altercation with only small scrapes and bruises. "I hope they put him away for a long time".

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## Charles White Answers Home Improvement Questions

I'm not sure if there is a need for the kind of column that I envision this one as, but I am sure that there are nagging problems that annoy us, in all of our homes, a door that sticks, a wooden window that needs to be replicated, perhaps you would like to re-do your hardwood floors, or have some cabinets built. Sometimes it would be less nerve racking if there was someone that could answer your questions.

My name is Charles White, and I am a wood worker, and a master carpenter, with 20 years in the business. I am also a graduate of the Preservation Carpentry program at the North Bennet Street School, in Boston. In this age of the blogosphere, I would prefer to answer questions, rather than just putting information out there hoping that someone cares to read it.

It will be your questions that breathes life into this column, or the lack of questions that will seal it's fate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

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# The Best Thing about a Neighborhood is that it is a Neighborhood

By Eliza Ronalds-Hannon

I set out one recent morning to question residents on their most and least favorite aspects of the neighborhood, with the aim of providing food for thought for our local readers.

Spending a sunny Saturday in Red Hook and the surrounding neighborhoods can make a girl think she's stepped into a time warp. The friendly neighbors, quaint shops, and old brownstones make the area feel more like a 1950s Pleasantville than a big apple borough. Almost every resident I approached was more than happy to chat, especially when they learned that to do so would involve extolling the virtues of their beloved neighborhood. Here are some of the best answers that I got during my day of strolling and polling:

**LAURA BUSCAGLICI, owner of BopKat Vintage (117 Union St), Columbia Street Waterfront District**

*Her favorite thing about the neighborhood:* the sky when the sun is setting, and



“people just dropping by and hanging out.” I was lucky enough to witness the latter of Laura’s favorites, since when I approached her at BopKat her friend Frank LaPorto, also of Columbia St. Waterfront District, had stopped by spontaneously. The two were chatting by the entrance of her shop, soaking in the afternoon sun.

*Her least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* the lack of transportation.

**FRANK LAPORTO, Columbia Street Waterfront District**

*His favorite thing about the neighborhood:* that “you know your neighbors by name,” and that “it takes forever to run an errand because you run into so many people you know.” The day I spoke to him he had gone on a simple bagel run and not returned home for an hour and a half! He also loves that fellow residents are “willing to talk about anything and everything.” And what were they talking about this weekend? “The economy; moving out of New York City and Red Hook [due to the economy]; the lack of transportation.”

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* the few mean-spirited people that do exist. Don’t get him wrong: “there are much fewer than other neighborhoods,” he says, “but one out of ten

will have an attitude.” Mr. LaPorto also lamented the noise of traffic down Columbia St., citing beer delivery trucks as the major culprits.

**ARTURO GALEANO, Columbia Street Waterfront District resident and shop owner, former car mechanic.**

*His favorite things about the neighborhood:* “I love that I know the kids, their fathers, and their grandfathers,” Mr. Galeano told me. When kids come back to the neighborhood, he said, “they ask me, you remember me? Of course I remember you! I’ve known you since you’re ten!”

He gave me an example of the small-world phenomena he loves to witness, saying that recently a man had come by Mr. Galeano’s store (located at 104 Union St., in a space that he shares with his son, real estate agent Frank Galeano) and told him that his son was



also named Arturo. “I told the kid that’s good news for you, it’s a smart name.” Mr. Galeano said. Then the boy’s father explained that he’d named his son after Arturo Galeano himself, “because ten years ago, you sold us such a great car, and we felt so glad that we wanted to name my son after you.”

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* Mr. Galeano’s only complaint is one rooted in the past. “There was a time when I was feeling if I walked out of this block people would ask what are you doing here,” he said, explaining that he felt unsafe straying far from his own block, especially toward Red Hook. But, “it got better when they started building new houses on Presi-

dent Street,” he says, because “the residents called the cops all the time, the cops were always on that corner.” He went on to declare it, “the best change that ever happened,” because “then the city started to take care of the area.”

**Jermale McColley and Margaret Palca of Margaret Palca Bakes (191 Columbia Street)**



*Their favorite thing about the neighborhood:* the heavy foot traffic in the area, evidenced by the fact that, as McColley said, “we have a lot of regulars.” McColley also likes that the bakery is on what he called

“the liveliest block” in the area.

*Their least favorite thing:* Construction. “We understand its necessary though,” Margaret said. “The infrastructure is old.”

**Carmen Pelaez, Cobble Hill resident.**

*Her favorite thing about the neighborhood:* The diversity of available activities. With parks right around the corner and an abundance of restaurants and stores, “you are never at a loss for something to do,” Ms. Pelaez said. She also loves that in the neighborhood, “people know you and look after you. Your neighbors will ask, ‘did you get that package delivered yesterday?’” And their concern is genuine, she added, citing the genuine public mourning over the death of Tom, a Cobble Hill fixture and panhandler dubbed ‘the concierge of Court Street’ by the *New York Times*.

*Her least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “Its getting slightly passive-aggressive,” Ms. Pelaez said, which she feels is a shame because “I love the directness of the neighborhood.” She’s careful to add that this new attitude is exhibited “not nearly as much as Park Slope,” which she points to as its source. Now,



**“Neighbourhoods, in some primitive, inchoate fashion exist wherever human beings congregate, in permanent family dwellings; and many of the functions of the city tend to be distributed naturally—that is, without any theoretical preoccupation or political direction—into neighbourhoods.”**  
*Lewis Mumford*

there are people who, “if you step in front of them [in line] by mistake they make faces instead of just saying excuse me.”

**Cara, former resident of Carroll Gardens.**

*Her favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “It’s like an adult sesame street,” Cara said “It’s really relaxed but there are lots of fun things to do.” Cara also loves the architectural scale of the area, noting that the buildings don’t overpower the scenery.

*Her least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “It started to get too expensive.” The inability to afford the boutique merchandise, let alone to purchase a home, is what eventually drove Cara out of Carroll Gardens and into the South Slope.



**Charlie Rosenwald, Cobble Hill resident.**

*His favorite thing about the neighborhood:* its walk- and pet-friendliness.

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* the noise from the BQE. “There’s been talk of covering [this part of the BQE] up and building a park on top of it,” he said. “But it’s been too expensive.”



**Vincent Bostic, son of a Carroll Gardens resident.**

*His favorite thing about the neighborhood:* Pier 6 park.

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* Parking. “The best he could say about it was, “it’s not impossible.”

**Susan Kaye, Cobble Hill resident**

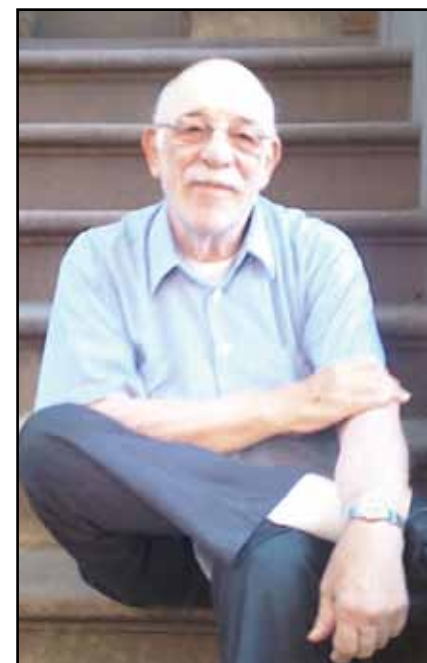
*Her favorite thing about the neighborhood:* convenience to the city by car, albeit other than rush hour.

*Her least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* The way it has changed. “I’ve been here 26 years,” Kaye said, “and the atmosphere has changed. After 9/11 people moved to Brooklyn because they wanted to be a little farther from the city without being inaccessible.” But with that came attitude took away sense of community. Made things more expensive – property, food, etc.

**Paul DeFontes, Carroll Gardens resident.**

*His favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “It’s beautiful!” Also, “it has all the stores you need - drug stores, grocery stores, clothes stores. And if you need some other stores there’s more nearby.

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* Parking. “It can take me an hour to find a space around here.”



**Earle, 22-year Red Hook resident**

*His favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “Nothing.”

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* the fact that people think Red Hook is a place you should stay. It really is a place you should pass through.” Also, “no one here cares about the community.”

**Christian Rosario Red Hook resident**

*His favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “Ikea was a nice touch.”

*His least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “The crime. The cops are always around here - domestic stuff.”

**Maria Rodriguez Red Hook resident**

*Her favorite thing about the neighborhood:* “Going to the pier and getting fresh air.”

*Her least favorite thing about the neighborhood:* Litter.

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**“you are never at a loss for something to do,” Ms. Pelaez said. She also loves that in the neighborhood, “people know you and look after you. Your neighbors will ask, ‘did you get that package delivered yesterday?’”**

# FRANK GALEANO REAL ESTATE

**104 UNION ST.** *(bet Columbia & Van Brunt Sts)*  
**ph 718.596.9545 • fax 718.596.9479**

Frank Galeano Real Estate is a privately owned and operated company that has represented the Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill and Red Hook neighborhoods for over nine years. Buying or selling a home or commercial property can be stressful...Frank Galeano Real Estate assures our clients a fast, efficient process, removing as much stress and burden as we can from our clients. We treat every client as though they are the most important person who has ever walked through our doors. We have never forgotten how important it is to take people one at a time and treat them with the same courtesy and respect with which we would like to be treated. Whether you are purchasing or renting or just want some information and advice, stop in at our office and let us show you why our friendly & knowledgeable agents makes us one of the neighborhood's favorites.

## FOR SALE



**\$775,000**

### RED HOOK- 3 STORY BRICK MIXED-USE

- LEGAL 2 FAMILY + STORE
- TWO 1BR APTS (720 SF EA)
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- 4 STORY BLDNG
- NEEDS UPDATING
- 20 X 50 ON 20 X 100 LOT



**\$1,400,000**

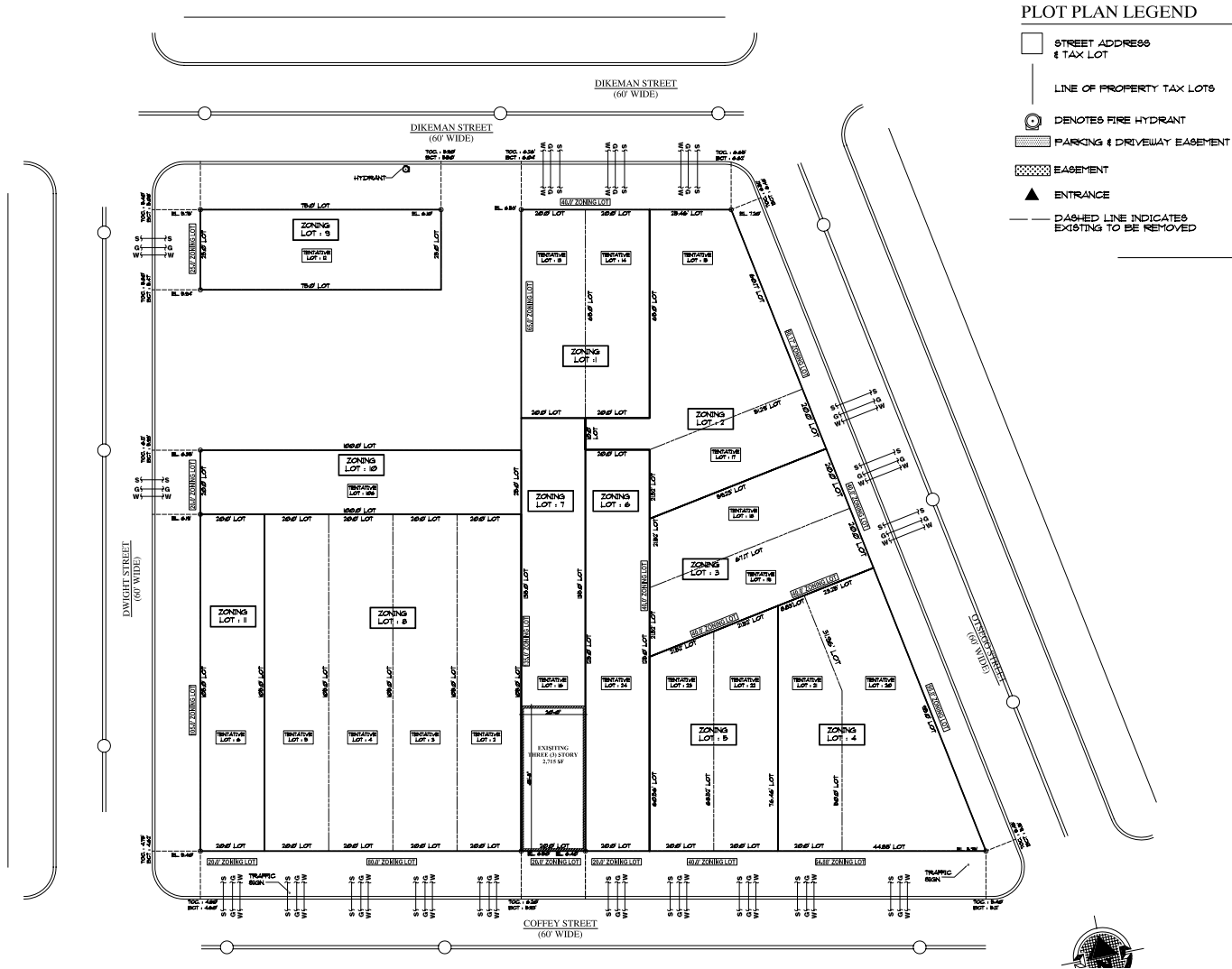
### UNION ST & HOYT ST

- 3 FAMILY / 3 STORY BRICK BLDNG
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BASEMENT • BUILDING IS  
IN GOOD CONDITION
- 20 X 50 ON 20 X 100 LOT

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# RED HOOK

## DEVELOPMENT FOR SALE



### RED HOOK COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE --1000SF - 39,000SF AVAIL - \$ 150/SF

Red Hook is a hot spot for both residential and commercial property today, due to the continued growth of the city and the relatively low cost of living making the area attractive to residents and investors alike. Red Hook promises reasonable growth with a housing inventory that meets both family and industrial demands at prices that are favorable compared to Manhattan and other adjacent neighborhoods. Red Hook is a stable quality neighborhood where the crime rate is low and the city is committed to a safe and a secure future.

If you are considering the purchase of commercial property for sale in Red Hook, there are some important factors that you should consider in selecting the best site for your property. While there may be plenty of Brooklyn land for sale, not all of the available property is created equal. The location that you select will make a big difference in how successful your investment will be.

One of the first things you need to consider when shopping for Red Hook land for sale is the proximity to competitors, suppliers and distributors. Not only is proximity a matter of convenience for a prospective business owner that may choose to lease your property, but it can have a lot to do with the success of your property as well.

The cost of the Red Hook land for sale is another important factor as you are determining where to invest your commercial real estate dollars. Some neighborhoods will be cheaper than others, but may also bring a lower profit margin in the long run. To determine the full value of commercial property for sale in Red Hook, you must factor in the cost of the neighborhood,

the rates for services, nearby amenities and future plans for the areas. Galeano Real Estate can help you with some of this basic information, but you will do well to do plenty of research on your specific area yourself also. Finally, you will want to look at practical factors, such as availability of Red Hook land in the area and possible environmental factors. These might include the viability of the land itself for building, and natural resources that are located nearby. With careful consideration of a variety of factors, your investment into Red Hook land for sale can be a successful and profitable one.

When considering commercial development Red Hook has it all. Brooklyn is the fourth largest city in the nation, within a stones throw to Manhattan and major transportation there are no limits. Commercial development in Red Hook is a prime choice for enterprise.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT SITE

This prime commercial parcel is located a few blocks from the waterfront as well as the newly built IKEA. The site consists of 39,000 sf (Dikeman St., Otsego St., Dwight St. and Coffee St.) and is easily accessible from the BQE and Battery Tunnel. The site plan has been subdivide into 14 commercial lots with approved plans to build two story commercial carriage house styled buildings.

Purchasing lots available from 1000 sf - 39,000sf are available at the cost of \$150/sf. This allows one to design and build their own building, or use the existing approved plans.

A location central to Downtown Brooklyn's booming economic core but away from the

confines costs and confusion of Manhattan. Red Hook enjoys an outstanding Business Area Profile. This site, together with neighboring stand-alone artisan retailers and popular restaurants, benefits from the strong retail pull of the FAIRWAY and IKEA. Small manufacturers will be able to take advantage of the increased car and pedestrian traffic.

#### CARRIAGE HOUSE RENDERINGS



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# MUSIC & ART CALENDAR

Dear culture lovers. This is the part of the paper where we plan to offer space to local artists and venues. By our choice this will be an interactive exercise - meaning that to receive publicity and mention local artists and venues are responsible for notifying us of their advance plans. Please email us at [arts@redhookstar.com](mailto:arts@redhookstar.com) or send us material via the mail to the address listed on page two of this issue. We are a local paper so we would not consider publishing museum listings in Oshkosh, however, if you are a denizen with a big gig coming up in Oshkosh, we might be interesting in that. For this month we will focus again on our favorite place for music, the Jalopy theatre, as well as a brief mention of the upcoming Brooklyn Waterfront Arts Coalition show "Red Hooked," which we found out about as you could using an internet search provider, which we actually hate doing, being an old-fashioned newspaper.



## Red Hooked: Summer Show Jul 17 - Aug 22

July 17 is opening day for BWAC's Summer Art Show, Red Hooked, with a Meet the Artists reception and music by Klaro! Over 200 artists will be exhibiting over 800 new works of art.



The big event this month at Jalopy is taking place Saturday July 10th at the Urban Meadow (the big garden/park at the corner of President and Van Brunt) as well as inside their own venue. Following fast on the heels of their highly successful Brooklyn Folk Festival on May 22nd, this festival includes performances from the daughter of famed musical genius and crony of all the legendary beats that your parents might have heard of, David Amram, who recently performed himself at the Clear-

water Festival alongside Pete Seeger. Alana Amram and her band, The Rough Gems, have been described as "primarily a mix of country and folk with an occasional turn towards pop rock from an unidentifiable decade - a melting pot of good old American styles. It's a vintage sound with a modern perspective." And her voice has been compared to Janis Joplin. Also appearing are the Dixon's, a Brooklyn based country swing band that will transform Van Brunt Street into the Louisiana Bayou. When a music festival is put together by the folks at Jalopy, we can be pretty much assured that every performer will be worth hearing - so let this be the Star Revue pick of the month. Following is the rest of the Jalopy schedule for July:

**Saturday, July 10 @ 12pm \$10** for Both shows! Brooklyn County Fair presents at the Urban Meadow: (corner of President & Van Brunt) Maynard and the Musties, The Dixons, Alana Amram and The Rough Gems, The Newton Gang, The Doc Marshalls, Me Before You, Michaela Anne

**Saturday, July 10 @ 8pm \$10** for Both shows! Brooklyn County Fair presents at Jalopy: Buddy Hollers, Big Slyde, Frankenpine, Red Rooster

**Sunday, July 11 @ 8pm \$10**, Lichtman's Brain Cloud, The Grand Street Stompers featuring members from The New Orleans Moonshiners

**Tuesday, July 13 @ 8:30 pm \$5**, Tony Scherr Trio

**Wednesday, July 14 @ 9pm** Free: Roots N Ruckus \* Hosted by Feral Foster

**Thursday, July 15 @ 9pm \$15** Danny Kalb Trio, Blind Boy Paxton

**Friday, July 16 @ 9pm \$10** Chef of the Pastures aka Marty Cutler & Kenny Kosek, Bob Jones and John Scholl

**Saturday, July 17 @ 9pm \$10** The Canebrake Rattlers, Run Mountain

**Sunday, July 18 @ 8pm \$10** Stephanie Nilles, Benedicte Maurseth

**Tuesday, July 20 @ 9pm \$10** Frank Fairfield, The Dust Busters, Blind Boy Paxton

**Wednesday, July 21 @ 9pm \$free** Roots N Ruckus \*, Hosted by Feral Foster

**Thursday, July 22 @ 8:30pm \$15**

Reddy Music Jazz Series



Park Slope Resident and former Blues Project member Danny Kalb will be appearing at Jalopy on Thursday, July 15th.

**Friday, July 23 @ 8pm \$10** A Night of Country Blues Guitar: The Little Brothers, East River String Band, Ari Eisinger, Pat Conte

**Saturday, July 24 @ 9pm \$10** Wretched Refuse String Band

**Sunday, July 25 @ 9pm \$10** TBD

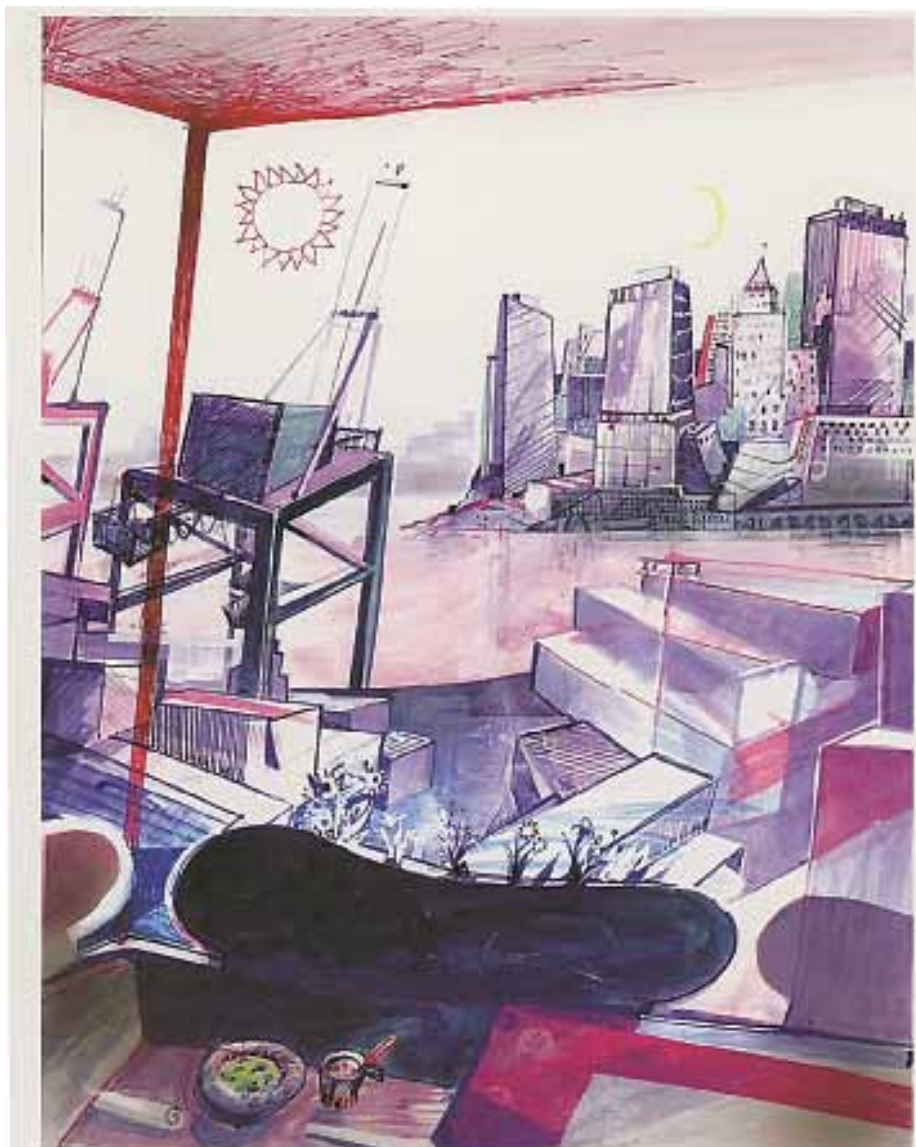
**Tuesday, July 27 @ 9pm \$10**, Ixion Burlesque, Weimar Burlesque, Featuring Albert Garzon as Kurt Weill, Jack Hardy, Emma Graves

**Wednesday, July 28 @ 9pm \$free** Roots N Ruckus \* Hosted by Feral Foster

**Thursday, July 29 @ 9pm \$10** The Pre-War Ponies, Matt Munisteri

**Friday, July 30 @ 9pm \$10** Moira Smiley & VOCCO, The M6

**Saturday, July 31 @ 9pm \$10** Veveritse Brass Band, Black Sea Hotel



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The **Red Hook Star-Revue** is looking for arts writers to keep us all informed on the local scene, including music and fine art reviews as well as an occasional in-depth piece. Slight cash payments are part of it, not to mention some sort of notoriety associated with a byline. Please email us at [arts@redhookstar.com](mailto:arts@redhookstar.com) with your ideas!

# Red Hook History

A Monthly Feature of the Red Hook Star-Review: Knowing our past is vital to knowing our future

## Accardi Hardware - Living History

by Kevin O'Hanlon

Located at 157 Columbia St., Accardi & Sons Hardware, founded during the first World War, has served Red Hook families and merchants continuously for 95 years and is now in its third generation of family ownership. Originally located at 139 Columbia St., David Accardi's grandfather set up shop supplying equipment for the home production of wine and beer. At that time, Red Hook was home to many Italian immigrants who worked in the shipping industry at our local piers and ports. "It was very rare that



someone would go to the liquor store and buy a gallon of wine" Accardi explains. "An Italian person would never do that. It was taboo."

Back in those days, residents of the



neighborhood would buy grapes out of a freight train on Baltic and Columbia streets. From there, they would call upon Accardi & Sons for items such as pressers, crushers and barrels.

Since those days, the neighborhood has greatly changed, as well as the Accardi business. Today, you will not find any wine manufacturing materials, but you will find much of what you may need to build a wine cellar. The store established itself as a hardware store in the 1960's by supplying local building companies and factories with a wide variety of project materials and tools.

David Accardi feels fortunate to have stayed in the area for so long. "Many times I thought of leaving but always



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felt the neighborhood would come back". While it remains true that the area experienced some rough patches over the decades before the 2000's, Accardi stayed put believing that his business could help turn the neighborhood around. The recent upswing in the neighborhood has allowed for more businesses to open, condo buildings being constructed, and has resulted in an influx of new, young residents moving into the neighborhood.

Since this "new era" of the neighborhood, as Accardi refers to it, business has gotten better and his customer base changed, as he now caters to more individuals as some of his former commercial clients have since left the area.

Accardi's faith in the neighborhood has lasted for many years, part of which can definitely be credited to his philosophy that hardware stores help to build communities. This is because many years ago, if someone wanted to build something, they had to go to their local hardware store as big stores like Home Depot or True Value did not exist. Over time, a community is made through construction projects and relationships that develop through honest business practices.

Mailing Things Since 1988

# Select Mail



**IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE FUNNY OLD BUILDING WITH THE EAGLE ON THE FRONT OF IT DOWN ON UNION STREET, YOU ARE RIGHT TO WONDER BECAUSE WE'RE NOT QUITE DONE YET AND HAVEN'T PUT UP A REAL SIGN. SO HERE IS WHAT WE CAN TELL YOU:**

**RIGHT NOW:** *Select Mail*, our main company, has been a Brooklyn-based business since 1988. We are an old-fashioned lettershop, which means that we send out mail in bulk for local institutions, non-profits, retail businesses as well as legal firms and an occasional city agency. Our clients include St. Francis College, Arts at St. Ann's and Celebrate Brooklyn. By automating the addressing and mail preparation process, we are able to achieve postage discounts. Some of the things we do often include printing and mailing postcards, newsletters, journals and newspapers (including this one), and personalized fund-raising appeals.

**EVERY THURSDAY:** In renovating 101 Union Street, we revived *The Star Theater*, which during the first half of the 20th Century presented epic Italian Marionette Theater every night as many Italian immigrants were accustomed to seeing back home. Our stage includes a modern Fender PA sound system, a bass amp, a full drum kit, and many microphones. Our initial venture in the arts is our **THURSDAY NIGHT OPEN STAGE** night. On Thursdays, from 7 pm to 10 pm we invite anyone, young or old, to come and visit and if so inclined bring instruments to take part in a musical jam. We will provide refreshments and on hot nights air conditioning as well. We hope to see some talented locals enjoy themselves with us on our stage.

**THIS NEWSPAPER:** *Select Mail* is part-owner of the *Red Hook Star-Revue* and the editorial and advertising offices are housed here. If you wish to place an ad in person, you may come by and see George, in case you wish to avoid e-mailing or phoning. Of course, we'd be happy to stop by your place as well.

**THE FUTURE:** We are still renovating and by September we will be opening our storefront printing shop. In addition to black and white and color copies, we will be able to offer mass duplicating of black and white or color images which can be emailed to us or brought in-person. Other services we are planning include offset printing, faxing and notary public services.

# Select Mail

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