

Boerum Hill Bulletin

THE BOERUM HILL ASSOCIATION IS A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION OF RESIDENTS OF BOERUM HILL. WE SEEK TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE UNIQUE QUALITIES OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING. VISIT US ON THE WEB AT WWW.BOERUMHILLASSOCIATION.ORG

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD:

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 (*non-board member)

Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month from September through June at 7:00pm in the Hopkins Center.

TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE!

There's been a flurry of activity in anticipation of the Barclay Arena opening this fall.

Borough Hall has been holding meetings with DOT and concerned neighborhoods; Council Member Levin sponsored a meeting on March 21st; and Council Member Letitia James is holding a forward looking meeting on March 31st.

Borough Hall's Atlantic Yards Transportation Focus Group has brought together representatives from Boerum Hill, Park Slope, Prospect Heights and Fort Greene to meet with DOT and Forest City Ratner Corporation's (FCRC) Traffic expert, Sam Schwartz, to discuss the expected log jam. Studies will be undertaken pre and post arena opening. The neighborhood representatives have given input about scope, affected intersections and current traffic routes.

Sam Schwartz Engineering is expected to present its long overdue plan in May. At best, traffic will be managed, unhappily, but somehow workable. However, there is a growing sense among the neighborhoods that given the already congested location little can be done to fully mitigate a potential nightmare that could greatly affect our quality of life.

Council Member Levin's meeting focused on a wider array of arena related issues including transportation, security, crowd control, parking, traffic control, lighting, noise and trash. Boerum Hill residents close to the arena are already sensitized to loud bars, dirty streets and unruly patrons – and they are rightly wary of more that could be on the way.

Council Member James' meeting is sponsored in part by the BHA. This meeting will focus on the significant transportation and environmental challenges we currently face. Among the issues that are hurdles for residents and businesses are existing traffic and parking congestion, demands on transit service, dangerous roads for cyclists and pedestrians that will be compounded by the Barclays Center. This meeting will be a forum to share ideas with transportation experts and an opportunity to learn about strategies to increase pedestrian and cyclist safety, reduce congestion, and improve transit.

The BHA board believes these are critical issues for us. So many residents move here for the "small town" feel of low-rise buildings, tree-lined streets, backyards and the relative quiet of brownstone living. While we know we live in New York City, we prefer not to live along a busy stretch of Manhattan's Second Avenue on the approach to the 59th Street Bridge. Traffic may be the number one threat we face in our future. Get involved!

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

BOERUM HILL

HOUSE TOUR

Sunday, June 3rd

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The BHA board is going to undertake a multi-year effort to expand our membership. We need your help.

We're asking each of you to ask 2 neighbors to become dues paying members. How else can you help? Become a Block Captain and organize your block by gathering contact information which will be compiled into a printed brochure that you can give to each neighbor. We find this helps foster communication.

After last year's re-zoning, we want to focus on quality-of-life issues.

We've engaged with our Postal Service in an effort to upgrade Times Plaza Station which has been a long-time irritant. There was some improvement in service late last year but the change of carrier routes has new created problems and package delivery continues to yield the most complaints. We intend keep pushing for a better facility and better service.

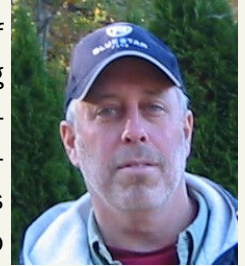
However, the largest potential threat to Boerum Hill is the traffic nightmare that seems likely to appear once

the Barclay Arena opens. Several of our board members are working with other neighborhoods, the Department of Transportation, Borough Hall and Council Members Steve Levin and Tish James to push for a plan to prevent this. Like many other Atlantic Yards issues, the plan must be created by developer Forest City Ratner. The plan is due in May and we want an opportunity to comment on the plan and suggest additional mitigations.

What other issues should we focus on? We want to hear from you. Go to www.boerumhillassociation.org, click on "contact us" and let us know. Come to a board meeting, share your thoughts, let us help you with an initiative and get involved.

In community,

Howard Kolins, BHA President



TAKE CARE OF OUR TREES BY BETTY FEIBUSCH

"I am a London Plane Tree, my neighbors take care of me, please don't pee or poop on me"

While you may have seen more street trees being planted in the last few years, did you know that a NYC street tree has an average life span of only five years?

Aside from vandalism and damage by vehicles and lack of water, a major cause of tree fatality is dog waste. Some dog walkers are unaware of the negative impact of dog feces which are high in acidity and nitrates therefore harmful to trees. Urine burn is caused by ammonia and urea contained in the urine of all mammals. Although this is a source of nitrogen, just like using too much inorganic nitrogen fertilizer, you get "fertilizer burn." Further, dogs are likely to return to the same spot again and again.

Curb Your Dog signs are available locally as well as through Trees New York www.treesny.org

This time of year it's a good idea to remove winter mulch which is soaked with dog waste. Several inches of mulch can be placed around the base of the tree but not packed around the trunk. The NYC Department of Parks (718-965-8900) has information about sources of free mulch.

Finally, to learn more about the benefits of street trees and how to improve the health of a tree through caring for it's bed, contact the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for free Street Tree Care workshops. www.bbg.org/learn/community.

The BHA is following up on Kristin Austin's tree inventory by working to replace over 80 missing trees throughout the neighborhood. Our leafy streets are a special signature so if have tree in front of your home please give it some care in the form of mulch and water especially during the dry summer months.

OUR SUPPORTERS

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HOYT STREET ASSOCIATION PLANT SALE

The annual Hoyt Street Association Plant Sale is almost here! This year's sale will be held on **Saturday, April 28th 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, April 29th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the garage behind 110 Hoyt Street, at the corner of Pacific.** The sale, whose origins go back more than 25 years, is an eagerly awaited neighborhood event for customers and volunteers alike. Profits from the sale support the Hoyt Street Garden, neighborhood beautification and the Hoyt Street Association Community Funding Project which benefits all of Boerum Hill.

We will have a very wide variety of annual bedding plants (impatiens, petunias, marigolds and many, many others), houseplants, container/window box plants (geraniums, vinca vine, etc), perennials (hostas, ferns, bleeding hearts, etc.), selected small shrubs, tomato plants and herbs. Some plants prefer lots of sun, some like shade, and others could care less. We will have plants of all kinds!

Order forms will be available on the neighborhood bulletin boards, at the reception desk of the Hopkins



Center (corner of Hoyt and Dean Streets) and also distributed door-to-door (two per building) throughout Boerum Hill in April. If you submitted an order form in the last three years you'll automatically receive one in the mail. Anyone else wishing to receive one by mail

can contact Margaret Cusack - see below for details. (The order form covers standard annuals and container plants, but there will be lots of additional plants at the sale). You need not order in advance via an order form—you can just stop by on the weekend. However, by ordering, *you will save money* and also be assured of getting what you want. You may purchase additional plants on the Plant Sale days.

To place orders by phone, for more information, or to volunteer at the Plant Sale, please contact Michael at 718-596-0449 or hoyt-streetplants@att.net.

Plant Sale Volunteers: Volunteers are needed to distribute flyers in April and to perform other tasks from Thursday, April 26th to Sunday, April 29th. Have fun and make new friends! Contact: Howard Kolins at 718-625-4073 or email at hkolins@aol.com.

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE BHA FOR 2012

USE THE FORM ON THE
OPPOSITE PAGE TO
JOIN OR RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP

BOERUM HILL HOUSE TOUR 2012

Each year many of Brownstone neighborhoods show off their homes and their life styles. 2012 is our turn to shine! Save the date: June 3rd.

Eight houses will be featured on the biennial Boerum Hill House and Garden Tour which highlights brownstone preservations and renovations.

Advance tickets can be purchased for \$20 at Exit 9, 127 Smith Street, at Gumbo, 493 Atlantic Avenue. Blue Ribbon General Store, 365 State Street and Sterling Place, 363 Atlantic Avenue.

This year's tour will begin and end at the Invisible Dog Gallery, 51 Bergen Street, between Smith Street and Boerum Place. Tour hours are 1:00 pm through 5:00 pm with a silent auction and reception from 3:30 pm until 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$25 the day of the tour For more information call 718-625-4073 or go to www.boerumhillassociation.org. Proceeds benefit the



work of the Boerum Hill Association.

Many of the local realtors and businesses are supporters through their generous contributions. A list of the 2010 Supporters can be found on page 3.

Many people contribute

their time to produce the tour. The selection committee members include James Crow, Kim Soule and Sue Wolfe of Corcoran Group Realty, Emily Fisher of Halstead Realty, Jim Kerby of Prudential Douglas Elliman and Terry Naini of Town Realty.



Our writers are Anne Armbruster and Ann Hoy, our art director is Angela Panichi and our photographer is Francis Dzikowski. His 2010 photos are included in this article. Board members Steve Neiman and Howard Kolins are the co-chairs.

As an extra feature, there will be a downloadable podcast available on our website the day before the tour. The podcast will feature additional information about the homes, the streets and the history of Boerum Hill.

This is a great way to celebrate our neighborhood and contribute to the work that the Boerum Hill Association does each year.



Boerum Hill Association
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Brooklyn, NY 11202-0583
www.boerumhillassociation.org

Growing a better Boerum Hill

C H E C K I T O U T

HOPELAND

320 Atlantic Avenue, between Smith and Hoyt Streets. The menu draws from the traditions of southern Italy's Cilento and the childhood food memories of HOPELAND's founders. The Cilento is a topographically diverse area in Campania, where mountains and sea collide to form a very unique food culture. The mahogany bar is styled as a neighborhood tavern, to serve as a drinking and dining area. The interior is wrapped in rich wood paneling, traditional wall coverings and turn-of-the-century maps, prints and mirrors. In the warmer months the restaurant will launch outdoor dining. (718) 467-3526

MAIMONIDE OF BROOKLYN

French and vegetarian, with the chef Alain Senderens (once a Michelin three-star winner) as a partner, this is something of a first for Brooklyn. Cyril Auizerate, a hotelier, was inspired to open a [vegan](#)-vegetarian restaurant after studying Maimonides, the medieval Jewish philosopher from Spain. The chef, Neal Harden, worked at Pure

Food and Wine. Specialties include meatless sausages and a bread shaped like the arches of the Brooklyn Bridge and served with various toppings: 525 Atlantic Avenue between Third Fourth Avenues, (718) 797-2555.

"Sorry for Blocking Your Car"

Placards are available on the **BHA website**. Although double parking for street cleaning is clearly illegal, the Police do look the other way if we behave. The placard is intended for use during alternate side parking periods to balance the competing problems of street sanitation and the shortage of available parking places. You just put your phone number in the windshield and make sure to move your car when called.

Go to www.boerumhillbassociation.org and print out the form.

JOIN THE BHA

Help us be advocates for Boerum Hill by becoming a member. Join us on the web at www.boerumhillbrooklyn.org