

THE
Faith
REPORT



HARLEM HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2016

BIG NEWS is about losing a legend (she was already lost) and gaining an international star.

The lost legend is the Lenox Lounge, which had been dismembered, picked over and left for dead. The star is **Sephora** owned by LVMH, as in the \$4 billion Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton luxury goods empire – with 400 beauty stores around the world.

Word on the street is that **Sephora's** circling the neighborhood for a primo spot on or around Harlem's 125th St., and looking closely at the location of the former jazz club, 286-288 Lenox Avenue.

The restaurant under residential is being torn down for a new four-story building, ready in 18 months. The **Sephora** would go into the first two floors, under offices on the third and fourth, at least according to this gorgeous rendering.

Brokers say that location was just one of many under consideration by the beauty queen along the 125th St. retail corridor, which is finally getting the attention of the national brands. In terms of commuter traffic, adding up the four subway stops and the nine lines on the boulevard, 125th St. is actually the fifth busiest destination in the entire city.

The block between 125th St. and 124th St., with the express subway stop, facing what will soon be Harlem's first **Whole Foods**, is about to be entirely transformed. On the corner of 125th St. and St. Nicholas Avenue, at 288 St. Nick, new construction is bringing **CVS** to the ground floor, with a **TGI Friday's** with a roof deck going upstairs.

Across the street, on the opposite corner, 285 St. Nicholas is getting a wraparound glass treatment, onto 124th St. and Hancock Place, for what could be a great 24/7 restaurant location. **Wahlburger's**, **Junior's Cheesecake** and **Denny's** are checking it out.

Meanwhile, **Macy's**, which had been hot for Harlem, is back on the street, looking for the right space on 125th.

Harlem is being rebuilt, block by block, and that's good news, even if we need to lose an old favorite to move forward.

HARLEM IS BEING REBUILT, BLOCK BY BLOCK, AND THAT SHOULD BE GOOD NEWS, EVEN WHEN WE LOSE AN OLD FAVORITE

On **LENOX AVENUE**, **Harlem Coffee Co.**, at 151 Lenox Ave., by 117th St., is coming soon to a building with a modern and a renovated commercial space.

In **MANHATTANVILLE**, **Starbucks**, at 3167 Broadway, is coming soon to what was formerly Riverside Cleaners. The coffee chain has job posts up, as it's already hiring baristas for the new locale.

In **CENTRAL HARLEM**, **Crêpe Master**, at 2029 Fifth Avenue, is now open and based on its online reviews – even from those who profess to not being interested in crepes, savory or sweet – **Crêpe Master** is winning over lots of new fans.

In **SOUTH HARLEM**, **Bo's Bagels**, at 116th St., just west of 8th Ave., is coming soon. Fans of the boiled bread staple noted that this store looks much larger than **Absolute Bagel**, at 2788 Broadway, between 107th and 108th streets, the neighborhood's reigning bagel boss. **JCC Harlem**, at 318 West 118th Street, between Frederick Douglass Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue, is opening in January. The space totals 6,000 square feet and the plan is "to create a hub of Jewish life for Harlem's growing and vibrant Jewish community."

In **HAMILTON HEIGHTS**, **Expresso Matto**, at 3495 Broadway, is now open. **City MD**, at 3556 Broadway, is coming soon.

And the story continues....

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