

Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, April 20

The Main Street **WIRE**TM

Roosevelt Island’s Community Newspaper

News updates on **Website NYC10044** www.nyc10044.com



Southtown’s first building finally rose into view above the fences in the past week. Photo taken from Eastwood shows the structure’s footprint and, immediately behind it, the beginning of infrastructure construction for the second building. More photos, in color, on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com.

A RIOC Win State Court of Appeals Refuses to Consider RIRSD’s Southtown Suit

A suit and appeals challenging the plan for Southtown have finally ground to a halt with a victory for the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). The State’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, rejected a request for permission to appeal filed by Roosevelt Islanders for Responsible Southtown Development (RIRSD). The single-line decision read, “Leave to appeal denied.”

The developers, The Related Companies and the Hudson Companies, say they expected the outcome. The first building in the new Southtown complex is now rising above the fence that encloses the site. David Kramer of Hudson provided *The WIRE* with this statement on the decision: “In the State Supreme Court in July, 2000, Justice Harold Tompkins wrote that the Southtown litigation was a ‘policy dispute camouflaged as a procedural challenge.’ This opinion was supported by the Appellate Division last December and reinforced again last week by the Court of Appeals in its denial of RIRSD’s request to appeal. The courts appropriately viewed the litigation as frivolous, and we’re enthused to focus now on the task at hand to build a beautiful Southtown, which will enhance the experience of being part of Roosevelt Island.”

The RIRSD steering committee, headed by Rivercross resident Steve Marcus, issued a statement lamenting the decision. “Obviously we are very disappointed with the outcome... We’d like to thank everyone who supported our efforts. Even though we didn’t get the result we were looking for, we’re very proud to have tried to protect our home against this blatant disregard for the General Development Plan.”

RIRSD’s attorney, Chris deMayo of Leboeuf, Lamb, said, “While I’m obviously disappointed in the outcome, I thought the case was vigorously litigated by RIRSD.”

RIOC had a simple statement: “Mr. [Robert] Ryan [President of RIOC] and the RIOC Board were always confident the suit would be dismissed on the merits.”

See **Southtown**, page 6



Worshipped as a god Terence Trouillot is King Tut in the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance’s production of *Steps in Time*, a time-travel dance and music project. Surrounding him are (clockwise from lower left) Rebecca Dougherty, Brenna Stein, Alison Walter, and Barbara Parker. The show features choreography by Mary McCatty and a book by Worth Howe. Four performances are scheduled April 19-21. Reservations (371-4449) are recommended.

RIOC’s New Budget Provides \$4.4M Endowment for Future Capital Needs

by Robert Laux-Bachand

An endowment fund to help pay for the Island’s future capital needs would get its first infusion of cash, \$4.4 million, under the 2002-03 budget proposed by officials of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC).

The endowment would be set up as a restricted account, its principal kept intact and growing to generate investment income for Island improvements.

As a State entity, RIOC is required to invest conservatively, in Federal and New York State obligations, and certificates of deposit. But RIOC President Robert Ryan told *The WIRE* this week, “We expect it to gain substantially in the next ten years” with continued contributions and interest income.

The contribution is possible because RIOC anticipates a surplus in its capital project fund in the coming year. The growth of the endowment “does not require a vast buildup of the Island,” said Patrick Siconolfi, RIOC’s chief financial officer. But, as Ryan added, “It is contingent upon plans for the community moving forward.”

Ryan’s statement was a reference to the fact that the endowment is a direct result of payments expected this year from the Southtown developers and, to a lesser extent, from the Octagon Park apartments, which are in the final stages of approval. RIOC is budgeting \$6,221,000 of this “new money” this year and, if all goes according to plan, the future streams of revenue will rise exponentially as more buildings come on line in the years to come.

In other words, a major change in the budget – a 19 percent increase in revenue in one year, to about \$17.1 million from \$14.4 million – reflects a major change in the Island itself as the new housing is constructed.

Siconolfi gave a public presentation on the budget proposal at a meeting of the RIOC Board of Directors last month. The Board will consider the plan at its April 18 session, and may adopt it then, although the directors could choose to delay a decision to allow for more review and comment by residents. It covers the period ending March 31, 2003.

Pending the Board’s action, RIOC declined to make a line-item copy of the budget draft available, although Ryan and Siconolfi did spell out what they considered to be the major points of the budget in an interview this week. “There’s so much good news that people need to know about,” Siconolfi said.

Aside from the endowment, perhaps the biggest story, from RIOC’s perspective, is the fact that Ryan has taken an organization with chronic financial difficulties and put it on a firmer footing, an achievement all the more impressive because most other governmental bodies are struggling with deficits caused by the recession and the aftershocks of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. And, as Ryan stated emphatically, “We don’t collect taxes!”

RIOC closed its books on fiscal 2001-02 with a plus-side balance of \$5,967, a figure that would have been \$210,000 higher were it not for a major increase in Public Safety Department spending associated with September 11.

Ryan, a former campaign manager for Governor George Pataki, took over in June 1999 and, after 14 deficits in a row, he said, “We’ve finally got this thing turned around.”

The new budget proposal is also notable, the RIOC executives said, in that it breaks out, for the first time, the specific capital invest-

ments planned in the year ahead. The total is \$2,338,000, with the major portion, more than \$1.3 million, earmarked for Southtown, which will eventually add about 2,000 apartments. RIOC’s spending in the year ahead for this project will include work on the new sports fields, landscaping, development of a Town Commons, and the extension of Main Street and lighting.

The Tot Lot, which borders Southtown, will also be rebuilt, and the Meditation Steps, which have gotten splintery over the years, will be repaired. Those project are ex-

See **RIOC**, page 6

Survey Shows Drugs and Public Safety Quality Are Major Resident Concerns

by Dick Lutz

A significant number of Roosevelt Islanders see drugs as a serious problem here, according to a survey of resident feelings about public safety and the Island’s Public Safety Department.

Results of the survey, conducted by a committee of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), also show that about 60% of Islanders who expressed an opinion in responding to the survey feel the “quality of safety on Roosevelt Island” is a “very serious problem” or a “somewhat serious problem.”

Over 70% give the same “serious problem” rating to “the quality of service provided by the Public Safety Department.”

The WIRE requested raw figures from RIOC after a report was issued with the approval of Dr. Joan Dawson, the Board member who chairs the committee concerned with Public Safety matters. Her report concluded: “Except for Rivercross, there is an overall rating of satisfaction with that the [sic] effectiveness of the Public Safety Department.” *The WIRE* carried a report last issue (March 23) based on the Dawson summary, which was apparently drafted by RIOC staff.

Analysis shows that, in five out of eight potential concerns surveyed, 60% or more of residents see a “very serious problem” or “somewhat serious problem.” Those concerns include:

- “Drugs on the Island” (83.5%)
 - “Quality of service provided by Public Safety Department” (70.8%)
 - “Keeping the streets and neighborhood clean” (66.1%)
 - “Crime” (63.2%)
 - “The quality of safety on Roosevelt Island” (59.9%)
- Only respondents from 10, 20, and 30 River Road deviated from the “serious problem” rating on those five issues. (Figures for 40 River Road were not available during *The WIRE*’s analysis.)
- Only three concerns surveyed failed to score above about 60% both Island-wide and in all buildings except 10-20-30 River Road:
- “Not enough good jobs” (50%)
 - “Too many people living here” (38.9%)
 - “Not enough people living here” (15.6%)

The survey, distributed last year, was the committee’s attempt to gauge resident perceptions regarding the Public Safety Department. The survey was distributed to 3,026 apartments; 447 (14.8%) responded. Response rate was highest in Rivercross (27.2%), but below 20% in all other buildings, and lowest in 2-4 River Road (9.4%), where only 21

See **RIOC**, page 6

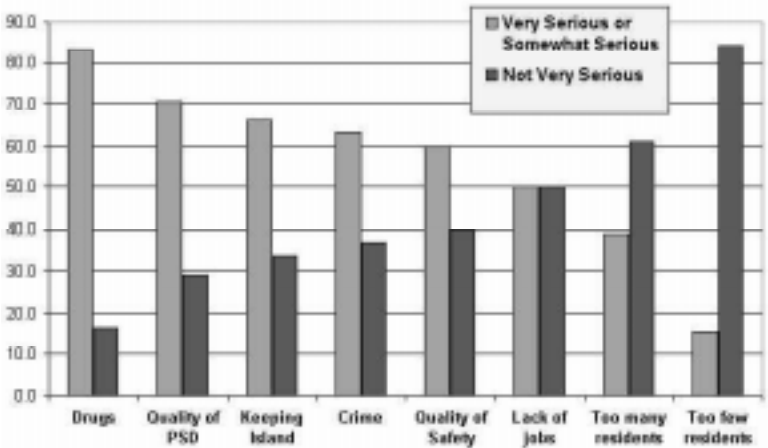


Chart of responses to one question in RIOC’s survey on Public Safety shows more than 60% of residents (the gray bars) consider five issues “very serious” or “somewhat serious” concerns.

Letters

To the Editor:

Mr. Kraut’s review in the March 23 *WIRE* of the calamities that the Tram has had over its 25-year history was interesting and appreciated.

What struck me was the passivity of RIOC (of which he is a Board Member) in responding to the latest crisis caused in December when the folks at American Tramways cut the haul-rope cable too short by eight feet. Here is what Mr. Kraut wrote about the matter:

When, after the initial mis-cutting of the cable, Mr. Blomer [the President of American Tramways] first suggested the engineering fix and asked the State to approve it, none of us imagined or recalled that the State might not want to touch it with a 10-foot pole. Personally I’m glad that Mr. Blomer finally decided, on his own, to simply buy a new cable. I’m not surprised that he put it off as long as he did – \$30,000 or \$40,000 of his company expense was at stake – nor am I surprised that he finally realized his company was going to lose far more if he didn’t take it upon himself to make a decision. I was surprised that the amount of cost was actually so low, if I may use that term, because I had imagined that replacement cable would cost more on the order of several hundred thousand dollars. If we had known the price was so low, we would have insisted that Mr. Blomer bite that particular bullet far sooner. As it was, our patience was running out, and if Mr. Blomer had not gone ahead and purchased new cable, I believe we would have told him to.

This response makes me wonder where RIOC was during this entire puppet show. Robert Ryan said early on that a new cable would cost over \$100,000, and would take over three months to manufacture. He said it wouldn’t make sense to purchase a backup cable right away, because if the shortened cable could still be salvaged, the backup cable would lose strength if it were stored.

I spent two minutes on the Internet, looked for “Steel Cable Manufacturers” and found 14 companies that make cables, most of them in a close radius to the city (see www.domesticwirerope.org if you don’t believe me!).

The WIRE did a similar inquiry and found that this cable costs less than \$30,000, takes far less than three months to produce, and can be stored indefinitely. If a reporter can make a few phone calls and get the story right, why can’t RIOC?

In fact, just after *The WIRE* publicized this information through mass e-mails and a posting on its website (www.nyc10044.com), Blomer magically appeared at a RIOC Board meeting to announce that, unbeknownst to RIOC, he had ordered a new cable immediately after the problem occurred and the Tram would be running in a few weeks’ time.

It’s nice to know that the Board’s “patience was running out.” Left to their own devices, they might have gotten around to telling Blomer to “bite the bullet” around now, and maybe we’d have the Tram up for the Fourth of July.

In RIOC’s just-released financial statement (for the year ending *March 2001!*) we see that RIOC administration costs us \$2,157,312. Of this, we pay salary and related expenses of over \$1.4 million – money that comes from our rents and fees paid on the Island. These figures don’t include the people that actually do something for us – the groundskeepers, maintenance

To the Editor:

I am the father of the young lady mentioned in your editorial (March 23) – the runaway “rock star” (though how she was going to do this when she sold her guitars to get a bus ticket to LA is still beyond me). With all of the discussion about the pros and cons of Public Safety, I have to say that, in my 20 years as a newspaperman, I have worked with the police departments of Boston and New York City and never have I encountered a level of dedication and professionalism like the officers at Public Safety.

Without the help of Officer Fernandez specifically, I would not have Katie back now. He followed up every lead day and night, contacted her friends, and ultimately arranged for her pickup. He was the ultimate detective and I am in his debt.

Lou Perullo

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Publication on a *Name Withheld* basis will be considered, but the writer’s name, address, and phone number **must** be provided for verification and for our records. **Preferred methods of submission:** By e-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (ASCII text preferred or use any wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files with macros), or PC-standard 3.5-inch floppy disk left at 531 Main Street for *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we cannot take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance and to editing for length and clarity.** We recommend observing a maximum length of 300 words, but will consider longer letters if their content merits the required space.

and Tram staff. In other words, we pay over \$2 million just for RIOC bureaucrats to sit in their offices. RIOC allocated over \$650,000 last year for administering the Tram even though the entire operation (maintenance, salaries, etc.) is farmed out. What value does RIOC add with this money when no one in its office can make a few phone calls and get some basic facts?

Mr. Kraut’s other comments on the MetroCard raise some important issues. There is a one-time expense in installing card readers – how much? There will be income lost to the MTA when the free transfer is used. Our proceeds certainly won’t be cut in half, as Kraut assumes, because the free transfer will increase Tram traffic to the City and only a portion of Island-bound fares will be traveling for free. Has RIOC made a reasonable estimate of how much this would cost? Mayor Bloomberg is on record as supporting MetroCard for Roosevelt Island. Perhaps he’d be willing to see the MTA take over the Tram entirely. Is this a good idea, or is it better to keep paying the Tram’s deficit ourselves so that we can better control the level of service and safety? These issues can be resolved with the appropriate level of effort, analysis, and concern for the community. They **cannot** be resolved with the same level of attention RIOC obviously gave to the recent Tram outage. Does anyone trust RIOC to do it right?

All this goes to prove once again that we need a RIOC Board composed of democratically-elected, active, and highly-motivated members, and to replace this whole crew of inept and indifferent bureaucrats with professional management.

Steve Marcus

To the Editor:

The award for dumbest letter to the editor goes to “Name Withheld” for last week’s comment in *The WIRE*. The opinionated attack on Charles De Fino was one that was made in haste without really understanding what Mr. De Fino meant by the statement [quoted in the March 9 issue]. As an employee of the Roosevelt Island Youth Program and a resident of Roosevelt Island, I totally understood where Mr. De Fino was coming from with his statements regarding the shooting on February 25. I also understand because I grew up with the two young men involved in the shooting here on Roosevelt Island. I know them both personally and they really aren’t bad guys trying to hurt anybody, especially Mr. Walker, whom I can vouch for. He just got caught up in a bad situation, and made a terrible decision afterward.

To make such a comment about Mr. De Fino’s statement in *The WIRE*, and not provide your name, is both crass and cowardly. It just simply implies that you’re afraid to stand behind your opinion that you so strongly state, and that’s a shame.

Abraham Hassan

To the Editor:

Many things impress me about Roosevelt Island. However, the kindness and thoughtfulness of the red bus drivers is certainly foremost. Despite the pressure on the bus system resulting from the Tram debacle, they have consistently performed their jobs in a professional and humane way – which is to say that, to a person, they consistently wait that extra moment it takes for the late stragglers to catch the bus. Whether that straggler is in a wheelchair, a student “wired for music,” or a businessperson burdened with briefcase and coffee, the bus drivers consistently pause that extra moment or even *stop* to allow the frantic passenger to board. I, for one, don’t mind waiting for the bus as they are so kind as to wait for us.

Thank you, bus drivers! Your thoughtfulness is noticed and very much appreciated. It is courtesy such as this that makes our day!

Susan Bellrose

To the Editor:

I am surprised that there isn’t a direct bus service from Roosevelt Island to the markets of Broadway and Steinway Streets. Hasn’t anyone thought of starting an appeal to convince those who control bus service to start one? It will mean easier access by the residents of the Island to cheaper and more stocked markets than what we have and more affordable transport cost than what the car services charge.

Ali Al-Za’tari

To the Editor:

The members of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA) want to personally thank RIOC President Robert Ryan and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation for enthusiastic acceptance of our Gallery. The space is more than a place – it is a collective enthusiasm for art and life. All are welcome to visit.

Arline Jacoby

Letters deadline for Apr. 20 issue: Apr. 16

Letters received after deadline will be considered on a space-available basis

Perez-Mayor

Limaris L. Perez and Joey Mayor, Jr. were married February 9. The bride, the daughter of Gladys Rivera of 4 River Road, has been an Island resident for 13 years, and is a graduate of PS 217 and Penn State University with a Bachelor’s degree in Health Policy and Administration. She is now employed at Beth Israel Medical Center.

Joey Mayor, Jr. is a graduate of SUNY Albany with a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and Psychology, and works for New York City Prison Health Services. He is the son of Sosunta Mayor.

The wedding was held at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem, and was followed by a reception at Manhattan Park Theater Club on the Island.



Contacts List

Corrections are coming in for the Island Contacts list published last issue. A fully-corrected version is available on *Website NYC10044* at www.nyc10044.com/contacts.html. Additional corrections are welcome. The list will be republished, with changes and additions, in a future issue.

River Music Slates Classical Guitar Concert

Classical guitarist Eliot Fisk will appear in a River Music concert Sunday afternoon, April 14, at 3:00 p.m., in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. There is no admission charge.

Fisk, who was voted best classical guitarist in the *Guitar Player Magazine* Readers’ Poll, plays a repertoire consisting of his own works, and the works of J.S. Bach, D. Scarlatti, Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn, and others. He performed at private receptions for President Bill Clinton and for the Spanish royal family.

His current schedule includes appearances with the Louisville Orchestra, the Arlington Symphony, and the North Carolina Symphony, as well as performances as soloist during the Barcelona Symphony’s tour of the United States. His recordings have been listed on *Billboard* magazine’s classical charts.

Andres Segovia, who coached Fisk for several years, wrote of him, “I consider Eliot Fisk as one of the most brilliant, intelligent, and gifted young artists of our time, not only among guitarists but in all the general field of instrumentalists. His clear and flexible technique, his noble style of interpreting the beauty of classic compositions as well as the colorful music of today, put him at the top line of our artistic world.”

The Roosevelt Island performance is an event in the Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert Series.



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Islander Gets a Grammy Nomination



Island House resident Phil Clendenin picked up a Grammy nomination for his song, *Didn't Cha Know*, written with lyricist-performer Erykah Badu. Nominated for the best R&B tune of the year, the recording was released late in 2000 and enjoyed a ride on the charts in 2001.

Clendenin's music, much written in the '60's and 70's in the R&B/Jazz Fusion form, is getting renewed attention abroad, with good airplay in London and across Europe, as the genre is rediscovered by a new audience.

The music of those days "had a certain urgency," Clendenin says, because it was performed rather than "manufactured in a studio," as much recorded music is today, using techniques of overdubbing, editing, and electronic manipulation.

Clendenin has played with another Island resident, Tex Allen, and with Diana Ross and the Rolling Stones as a studio musician.

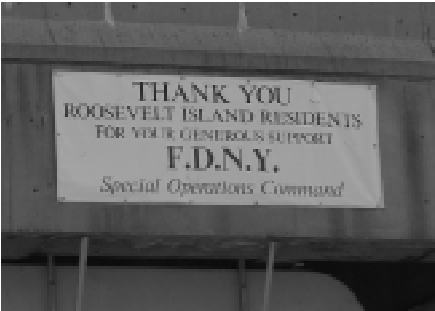
Didn't Cha Know lost in the Grammy races to a song by Alicia Keyes. "This was her year," Clendenin says, happy to have his music honored with the Grammy nomination.

Plaque for 9/11 Victims to be Unveiled

The small grove of trees just west of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd will soon have a bronze plaque memorializing Roosevelt Island's victims of the September 11 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center.

The plaque is a project of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. It will be placed at the base of a flowering cherry tree that was specially planted, in October, as part of the memorial.

The plaque is to be dedicated Sunday, April 21, at 2:00 p.m., in a ceremony that will include brief remarks by victims' fam-



Island-based firefighters have erected this banner at the ramp to thank Islanders for their post-9/11 support.

ily members and dignitaries, including Assembly-member Pete Grannis and City Council Speaker Gifford Miller. Islanders Juanita Fleming and Deborah Drucker will sing, and the artist William West will present one of his works to the FDNY Special Operations Command headquartered on the Island.

The ceremony is to be followed by refreshments, and the Residents Association Common Council members organizing the event are asking their fellow residents to bring a dessert. The baked goods are being coordinated by Margie Smith, who can be reached at 813-1515.

What signs and portents tell you when it's spring? Are you a stickler for the astronomical verities and insist that spring begins post-vernal equinox? Or do Passover and Easter signal the start of warmer weather for you? For me, it's opening day of the baseball season. I went to my first Major League opening day at Shea Stadium last Monday. The Mets accommodated my desire for a perfect day by trouncing the Bucs (buccaneers, that is – the Pittsburgh Pirates to the uninitiated) by a score of 6 to 2. The sun was warm, the outfield immaculately groomed, and the crowd was... scatological. Interestingly, the bulk of the abuse was reserved for the Yankees, not the Pirates. I concurred enthusiastically.

Your Residents Association honored one of our own in March. As you know, Joan Matula retired after 25 years of service to this community. We had a little party in her honor, and she received letters and encomiums from her friends (and ours) in the State Senate and Assembly as well as a beautiful, framed proclamation from City Council Speaker, Gifford Miller. Way to go, Joan!

In my last column, I invited you to attend the monthly 114th Precinct community meeting held in Astoria, Queens. Many of you were there, and I salute you for your effort. Our group included Council members Deirdre Breslin, Vicki Feinmel, Byron Gaspard, Steve Marcus, Ron Schuppert, Margie Smith, Patrick Stewart, Jim Whalen, and myself. Other Island activists present included Linda Heimer, Sherie Helstien, Nurit Marcus, Joe Palermo, and Fay and Ron Vass, as well as a representative from *The WIRE*. The guest speaker, a lawyer, discussed second mortgages and foreclosures, although few in attendance were homeowners. The precinct commander, Deputy Inspector John O'Brien, noted that 24 new grads from the Police Academy have been assigned to the one-one-four, which is down 20% in serious index crime, leading northeast Queens in crime reduction.

Our group overwhelmed the concluding Q&A with Roosevelt Island issues. Heimer noted that one C-POP officer was insufficient, and Inspector O'Brien stated

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz
RIRA President
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that Officer George Esposito was newly assigned here with the possibility of a rookie patrol officer joining him. Gaspard said that daytime patrols were not useful, and O'Brien responded, saying that Esposito's beat would be 4:00 p.m. to midnight. Ron Vass suggested using the Truancy Patrol to keep down daytime crime. All of us stressed the increasing indications of drug crime on our streets and in our buildings and the evidence that Public Safety is not dealing with it.

I suggested that the Precinct arrange with RIOC to post permanent signage on Main Street giving the Queens Narcotics "hot-line" telephone number so that residents might report the presence of drug use and sales anonymously. This idea was received with interest. However, when I called the 114th Precinct Wednesday, no one could give me the hot-line phone number. You, of course, only need to consult the organizations list printed in the last issue of *The WIRE*. For your information, the number is 1-718-468-4868.

Many thanks to Julie Palermo and the Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce for the recognition of RIRA's contributions to the holiday lighting on Main Street. The certificate incorrectly cited me personally; your Common Council voted the funds from our treasury and others were the inspiration behind our efforts. Be generous when RIRA solicits your support for our fund-raising efforts, because this is the sort of community activity your dollars pay for.

Late last October, a flowering cherry tree was planted behind the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. And soon, it will come into glorious bloom. This was only the first part of a RIRA effort to honor our neighbors who died on September 11. We will unveil a plaque in their memory on Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 p.m. Many of our elected officials will be there; the list is still incomplete. You will read more about this memorial in *The WIRE*'s next issue, but I wanted to invite all of you early. You (and I) need to be there. We've endured a winter of fear and depression. It's time to welcome spring, with its message of hope and rejuvenation, by honoring our fallen neighbors, our Island community and our City.

COMING UP

Compiled by *WIRE* staff – Fax information to 755-2540
e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com
or click on the e-mail link at www.nyc10044.com

April, Rivercross Window Gallery, *Let's Not Forget*, works of William West displayed in tribute to Our Fallen Heroes, presented by the Mother Earth Committee.

Sun., Apr. 7, 4:00 p.m., **Poetry, Art, Music** at RIVAA Gallery, 529 Main Street.

Mon., Apr. 8, 8:00 p.m., **Toastmasters** meeting; public speaking without fear. For information, call (212) 759-0396.

Wed., Apr. 10, 6:00 p.m., **PS/IS 217 School Leadership Team Meeting**, PS/IS 217.

Thur., Apr. 11, **RESCHEDULED**: **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting** has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 18.

Sun., Apr. 14, 3:00 p.m., **Carnegie Hall Neighborhood Concert**, Elliot Fisk, classical guitarist, sponsored by River Music, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Free.

Tue., Apr. 16, 6:30 p.m., **Book Discussion**, *Divine Secrets of the*

Ya-Ya Sisterhood by Rebecca Wells, Library. Advance registration required.

Tue., Apr. 16, 7:30 p.m., **Restoring Strecker**, program of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, with Page Ayres Crowley, conservation and restoration architect, Island House Community Room, 555 Main Street. Free.

Wed., Apr. 17, 6:00 p.m., **PS/IS 217 PTA Executive Board Meeting**, followed by **General Membership Meeting** at 7:00 p.m.

Wed., Apr. 17, 7:00 p.m., **Community Board 8 Meeting** on Roosevelt Island, Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Thur., Apr. 18, 5:30 p.m., **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd (rescheduled from April 11). Public session normally resumes at about 6:30, and is followed by an open forum for residents' comments and questions.

Thur., Apr. 18, 6:30 p.m., **Treasure Island**, a puppet show for children 5-12, presented by Ellen van Wees, at the Library. Free.

Thur., Apr. 18, 6:30 p.m., **RIOC Board of Directors Meeting**, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Executive sessions starts at 5:30. Public session normally resumes at about 6:30, and will be followed by an open forum for residents' comments and questions.

Fri., Apr. 19, 7:30 p.m., **Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance** presents *Steps in Time*, its third annual dance project. \$10 chair, \$5 mat seating for children 10 and under. Reservations recommended: 371-4449.

Sat., Apr. 20, next issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. **Deadlines**: Advertising in the paper, Fri., Apr. 12; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, Mon., Apr. 15, with materials due Thur., Apr. 18. **Future issues** generally every two weeks as follows: May 4 and 18, June 1, 15, and 29 (Fourth of July issue), July 27 (reduced summer schedule), Aug. 24, Sept. 7 and 21, Oct. 5 and 19, Nov. 2 (pre-election issue), 9 (post-election), and 23, Dec. 14 (holiday issue). **Phone/fax** for news, 826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for advertising inquiries, 751-8214/755-2540; to list your organization's Island events here (no charge), fax information to 755-2540, or e-mail ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com.

Sat., Apr. 20, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., **PTA Flea Market** at the Farmer's Market; outside, weather permitting, or in the school.

Sat., Apr. 20, 7:30 p.m., **Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance** presents *Steps in Time*, its third annual dance project. \$10 chair, \$5 mat seating for children 10 and under. Reservations recommended: 371-4449.

Sun., Apr. 21, 2:00 p.m., **Dedication Ceremony** to unveil plaque honoring Roosevelt Island victims of the September 11 World Trade Center tragedy, Good Shepherd Plaza (grove area at west end of Chapel).

Sun., Apr. 21, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., **Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance** presents *Steps in Time*, its third annual dance project. \$10 chair, \$5 mat seating for children 10 and under. Reservations recommended: 371-4449.

Tue., Apr. 23, 7:30 p.m., **114th Precinct Community Meeting**, Riccardo's, 21-01 24th Avenue, Long Island City. For car-pool ride, call 752-6819.

Fri., Apr. 26, 10:00 a.m., **Arbor Day Tree Planting**, sponsored by Roosevelt Island Tree Board. Location to be announced.

Sat., Apr. 27, 10:00 a.m., **What's Next? Career Development for Mothers**, seminar led by Dr. G. Lipton, sponsored by Island Kids, 536 Main Street community room. \$20. Information: 758-8408.

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
12:45, **Arts & Crafts** (RIDA)

Tuesday
10:00, **Jazzercise**
1:30, **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well Exercise**
10:00, **English as 2nd Language** (beginner)
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)

Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance Class**

Friday
9:00, **Citizenship**
10:00, **English as 2nd Lan-**

guage (beginner)
10:15, **Yoga Stretch**
11:00, **English as 2nd Language** (intermediate)
7:30, **Lotto**

Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Wed., Apr. 17, Atlantic City Trip
Mon., Apr. 22, 12:30, Volunteer Recognition Party
Tue., Apr. 23, Luncheon Trip
Wed., Apr. 24, 10:00, Medication Management Lecture

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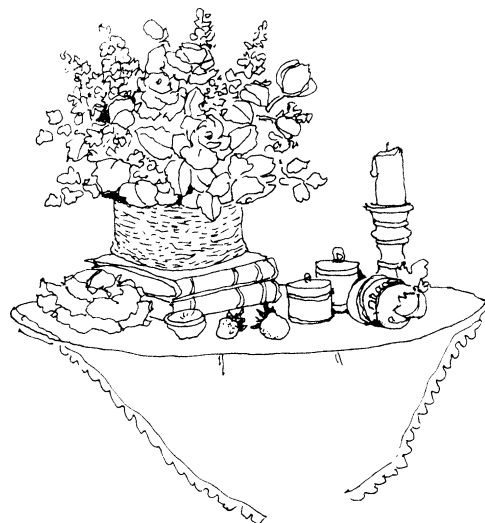
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Saturday
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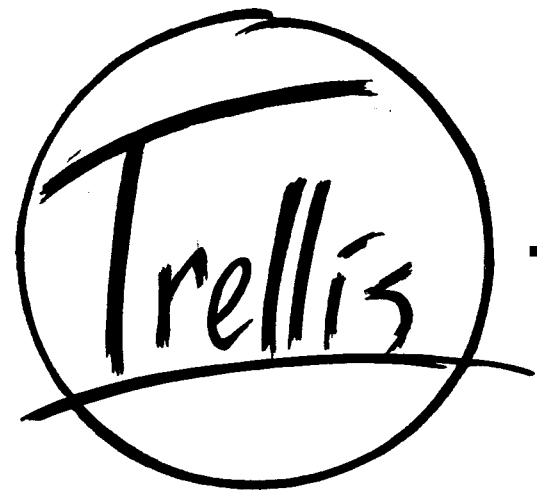
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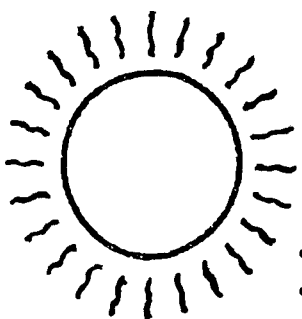
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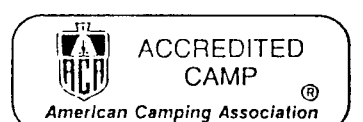
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Scenes from the Island's Family Album March 22-April 4

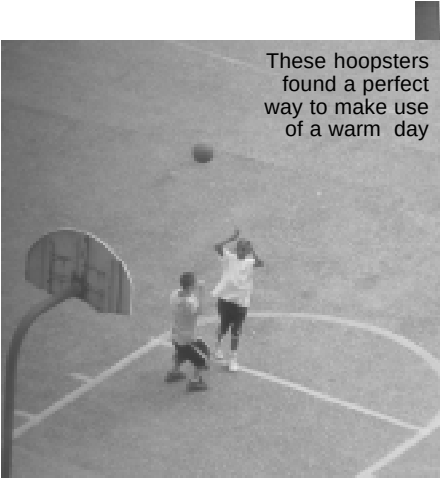


Ethel Romm (foreground) led an Island brainstorming session in the *Imagine New York* series being sponsored by the Municipal Art Society to gather ideas on the future of the World Trade Center site.



Daffodils began blooming all over the Island, the product of an Island-wide planting of bulbs donated by the people of Holland.

Residents Association President Matthew Katz appeared with three dozen other adults to talk about the world of work at PS 217's seventh Career Day.



These hoopsters found a perfect way to make use of a warm day



Seder A large group of Islanders participated in the first Senior Passover celebration dinner and shared both song and cultural traditions.



Photos by Vicki Feinmel

RIOC from page 1

pected to cost \$320,000.

The only general-fund account to be reported in any detail thus far is the Tramway, and RIOC is projecting a loss of \$2 million in the year ahead. The Tram has had steadily declining revenue over the past several years, and RIOC, anticipating that the trend will continue, is budgeting \$1.2 million for 2002-03. This is a decrease of more than \$125,000 from the last full year of operation, which ended in March 2001. Put another way, the estimate is that the Tram will carry a daily average of 231 fewer fare-paying passengers than it did two years ago.

It should be noted, however, that the Tram's estimated loss of \$2 million includes \$502,000 of RIOC administrative expenses apportioned to that fund and, under new governmental accounting rules, \$175,000 in depreciation. Insurance expenses have also increased substantially since September 11, and RIOC estimates that it will cost \$300,000 just to insure the Tram this year, an increase of about \$100,000. The Tram is considered an "eccentric risk" for insurers, and this adds to the cost.

On the revenue side, Southtown is making its presence felt in new general-fund entries, such as \$210,000 budgeted for Public Safety.

Of the total general fund of \$10.8 million – little changed from the year before – so-called "Starrett payments" still account for the single largest source of revenue. Starrett Corporation built Manhattan Park in the late 1980s, and its successor owners are expected to pay RIOC \$4.4 million in 2001-02. By contrast, ground rent from two other housing companies, Rivercross and Island House, is listed at \$41,000.

Southtown from page 1

RIRSD's statement reflected on the substance of the suit, in which it had claimed the Southtown plan violated the Island's General Development Plan. "RIOC was allowed to build in violation of the GDP because we, the residents, have no voice in what happens on this Island." The statement claims the developers will gross \$10 million per year and that RIOC "gave away" \$4.5 million to supply infrastructure for the new buildings, and will receive a return on investment too low to justify such an expenditure.

One further Southtown legal matter is a petition for reargument of the original appeal to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court by Robert Chira, a Rivercross attorney representing the Alternative Southtown Design Committee. At press time, there was no word on the status of that petition.

Survey from page 1

responses were received (out of 223 questionnaires distributed). Residents were asked not to complete the survey if they had lived on the Island less than three months or were under age 18. Only one form was provided to each household.

The survey asked some questions more than one way. By comparing responses to two different phrasings of questions on the same issue, analysts can rate the validity of the survey. For example, when asked to "rate the performance of the Public Safety Department" with the choices "excellent," "good," "only fair," "poor," and "not sure," survey responses broke down this way:

Excellent	5.9%
Good	37.3%
Only Fair	30.9%
Poor	25.9%

Grouping "only fair" and "poor" responses (56.8%) tends to confirm the reaction to the first question on the survey, which asked residents their evaluation of the "quality of safety on Roosevelt Island."

Residents were also asked, "In general, do you think that services provided by the Public Safety Department have gotten better in the past two or three years, gotten worse, or have they stayed about the same?" Another question asked about the future: "What about in the next year or so – do you expect these services... will get better, get worse, or remain about the same?" Of those responding, the percentages on these two questions broke down this way:

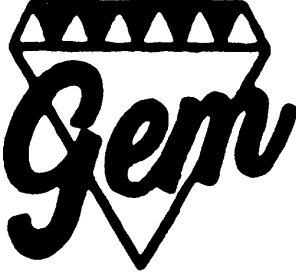
	Better	Worse	Same
Now	9.2	39.4	51.4
Future	20.8	30.6	48.6

On a question about "enforcement of parking rules," Rivercross respondents diverged from those in other buildings, with 58% calling PSD performance "poor" and another 22% rating it "only fair." From other buildings, 57% or more rated parking enforcement "good or "excellent."

Survey respondents living in 10, 20, and 30 River Road diverged from other Islanders on a question asking them to "rate the performance of the Public Safety Department" in "providing a safe and secure environment." While more than 50% in every other building gave PSD a rating of "only fair" or "poor," 67% of the Manhattan Park respondents rated PSD "excellent" or "good."

Charts and graphs of the survey responses are available on Website NYC10044 at www.nyc10044.com/wire/2217/psd-surv.html.

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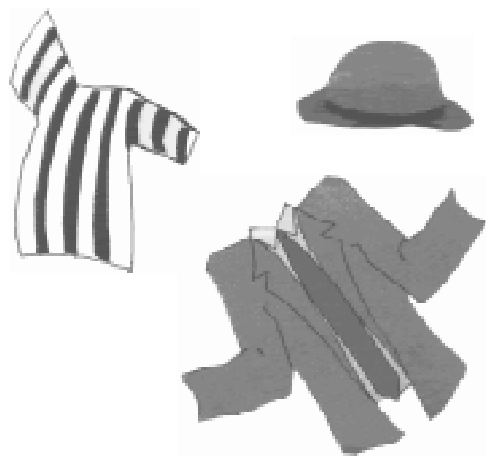
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7. You love the gift but it just isn't you
6. Head start on Spring cleaning
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