

Next scheduled issue
in 4 weeks on
Saturday, August 23

The Main Street **WIRE**TM

Roosevelt Island’s Independent Community Newspaper

News updates by e-mail (Send “Add Me” to nyc10044@rcn.com)



The steeple of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd gradually disappeared this week, hidden behind scaffolding, then safety net. A worker seemed to be touching the peak as he surrounded the structure with a platform to be used by restoration workers.

Chapel Restoration Begins

by Judith Berdy

President, Roosevelt Island Historical Society

Long-awaited repairs to the landmark Chapel of the Good Shepherd are scheduled to begin this week. Portions of the 1889 building have been scaffolded in preparation for the repairs. The New York Landmarks Conservancy will oversee the work, which is being funded by grants from Assemblymember Pete Grannis and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.

Repairs include:

- Dismantling and rebuilding the top six feet of the spire to repair and

replace delaminating brownstone.

- Removal of the stained glass panels from the rose window at the west side of the building. The panels will be taken to Gil Studios in Brooklyn for restoration and releading. A new exterior protective glazing system will be custom-designed and installed at the window opening.

See **Chapel**, page 8

City Comptroller Criticizes RIOC’s Past Landmark Care

by Dick Lutz

The City Comptroller has chastised the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation for inadequate efforts to stabilize the landmarked Smallpox Hospital at Southpoint. But RIOC has started steps to remedy the deficiency.

The criticism and response came in a June audit report issued by City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr. The response, from RIOC Acting President Patrick J. Siconolfi, said, “RIOC has taken, particularly recently, aggressive steps to main-

tain the landmarks which are the subject of this audit.”

The audit report points out that in 1997, during the RIOC Presidency of Dr. Jerome Blue, RIOC turned down a State grant earmarked for emergency stabilization of the hospital, known as the Renwick Ruin for its architect, James Renwick, who also designed St. Patrick’s Cathedral. At the time, Blue was pushing a plan for hotel towers at Southpoint; the plan would have turned the ruin into a conference center associated with the hotel. When the hotel plan was scrapped, partly as a result of community protest, stabilization of the landmark was left without a funding source.

In his response to the audit, Siconolfi described a two-part approach started in April. “Part one, already under way, is an architectural and engineering investigation of the problem areas of the landmark together with recommendations for immediate undertakings

See **Landmarks**, page 8

Briefly...

Fireworks at Southpoint sold out, with the crowd estimated at 4,500 to 5,000.

BikeSummer 2003 comes to Roosevelt Island tonight (Saturday, July 26), on the last night of this season’s events, with an evening ride around the Island led by resident Sharon Bermon (see *ComingUp*, page 3).

First Residents Arrive in Southtown; New Main Street Open to Tram Station

The first residents are moving into 475 Main Street. In a press release, Southtown developer Hudson-Related announced that the building received its Certificate of Occupancy from the City Department of Buildings on July 3. The first residents, for whom Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) needed housing immediately, moved in the week of July 7. MSKCC will use the 256 apartments as housing for professionals, support staff, and trainees.

The building is equipped with a day-care center, a health club, and a roof deck.

The Hudson-Related press release quotes Paul Gabriel, MSKCC’s Housing Manager, as saying, “We are very much looking forward to joining the Roosevelt Island community,” though this week a *WIRE* reporter, seeking a tour of the new building, had difficulty getting anything further from representatives of MSKCC.

The second Southtown building, earmarked for

See **Southtown**, page 10



Cutting a ribbon – well, a “caution” tape, anyway – to open the new portion of Main Street Monday: Greg Bauso, Monadnock Construction; David Kramer, The Hudson Companies; Patrick Siconolfi, RIOC; Bruce Beal, The Related Companies; Vinnie Kopicki, RIOC; and H. Patrick Stewart, a resident member of the RIOC Board of Directors.

Westview Ready to Fight a Rent Hike

by Robert Laux-Bachand

Residents of Westview have yet to receive a detailed rent increase proposal but, whatever it may be, they intend to oppose it. They also want to roll back the \$27-per-room increase ordered by the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal in 2001.

Defeating the owner’s rent application and “obtaining significant rent reductions” are two of the main goals of the Westview Task Force, a tenant group that has expanded

considerably in the past six months. Opher Pail, the Task Force’s chairperson, said the other main goals are to “force the landlord, once and for all, to repair conditions in the building,” and to “position ourselves to discuss ownership within one year.”

To achieve these objectives, the Task Force has enlisted a law firm that specializes in housing issues, Himmelstein, McConnell, Gribben, Donoghue & Joseph. Pail told *The WIRE* on Thursday that the Task

Force would sign a retainer agreement with the firm on Friday.

Two partners in the firm, Kevin R. McConnell, a former New York State assistant attorney general, and Serge Joseph, attended the Task Force’s tenant meeting June 10 in the auditorium at PS/IS 217. Pail, who had worked with a handful of accounting and engineering professionals in the previous rent cycle, was pleased with the turnout – about 250 people, he said,

See **Westview**, page 8

Something New at Southpoint Park – Famous Flicks al Fresco and Free

There’ll be a movie at Southpoint Thursday night (July 31).

It’s *West Side Story*, and it’s free.

Movies at Southpoint is the project of a group put together by Margie Smith and Vicki Feinmel – the Residents Association (RIRA), the Youth Program, and the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). The movie will be shown at sundown, but the event will begin at 7:30 with a live jazz performance by the Art Lillard Quartet.

The idea is to turn Southpoint Park, which opened dawn-to-dusk earlier this year, into a people-magnet.

The group is suggesting residents bring chairs or blankets and a picnic basket, though food and drink will be available for purchase at the site.

Island bus service will be extended to the gate at Southpoint from 7:15 to midnight. RIRA will provide an additional bus for seniors and the disabled from the Senior Center, at 7:00 p.m., all the way to the movie site at the south end. A limited number of chairs will also be provided for seniors and others unlikely to be able to bring their own seating.

Another movie is planned for Thursday, August 28, See **Movies**, page 7

Nine-Year-Old “Natural Talent,” a Piano Contest Winner, Has Other Interests, Too

by Anusha Shrivastava

Parents and educators who are concerned about over-scheduling kids should make the time to meet Islander Sophie Chen.

A good way to start a conversation with this spunky nine-year-old would be to congratulate her on winning the 18th International Young Artist Piano Competition in Washington, DC, a few weeks ago. Then, ask her how her karate classes are going. And ballet. And art. And swimming. And Chinese.

Most likely, she will smile politely and tell you that she is enjoying all of them.

Well, maybe not the karate so much. “I got two bruises last

See **Sophie**, page 10



Movies at Southpoint: *West Side Story* Thursday night ^{July 31} Jazz at 7:30

A Summer of Good Feeling

Working on this issue of *The WIRE*, a stalwart pointed out that its reports are mostly good news – new residents joining us in 475 Main Street, the extended Main Street finally open, restoration work finally starting on the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, other landmarks being attended to, and a wholly new kind of event – movies – scheduled for Southpoint Park.

Add to that Jim Luce’s inspiring progress with Orphans International and forward movement on a green-power project that calls Roosevelt Island its home, and you have a lot to be happy about.

It’s a distinct contrast to the June 28 issue, our last, in which we reported on the RIOC Board’s firing of Robert H. Ryan for offenses they have yet to describe in even the most meager detail. While that matter has not left the stage, it is a pleasure to carry good news. Contrary to stereotype, journalists like good news just as much as their readers like good news.

Lest we become unreasonably joyous over all this brighter-side reportage, however, we must point out that six of the seven letters received for this issue focus on complaints about the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. While the folks at 591 Main Street seem determined to do better lately in their recognition that people actually reside here and expect this Island to be respected as their home, that new attitude is not yet fully business as usual, despite the effort.

And we can’t help notice that the Z-bricks of the east side of Main Street near Southtown have now turned black, painted by the tires of vehicles coming off the blacktop of the new section of Main Street. That started long before the new part was opened, as trucks delivering construction materials rolled south off the site to leave the Island.

While on the subject of Z-bricks and streets, the situation outside 40 River Road isn’t getting any better as a dismally poor repair job, now two or three years old, has brickwork in complete shambles and getting worse by the day.

This *Summer of Good Feeling* is a season when such matters can be addressed, just as RIOC quickly addressed the missing lights in the decorative (and functionally important) lamp-posts between Rivercross and the subway station.

With new residents among us, in shiny new buildings on a shiny new street, RIOC must make some effort to keep the rest of the Island from looking sadly like “the other side of the tracks.”

DL

The Public Safety Blotter for June and July 1-15 is now available on *Website NYC10044*. Click on the current issue of *The WIRE* and choose the blotter.



Published by **The Main Street WIRE**
©2003 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News **1-212-826-9055**
Urgent news **1-917-617-0449**
Advertising **1-212-751-8214**
Circulation **1-212-935-7534**
Fax **1-212-755-2540**
e-mail **MainStreetWIRE@rcn.com**
in association with
Website NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Reporter-at-Large – Robert Laux-Bachand
Reporters – Mary Camper-Titsingh,
Linda Humphrey, Anusha Shrivastava
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Proofreaders – Linda Heimer, Frances Salten
Photographer – Vicki Feinmel
Typist – Nadya Borisova
Advertising Sales – Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Teri Sheridan, Joyce Speziale
Circulation Assistant – Dexter Benjamin

Legal Counsel – Lewis Perkiss
Website NYC10044 facilities – Frank Farance

Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick
Editor Emeritus – Jim Bowser

Judi Arond, Bubu Arya, David Bauer, Steve Bessenof, Mary Camper-Titsingh, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chipman, Valerie Church, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Tammy Culler, Valery & Harold Davis, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Juanita Elliott, Teresa Hasing, Roberta Hershey, Elaine Kane, Ken Kaplan, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kolba, Kate Krupka, Eneagua Lewis, Bridget Lowy, Armando Manalo, Robert Manalo, Clarissa McCraley, Dorene McQueen, Terry Moses, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Jenny Olivera-Del Mastro, Nancy Olivera, Joan Pape, Harry Patel, Sheila Patel, Gladys Rasheed, Shallini Saha, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Raye Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Haley Shinozaki, Michael Shinozaki, George Spelvin, Joseph Strong, Lynn Strong-Shinozaki, Alan Ulick, Maggie Warner, Nina Winteringham, Charlie Wolf

Letters

To the Editor:
In light of RIOC’s recent residents-need-not-know stance on the Tram shutdown, we should be pushing for replacement of RIOC’s Public Information Officer, John Melia, by none other than that shining light – Baghdad Bob! He might tell us some lies, but at least he’d tell us *something* (and he’ll work for beer nuts, far less than \$97,000/year).

Barbara Potts

To the Editor:
I was thinking today, about all the things we have here to be appreciative of. I was wondering why RIOC was keeping the official opening of Main Street a state secret. It would have been a great time to invite the press and show off our community.
Since our \$97,000-a-year State-appointed press representative, Mr. John Melia, does not do press releases, here are some of the things he could have written about recently:

- Being able to walk to the south end of the Island any time and just watch the world
- A great 4th of July celebration at Southpoint
- *The Angel Project* performance art being on the Island
- The Tram Parade, a great celebration of Islanders’ creativity
- Movies coming to Southpoint
- Main Street, a nice new wide street that for the foreseeable future has a grand eastern view. It is time to appreciate the other side of the river.
- The Jazzmobile, sponsored every year by RIHMC (Thanks, Doryne.)
- Roosevelt Island Day, where we all come out to plant and play
- And so much more that we take for granted

It has been a fun summer on the Island and July is not even over!

Judy Berdy

To the Editor:
Tennis can be more than batting balls around.
Today (7/22) our tennis kids were taken out to the Arthur Ashe Clinic in Flushing to join other city groups for an afternoon of doubles. My grandson returned with a tee shirt from the New York Junior Tennis League, the sponsor, and a logo wrist sweat band.
Plus a glorious Wilson racket he had won for “Sportsmanship.”
What do you have to do to win it? “You have to show sportsmanship. Shake hands with your opponent before you start to play. If you win, don’t brag. That’s not nice. Things like that. Sportsmanship.”
Jake has been learning a lot more at tennis every day from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. than how to hit the ball.
The Site Director and moving force behind this local program is Joyce Mincheff, who says that it’s never too late in the season to start. Any kid, at any stage of skill, can show up 1:00 p.m. any weekday at the Octagon courts. Free rackets, free balls, free instruction. “We have infinite supplies of rackets and balls.”
I urge parents to take advantage of this amazing kids’ program here on Roosevelt Island. They teach all the stuff kids need to learn.

Ethel Romm

Letters deadline for Aug. 23 issue: Aug. 19
After deadline, letters will be considered on a space-available basis

To the Editor:
I don’t know how to contact your police department, so I’m sharing with you an upsetting experience my friends and I had on July 4. The fireworks were over and we walked to the area where we could take either the escalator or the elevator to the bridge level. When we saw that the escalator wasn’t working, we decided to take the elevator. It got stuck and started rocking up and down in short movements. We tried pushing different buttons to no avail. Then we pushed the alarm button and a button that made the elevator stop altogether.
We hoped that the alarm would bring an attendant to free us from the elevator cab. No one came. The alarm was constantly ringing with no result. Luckily, two of my friends had their cell phones with them and used them to call 911. We expected that there is a police department somewhere on the Island and could get to us swiftly. What we got on the first call was a 911 operator who didn’t even know where Roosevelt Island was. The other call to 911 was to someone familiar with the Island. They asked questions about the state of our safety and exact location. Fortunately, the fan in the elevator was working, so we didn’t feel like we might suffocate.

We hoped someone would get to us soon. By that time, we must have been in that cab for at least 15 minutes. We heard noises outside, but nothing was happening. Then there was a voice that told us to release the alarm and stop button and press one of the floors. It worked. The door was opened and a guard was out there.
We asked him why no one heard us in all that time and he said that all the cops were out looking at the fireworks. But the fireworks were over at least half an hour by that time. He said that a woman who was coming out of the parking area told him that she heard the alarm and that people were stuck in the elevator.

Fortunately, since we were a group of four, we didn’t panic, but if it were just one person or someone who didn’t have a cell phone, it could have been a desperate situation.
Where are the guards who are supposed to be in the building in case they’re needed? Where are the police who are supposed to be at the ready if needed?
At least ten minutes after we were released, as we were walking on the 36th Avenue bridge, a police car with siren on was coming toward the Island. We couldn’t stop them to find out if they were coming to free us. There was a group of police standing around on the Queens side of the bridge and I stopped to ask if they had heard of our dilemma. They hadn’t. I said that if anyone asked, he should tell them that we were freed.
So much for guards, 911 operators and others who are supposed to protect the public. Somebody needs to fix it.

P. Schwager

To the Editor:
Change one thing? Main Street. A few years after moving here (25 years ago) I wrote to *The WIRE* referring to Roosevelt Island as “Paradise Island.”
There wasn’t a speck of dust to be seen, and it stayed this way all through the eight years of Governor Mario Cuomo.
And then we got Pataki and his puppets, and in revenge for our not See **Letters**, page 11

To the Editor:
I would like to compliment Geoffrey Kerr on his well-founded commentary on the parking situation. Thank you, Geoff.
It has been obvious that the Public Safety Department is playing favorites and granting privileges, since the elimination of the bus stops at Island House and Rivercross, to make room for PSD’s own cars (with frequent parking in front of the fire hydrant).
The high degree of vacancy at Motorgate ought to make it feasible to the benefit of everyone to institute a program whereby each Island employer receives a single permit for *limited* street parking combined with reduced fees at Motorgate for the employees, *with the latter to be forfeited if the street parking privilege is misused*.

M. Petersen

To the Editor:
I want to congratulate RIOC, once again, for being so compassionate in its dealings with the residents of Roosevelt Island, especially the residents of Eastwood buildings 580, 576, and 560. For the past two weeks, we have endured the constant noise of jackhammers, saws, and other methods of destruction as the minischool in the courtyard of 580-560 is torn down. The noise has started as early as 7:15 a.m. and continued until 6:30 p.m.
Public Safety has informed me that a construction permit was issued by RIOC allowing construction from 7:00 a.m. until dusk with no stated end in sight. My calls to RIOC have not been returned. I know that the residents of my building, and how this constant noise would affect us, was probably not even a consideration of RIOC. We weren’t even informed by RIOC that the construction would go on.
This is a residential community. There are stay-at-home parents and children here, and escaping the noise is impossible. I understand that the construction has to go on; however, the smugness that the front desk at RIOC gave me in answer to my questions regarding the construction was enough for me to realize how little they care. They don’t live in my building. They’re not awakened by jackhammers. They don’t endure the noise through their dinner hour.
Again, I understand that the construction has to go on. How about more reasonable hours for a residential community? How about notifying me? How about letting me know when I can expect an end to this? The bottom line is that we need people on RIOC who live here and who care about the residents.

Tracey Kaminski

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; anonymous letters are not considered for publication.
Preferred methods of submission: E-mail to **Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com** (ASCII text preferred, or use any word-processing software, but no MSWord files with macros), or PC-standard 3.5" floppy disk left at 531 Main Street addressed to *The WIRE*.
Alternatives: Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to 1-212-755-2540 (call ahead to 1-212-826-9055). 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. Recommend maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.



Buddy Hackett

Buddy Hackett died June 30.

He was a familiar face on Roosevelt Island, where he stayed in his Rivercross apartment during periods in New York City, though he died at his beach house in Malibu, California. He was 78.

He was a New Yorker, as was evident from his speech, whether telling a joke suitable for television or the “blue” material he used in night clubs. His first job was at a Brooklyn club, the Pink Elephant, where he earned \$40 for a week’s work, but bombed. Success came later, in Los Angeles.

In 1986, when ferry service started on Roosevelt Island, Buddy Hackett was one of its first customers. “I turned down a cruise in the Carribbean to take this,” he said, dressed in sailor blues and deck shoes. “I want to go down in history like Christopher Columbus.”

According to an obituary printed early this month in *The New York Times*, Hackett became determined to have a show-business career after seeing *Oklahoma* on Broadway while on an Army furlough in 1945. He became a regular on Jack Paar’s late-night show, and later with Johnny Carson in the same time slot on NBC. He played Lou Costello in a 1978 television film, and had a variety of television credits ranging from *Murder, She Wrote* to *Get Smart*.

He is remembered for his performance as Professor Harold Hill’s sidekick in *The Music Man*, among a total of 20 films.

Summer is well and truly upon us, although the variations in the weather, from heat advisory days to rainy and chilly, will mark this as one of those summers we’ll remember by asking, “D’you remember that year (when was it?) when we wore raincoats all summer?” However, when the temperatures soar above 90, cast your eyes across the Roosevelt Island Bridge to the power plant units that abut it. You will notice a heat shimmer in the air and a pall of brownish-yellow yuck blowing in our direction when the wind is from the east. The reason for this, my Keyspan contacts inform me, is that the “quick-response” units don’t burn natural gas, as the new plant coming on-line next year will, and they don’t burn #2 fuel oil, as the current plant does. They burn kerosene, a dirty, air-polluting fuel. As I understand it, the reason is that the main turbines require several days to start up; much too long to react to sudden peaks of heat. The units by the Bridge can react faster, but the cost is increased garbage in our air. I prefer fresh air to air conditioning unless it’s really fierce outside, but I’m shutting my windows and breathing conditioned air when I see that dirty cloud collecting. Maybe you should too.

I’m a summer person; always have been. For me, summer means indolent days under the sun, long balmy evenings, and water sports of every variety. Roosevelt Island is the ideal place to spend a summer, with picnic areas, barbecue grills, and great green-swards on which to spread a blanket and count the clouds. For the past 14 years, summer has also meant chocolate ice cream cones from the bakery on Main Street. Not this summer. The bakery closed amidst conflicting rumors and there is no expectation of a new tenant and reopening any time soon. What a pity! I hope RIOC spares no effort to find a worthy occupant while it’s still ice cream weather, one that will dispense ice cream cones (sugar cone, please) to the Island’s children and to me.

Were you at the Fourth of July fireworks? I must confess that I’ve been skeptical about paying RIOC to see Macy’s free fireworks, especially at the new rate of \$18 per person. Therefore, I was very glad to accept RIOC’s offer of VIP tickets at no charge. And we had a wonderful time. The pre-fireworks entertainment was fun and the sound system performed perfectly. There were plenty of food vendors to keep the crowd happy and what a crowd it was! RIOC’s Sari Dickson tells me that it was a sellout, with somewhere in the vicinity of 4,500 to 5,000 souls oohing and aahing at the spectacle. Public Safety and the 114th Precinct kept order, and I’m not aware of any unpleasant incidents other than one in Motorgate (see the letter in this issue). Congrats to all involved.

A couple of weeks ago, I was heading into Manhattan on the Tram and just missed my ride. To pass the time, I walked down to Firefighter’s Field. You may recall, this is the soccer and baseball field that was promised to the community by RIOC and the Hudson and Related Companies to replace Blackwell Field, the area now beneath the first two residential buildings of Southtown. I discovered Roosevelt Island back in the ’80’s playing ball on Blackwell Field, and I’ve made no secret of my opinion that it should have been preserved, with the first Southtown buildings constructed just north of the Tram station. Be that as it may, we were promised a new “state-of-the-art” field, and I was

happy to participate in its dedication last October. I had heard stories of drainage problems from some of the Housing Management staff who regularly play ball on this field, but had not checked them out. On this day, two full days after the last rainfall, I thought I would see for myself.

What I found was hardly “state-of-the-art.” The area in front of the south soccer goal was a mucky swamp. There were ponds throughout the soccer pitch, which is also left field. The infield base path was wet as well, and the choice of running from third base to home plate or swimming it was a real option. These problems plagued the construction of the Octagon soccer field and pony baseball field and apparently nothing was learned from that experience. I don’t know if there are engineering solutions to these problems. I do know that these problems didn’t exist on Blackwell Field. Also, Blackwell Field was not directly

north of the steam plant’s smoke stacks that on this day were spewing black smoke over the field as I watched (and smelled). I think we were snookered.

Bang the drums! Blow the horns! The Westview swimming pool has reopened! Yes friends, two full years after the pool closed, the victim of a botched paint job, the health facility has reopened with, essentially, a new pool, a new management company, Total Swimming Pool Management of Long Island, Inc., new gym equipment promised, as well as new levels of competence, courtesy, and cleanliness.

There certainly have been glitches during the health club’s “shake-down cruise;” Housing Management delayed the opening while waiting for the City to issue the operating license but neglected to include the saunas in the men’s and women’s locker rooms in the obligatory inspection walk-through, and so they have not opened. Sink and shower drains are clogged and some showers have not been provided with soap dispensers. But the bottom line is that we have a pool with water in it that is open for business. The cost is considerably less than the outdoor Manhattan Park pool, and the Westview facility is open all year ’round (God willing). If you have a yen to swim laps or just watch your kids frolic in the water, go see Carol da Silva at Housing Management for an ap- plication and fee schedule. When the thermometer soars, wet is good.

It seems that almost every time I venture down to the Tram station, there is someone coming from Manhattan looking around, completely lost. This happened just last week. A couple from Canada was visiting New York City and wandered out here, attracted by the view and the *Spider-Man* movie hype. They asked where they might find a bite to eat and I directed them up Main Street to our eateries. What irks me is that I had started something a year ago with the Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce, RIOC, and NYC & Co., the City’s tourist and convention center, to try making our Island a destination, with signage directing visitors to the historic, recreational, and commercial centers here. To that end, RIOC sprang for the annual dues to join NYC & Co. A year later, there is no signage at the Tram or subway and I encounter the same bewildered faces of tourists as they disembark from the Tram. Where to go? What to see or do? The usual response is simply to reboard the Tram and head back to a reliable meal in Manhattan. With our merchants hurting for lack of business, we can’t afford to keep throwing away these opportunities. Is anyone listening?

See **Katz**, page 10

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz
Residents Association President

Editor’s note: The President of RIOC has a standing invitation to provide a companion *RIOC Column* for publication here.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Jazz at Trellis featuring Islander **Tex Allen** in his quartet, outdoors, **Fri. and Sat., July 25 and 26**, 6:00-9:30 p.m., weather permitting.

BikeSummer 2003 on Roosevelt Island, Sat., July 26, 6:00 p.m., starting at the Island-side Tram station. Guided ride around the Island open to all bicyclists (helmet required); optional post-ride gathering at Trellis for dinner and jazz.



Gallery RIVAA Opening Reception for new exhibit, *Exposures*, **Sat., July 26**, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Gallery hours are Wed. and Fri., 6:00-9:00 p.m., Sat and Sun., 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



— The Coming Week —

New York Junior Tennis League Summer program, **Monday through Friday**, 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Octagon Tennis Courts; kids can join in the program at any time. Free.

Roosevelt Island Tidal Energy Project (RITE) – Public Meeting, Tue., July 29, 7:30, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Explanation of Verdant Power’s plan to put a field of current-driven generators under water in the east channel from Lighthouse Park to the Queensboro Bridge.

Roosevelt Island Tidal Energy Project – Public Meeting, Wed., July 30, 7:30, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. (See item immediately above.)

Movies at Southpoint, West Side Story, Thur., July 31, at sundown, preceded by music starting at 7:30 (see report, this issue). Rain date, Mon., Aug. 4. Free.



Orphans International Summer Potluck Series, Fri., Aug. 1, 6:00 p.m., on the Philippines project; featuring a video, *Philippines*. For information, call 1-212-755-7285 or e-mail JimLuce@aol.com.

Jazz at Trellis, outdoors, **Fri. and Sat., Aug. 1 and 2**, 6:00-9:30 p.m.

— Future Events —

Will I Dream?, works of Island resident, artist Tony Vita, showing in the Rivercross Gallery Window throughout **August**, arranged by the Mother Earth Committee (1-212-644-3966).

RIOC Board Meeting, Thur., Aug. 7, afternoon (check RIOC website at www.rioc.com for time to be announced), with public session to follow the formal meeting.

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave copy at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Please provide a telephone number for possible follow-up.

Jazz at Trellis, weather permitting, outdoors on the plaza, **Fridays and Saturdays** through August, 6:00-9:30 p.m.

Orphans International Summer Potluck Series, Fri., Aug. 8, 6:00 p.m., on the Africa project; featuring a video, *A Journey to West Africa*. For information, call 1-212-755-7285 or e-mail JimLuce@aol.com.

Guyana Showcase – two short plays and a village market, presented by Orphans International Guyana, **Sat., Aug. 9**, 6:00 p.m., Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Road. \$15; children \$10. Proceeds benefit orphaned children in Guyana.

Orphans International Summer Potluck Series, Fri., Aug. 15, 6:00 p.m., on the Guatemala project; featuring a video, *Easter in Guatemala*. For information, call 1-212-755-7285 or e-mail JimLuce@aol.com.

Book Discussion, The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy, Library, 6:30 p.m.

Orphans International Summer Potluck Series, Fri., Aug. 22, 6:00 p.m., on the China/East Timor project; featuring a video, to be announced. For information, call 1-212-755-7285 or e-mail JimLuce@aol.com.

The Main Street WIRE – Next issue (summer schedule), **Sat., Aug. 23**. (E-mail bulletins will be issued during this summer break; to subscribe, send an “Add Me” to nyc10044@rcn.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Aug. 15; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., Aug. 18; fliers due Thur., Aug. 21. **Future issues (twice-monthly schedule resumes)** – September 6, 20; October 11, 25; November 8, 22 (Thanksgiving issue); December 13 (holiday issue), then every two weeks January 10-June 12, 2004. **Phone/fax** for news, 1-212-826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for display and classified advertising placement and information, 1-212-751-8214/755-2540. To list your organization’s Island event here, e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up questions.

Movies at Southpoint, title to be announced, **Thur., Aug. 28**, sundown, preceded by live music. Rain date to be announced.

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, “**Oldies**” **Movies**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)
Tuesday
10-11, **Latchhook Class**
1:00, **Bingo**
6:30, **Yoga Class**
7:30, **Games** (RISA)
Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well**
10:30, **Beading Class**
7:00, **Pokeno** (RISA)
Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**

10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
Friday
9:30, **Yoga Stretch**
1:00, **Bridge Class**
7:00, **Games** (RISA)
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Fri., Aug. 1, MetroCard bus
Fri., Aug. 8, Farmer’s Market trip
Wed., Aug. 20, Atlantic City trip
Fri., Aug. 29, Birthday party

Home-delivered meals available: 1-212-744-5022, ext. 1203

The Farmers Market

the highest quality every Saturday at Motorgate

Since 1989



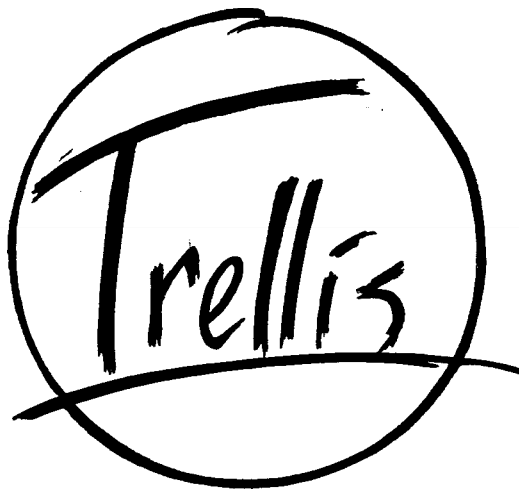
WENGERD FARM

Watsonstown, Pa.

Want to lose weight? Try our formula:
The best fresh fruit and garden-fresh vegetables from the Dutch country of Pennsylvania, where fertile soil and just the right rainfall produce the perfection we bring every Saturday morning. And now, we deliver on Roosevelt Island!

Call 1-570-916-2037

As always, Thank you for shopping with us every Saturday.



The Beat Goes On...

...on weather-friendly weekends, when you can pull up a chair outside Trellis, gaze up at the maze of scaffolding surrounding the Good Shepherd steeple. Oh... And, lest we forget to mention, listen to some audience-friendly jazz. Of course, we're here 18/7, serving you until midnight. Come on in!

See you at Trellis...

1-212-752-1517

At the heart of the community, next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd

Trellis: 6:00 a.m. to midnight, 7 days every week. We also deliver.

**Expert Tailor
on Premises**

571 Main St.
1-212-758-1778



**FAST,
EFFICIENT,
RELIABLE,
COURTEOUS**

Roosevelt Island Cleaners

*New State of the Art
Dry Cleaning Machine
To Serve You Better*

Your Neighborhood Cleaners

We Deliver

Free deliveries on orders \$15-up

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Board Certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Allergist
501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 1-212-753-5505

**Don't wait until the last minute.
Schedule your child's camp and school
physicals now.**

Office Hours
Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. -12 noon
Tuesday • 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed, by Dr. Grimm or by her group, Uptown Pediatrics.
We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents.
Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.

Give your apartment a lift

HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

Consultations Available – Use What You Have

*Furniture
Upholstery, Slipcovers
Wallpaper & Fabric
Carpet & Area Rugs
All Window Treatments
Floor & Terrace Tiles
Lighting
Carpentry
Kitchen Renovation
Paint & Faux Finishes
All Accessories
Closet Design*



Ellen Levy

Interior Decorator
531 Main Street
751-8214
No job too small

BRACES AREN'T FOREVER, SMILES ARE!

We offer free orthodontic consultations to children and adults who are residents of Roosevelt Island. Please call for an appointment.

Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff
Serving Island residents for over 20 years

200 West 57th Street
1-212-757-2285

**Opening Reception
tonight 6:00-9:00**

EXPOSURES

RIVA A Gallery

**Photography July 26-September 6
Gallery hours Wednesday, Friday 6-9; Saturday, Sunday 11-5**

ATTORNEY ON ROOSEVELT ISLAND

Long-Time Roosevelt Islander

Free Consultation for Island Residents

Evening and Weekend Appointments • Home Visits

General Practice Lawyer

PERSONAL INJURY LAW

DIVORCE AND FAMILY LAW

- Custody of Children
- Child Support and Visitation
- Maintenance, Distribute of Property
- Separation Agreements
- Pre-Nuptial Agreements
- Adoptions

CRIMINAL LAW

- Felonies
- Misdemeanors
- Violations
- DWI

WILLS, TRUSTS and ESTATES

- Probate and Intestate Proceedings
- Guardianships
- Living Wills, Health Care Proxies
- Power of Attorney, Notary Public

BUSINESS LAW

- Buy/Sell Businesses, Closings
- Business formations
- Partnerships, Incorporations
- Commercial Leases
- Business Litigation

REAL ESTATE

- Residential Closings

PHILIP GRONER, ESQ.

*67 Wall Street, Twenty-second Floor
New York, New York 10005-3111*

Office (212) 709-8028 • Cell (917) 539-6415



"Haircuts for Boys and Girls"

Open 7 Days a Week, 10:30AM to 5:30PM

1024 Third Avenue (Between 60th & 61st Streets), New York, NY 10021

Tel: (212) 230-1300

Children's Haircuts, Toys, Gifts, Accessories and Gift Certificates.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

FULLY INSURED

**Painting, plastering, skimcoating • Wallpapering
Expert carpentry • Kitchen & bathroom renovation • Tile work**

Rivercross References

212 751-8214

**Sales & Service
Est. 1961**

CHRIS TV

**License #730671
Credit Cards Accepted**

Repair Service Center

TV-VCR-STEREO-CD-PROJECTION TV-CAMCORDERS and more...

**Free Estimates in Shop.
Free Pickup & Delivery with Repair
In-Home Service
All Work Guaranteed**

1-718-392-7444

**Mon.-Fri. 9-7
Sat. 9-6
21-16 36th Av.
LIC, NY 11106**

Jim Luce’s Orphans International Debuts in Haiti and Grows Apace

by Linda Humphrey

“This is mind-boggling,” Jim Luce told his dinner guests. “I’m just a skinny kid from Ohio.” He had just returned from Haiti, where Orphans International Worldwide, the organization he dreamt up in 1989, opened its second orphanage.



Dani Sirait
Jim Luce with two children living in the neighborhood of the Orphans International House in Ville Cyvadier, Jacmel, Haiti. They came for the opening ceremony.

Flipping through the mail after the trip, he caught sight of a Monaco postmark. Prince Albert had pledged to sponsor an orphan in Haiti. There were contributions from Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary and Tom Fontana, the creator of the television series *Oz* and *St. Elsewhere*, and, even more exciting, a child-sponsor pledge from Luce’s father. About 200 volunteers – including board members, lawyers, and architects – and 210 supporters now rally for Luce’s Orphans International (OI). Many of his dinner guests, asked why they had come, shrugged and said, “I can’t say no to Jim.” His surname traces back to the co-founder of Time Inc., Henry R. Luce, and playwright/journalist/Congressmember Clare Booth Luce, but Jim has forged many of his connections through incredible chance encounters and cold letters. “I’ve become known as the master of the cold letter,” he says, laughing. OI’s largest chunk of support, in fact, comes from Roosevelt Islanders, who make up a quarter of its contributors. Dozens show up at his Eastwood apartment every Friday night to chat with Luce over potluck dinner. (See *ComingUp*, page 3.) “My message to Roosevelt Island is this,” Luce says. “Help us. I’m imploring anyone in the Island community with expertise to step forward – those who can help with grant writing, connecting with UNICEF, or anything else.” Luce opened OI’s first orphanage last summer on the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, where, years before, he had adopted a baby boy. OI now shelters seven children there and eight in Haiti, each with a sponsor sending \$50 a month. Twenty more children are set to arrive in Sulawesi this fall, four each from Indonesia’s five religions: Moslem, Hindu, Buddhist, Catholic, and Protestant. OI Bali and Guyana plan ribbon-cuttings next summer; the Philippines, Togo, Guatemala, China, and East Timor are on the drawing board. “Warehousing kids is not enough,” Luce says, adding that the orphanage where his son came from was “worse than the animal shelters in New York.” OI rescues two-to-

six-year-olds – “It’s easier for us, as their personalities haven’t fully formed yet” – sheltering four kids and a hired houseparent in each home. The Sulawesi orphans mingle with the local kids at the public school across the street. “We are so integrated with the community that the challenge is to keep the village out of our living rooms,” Luce says. “We tend to be the biggest attraction in town, and our nice toys – dowdy by American comparison – are fantastic in the eyes of local children, who line up to play with them.” Eventually, Luce plans to surround their houses with a campus of schools, medical clinics, libraries, theatres, museums, sports facilities, parks, and even “Roosevelt Island” guest houses for vacationing Roosevelt Island contributors. “We don’t want the kids to move to New York and become yuppies on Wall Street,” says Luce, who works for an investment bank by day. “We want them to address the needs of their societies.” The Haiti project has taken Luce on seven Caribbean journeys, where he has managed to bump into many of the country’s high-powered people. (He travels on frequent-flyer tickets donated by his boss or dips into his own bank account.) Luce’s seatmate on one flight, American surgeon Joseph Leon Paul, mentioned that his dream was to develop a social program for children in the seaside town of Jacmel. out to be American Ambassador Dean Curran, who pledged the support of the U.S. government in Haiti. Back at the airport, Luce watched customs agents snatch a bottle from a woman and pour out the concoction inside. He asked the man in front of him about the incident, who explained that the potion was hair tonic. The two started talking, and the man asked Luce about his frustrations with



Phadoul Amisial
Roosevelt Islanders Jim Luce, Doris Chernik, Nina Chernik, and Dani Sirait, with board members, the coordinator, and house parents of Orphans International Haiti, in front of the house officially opened on July 4, 2003.



Phadoul Amisial
Jim Luce and Dani Sirait visiting the house of infants in the city of Port au Prince, the capital of Haiti.

Awestruck, Luce recounted his plans to open an orphanage just outside that town. He wanted to ship in lumber from Guyana, he said, but couldn’t get past the town’s corrupt port. As the plane swooped down over tin-roofed

the OI project. Luce told him that the Haiti Board was going to kick out children with HIV, as each child’s medication would cost \$20,000 a year. He had read in *The New York Times* about a Haitian-American doctor whose work combating AIDS garnered Haiti a \$25 million grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. “I said that I was going to meet this doctor, even if I had to scam my way into his office!” Luce said. The man asked a lot of questions and finally pulled out his card, revealing that he was Dr. Jean W. Pape, the doctor in the article. He told Luce that his group would accept OI as one of only two orphanages they would be working with. On this last trip, Luce smuggled out a can of local dirt. “I thought, if I get thrown in jail, the kids are worth it!” OI’s Infrastructure Committee, headed by Roosevelt Islander Rumit Mehta, an MBA candidate at Pace University focusing on bringing technology into the developing world, is testing a machine that will create cement blocks from dirt. Another Master’s candidate, American University student Barbara Blazek, developed a training course for OI houseparents that the University will turn into a permanent program. The niece of Roosevelt Islander Doris Chernik, who heads OI Haiti, Blazek has traveled to Jacmel three times. When Luce next returns from Haiti, after Labor Day weekend, he may bring home a son. He is in the process of adopting a Haitian boy and a Guatemalan boy, ages seven and eight. “I promised my son that he would have a brother,” he said.

Historic Kiosk Threatened



Community Board 8 last week asked the City Department of Transportation (DOT) not to remove the last remaining entrance used until 1955 by the Queensboro Bridge trolley system. It sits on the traffic island across 2nd Avenue from the Tram platform. The Roosevelt Island Historical Society has been campaigning to keep DOT from moving the structure into storage.

Meetings This Week to Explain Underwater Power Generation Plan

by Dick Lutz
The company planning an underwater “wind farm” in the East River adjacent to Roosevelt Island is holding public meetings to explain the concept and schedule to Roosevelt Islanders. Verdant Power, which ran a series of tests on a test boat last winter, hopes to be generating enough electricity to power 7,000 homes by sometime after 2005. Between now and then, Verdant plans a progressive planting of turbines – propel-

supply the electricity needs of the U.N. Verdant’s turbine design would put units with 5-meter blades about 8 to 12 feet below the surface of the river, making them invisible from land. Mounted on piles driven into the river bottom, the units would be spun at a relatively slow 40 revolutions per minute at fastest tidal movement, allowing diving birds to avoid them, and fish to pass. For maintenance, the units could be

gin for financial gain in a system which, elsewhere, might be financially difficult. A Governor’s executive order, number 111, also requires State agencies to increase their reliance on renewable power sources (solar and wind- or water-driven systems) over the next ten years, making the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) a candidate for use of the power generated in the river. The Island is also a heavy user of electric power for residential heating and air conditioning, as well as to power the Tramway and Coler-Goldwater hospital.

Supplying power to the Island, the generator field in the east channel could provide “peak shaving,” meaning that at peak periods of power usage, when electricity is most expensive, less would be drawn from the power grid, reducing cost.

Verdant Power has worked out some possible solutions to the fact that power generation would be at the mercy of East River tides, and the four-times-a-day “slack tide” when the water is changing direction with tidal flow from the Atlantic Ocean. The solutions also attack the problem of what to do with surplus power generated at high river flow occurring when electricity demand is low. Excess electricity can be used to extract hydrogen from water through electrolysis. Stored hydrogen can then be used to power fuel cells or vehicles. “The beauty here is that hydrogen is being produced by sustainable energy to augment a hybrid renewal power project,” says Trey Taylor. He says the power generation curve of the in-river system could thus be smoothed out by using fuel cells during “slack tide” – the total of six hours daily when the water stops flowing fast enough to generate power directly. (Fuel cells are refrigerator-size units that turn hydrogen into electricity. They have been used in space, and now are beginning to appear in vehicles.)

An additional use for power generated during low-demand periods, like overnight, is to charge the bat-

teries of electric vehicles. (Last year, RIOC made a deal with NYSERDA to acquire some hybrid-power electric buses, and last week it inaugurated use of eight electric golf carts to move its workers around the Island.) Overall, E3 and

produce a whole new set of rules for licensing green power systems. While Verdant is using its Roosevelt Island project as an engineering experimentation and learning experience, it must also eventually tackle questions of po-



Map segment shows the underwater turbine field envisioned in the Verdant Power plan. The units are to be 8-12 feet below the surface.

lers driving generators – on the river bottom between Lighthouse Park and the Queensboro Bridge.

Two meetings are set for the coming week to explain and discuss the prospects of RITE – the Roosevelt Island Tidal Energy project. (One meeting was held earlier this week.) They’ll be held in the lower-level room at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd at 7:30 p.m. on both Tuesday and Wednesday. For Islanders, it’s a chance to get a preview of the future of electric power, and the specifics on one particular project.

RITE is funded, in part, by NYSERDA, the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, as part of a program of encouraging “green” power generation. The cost, through the end of 2003, is expected to total \$2.6 million. According to Verdant President Trey Taylor, a turbine field at the edge of Roosevelt Island turning the ebb and flow of tides into electricity could “displace the equivalent of 68,000 barrels of oil,” representing a pollution reduction of 167 tons of sulphur dioxide, 100 tons of nitrogen oxides, and over 30,000 tons of carbon dioxide.

Representatives of Verdant and a consulting team headed by Roger Bason of E3, Inc., gave a presentation Tuesday evening, pointing out that the project – the first “in-stream” flowing-water generation project in the United States – would likely attract attention to Roosevelt Island from governments of developing countries, where rural areas have population centers near streams, but little or no access to clean electric power. Bason, who teaches at Columbia University and is a consultant to the United Nations, said the generation field planned by Verdant could largely

swung out of the water or, in some cases, might be maintained by underwater crews.

Verdant and E3 see Roosevelt Island as a good location for their project for a number of reasons. In New York City, electric power is expensive, allowing an adequate mar-



Movies from page 1

and those attending this coming Thursday night will be asked to help select the film to be shown then. Films with a New York City setting are on the list for consideration.

Thursday night’s event is being funded largely by the Youth Program, though the group plans to ask the RIOC Board for public-purpose funding for the second movie event this summer. RIRA is also seeking companies and organizations to sponsor the showings, requesting that suggestions be called in to Smith at 1-212-838-2397.

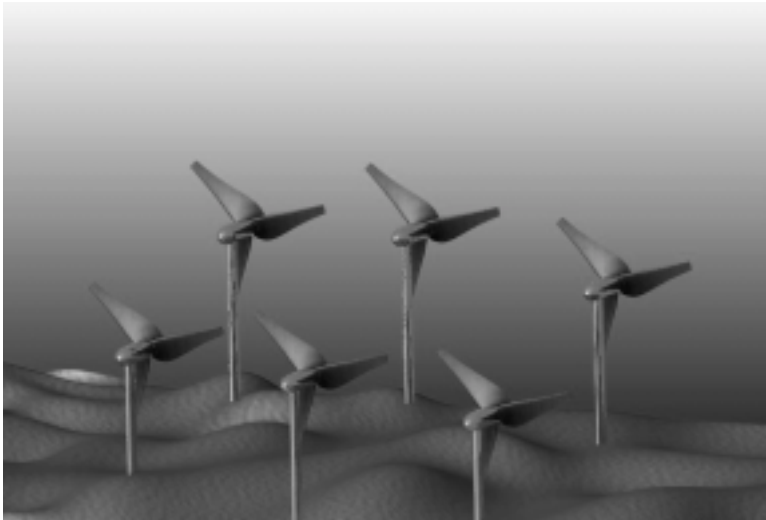
West Side Story is the creation of Leonard Bernstein (music), Stephen Sondheim (lyrics), and Arthur Laurents (book), with choreography by Jerome Robbins. It’s based on Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, and it was originally supposed to be an *East Side Story* of a Jewish boy and a Catholic girl, brought together by love, like Romeo and Juliet, but torn apart by differences in heritage. Over time, it evolved into the story of a Puerto Rican girl (played by Natalie Wood) and a native-born boy of Polish background (played by Richard Beymer). The family rivalries of Shakespeare’s play are reflected in

the gang rivalries of the Sharks and the Jets and, as in the classic play, the boy kills his lover’s brother while trying to break up a rumble.

Well-known songs include *Maria*, *I Feel Pretty*, *Somewhere (there’s a place for us)*, *Tonight*, and *Something’s Coming*.

George Chakiris and Rita Moreno also have leading roles in the 1961 movie. Chakiris and Moreno received Oscars, only two of the ten the movie won, including best picture. The play, which opened in 1957, had a long run for its time – 732 performances.

The rain date is a week later – Thursday, August 7.



A “six-pack” of turbines on pylons driven into the river bed. The propellers, five meters in diameter, would turn less than one revolution per second.

Verdant expect to get a solid 18 hours a day of power generation out of the system, with output rising and falling every six hours with the reversal of tidal flow. At its peak rate, the water in the east channel moves about as fast as a person can walk.



Verdant’s “Turbine Evaluation Vessel” became a familiar sight on the east channel last winter. The turbine shown in the inset photo, spun by the current, measured available kinetic energy at various tidal phases and fed the information to recording devices in the “shack,” where fish-finders and other equipment kept track of wildlife under the surface.

litical turf and how to market the power, or the overall system, to



But exactly how the power is used, and what entity will eventually own and operate the RITE generation field, remain to be determined. In some sense, the political questions are tougher than the technical questions. A Verdant representative pointed out Tuesday night that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has to

RIOC has acquired eight of these GEM electric runabouts made by a division of Daimler-Chrysler with assistance from NYSERDA (see story). The agency is also helping RIOC acquire electric buses to run the red-bus route.

RIOC, to the United Nations, or to some other entity which would use or market the power that would result. As one presenter said Tuesday night, public and private entities can generate their own power on site in a “distributed generation” system, with users becoming their own electricity producers while still drawing energy from the electric power grid as needed – and even selling surplus power back into the grid.

Taylor says an investor can expect to pay off the cost of a ten-megawatt system, and start getting ahead financially, after about ten years.



Richard Beymer and Natalie Wood, in *West Side Story*’s balcony scene.

Landmarks from page 1

which may be needed to prevent further deterioration in sensitive areas. Part two would provide RIOC with plans and specifications for a full stabilization of the structure.”

Siconolfi’s letter notes that the landmarked Lighthouse at the north end of the Island has been fully restored, and that RIOC has received a matching grant of \$250,000 from the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to rehabilitate Blackwell House. With \$250,000 from RIOC, writes Siconolfi, “this \$500,000 will store the exterior, infrastructure, and systems of the house, thereby protecting it from future destruction and allowing RIOC to return the building to active use.” He notes that architectural work is scheduled to begin this month.

The Comptroller’s audit report also asserts that “RIOC’s efforts to rehabilitate the Smallpox Hospital and Octagon Tower landmarks may have contravened the intent of the GDP,” the General Development Plan attached to the Lease under which New York State is developing Roosevelt Island, which is owned by New York City. It points out that “any deviation from the GDP must be approved as an amendment by the City, as the Island’s owner.”

RIOC has asked Mayor Michael Bloomberg to approve a GDP amendment which would allow use of open space surrounding the Octagon Tower for construction of a 500-unit apartment building. That plan, put forward by Becker and Becker, is far along in the RIOC approval process, but opponents of the project and its parking garage, which would be located under the Octagon Park Tennis Courts, claim that it would violate a 2002 State law forbidding development on the Island’s open spaces, with or without a Bloomberg OK for a GDP change. (Bloomberg had not acted on the matter by press time.)

The 2002 law says, “No further development or construction for other than park purposes shall be permitted on any real property which is identified as open space areas in the General Development Plan... unless [it] includes the reconstruction, rehabilitation, or preservation of the historic landmarks located in such open space areas and furthers the use of the areas surrounding the historic landmarks as open space areas.”

Because there is some ambiguity in the GDP and the 2002 State law, the apartments at Octagon Park and their use of designated open space may become a matter of litigation, though it is not clear what official or community group might undertake a suit. The developers have pointed out that the open space is not currently “open” to the public because of rubble from the



The Smallpox Hospital at Southpoint – a design of James Renwick, who also designed St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

destruction of the original wings that radiated south and west from the Octagon Tower. But Assemblymember Pete Grannis has taken a stand that the development would violate the law he sponsored along with Senator Olga Mendez.

The Thompson audit report criticized RIOC for seeking GDP amendments only some five years after putting out a Request for Proposals (the “Waterfront Development RFP” issued under Blue) offering Octagon Park and Southpoint for commercial development with the proviso that a GDP modification might be necessary and “may” require approval by the City. “If RIOC desires to seek development in areas not currently allowed by the City lease and GDP, RIOC should obtain approval from the City to amend the GDP before entering into any binding contracts with developers.”

Siconolfi’s response asserts that RIOC is in compliance with that recommendation, that it “has not signed a ground lease with the pro-

posed developer.” Considerable momentum has been built up, however, with some years of planning effort by Becker and Becker, including successful efforts to get State grants for energy efficiencies and innovations designed into its plan. A refusal by the Mayor to agree with GDP changes, or a decision to bring a lawsuit against the plan, would run against a strong current built up over the planning period.

One additional matter is raised in the Thompson audit: Does the Mayor have the power to approve a GDP change? The audit points out that the right to approve GDP changes was originally vested with the Board of Estimate, which was abolished in 1990 when the City Charter was revised. No precedents or court decisions have established whether the right to approve GDP changes now rests with the Mayor or the City Council. Whether that legal question might be resolved around the Octagon matter remains an open question.

RIHS Gets Blackwell Funds

The Roosevelt Island Historical Society has received a \$50,000 appropriation from the City Council to be used in restoration of Blackwell House. The grant, to be administered by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, was arranged by City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, who represents Roosevelt Island.

“With these funds and money from the State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation,” said Judy Berdy, President of the Historical Society, “more aspects of the Blackwell House repairs can be accomplished. With these two sources, our goal of bringing the house back to the community can be accomplished more efficiently. We are most grateful to Gifford Miller and his staff for the continued interest they show in the Island and the projects they assist us with.”

Blackwell House
Website NYC10044



Chapel from page 1

• The masonry surrounding the window will be repaired prior to the window’s being reinstalled. The window work should take about four months.

The New York Landmarks Conservancy is overseeing the work as licensee to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. The Conservancy is a nationally recognized organization, and since 1973 has been providing technical and financial help to owners of older buildings. Ann Friedman, Sacred Sites program director, has worked on the Good Shepherd project for over a year, while her predecessor, Ken Lustbader, worked on it for over 3 years. Structuring the licensing agreement and coordinating City,

State, and RIOC review of the project accounted for the extended planning period. Assemblymember Grannis secured \$312,000 in funds for this project over a period of six years from 1997 through 2002. In addition, RIOC has approved additional funds of up to \$50,000 to help complete the project.

The architectural conservator for the project, William J. Stivale, project engineer, LZA Technology, and general contractor, Schtiller and Plevy, have many years of experience on similar restoration projects, including current roof and masonry restoration work at the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral in Manhattan.

More work remains to be performed, including upgrades to the exterior storm drainage system (gutters, leaders, and flashing), and re-

placement of the existing asphalt-shingle roof. The bids for this first phase of the work, which was to have included the roof drainage work, were higher than originally anticipated, partly due to the long time-horizon in planning the project. The remaining roof repairs will be completed when funding is available.

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd was opened in 1889, built by the New York City Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society for the residents of the New York City Almshouse. The building was designed by architect Frederick Clark Withers. The church served in this capacity until 1955. It was closed and abandoned until restored in 1975, to become the centerpiece of the new Roosevelt Island residential community.

Westview from page 1

“the most successful meeting we have had in building history.”

This time around, the Task Force has grown to about 25 people, organized into several committees: Tenant relations, headed by Felix Santela; finance, Ivens Stanton; engineering, Goran Jovanovic; and political and legal liaison, Deirdre Breslin, a member of Community Board 8, and Janet Shea. Laurence Brodsky, one of the 2000-01 stalwarts, is the secretary and Teri Sheridan is the treasurer.

The meeting at the school served to jump-start the Task Force’s fundraising and was followed by floor meetings for all 361 apartments. Leading up to the general meeting, the Task Force conducted an apartment survey, using mailed questionnaires, that solicited complaints about conditions in the building. Pail said that residents of more than 280 apartments participated in the survey, a response rate over 77 percent.

The survey found that 90 percent of the tenants, as of March 30, when the response stood at 243 apartments, reported a problem in at least one of 13 categories, ranging from air conditioners (66 apartments) to kitchen appliances (56) and windows/doors (78).

One of the more prominent items dealt with quality of water – 51 complaints, or 21 percent of the units. The Task Force submitted photos to *The WIRE* showing heavy deposits of rust-colored particles in drains. Pail said the group intends to hire a firm to test the water.

Doryne Isley, general manager of Roosevelt Island Housing Management, Inc., said, “We have had the water tested and the water is fine.” She said that the building had gone through several shutdowns, however, in which plumbing was replaced and that, as residue and particles were flushed out when the system went back on line, some discoloration was evident. A photo taken after a shutdown, she said, would not be representative of the overall water quality.

The upgrades in the system, Isley said, also included work associated with restoration of the swimming pool.

Westview and Island House, which has 400 units, are part of the State’s Mitchell-Lama housing program for middle-income people. (The current income limit for a couple seeking a one-bedroom apartment in Westview is \$99,000, according to the Island housing office; for Island House, the cutoff is \$91,000.) Both buildings have reached the point where the original law allows privatization, giving the owners the opportunity to convert them into market-rent apartments. The Westview Task Force and its counterpart at Island House are trying to position themselves as potential buyers. Ultimately, as Pail said, “We thought this is a critical year for us and we had better take action to control our own destiny.”

In the meantime, however, the Task Force has had to deal with DHCR’s Budget Rent Determination process for 2003-05. About six weeks ago, tenants in all three of the State-regulated rental buildings on Roosevelt Island (Westview, Island House, and Eastwood) were informed that the housing management corporation, whose parent company is Jerome Belson Associates in Manhattan, had submitted its proposals to the DHCR. The current rent agreement for Westview and Island House expired on May 1, but, as Isley noted, she has never seen the process “work like clockwork” in her seven and a half years on the Island. Eastwood’s current rents took effect in September 2001.

No hearings have yet been scheduled by DHCR, which is designated as a tenant advocate, and representatives of Belson and the State agency did not respond in a timely fashion to requests for comment on the status of the rent submissions. The BRD, as it’s called, is supposed to be a neutral calculation of the owner’s costs and earnings – the company is entitled to a 6 percent profit – but in practice, state officials traditionally are seen as either agents of the company (to the extent that rents go up), or handmaidens of the proletariat (to the extent that substantial costs are not factored into the equation).

If history is any guide, though, the rent increases sought by the housing company will be significantly higher than the tenants or the state agency are willing to accept. In the last go-around, Belson sought about \$90 per room for Island House and Westview. The State ultimately decreed less than \$30. However, those increases did not include either the higher costs of energy cited by Belson in 2001 or a significant charge that the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation had imposed in early 2001 to pay for the services of the Island’s Public Safety Department.

Tenant representatives, who were relatively new to the game in 2001, thought that the DHCR decision-makers would respond to detailed engineering studies and other facts presented at the hearing. In fact, the housing agency brushed aside Westview tenants’ engineering presentation at a hearing in February of that year.

State officials adhered closely to their own initial evaluations of Belson’s submissions in setting the rents for Westview and Island House. Representatives of Island House tenants were relatively sanguine after getting the news of DHCR’s split-the-difference protocol, while Pail and other members of the Westview Task Force were upset, particularly at the agency’s decision to allow the owners to accumulate a reserve fund of about \$1.3 million in 2001, rising to an estimated \$2 million this year.

Pail asserts that the Mitchell-Lama rent in state-sponsored developments is about \$800 for an “average two-bedroom” apartment, half of the going rate for Westview. (So-called market rates for Manhattan Park are advertised at \$1,695 for a one-bedroom, and \$2,450 for two bedrooms and two baths.)

The Westview Task Force’s experience two years ago set the stage for the current round of rent increases, and led the tenants to hire a private law firm. In a letter to Pail in late April, McConnell said: “It is indeed cogent that, although the building needs repairs and the rents have increased substantially, the reserve fund is quadruple the DHCR Guidelines amount. Apparently the landlord has been able to increase your rent so as to divert money to the reserve fund rather than do repairs in the expectation that it would own a larger cash reserve in the event of a buyout.”

In an e-mail to *The WIRE*, Pail emphasized the point, asserting that the landlord “is using the replacement fund not to repair the building, but as a bank to accumulate our excess rents.”

Isley noted, however, that the reserve fund is based on an assessment of building-wide needs, and that the work is spread out over several years and is subject to DHCR review.

Pail made it clear that the hiring of Himmelstein, McConnell was not limited to advice in the budget-rent determination. He envisions possible action in the courts. And McConnell, in his April 28 letter, noted that “the attorneys in our firm have collectively represented dozens of tenants associations in rent strikes.”

Westview Health Club / Pool

IS OPEN

Come and enjoy the convenience and affordability of the Westview Health Club and Pool, located at 625 Main Street.



*Starting soon:
Aerobics, Aqua Aerobics, Scuba
Diving Classes And more !!!*

Membership includes usage of the pool, gym and sauna.

Membership Fees:

6 months \$200
1 year \$330
Guest fee \$10 Mon-Fri \$15 Weekend

Children 12 and under pay ½ price and children 5 and under are free with adult membership.

** No party rental until further notice.*

WESTVIEW RESIDENTS call for special rates.

*For more information, please call:
Carol da Silva & Yamilet Gonzalez
(212) 838-4747*

POOL HOURS:	AM	PM
Monday, Wednesday and Friday	6:00am - 9:00am	4:00pm - 9:00pm 7pm - 9pm adults only
Tuesday and Thursday		3:00pm - 10:00pm
Saturday and Sunday		12:00pm - 9:00pm 7pm - 9pm adults only



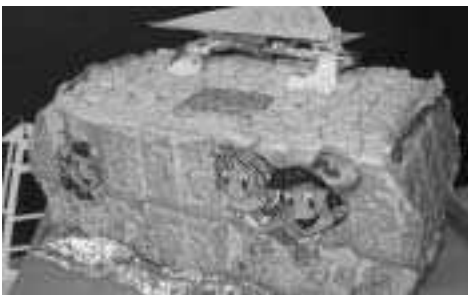
Roosevelt Island

Roosevelt Island Housing Management Corp.

Memberships are payable by money order only!

Winners in Historical Society's Tram Parade, and Some of Their Work

These Trams and others are on display in the Rivercross window to August 1



Child winner: **Tomoko Takahashi**, 30 River Road
Adult winner: **Arlene Rapchik**, 540 Main Street
Honorable mention, child: **Katarina DeYaux**, 560 Main Street
Honorable mention, adult: **Oumou Ousmane**, 510 Main Street
Best Representation of History: **Maria Harrison**, Queens
Funniest Theme: **Illiana Wong**, 555 Main Street
Best Cartoon Theme: **Hunter Drake Morris**, 560 Main Street
Most Original Use of Materials: **Denise Debranche**, 560 Main Street
Best Representation of a Vehicle: **Karine Wong**, 555 Main Street
Best Representation of a Tram: **Lima Khan**, 560 Main Street

Historical Society
President Judy
Berdy presents a
certificate to the
adult winner,
Arlene Rapchik



Sophie from page 1

time,” said Chen, sitting demurely on a black leather sofa in her Westview home while her younger brother, Max, 4, played with his trains. “I like to write and paint and play the piano more.”

Her mother, Fan Lin, smiles. “Sophie danced whenever she heard music as a child so we thought we should take her for classes.” She and her husband, Jack, had to decide between violin and piano lessons. Sophie was taken to the Queens Music and Dance School in Flushing for a test. “The director said she had a good ear. We decided to take her for piano,” Lin, a systems analyst at Merrill Lynch, said.



That was when Sophie was four. She participated in her first competition a few months later. “She didn’t win then but she was very young,” Lin said.

Fast-forward to 2003 and Sophie was slated to go for another competition, this time better prepared and able to handle the pressure. Or so they thought. In her diary, Chen wrote: “I have butterflies in my stomach.” She could not eat breakfast and tried to practice on the pianos provided in the waiting area. “All the pianos were in bad shape.”

On stage, however, everything changed: “The only thing that existed was me and my music,” wrote Chen.

When the prizes were announced in reverse order and Harry, her classmate from music school, won the second prize, the family gave up hope. “We never thought she would be first,” Lin said.

She was. So thrilled was she that in her diary she put down: “It may well be the most important moment in my whole life.” Well, it may be early in the day to declare that, especially for one as talented as Sophie.

One judge wrote about her performance: “You have a natural talent. It was a pleasure to hear and watch your performance. You are thoroughly involved.” Another reiterated: “Your musical and pianistic talents are natural. You will play the piano on a professional level.”

Neither Sophie nor her mother are as sure about that. “Piano is a hobby for her entertainment,” Lin said. “She will decide on her own what she wants to be.”

Ask the pig-tailed third-grader, currently studying at the Lower Lab School in Manhattan, what she might want to be and this is what you might hear: “I want to be a doctor, artist, scientist, professional pianist, and ballerina.” Almost breathless, she pauses, smiles, and says, “I want to be everything.”

Sophie's brother, Max, is four.

Seniors Plan Buddy System for Solos

A meeting at the Senior Center Tuesday night addressed the problem of live-alone seniors and others who may fall ill while alone in their apartments, unable to contact anyone. The problem was highlighted recently when Hazel Lynch suffered a stroke while alone in her apartment. Her situation, which is believed to have lasted three days, was discovered only when Public Safety phoned her, and she was able to get the phone off the hook. She later died, after a second stroke, while hospitalized.

The meeting resulted in a buddy system, in which pairs commit to call each other daily, according to Dolores Green, president of the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association (RISA), who organized the session along with René Bryan, deputy chief of Public Safety. If the buddy system comes up with a non-answer, Public Safety is to be notified

so that an officer can check on the non-responding person.

The meeting also resulted in a plan to investigate possible grant funds to provide LifeAlert systems to those who might need financial assistance to acquire them. Systems of that kind typically have a monthly cost of \$25 or more, with an initial set-up fee ranging from \$100 to \$300.

Green is taking on the job of

matching people up in the buddy system. She can be reached at her 546 Main Street Senior Center office, 1-212-750-3952, or at home at 1-212-223-4077. In addition to seniors phoning one another, Green is looking for younger volunteers who will commit to call one or more seniors each day.

Another meeting is planned for sometime in August to address the matter further.

SPORTSWIRE

Soccer The Roosevelt Island Youth Program has a very limited number of places remaining in its Fall 2003 Soccer Program. Places are available in the Kinderkickers (5 and 6 years old), in the Minors (7 and 8), and in the Juniors (9, 10, and 11). If you are interested in playing soccer, you should sign up immediately at the Youth Center, 506 Main Street, 1-212-935-3645, as places will be filled on a first-come basis.

Southtown from page 1

employees of Weill Cornell Medical College, is to be completed early in August. Hudson-Related hopes to start construction on a third building, which will combine for-sale condominiums and additional housing for local employees, early next year.

“It’s a great step forward for Southtown to finally have residents moving in,” said David Kramer of the Hudson Companies. With Related, Hudson has been working on Southtown development since 1997.

Katz from page 3

And finally: You will read in this issue of *The WIRE* that RIRA, RIOC, and the Youth Center have joined forces to present an open-air movie, *West Side Story*, at Southpoint Park on July 31. The date has been picked so as not to conflict with the *al fresco* movies at Bryant Park and at Socrates Park. RIRA will reprise the effort on August 28 with another classic movie. My hope is that we will have spawned another Roosevelt Island tradition, like providing breakfast on Roosevelt Island Day and serving Thanksgiving dinner to the guys at the Special Ops firehouse. The RIRA Common Council voted to provide money from our hard-earned Treasury to spring for a live band on July 31 and I hope you will support this free event (yes, I said FREE) by attending. You can bring your blankets or chairs and picnic dinners and Trellis will offer food for sale. We’ll provide chairs for those whose backs don’t find blanket-sitting congenial, and transportation for both wheelchair riders and those who prefer not to walk down Cherry Tree Promenade.

These things don’t happen by themselves. Once again, Margie Smith has combined her imagination with dogged determination and a capacity for getting things done. With the Fundraising sub-committee of the RIRA Social, Cultural and Educational Programs Committee, she has done the research, made the contacts, busted through the red tape, and provided us with another summer RIRA event to remember. My compliments to her and to Vicki Feinmel and Committee Vice President, Dolores Green, who provided the infrastructure to present this winning idea to the Council. And thanks to committee members Erin Feely-Nahem, Virginia Granato, Sherie Helstien, Ruth Kolins, and Fay Vass for putting in the time necessary to create something new in the firmament, the Roosevelt Island Southpoint Cinema Series. Just remember, when you’re a Jet you’re a Jet all the way. See you at the movies.

Roosevelt Island
History...
**The
TimeLine**
on
**Website
NYC10044**
<http://nyc10044.com>



Twins City! Four sets of twins under two years (and parents) gathered on the Rivercross lawn July 6 for a picnic. Left to right: Roy Eaton and Barbara Pittman with Ravi and Ari (born March 10, 2002); Marguerite Camaioire (father Frank Farance not in photo) with David and Emilia (March 17, 2002); Tom Sakmar and Karina Aberg with Juliette and Charlotte (December 27, 2002); Andrea Schlemmer (father Walter Schlemmer not in photo) with Kirsten and Stephanie (July 8, 2002). Know of other young twins on the Island? Please tell *The WIRE* – editor@MainStreetWIRE.com or 1-212-826-9055.



It's time to register for 2003-04

Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

Part-time and Full-time
Preschool Programs
for 2 and 3 year olds
Subsidized Full-day Pre-K
www.ridn.org
Financial aid is available
4 RIVER ROAD 593-0750

Your Apartment is Fire Resistant

But
Your valuables are subject to
theft & fire, smoke & water damage

You may get sued if someone is hurt in your apartment.

Apartment Insurance For Less Than \$1 Dollar Per Day

Call: 212 644-8231



Accountable Financial Management Corp.
599 Main Street Roosevelt Island

OLYMPIC CAR SERVICE

All discounts included in airport fares:
JFK \$27 • LGA \$12 • Newark \$55

on the front On all other fares:
\$1 off any fare under \$20
\$2 off any fare over \$20

Mention The WIRE and get
\$1 off any fare under \$20
\$2 off any fare over \$20

Clip & Save this Coupon

Ask for your special RI resident's discount card

JFK \$27
LGA \$12
Newark \$55

1-718-626-8000

Roosevelt Island Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

Our philosophy: *Our office offers adults and children a Quality Dental Service with gentleness, compassion, thoroughness, and respect for their time at a moderate dental cost. Services include Bonding, Veneers, ZOOM! In-Office Bleaching, Implants.*

Some of the Dental Plans we accept toward payment:
MetLife, Cigna, Aetna, Prudential, USHealthCare, Guardian, First Fortis, etc.

Se habla español!



Daytime Hours: Mon., Fri. 9-6; Tue., Wed. 12-5; Thur. 3-7
Evening Hours: Tue., Wed. 6-9

Lawrence Itskowitch, DDS, PC

Treating residents 24 years
501 Main Street • 1-212-752-8722

Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified
Specialist in Adult Medicine
(Internal Medicine)

Health Plans Accepted
32-BJ
Aetna/USHealthcare
Empire Blue Cross
CIGNA
HIP
Oxford

1-212-832-2310

Medicare
Now accepting
Oxford Medicare

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

Classified

50¢/word • 1-212-751-8214
Deadline for August 23 issue: August 18

MATURE R.I. BABYSITTER WANTED – Start day 8/24, 1 to 2½ days per week. Call Corinne at 1-646-872-1647.

FOR SALE – HAIER AIR CONDITIONER – 5000 btu, used only 2 months. \$100, negotiable. Please call 1-212-421-1222.

ELDER LAW – Wills & Trusts, Medicaid Planning, Nursing Home Matters, Estate Planning, and Living Wills. Steven M. Ratner, Esq., 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY. 1-212-754-9117.

COMPUTER problems/consultations 1-917-916-5306.

AMERICAN APPLIANCE SERVICE – Installations and Repairs on refrigeration, central air, A/Cs, washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves. Insured, licensed, both commercial and residential. \$16.00 off on repairs. 1-718-352-4600, 1-516-352-4600.

MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE – Ongoing registration for dance and theater classes. 1-212-371-4449. Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

DAISY DOODLE – Magic Shows, Dance Parties, Disney, Toddlers, Princess, Pirate, Barbie, Harry Potter, balloons, facepainting, crafts, holiday shows. 1-212-501-4828.

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST / Certified Reflexologist – Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificates available. 1-212-759-9042.

EXPERT PIANO REPAIRS & TUNING – Prompt service. 1-212-935-7510. Beeper 1-917-483-1020.

TUPPERWARE on ROOSEVELT ISLAND! – Book fun summer parties now. Gather your friends together for a party at your home and receive great summertime hostess gifts. Call your friendly neighborhood consultant Gina Enock at 1-212-758-8408.

PIANO TUNING – \$75. Prompt. Formerly with Steinway. Ben Treuhaft. 1-212-505-3173.

YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE – Dolores Green. 1-212-223-4077.

EXPERIENCED PAINTER/CONTRACTOR – Excellent Island references, fully insured. Free estimate. 1-212-751-8214.

NOTARY PUBLIC – 1-212-935-7534.

GREAT CARS, Great Prices, Great Financing! All makes & models. Call Lyle at 1-646-523-9033.

CAT-SITTER – VACATION IN PEACE – Will feed and play with your cat, water your plants, pick up your mail, etc. 1-212-751-8214.

APARTMENT SUBLET AVAILABLE – Union Square area, very large, sunny, L-shaped studio available for a year, give or take a month or two, starting December. \$2,000/month. Fully-furnished (queen-size bed plus two couches, TV, VCR), full service, 24-hour doorman. Contact owner at ffandco@aol.com by e-mail.

RIVERCROSS SUBLET WANTED – Responsible and involved Island couple seeks a sublet in Rivercross, preferably two-bedroom or larger, starting anytime before November 1. Call Bob or Lynda at 1-212-308-2891.

EXPERIENCED PAINTER/CONTRACTOR – Excellent Island references, fully insured. Free estimate. 1-212-751-8214.

Letters

from page 2

voting Republican they stopped cleaning Main Street.

The February that Pataki was scheduled to visit here (2001), I wrote to him suggesting that if he didn't wish to be photographed ankle-deep in papers he have Main Street cleaned before he came.

Pataki preferred to cancel his trip. And, unlike sweet Mario Cuomo, he did not answer my letter. But a staffer replied, informing me that it was RIOCC's job to clean the streets and that it was the specific job of engineer Vincent Kopicki (copy to him).

But they're too busy cashing excessive checks of our money to have time to read, so I have to endure that Pataki changed Paradise Island to Trash Island or Paper Island, which is the way I think of it on my daily walk from Rivercross to the Deli.

But why has no one organized a State Income Tax strike to end only when Main Street is restored to Paradise Island? Are we also puppets?

Frances Salten

Announcing...

Saturday Hours

That's right. **We've been listening** to what the Roosevelt Island community has to say about its needs in financial services, so we're adding Saturday morning hours while keeping the rest of our schedule intact. Now, the **Better Way to Bank** isn't a bank at all. It's your neighborhood Credit Union.

Montauk Hours

Monday-Wednesday & Friday
Full services 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Doors open until 4:00 for drop-offs
Thursday
Full services 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.
Doors open until 7:30
Saturday
Full services 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
ATM 24/7 • NYCE affiliate

Free checking • Competitive interest on savings accounts
Daily interest on checking with balances over \$500

Montauk Credit Union

MCU – Your Financial Neighbor

559 Main Street • Phone 1-212-643-3900 Fax 1-212-588-1123
ALL MEMBER ACCOUNTS INSURED UP TO \$100,000 BY THE NCUA

DAILY PICK-UP & DELIVERY

**Overwhelmed?
Just too much to do?
Not feeling well?
No time?
Hate doing
laundry?**



**Give yourself a break!
Let us do your laundry!**

**BOB'S BUBBLES
LAUNDROMAT**
718-937-8796

Expertly washed, dried, and folded.
Includes sorting, spotting, detergent, bleach, and softener.
Special instructions accommodated.
Specializing in all sizes of comforters and down coats.
New customers get an extra-large nylon laundry bag FREE.

JOLSON'S

WINES & LIQUORS

22-24 31st St. Astoria, NY 11105
22-24 31st Street, Astoria
1-718-728-2020

Present This Newsletter For An
Additional 15% OFF Any Listed Item!!

Prices valid through August, 2003

Chat. St. Jean
Chardonnay
\$11.99
750ml

Rosemont
Shiraz/Cabernet
\$11.99
1.5 Ltr

Koonunga Hills
Shiraz/Cab
\$10.99
750ml

Stonehaven Shiraz
\$10.99
1.5 Ltr

Campanile Pinot
Grigio
\$8.99
750ml

Lindeman's
Chardonnay Bin 65
\$11.99
1.5 Ltr

Walnut Crest
Merlot
\$8.99
1.5 Ltr

Gabbiano Chianti
\$9.99
750ml

Frixebet C.N Brui
\$9.99
750ml



Free Delivery to Roosevelt Island
Gift wrapping available
All major credit cards accepted



**CAT
SITTER**

We will feed and lovingly care for
your cat while you are away. We will
make sure your pet is safe and
happy in his or her own home. Will
also help with mail, plants, etc.
Excellent references. Call us at
1-212-751-8214.

Bike Heaven

Repairs • Rentals • Accessories

348 E 62 (betw. 1st & 2nd)
M-F 10-7 • S-S 9-5 • MC/Visa

1-212-230-1919 e-mail mybikeheaven@yahoo.com

10% off any single purchase of accessories with this coupon

