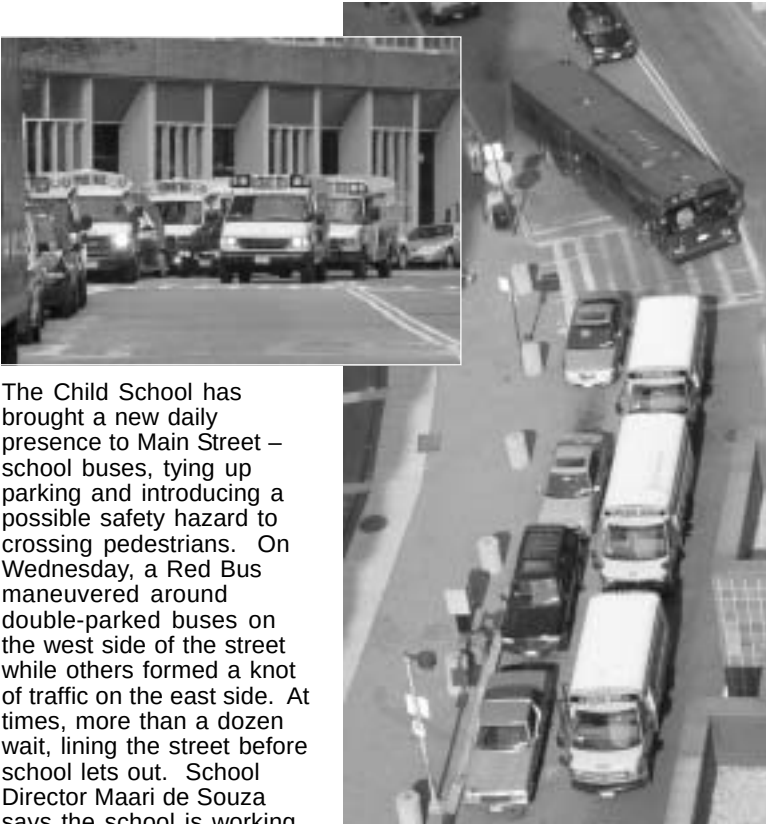


Next issue
Sat., Oct. 25

The Main Street **WIRE**

Roosevelt Island’s Independent Community Newspaper

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



The Child School has brought a new daily presence to Main Street – school buses, tying up parking and introducing a possible safety hazard to crossing pedestrians. On Wednesday, a Red Bus maneuvered around double-parked buses on the west side of the street while others formed a knot of traffic on the east side. At times, more than a dozen wait, lining the street before school lets out. School Director Maari de Souza says the school is working on the problem; Public Safety Deputy Chief René Bryan has a plan for the buses to be staged at the Motorgate arrival plaza, with each called down to Main Street only when its load of students is ready.

“Take It Easy” Island, Child School Are Adapting to Each Other

by Anusha Shrivastava
“Take it easy” is a phrase heard often in the corridors of The Child School/Legacy High School these days. Construction workers say it to one another, teachers say it to their colleagues, and students advise their friends. After all, there is plenty that is new and might be stressful, so taking it easy is the right approach. After weeks of construction and renovation in four buildings on the Island, the school finally moved from its downtown location to open its doors here on September 15 to 280 students and over 100 staff members. “It’s huge, it’s a major change,” said Maari de Souza, founder and current director of the school. “Everyone is taking it in the right spirit, though. No one is grumbling despite the fact that the construction is still not complete.” Long-lead items did not arrive on

time, so windows were being installed even as classes began a few weeks ago. Holes were being drilled into walls, lights fixed, and telephone lines set up. “Anyone who makes predictions about construction is merely talking about the best-case scenario,” de Souza said. “I’m sure they meant to complete it, but it just doesn’t work that way.” Even so, students and staff of the elementary, middle, and high school programs are enjoying their new abode – spread over 26 classrooms housed in the four newly-renovated buildings. The school’s new Island campus provides them with space they had never had before. “The Island is such a wonderful place,” de Souza says. “One child said to me, ‘This is not an Island, this is heaven.’” A teacher said she would never feel

Briefly...

- **Southpoint Park** will be part of **Open House New York** today (Saturday, October 11), with three hourly tours at 1:00, 2:00, and 3:00 p.m. (Tours will meet at the gate.) The rest of OHNY runs through tomorrow, featuring 80 sites throughout the City’s five boroughs, all free. There’s a full rundown available on line at www.ohny.org or see the poster in the window at Public Safety.
- PS/IS 217 is once again seeking **Learning Leaders** to work one-on-one with children to improve reading, writing, math, or English skills. These volunteers also help in the school library, office, and cafeteria, too, providing important support to the educational process. Interested Islanders are asked to call the school’s guidance counselor, Susan Cohen, at **1-212-980-0294**, ext. 2323. Becoming a PS/IS 217 Learning Leader involves required participation in two training sessions, 9-11 a.m. on two Wednesdays, October 29 and November 5.
- Raye Schwartz, a Rivercross resident, has been an active “**West-Nile-Watcher**” after the rains of the past three weeks, challenging RIOC over the standing water atop the Blackwell minischool. She suggests other residents with a view of flat roofs also watch for possible mosquito breeding grounds, and alert RIOC if pools invite the disease-carrying insects to breed there. RIOC’s number is **212-832-4540**, and if the problem isn’t cleared up, **311** is the Quality-of-Life Hotline. There’s also a West Nile reporting form on the City’s website, at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/wnv/wnvwater.html>.



Facing Budget Timing Deficit, RIOC Trims and Seeks Income A Motorgate Parking Hike Is Being Considered

by Dick Lutz
“Some development revenues the Corporation had been counting on won’t occur as projected.” The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation’s Chief Financial Officer, Patrick Siconolfi, was talking about downpayments on Southtown building number 3 and the Octagon project – \$1.8 million and \$1.6 million respectively. They are unlikely to arrive before the fiscal year ends on March 31, he explained to the RIOC Board on Tuesday morning.

The result will be a shortfall in expected income of some \$3.4 million and a fiscal-year shortfall of just short of \$1.6 million. “The revenues will occur,” Siconolfi said, “but not this [fiscal] year,” describing what amounts to a “timing deficit.” Siconolfi provided the RIOC Board members with a proposed “deficit scenario.” It was not made available to the public at the RIOC meeting, but *The WIRE* learned that it includes a possible January increase in Motorgate parking rates

of 4%, and single-worker staff attrition at both RIOC and Public Safety. Other items presented to the Board for consideration in its secret executive session include:

- Elimination of an outside “special counsel” position; Barbara Gordon Espejo, who has not been required to show up for work at RIOC for a couple of years, resigned that position recently.
- Hiring of Information Technology staff to replace more costly outside computer consultants.
- An insurance “re-bid/re-configuration.”
- Revised timing on several projects, including restorations at Blackwell House and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and a delay in relocating a bus shelter.
- Personnel service savings of \$125,000, probably by not replacing Vice President Robert Antonek, who resigned shortly after Robert H. Ryan was suspended as RIOC President in February.
- Some “additional negotiated rent.”

Overall, the budget adjustments would produce new income or savings, between now and March 31, of some \$1.3 million. In private, the Board also discussed possible severance packages for some employees. *The WIRE* was not able to learn before press time what changes the RIOC Board may have made in the proposed scenario in its secret executive session, which is closed to press and public. Most of the cuts would require no Board approval. Siconolfi’s presentation also revealed a continuing imbalance in RIOC’s annual budgeting. As he put it, “There is a structural mismatch between the recurring revenues of the Corporation and the recurring expenses of the Corporation, so what we must do is not only close the gap in the present year, but also in future years. The goal here is to have recurring revenues and recurring expenses be roughly in synch.”

“The reason for that,” he added, “is that the larger goal is to preserve those non-recurring revenues for the Island’s future.” In effect, Siconolfi was raising questions about RIOC’s claims of budgetary “self-sufficiency” made starting some six years ago during



Losing Riders RIOC CFO Patrick Siconolfi told the RIOC Board the Tram has been losing riders to the F train, increasing its contribution to a RIOC budget deficit.

Follow-Up Red Buses – Insured for Off-Island Trips? Or Not?

The question came up Tuesday morning during the RIOC Board’s discussion of its budget squeeze. It had come up during and after the August 14 Blackout when resident Board member Mark Ponton insisted buses be sent to the Queens side of the 59th Street Bridge to pick up Islanders coming home from Manhattan. The answer appears to be “Maybe.” Or “Yes, but not really.” Or “No, but don’t worry about it.” Referring to a draft letter from an insurance consultant, RIOC President Herbert E. Berman told his Board that “technically, you’re covered off the Island but if you make a serious claim there is a good chance [the insurance carrier] will subsequently deny coverage.” Berman said the consultant said that, “in general, any attempt to have [explicit] off-Island coverage would increase insurance cost to three times the present [premium] amount.” Board members weighed in:

- Leo Kayser asked for a copy of the original “declaration” to see if it

See **Buses**, page 10

Also at the RIOC Board Meeting...

- Board members praised the Public Safety Department for its response to the August 14 Blackout. Resident Board member Patrick Stewart said, “From my point of view, from the time the Blackout took place until the next morning, everyone did an extraordinarily good job... There was a visible lack of equipment, and RIOC is preparing a plan, but... under the circumstances, the Department, and [Deputy Chief] René Bryan specifically, did an extraordinary job.” Responding to a question, Bryan and PSD Chief Fry told the Board that seven off-duty Public Safety Officers came in to work – two on foot.
- The Board approved an appropriation, from Public Purpose Funds, for the Senior Center. A regular appropriation, it skirted the issue of a moratorium on Public Purpose spending raised in September by RIOC President Herb Berman when he spoke to the Common Council of the Residents Association. Resident Board member David Kraut, who chairs the Board’s Public Purpose Funds committee, pointed out that with various governmental cutbacks, more Island organizations are likely to be seeking Public Purpose funding. CFO Siconolfi made it clear that the Public Purpose Fund is “segregated” and “sequestered,” and Board Chair Labate said she saw no reason for a moratorium on Public Purpose Fund spending. She said, “People have been asking.”
- RIOC Vice President for Engineering Vincent Kopicki said a new round of Tram tests is under way to determine the likely lifetime of the cabins and hanger arms. The matter had come up in August when Board member Mark Ponton challenged the planned purchase of new cabins, a decision that had been based on recommendations of the Tramway operator, which is the same company that would be supplying the new equipment.
- In his President’s report, Berman said the Child School, which has begun using Island playing fields, will be charged for their use.
- Berman also discussed the problem of school buses serving the Child School tying up parking spaces and bus stops along Main Street, and said that in discussions with both the Child School and the bus drivers, RIOC has made it clear the drivers will receive summonses if they tie up bus stops when not taking on or discharging passengers. Berman said they’ve been told where they can park if they wish to remain on the Island when idle.
- RIOC President Berman welcomed a new Board member, Rivercross resident Deborah Beck, saying, “I have had the pleasure of knowing her for many years and have interacted with her on previous occasions, and have always been impressed with her intelligence and competence.” Board Chair Labate welcomed Beck with similar sentiments.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

The Beauty of Flight, presented by the Mother Earth Committee, through November 22, Rivercross Window Gallery, featuring works of Roosevelt Island artists Marika Bordes and Tony Vita.

Mixed Media Exhibition, *What Is Taboo?*, Gallery RIVAA, Sat.-Sun., 11:00-5:00; also Wed. and Fri., 6:00-9:00, through October 26. Free.



— The Coming Week —

Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Oct. 13, 8:00 p.m. For information, 1-212-935-1254 or 1-212-751-9577.

The East River – Revitalizing our Waterfront, a breakfast briefing on the River as a natural resource and key transportation link, **Tue., Oct. 14**, 8:30-9:30 a.m. (note *morning* time), presentation in Gallery I at the Municipal Art Society, 457 Madison Avenue (between 50th and 51st) by Carter Craft, Director of Programs for the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance. Reservation recommended: 1-212-935-3960 or rducker@mas.org.

Book Discussion – For the Relief of Unbearable Urges by N. Englander, **Thur., Oct. 16**, 6:30 p.m. Free. Books available at Library.

Fall Tree Walk, Sat., Oct. 18, 10:00 a.m. Meet at the bell in the Plaza.

— Future Events —

Open Studios 2003 with an exhibition by Island sculptor **Marika Bordes** and 37 other artists, **Fri.-Sun., Oct. 24-26**, 11:00-5:00 daily, Wills Building, 43-01 21st Street, Long Island City.

Main Street Theatre Cabaret Night, Fri., Oct. 24 and Sat., Oct. 25, 8:00 p.m. \$16. Reservations required. Call 1-212-371-4449.

The Main Street WIRE – Next issue in two weeks, on **Sat., Oct. 25**. (Get e-mail bulletins in the meantime; to subscribe, send an “Add Me” to nyc10044@rcn.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, **Fri., Oct. 17**; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, **Mon., Oct. 20**; fliers due **Thur., Oct. 23**. Future issues – November 8, 22 (Thanksgiving issue); December 13 (holiday issue), then every two weeks, starting January 10, through 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.

Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Oct. 27, 8:00 p.m. For information, 1-212-935-1254 or 1-212-751-9577.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Wed., Nov. 5**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.

Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Nov. 10, 8:00 p.m. For information, 1-212-935-1254 or 1-212-751-9577.

Icla da Silva Foundation Reception, Wed., Nov. 12, 5:30 p.m., Consulate of Venezuela, 7 East 51st Street (Madison/Fifth); a bone-marrow donor and recipient will meet for the first time. Limited capacity; reservation required; call 1-212-593-1807 or e-mail Airam@icla.org.

RIOC Board Meeting, Thur., Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open forum follows the formal meeting.

Main Street Theatre Comedy Night, Sat., Nov. 15. \$16 admission benefits MST&DA scholarship fund. Reservations necessary; call 1-212-371-4449.

Senior Center

Monday

10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, **“Oldies” Movies**
1:00, **Tai Chi**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)

Tuesday

10:00, **Computers**
10-11, **Latchhook Class**
10-11, **Dance & Relax**
1:00, **Bingo**
6:00, **Yoga Class**
7:30, **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday

9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00, **Spanish Class**
12:30, **Sculpting**
7:00, **Pokeno** (RISA)

Thursday

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

Friday

Pool Tournament (time TBA)
9:30, **Yoga Stretch**
7:00, **Games** (RISA)
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Sat., Oct. 11, Foxwood trip
Mon., Oct. 13, Cotton Club trip, 7:30
Mon., Oct. 13, closed
Wed., Oct. 15, Atlantic City
Fri., Oct. 16, Flu shots, 9:30-11:30 – first come, first served
Thur., Oct. 30, Flu shots, 10-1 – by appointment
Fri., Oct. 31, RISA Birthdays and entertainment, 12:30
Fri., Oct. 31, RISA Halloween Party, 7:00

My wife and I took the occasion of Monday’s Yom Kippur holiday to revisit Southpoint Park, now reopened after closing during the United Nations General Assembly for security reasons. We had taken advantage of the major summer events there – the Fourth of July fireworks and the two film screenings – but this park is at its most special when it’s empty.

RIOC thoughtfully left a few plastic chairs at the southernmost tip of the Island, and we sat there watching a flock of cormorants earn their living as fisher-folk and sunning their wings on rocks just south of Southpoint. We listened to crickets and cicadas (and East River Drive traffic) and counted ourselves blessed to have this oasis so available. The only flaw in our happiness was the apparent vandalism to the lights that are strung along the east and west shore walks. Many of the bulbs were removed from or broken in their yellow plastic cages. Sherie and I policed the area (as we used to say in my Army days) and commented on the malicious mischief so apparent around Roosevelt Island. We all need to act *in loco parentis* when we see kids littering or defacing property.

Many of you have spoken to me about the traffic jams caused by the Child School buses, especially when picking up kids at 3:00 p.m. I’ve seen as many as twenty buses blocking traffic and bus stops as early as 2:15 p.m. and waiting with their motors idling. This is a shakedown period, as procedures are tested and modified, and RIOC President Herb Berman assured the community at last Tuesday’s Board of Directors’ meeting that the issue is being addressed and rectified. Let’s all be RIOC’s eyes and ears and inform them if this new Island school needs to be a better neighbor.

Speaking of buses, the question I raised in my last column regarding the insuring of our Red Bus fleet was broached at Tuesday’s RIOC Board meeting. If I understood the discussion correctly, the buses are “technically covered” for off-Island usage, but RIOC could suffer major exposure should an accident occur in Queens or Manhattan. As with so many kinds of insurance these days, I asked myself, what good is “technical coverage” if the company won’t pay off on claims? The discussion continued with the issue of weekly Senior Association shopping trips to Queens, conducted on the Red Buses, and whether it was prudent to continue these or hire other buses to continue the service.

I am equally concerned about the emergency uses of these buses for this Island community. We’ve needed them for major crises, such as 9/11 and the blackout, and for more pedestrian (and prevalent) emergencies, such as the loss of Tram service, a far too common occurrence. We are told that State indemnification will cover the liability portion of the insurance, but that an off-Island property-insurance rider must be purchased separately, at a higher cost, and larger deductibles, than what we pay now. I know that the increased cost of insurance has a substantial impact on current and future RIOC budgets. However, my feeling is that the Board needs to be more conversant with the particulars of existing insurance policies and must find a way to allow for the regular and irregular use of our buses in Queens and over the Queensborough Bridge to Manhattan. I find it hard to believe that, in the 19 years since RIOC was created by New York State (Chapter 899 of the unconsolidated laws of 1984) and its employees indemnified (by Section 8 of that law), no one has investigated the parameters of our off-Island bus insurance. I’ll bet you know exactly what your personal car insurance covers (and doesn’t cover), don’t you? The upshot is that the question will be held in abeyance while the coverage is reviewed. To be continued.

An interesting question was raised at this same RIOC Board meeting regarding the Public Purpose Fund, created as part of the deal when Manhattan Park was built. This fund, once totaling in the millions, was fashioned to finance community-based events and initiatives and still contains about \$600,000. There has been a long-standing concern about creating “definable criteria” for dispensing these monies but, as Public Purpose Fund Committee Chair David Kraut stated, the resident Board members who sit on this committee (currently, Kraut and Patrick Stewart) determine the allocation “mostly by personal preference.” I’ve been requesting for years that the RIOC Board write down more tangible criteria for the dissemination of such a large pot of money and then share those criteria with the community.

When asked what happens when this fund is finally spent, President Berman replied, in effect, that when it’s gone, it’s gone. The Manhattan Park ground-lease payments currently

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Assn.
e-mail: matthewkatz@rcn.com

The RIOC Column

The first order of business is to wish our Jewish neighbors on the Island a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Island certainly provided a trial by fire when I arrived two months ago. First, there was the Blackout, then some nasty weather from Hurricane Isabel, and then finding out that RIOC’s surplus had disappeared and we are firmly in the red.

Still, there are some items I have been thinking about. One I have asked my staff, and of course, any Island resident who wishes, to think of ways we can brighten Main Street. Not just during the holidays, but all year round.

We are also in the process of contacting urban planning and design students at local colleges and universities to come use the Island as a design lab. Out of this exercise we hope to get some ideas to make the Island more attractive for residents and visitors.

As I remarked when I first came here, I want to find ways to make the Island more attractive to tourists. Certainly, with the abundance of so many Landmarks in a contained area, there has to be a way to draw people here, other than riding the Tram.

While RIOC’s budget crisis is not of the magnitude faced by the State and City, I will be forced to make some tough choices over the next few months. One thing I do know is that we cannot look to the State to provide any funds! My firm desire is that this deficit not affect Island residents in terms of maintenance and repair of the grounds.

At our October 7 RIOC Board meeting there was some discussion of mitigating the noise from some of the large HVAC units that have been placed on the roofs of the Child School, which moved to the Island last month. Also, we are working to insure that the school buses now coming onto the Island do not tie up the Red Buses and other traffic on Main Street.

There is nothing new to report regarding the status of any new construction on the Island, although we continue to work on the Octagon project and Southtown.

Work has begun on stabilizing the Renwick Ruin, where in the future we hope to turn it into another Island amenity that can be enjoyed by all.

I have directed the staff to think collectively to devise cost savings while we weather this fiscal crisis.



Herbert E. Berman, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corp.

Public Safety Blotter

The Public Safety Blotter for September will be available on-line early next week, on *Website NYC10044*, at <http://nyc10044.com/wire/2403/blot2403.html>

Website NYC10044

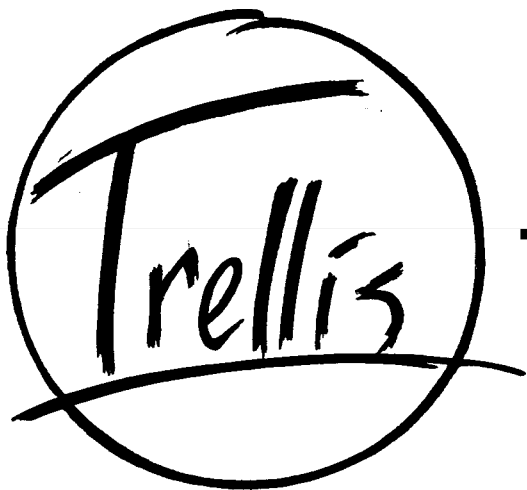
<http://nyc10044.com>

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comprise about half of RIOC’s operating revenues. Isn’t it a shame that more recent development deals have fallen short of the financial windfall that Manhattan Park provided and still provides. Those are “done deals,” unfortunately, and all we can do now is importune RIOC and its Board of Directors to be cannier in its future negotiations for ground-lease payments and for “give-backs” to the community. Unless RIOC requires developers to pay into the Public Purpose Fund, it will simply get spent, and a vital provider for the social, cultural, and youth services of this Island will be no more.

And finally: the Westview Pool is open for business! Hallelujah! The hiccup caused by the sewage flood during the Blackout has been dealt with and I’m here to tell ya that the water is clear blue and smells only of chlorine. When it opened on September 30 the temperature was 66°F and fit only for polar bears. As of last Tuesday, the temp was a toasty 78°F, on its way to the customary 82°F - 84°F. The men’s and women’s saunas, closed pending City certification since the grand reopening last July, will be in service “momentarily,” according to Housing General Manager Doryne Isley, and new gym equipment, vending machine service, and a range of pool activities are on their way. If this is your cup of tea, hie you down to the Management office and buy yourself a membership in this bargain health facility. I know I feel better after a swim (positively radiant, in fact) and so will you. See you in the water!

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Comedy Night - November 15 • Holiday Musical Celebration - TBA

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The Main Street WIRE’s Roosevelt Island Contacts Sheet

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS			
911 Police/Fire Emergency			
832 4545	RI Public Safety Department	552 Main St	Jim Fry, René Bryan
718 468 4868	Drug Activity reporting number	Queens Narcotics	Field Operations Desk
718 626 9311	NYPD (114th Precinct)	34-16 Astoria Blvd / 11105	Capt David P Barrere
311	NYPD Quality of Life Hotline		
718 626 6630	NYPD Queens Gangs Unit (includes RI)	34-16 Astoria Blvd / 11105	Sgt Craig deMaio
832 4540	Roosevelt Island Operating Corp (RIOC)	591 Main St	Herbert E Berman, president; fax 832-4582
MEDICAL/PROFESSIONAL			
688 4980	Chiropractor	507 Main St	Dr James Flannigan; by appointment
848 6000	Coler-Goldwater Mem’l Hospital (north campus)	900 Main St	Visiting hrs daily 10:30-9; www.coler.html
303 7280	Coler-Goldwater Mem’l Hospital (south campus)	1 Main St	Visiting hrs daily 10:30-9; www.coler.html
752 8722	Dentist	501 Main St	Dr Lawrence Itskowitch; MF 9-6, TW 12-5 & 6-9, Th 3-7
832 2310	MD (Internist & Adult Medicine)	501 Main St	Dr Jack Resnick, MF 9-6 by appointment; office or house calls
753 5505	MD (Pediatrician & Allergist)	501 Main St	Dr Katherine Grimm; MTh 9-12, Tu 12:30-4:30, WF 1:30-5:30
752 8722	Orthodontist	501 Main St	Dr Peter J Theodorou; by appointment
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832 4585	Motorgate (Central Parking)	686 Main St	Company main office 321-7500
718 330 1234	MTA subway and bus info	370 Jay St, Bklyn 11201	www.mta.info
718 330 3000	MTA management	130 Livingston, Bklyn 11201	Lawrence Reuter, president; fax 718-694-5500
718 445 3100	Queens Surface Transit – Q102 bus	128-15 28th Av / 11354	http://www.qsbus.com/home.asp
832 4555	Tramway Information (recording)		Press 1 for schedule information
GOVERNMENT & GOVERNMENT SERVICES			
593 0040	AVAC system	728 Main St	fax 980-4488
788 9600	Bloomberg, Michael R (Mayor)	City Hall / 10007	http://nyc.gov/html/mail/html/mayor.html ; fax 788-8123
886 3800	Board of Elections, NYC	200 Varick St	http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us
832 4558	Bus Garage (Red Bus service)	684 Main St (in Motorgate)	
688 6262	Clinton, Hillary Rodham (US Senator)	780 3rd Av / 10017	http://clinton.senate.gov/email_form.html ; fax 688-7444
758 4340	Community Board 8	505 Park Av #620 / 10022	Victoria Caramonte; cb8m@aol.com; fax 758-4616
480 6772	DHCR (NYS Division of Housing & Community Renewal)	25 Beaver St, 7th fl / 10004	Mary Beth Labate; MLabate@dhcr.state.ny.us; fax 518-473-9462
380 8151	Fields, C Virginia (Manhattan Borough President)	1 Centre St, 19th fl S / 10007	David Addams; info@cvirginiafields.com; fax 380-4306
669 7250	Gotbaum, Betsy (NYC Public Advocate)	1 Centre St, 15 fl / 10007	www.pubadvocate.nyc.gov ; fax 669-4091
860 4906	Grannis, Alexander B “Pete” (Assemblymember)	1672 1st Av / 10128	Tony Morenzi; grannis.nyc@assembly.state.ny.us; fax 996-3046
860 0606	Maloney, Carolyn B (US Representative)	1651 3rd Av #311 / 10128	rep.carolyn.maloney@mail.house.gov; fax 860-0704
860 0893	Mendez, Olga A (State Senator)	87 E 116th St / 10029	mendez@senate.state.ny.us; Jimmy Vasquez; fax 831-0530
535 5554	Miller, A Gifford (City Council Speaker)	336 E 73 #C / 10021	Jessica Lappin; miller@council.nyc.ny.us; fax 535-6098
308 6243	New York Public Library (RI branch)	524 Main St	Petra Kolotronis; MW 12-8, Th 11-6, F 1-6, Sa 10-5, TuSu closed
518 474 7516	Pataki, George E (Governor)	State Capitol, Albany 12224	gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us
752 5564	Post Office (RI branch)	694 Main St	MTWF 10-6, Th 10-7, Sa 9-4, Su closed
832 4540	Roosevelt Island Operating Corp (RIOC)	591 Main St	Herbert E Berman; info@rioc.com; www.rioc.com ; fax 832-4582
486 4430	Schumer, Charles E (US Senator)	757 3rd Av #17-02 / 10017	http://schumer.senate.gov/webform.html ; fax 486-7661
980 1888	Senior Center	546 Main St	Rema Townsend, Liza Konnert; fax 838-9791
669 3500	Thompson, Wm C, Jr (NYC Comptroller)	1 Centre St #530 / 10007	www.comptroller.nyc.gov ; fax 669-2707
935 3645	Youth Program, RI (RIYP)	506 Main St	Charles De Fino; riyp506@hotmail.com
HOUSING COMPANIES			
751 4499	Island House door station	555 Main St	
308 6464	Manhattan Park 2-4 River Rd door station	2-4 River Rd	
308 4477	Manhattan Park 10 River Rd door station	10 River Rd	
308 5656	Manhattan Park 20 River Rd door station	20 River Rd	
759 7710	Manhattan Park 30 River Rd door station	30 River Rd	
308 7373	Manhattan Park 40 River Rd door station	40 River Rd	
759 8660	Manhattan Park Community Relations	30 River Rd	
759 8660	Manhattan Park Management	30 River Rd	Sandra Holden; sholden@grcrealty.com; fax 759-8669
308 6472	Manhattan Park Pool		June 1-Sept 7, M-F 11:30-8, SS 10-8
838 4747	RI Housing Management Corp (RIHMC)	552 Main St	Doryne Isley; fax 826-0535
838 4747	RIHMC Community Relations	552 Main St	Carol da Silva; carol@icla.org; fax 826-0535
838 5595	RIHMC Svc Desk (Ewd, Isl Hse, W'view)	552 Main St	M-F 7:30-5
206 2642	RIHMC After-Hours Service		Hours: Weekend/night/holiday emergency
751 5075	Rivercross door station	531 Main St	
308 7271	Rivercross Management Office	531 Main St	Mitchell Hammer; mhammer@rosenyc.com; fax 688-2894
639 7711	Southtown Bldg 1 (Mem'l Sloan-Kettering)	475 Main St	Joanne Urso, coord; gabrielp@mskcc.org; fax 717-3381
746 1001	Southtown Bldg 2 (Cornell-Weill)	465 Main St	Maureen Kelly, coord; ajkane@med.cornell.edu; fax 746-8876
751 3589	Westview door station	625 Main St	
644 4165	Westview Pool and Health Club	625 Main St	MWF 6-9a, 4-9p (7-9p adults only), TT 3-10p, SS 12-9p (7-9p adults only)
EDUCATIONAL			
223 5055	Child School / Legacy High School	587 Main St (Westview school)	Maari de Souza, dir; www.thechildschool.org ; fax 223-5031
593 0750	Day Nursery Inc, RI	4 River Rd	Sara Seiden; ridnseiden@netscape.net
317 0216	Island Kids Inc	536 Main St	Traci Kaminski; 580 Main St #448; scarlell@yahoo.com
906 0015	Lilies Christian School	851 Main St	Elsie Obed; oeinlove@aol.com; fax 644-2293
980 0294	PS/IS 217 Administration	645 Main St	Sherry Gregory (principal); sgregor@nycboe.net
527 2505	PS/IS 217 Beacon Program	506 Main St	Annette Padilla; fax 688-0048; 2nd tel 935-3645
RELIGIOUS			
917 572 6674	Church of the Good Shepherd (Protestant)	543 Main St	C Calderhead, Pastor; services Su 10; rooseveltshepherd@yahoo.com
644 2291	Dayspring Church (formerly Redeemed Christian)	PO Box 151 / 10044	Pastor Olu Obed; services Su 10; admin@dayspringchurchny.org
832 6778	Good Shepherd Community Center	543 Main St	Fr Peter Miqueli (to reserve Community Center)
486 5733	Jewish Congregation (RIJC)	548 Main St	Steve Marcus (531 Main #1602) / Ron Meltzer 753-0237; services vary; call
223 3113	Quran Society of NY at RI	540 Main St	David Glenn
832 6778	St Frances Cabrini Roman Catholic Church	555 Main St	Fr Peter Miqueli; masses TWT 10, 564 Main; Sa 5, Su 8:15, 11:15, 543 Main

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS				
	759 3037	Black History Month Committee	540 Main St #440	Lael Freeman
	751 9241	Boy Scouts / Cub Scouts	555 Main St #1312	Geoffrey Kerr; geofkerr@aol.com
646	331 3445	Chamber of Commerce, RI		Julie Palermo
	848 6820	Coler Hospital Auxilliary Inc	900 Main St #B-2	Maudie Johnson
	593 7259	Community Literary Associates (RICLA)	531 Main St #728	David J Bauer; djbauer@rcn.com
	644 1444	Concerned Residents of RI (CRRl)	536 Main St #110	Nellie Velez
	317 1712	Council of Organizations (RICO)	555 Main St #906	Karen Stewart; karenstewart@earthlink.net; fax 656-1305
	223 0879	Disabled Association (RIDA)	546 Main St, 3rd fl	Virginia Granato
	752 6819	Eastwood Building Committee (EBC)	580 Main St #484	Byron Gaspard; bmgaspard@aol.com; & Nellie Velez 644-1444
	371 2332	Friends of Bill W		H Patrick Stewart; meetings Sa 6:30, Sept-May IH com'y rm, rest of yr Chapel
	unlisted	Garden Club	PO Box 278 / 10044	by mail only
	980 3001	Girl Scouts Troop 3122 (and Brownies)		Isa Claudio-Abdul, troop leader; isa869@aol.com
	318 4001	Goldwater Hospital Auxiliary	1 Main St #E-2	Sunderan Srinivasan
	752 8722	Health Association, RI	501 Main St, suite A	Dr Lawrence Itskowitch
	688 4836	Historical Society (RIHS)	PO Box 5 / 10044	Judy Berdy; jbird134@aol.com; www.rihs.html
	593 1807	Icla da Silva Foundation	PO Box 90 / 10044	Airam da Silva; airam@icla.org; www.icla.org
	838 7447	Info Service, RI http://rooseveltisland.us	PO Box 256 / 10044	Frank Farance; frank@farance.com; fax 759-1605
	929 8343	Island Arts Music Center (Music School)	548 Main St	Robin Russell; robinjprussell@aol.com
	752 5034	Island House Ownership Committee (IHOC)	PO Box 126 / 10044	Tim Johns; tim.johns@verizon.net
	308 0479	Island House Task Force	555 Main St	Audrey Berman; audrey.berman@hunter.cuny.edu
	838 9860	Korean Community	546 Main St #540	In Kyu Park
	935 3645	Little League (RI Youth Program)	506 Main St	Charles De Fino; riyp506@hotmail.com
	371 4449	Main St Theatre & Dance Alliance (MST&DA)	548 Main St	Worth/Nancy Howe; MStreetTheatre@cs.com
	826 9055	<i>Main Street WIRE</i> (community newspaper)	531 Main St #413	Dick Lutz; editor@MainStreetWIRE.com; fax 755-2540 (call first)
		Manhattan Park Tenants Assn (10-20-30-40)		no organization currently active
		Manhattan Park Tenants Assn for 2RR	2 River Rd	no organization currently active
	953 6267	Manhattan Park Tenants Assn for 4RR	4 River Rd	Gwen Ryals
	592 7259	Maple Tree Group (MTG)	531 Main St	David J Bauer; djbauer@rcn.com
	644 3966	Mother Earth Committee (Rivercross gallery)	516 Main St #158	Amelia Fontes
	486 1997	NY Junior Tennis League (NYJTL)	24-16 Qns Plaza South, LIC	Joyce Mincheff; joyminch@aol.com; www.nyjtl.org
	755 7285	Orphans International	540 Main St #418	Jim Luce; info@internationalorphans.org; fax 755-7302
	339 0016	PS/ IS 217 PTA	645 Main St	Erin Feely-Nahem; erinf-n@mindspring.com
	935 7534	Residents Association (RIRA)	625 Main St #743	Matthew Katz; matthewkatz@rcn.com; fax 753-7539
	752 6819	RISK (RI Safety Kommittee)	580 Main St	Byron Gaspard; bmgaspard@aol.com
	929 8343	River Music	142 Bank St / 10014	Robin Russell; robinjprussell@aol.com
	750 3952	Senior Association (RISA)	546 Main St	Dolores Green
	980 3811	Tennis Association (RITA)	PO Box 167 / 10044	Mike Kolba; mkolba@earthlink.net; fax 308-6980
	924 1254	Toastmasters		Janet Schoene, pres; meetings 2nd & 4th Mon, 8pm; 2nd tel 751-9577
	758 6064	Tree Board, RI	531 Main St	Maurice Bleifeld
	308 6630	Visual Art Assn (RIVAA)	529 Main St	Arline Jacoby (421-5939); arlineart@aol.com; www.rivaa.com
	826 9055	<i>Website NYC10044</i> http://nyc10044.com	531 Main St #413	Dick Lutz; editor@MainStreetWIRE.com; fax 755-2540 (call first)
	688 1337	Westview Task Force	625 Main St #1433	Opher Pail; opherp@nyc.rr.com
	826 9055	<i>WIRE, The Main Street</i> (community newspaper)	531 Main St #413	Dick Lutz; editor@MainStreetWIRE.com; fax 755-2540 (call first)
	813 9406	Young Adult League (YAL)	599 Main St	Ed Rademaker; RIYAL599@yahoo.com
	935 3645	Youth Program Inc. (RIYP)	506 Main St	Charles De Fino; riyp506@hotmail.com; fax 935-3645
BUSINESSES				
	319 0029	Bank (New York National)	619 Main St	When calling or shopping, please mention <i>The Main Street WIRE</i> MTWF 9-3, Th 1-7; ATM 24/7
	688 0055	Beauty Salon (National Full Service)	523 Main St	T-F 10-7, Sa 9-7, Su 10-6
	230 1919	Bicycle Repair (Bike Heaven)	348 E 62 (betw 1st/2nd)	M-F 10-7, SS 9-5; reduced hours off-season
	588 0806	Chinese Restaurant (China 1)	609 Main St	MTWT 11-11, FS 11-12, S 11-11; deliveries; also 588-0663
	758 1778	Cleaners (RI Cleaners)	571 Main St	M-F 6:30-6:30, Sa 7-6:30
	688 6712	Cleaning Service (Best Home Services)	531 Main St	by appointment
917	916 5306	Computer Services (RI Computers)		by appointment; http://10044.com
	223 4077	Cosmetics (Avon Representative)		Dolores Green
	643 2900	Credit Union (Montauk Credit Union)	559 Main St	MTWF 8:30-3, Th 12-7, Sa 8:30-12; ATM 24/7; fax 588-1123
	838 3964	Deli (M&D Deli)	579 Main St	MTWT 6:15-10, F 6:15-11, Sa 6:30-10 (summer, -11); Su 7:30-10
570	916 7928	Farmer's Market (Saturday mornings)	Motorgate, under ramp	Sa 7-3; call for free same-day delivery
	644 8231	Financial Services (Accountable)	599 Main St	Sy Williams; by appointment
	935 1702	Fish Store	530 Main St	M-S 8:30-9, Su closed
	752 5545	Florist (Cymelia)	568 Main St	M-F 11-8, Sa 11-7; Maria Stoica, mgr; Sandor Toh, owner
	371 2680	Gristede's Mega Store (supermarket)	686 Main St	daily 7-12
	644 4125	Gristede's Pharmacy	686 Main St	M-F 9-9, Sa 9-6, Su 9-5; John Guerra; fax 644-0381
	319 6997	Hardware Store (General Store)	544 Main St	M-F 11-10, Sa 10-10, Su 12-8
	751 8214	Interior Decorator / Shopping Service	531 Main St	Ellen Levy
646	331 3445	Julie's Sports Café	513 Main St	MTW 3p-2a, TF 3p-4a, Sa 12noon-4a, Su 12noon-2a; Julie Palermo
	838 5822	Liquor Store (Grog Shop)	605 Main St	Archie Seale; hours vary, call store
	759 9042	Massage Therapist / Reflexologist	531 Main St	Diana Brill; by appointment
	989 1919	Messenger Service (Need-It-Now)	153 W 27 / 10001	24/7 ; Barry Wolf; mention <i>The Main Street WIRE</i>
	643 3900	Montauk Credit Union	559 Main St	MTWF 8:30-3, Th 12-7, Sa 8:30-12; ATM 24/7; fax 588-1123
	759 2014	Nail Salon (Roosevelt Nails)	570 Main St	M-Sa 10-8; Cynthia Ahn
	319 0029	New York National Bank	619 Main St	MTWF 9-3, Th 1-7; ATM 24/7
	688 7928	Newsstand (Island Newsstand / card shop)	563 Main St	M-Sa 7a-9p, Su 7-7; Rakesh Patel
	755 7322	Personal Trainer		Robert Michels (also 917-782-0746); by appointment
917	935 7510	Piano Tuning & Repair	531 Main St	Morty Dinerstein; by appointment
	688 4702	Pizzeria (Capri)	532 Main St	daily 11-11; deliveries
	935 0250	RI Racquet Club (tennis bubbles)	281 Main St	daily 7a-11p; skiphartman@aol.com; www.rirc.com; fax 752-1496
	486 8958	Thrift Shop	520 Main St	MTWFSa 12-7, Th 12-9; Eddie O'Flynn
	752 1517	Trellis Restaurant	549 Main St	daily 6a-12midnight; deliveries; Kaie Razaghi
718	392 7444	TV Repair (Chris TV)	21-16 36 Av / LIC 11106	M-F 9-7, Sa 9-6
	319 7005	Video Store (General Store)	544 Main St	M-F 11-10, Sa 10-10, Su 12-8
	702 0767	We Are One Varieties	599 Main St	M-S 10-8, Su by appointment; Irving Anderson
	826 9055	<i>WIRE, The Main Street</i> (community newspaper)	531 Main St #413	Dick Lutz; editor@MainStreetWIRE.com; fax 755-2540 (call first)

Those listed or wishing to be listed in future editions are asked to advise *The WIRE* of any changes: editor@MainStreetWIRE.com. This list is updated from time to time on *Website NYC10044* at <http://nyc10044.com/contacts.html>. These listings are believed to be current as of October 1, 2003. While great effort has been made to insure accuracy of these listings, *The WIRE* assumes no responsibility for errors. **Telephones are 212 area code except as noted.**

They Don't Just Staff the Tramway... They're Its Personality

Photos and Text by Mike Cooney



Armando Cordova
Fourteen years at the Tramway, Armando is Lead Supervisor, responsible for the Tramway's day-to-day operations and mechanical integrity. He's the key man in the absence of administrators from Doppelmayr, the company under contract to operate the system for the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation.



Elliot Isaac
Second only to Gregg in seniority, Elliot modestly downplays his role during the Tram's most serious accident four years ago. At that time, a novice crane operator working from a barge moored below the 59th Street Bridge accidentally hit the tip of the Tram cabin, causing it to swing wildly. Elliot assisted frightened and injured passengers until police and medical support arrived, but he won't talk about the plaque he received for his heroism.



Jonel "John" Teodorescu
An Island resident, John moved here in 1989 because it was "a great place to raise kids." Even though his son and daughter are now grown, pursuing their own careers in law and business, John reports that he still enjoys the peaceful life on Roosevelt Island.



Emilse Rojano
Emilse has enjoyed working on the Tram for fifteen years, "except when it gets very cold." Originally from Colombia, Emilse is known for her ability to reassure even the most nervous first-time Tram riders.



David Deyerle
David enjoys every September when the Tram fills once again with happy schoolchildren, and he doesn't even mind the joyous noise of the 3:15 trip!



Linda Parker
Linda reports that she knows just about every face on the Island. She especially enjoys the Tram's commitment to providing easy and comfortable access to and from Manhattan for our senior citizens and disabled.

Culvar Barry
He tells us that he enjoys working on one of New York City's most famous means of transportation. He finds that visitors from all over the world consider the Tram a "must-see," right up there with the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building.



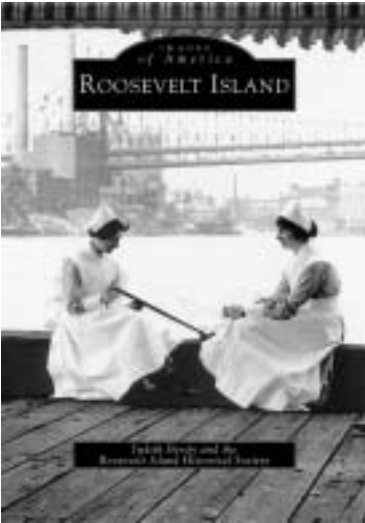
Mike Ellana, "D.J." James, and Kenneth Black
Mike, Daniel, and Kenneth work the late shift and, when the last ride ends, it is their responsibility to get everything ready for the first ride of the next day. This includes cleaning the entire station and both Tram cabins. Snow removal is also their responsibility. And if a fellow Tram operator is late or sick, they stay past 6:00 to make sure that early morning commuters are not delayed.

About Subscriptions

The Main Street WIRE, which is delivered free to every residential door on Roosevelt Island, does not actively solicit off-Island subscriptions but, as a courtesy, provides first-class mailing on day of publication. The cost is \$50/year (for about 20-24 issues, published twice a month September-May, and less often June-August) to cover postage and materials. A check payable to *The WIRE* should be sent, with delivery address, to *The WIRE*, 531 Main Street #413, NYC10044. Much of each issue also appears, with many archived back issues, on *Website NYC10044* at <http://nyc10044.com>.

Between *WIREs*, e-mail bulletins...
Sign up at <http://nyc10044.com>

At the Library, an Autograph Session for Historical Society's Book on the Island



by Mary Camper-Titsingh

"Some people think Roosevelt Island was plopped into the middle of the East River, as is, in 1975," laughed Judy Berdy. "Far from it. There were about 10,000 people living here around 1900 when this, the third-largest Island in New York City, was known as Welfare Island."

Berdy, president of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, spoke last week at the Island's branch of the New York Public Library during a book signing for *Images of America: Roosevelt Island*, now available from the Historical Society at \$20 (call Berdy at 1-212-688-4836). Proceeds from sale of the book, which was put together by Berdy and RIHS members Ursula Beauseigneur, Vicki Feinmel, and Katherine Vithlani, with photos scanned by Maria Harrison, will go toward establishing a public archive in Blackwell House after its renovation.



Main Street Theatre Mounting a Series of Fundraisers

Nancy Howe and Worth Howe celebrated the 27th anniversary of their marriage last weekend with a benefit performance of A.J. Gurney's *Love Letters*. It was the first in a series of fundraisers for the Theatre that benefit its scholarship fund. The next is *Sing, Sing, Sing*, a Cabaret Night "with lite fare" featuring Anita Michael, Mary Jo Schager, Nancy Howe, and Alex Wang. (Call 1-212-371-4449 for reservations.) After that, a *Comedy Night* is planned for November 15, and a holiday celebration for December.



Nancy Howe told *The WIRE*, "We've lost some grant money as a result of City cutbacks. At the same time, we're experiencing a greater need for scholarships because of the downturn in the economy. We've never turned anyone away who showed a financial need for a scholarship. We need to raise money to help sustain those scholarships and to keep our programs in fitness, dance, and voice classes running. The idea is to provide some solid entertainment and, at the same time, bring in the funds we need."

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

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

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Doors open until 7:30
Saturday
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1-646-221-8867

Letters from page 2

structure to enroll and delegate assignments to resident volunteers who will come forward in times of need.

Alternative food supplies: As a lesser priority item in the short run, the matter of food supply must be considered. Certain residents and the hospitals depend on regular deliveries of food, and alternative boat delivery to the power-plant dock should be thought through.

Medical care: The extent to which Coler-Goldwater can/will provide emergency medical care needs to be revisited. We believe that a partial list of individuals needing special care was available to either Public Safety and/or Housing personnel during the blackout. The availability of such a list should be publicized so that it can be updated as needed by residents and their families. Emergency planning should include ways to “look in” on these people and provide them the assistance they may need.

We know that you will flesh this list out and proceed forthrightly to lay out a plan for review by all the stakeholders. We believe it is particularly important to include the residents in both the formulation and presentation of this plan. We look forward to your early and effective action.

RIRA Island Services Committee

Copies:
Governor George Pataki
Senator Olga Mendez
Assemblymember Alexander B. Grannis
Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Speaker Gifford Miller, City Council
Judith A. Caligero – State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Mary Beth Labate – State Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Matthew Katz, President – Roosevelt Island Residents Association
The Main Street WIRE

The WIRE seeks a resident of 475 Main Street willing to handle door-drop delivery of the paper in that building. Call Sherie Helstien at 1-212-935-7534.

To the Editor:
Sophie Maisel’s letter printed in *The Main Street WIRE* of Saturday, September 20, calls for a response. Where did she receive her information? She certainly did not witness Manhattan Park’s “banging or shouting on their doors” – the doors of all seniors and disabled in 2 River Road. No one I know experienced that “consideration” [during the Blackout]. One neighbor [in 2 River Road], badly handicapped, had left his door ajar expecting a delivery. It was a security man of the building, making his usual rounds, who entered and was of considerable help.
Florence Schklowsky

To the Editor:
I have been living on Roosevelt Island for over two years and what I enjoy most about the place is the spacious fields. The fact that there are many trees, grass, playgrounds, etc. is what makes Roosevelt Island unique. I think the place looks better with the new buildings and baseball and soccer fields. However, I noticed that while there are three baseball fields, two soccer fields, six outdoor tennis courts and indoor courts, and many basketball courts, there aren’t any volleyball courts. Many people must practice for the volleyball season in school, and they need courts with nets. I think, with all this room on this Island, it is possible to built at least one volleyball court. I, along with many others, would appreciate it if this idea is taken into consideration.
Thank you.
Dina Rudi

Classified
50¢/word • 1-212-751-8214
Deadline for October 25 issue: October 21

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.

LOOKING FOR A BABYSITTER? Call Adama Konte at 1-212-371-3273. I live at Island House. Kids from 1 to 5 years old welcome.

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

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

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Soccer The standings in the Youth Program’s Fall Soccer League following the games played on October 4 are:

Minors (7-8)			
Black & White	2 – 0 – 1	(7 points)	
Burgundy	2 – 0 – 1	(7 points)	
Green	1 – 2 – 0	(3 points)	
Gold	0 – 3 – 0	(0 points)	
Juniors (9-10)			
Black & White	3 – 0 – 0	(9 points)	
Burgundy	1 – 1 – 1	(4 points)	
Gold	1 – 2 – 0	(3 points)	
Green	0 – 2 – 1	(1 point)	
Seniors (11-14)			
Black & White	4 – 1 – 0	(12 points)	
Burgundy	2 – 2 – 1	(7 points)	
Gold	2 – 3 – 0	(6 points)	
Green	1 – 3 – 1	(4 points)	

To commemorate this year’s Women’s World Cup being held in the United States, the RI Youth Program is sponsoring an exhibition match among the Island’s young women (ages 9-14) on Sunday, October 26, at 2:00 p.m. at the Octagon Soccer Field. Come out and cheer the athletes.

RIOC Budget from page 1

the RIOC presidency of Dr. Jerome Blue. While the RIOC Board members avoided explicit discussions of the baker’s dozen items in the coping plan presented to them, the public discussion of the problem ranged over a number of items:

- Nancy Reuss, an ex officio Board member from the State budget office, asked about the Tram’s contribution to the annual deficit. Siconolfi said the Tramway represents a \$2 million deficit in the current budget and pointed out that Tram “revenue is falling short of projections. Tram ridership has been in a steady decline since introduction of the [subway] F service.” Siconolfi said \$350,000 of the decline is based on that loss of ridership. When Reuss asked if Southtown might contribute to an increase in Tram revenue, Siconolfi pointed out that if MetroCard transfers were available to Tram riders, “that would remove the disincentive to use the Tram.” RIOC President Herbert E. Berman, on the job since August 11, added, “That is in ongoing negotiation.”
- Board member John Mannix said, “This should be no surprise. We’ve been looking at the revenue streams and the real estate. We need to make deals. If we don’t make our deals in real estate, this [budget mismatch] will continue.”
- Resident Board member David Kraut reminded the Board that “prior to nine years ago, the State picked up our shortfalls – our losses every year. We’ve gotten away from that, I think properly. But we find ourselves in a deficit situation, with possible loss of key personnel. Should we ask the State for some kind of supplemental appropriation to

Buses from page 1

specified Island-only travel. He said that if it didn’t, and the policy doesn’t restrict the buses to the Island, courts would construe the policy as covering off-Island travel.

- John Mannix pointed out that the world of insurance has changed since the 9/11/01 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, and insurance companies are far more likely to find excuses to litigate to avoid payouts.
- David Kraut recalled that on 9/11/01, “all communication between the East Side and Roosevelt Island was cut off, with a lot of children cut off on the East Side... We just sent our buses with Public Safety vehicles with lights flashing. We cannot have small children stuck away from their parents... We have learned. Twice is a pattern. We have had occasions to have the buses go off the Island, and we have to have that coverage.”
- RIOC CFO Patrick Siconolfi said, “It may be possible to shelter ourselves behind the State’s [overall] indemnification, but it doesn’t cover property damage insurance... The good news is that property is the small piece [of the insurance cost].” In response, Kayser pointed out that reliance on State indemnification could result in a bizarre suit by RIOC to recover an extraordinary damage payout from the State. And Counsel Kenneth Leitner pointed out that RIOC does not appear on the State’s list of covered agencies.
- Because the Red Buses make regular off-Island trips for senior shopping, which David Kraut called “absolutely essential,” the Board members discussed that risk. Ponton suggested chartering a bus. Some, including new resident Board member Deborah Beck, concluded that sending the Red Buses was a risk worth taking, whatever the insurance ambiguities or risks in possible loss of coverage.

Kayser had the last word: “Based on the Blackout incident, whether you’re covered by insurance or not, when an emergency arises, there are certain things you need to do at that time. If you have the ability to use facilities to deal with the emergency situation, it would be absurd to use some pretext like insurance not to take some action to deal with the emergency.” Berman agreed, and the Board went back to discussing the budget deficit.

Child School from page 1

stressed out on the Island because all she has to do to relax is step out to Meditation Steps and take in the view.

“I should have recorded her words,” de Souza says with a grin.

Parents who visited for curriculum night were awe-struck with the beauty of the Island. “They were so happy that their children had the opportunity to be studying here.”

The school, set up in 1973 to help learning-disabled children and their families, was originally set up on the Island, and has come a long way since then. It has expanded from its original small group to a body of nearly 300 students, including a few from the Island.

“Many of the students come from Queens and Brooklyn,” de Souza said. “They have to be bused in.”

The increase in the number of school buses on the Island has been taken note of by many Island residents, de Souza said. “We are trying to work it out so that the drivers do not block the bus stops and crosswalk. Most of them are cooperative and willing to move when requested.”

Since there is just one traffic-bound street that everyone has to use, patience is needed to sort out some of the teething troubles, de Souza says.

In an interview before the school had moved to the Island, de Souza had shown ample awareness of the adjustment that would be required as the new population came to the Island. “A lot of fine-tuning will be required as they begin to live in a community with its own issues.”

“Everyone is trying to work it out,” she said earlier this week. “No one is out to get anyone. We are trying to juggle things and sort out everyone’s problems, but there has been overwhelming support and everyone has treated us with dignity.”

get us through this time?” Board Chair Mary Beth Labate of the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) dismissed the suggestion: “I’m quite certain you won’t see that. I think we can handle it. I don’t think there is a reason to panic. There is reason to take quick and decisive action.”

• Questions were raised about the Board’s ability to make good on promises it made to Siconolfi when he served as Acting President of RIOC in the period after suspension of Ryan and the hiring of Herb Berman. Reuss pointed out that “RIOC is subject to a budget bulletin from the State Budget Director that limits the amount of raises that can be given to anybody making over \$75,000 a year.”

Implicit in the Board’s discussions was an intention not to tap some \$6 million in reserves RIOC has accumulated as a kind of “bridge loan” to cover the timing deficit caused by the expected late arrival of the development revenues. Mannix said the \$6 million “is not near enough. I want to focus the group on how much working capital we need in the bank to absorb deficits” like the one being discussed in the meeting.

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