

Next issue
Sat., Nov. 22

The Main Street WIRE™

Roosevelt Island’s Independent Community Newspaper

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



Halloween a Hit These two Islanders joined hundreds of others two weeks ago for a weekend filled with Halloween events. More pictures on pages 6 and 7, in color, thanks to support from RIHMC.

Islanders Spreading Joy of Reading

by Mary Camper-Titsingh

There are teenagers who are devoting some of their spare time to volunteer work, but few go to the lengths that Suriya Schmidt, now 18, went to four years ago as an 8th-grader. “To give children an opportunity to enjoy reading,” as she puts it, she went all the way to Southeast Asia. Now a Hunter High School Senior, she collected 250 children’s books from friends and neighbors and donated them – personally – to an elementary school in Thailand, her mother’s native country.

The Mae Pond school, located in the Golden Triangle between the Chiangmai and Chiangrai Provinces in Thailand, is a boarding school for children from the isolated mountain tribes living near the border with Myanmar (formerly Burma). But Suriya, whose name in Sanskrit means “Sun” or “Bright Shining One,” brought more than books to the school. To help children learn English, which is commonly spoken by educated adults in Thailand, she helped the students make posters translating Thai words. She also showed the 4th-, 5th-, and 6th-graders how to make hand puppets, build a puppet theater, and assemble teak bookshelves for a small library at the school.



With that success behind her, Suriya wanted to do something for children in New York City. With the Children’s Aid Society as a sponsor, she conducted several book drives that resulted in donations to P.S. 8, a City elementary school. Last year four book drives brought books for the Roosevelt Island Youth Program. During the Christmas holiday season, the Librarian at Goldwater Hospital, Ursula Beauseigneur, thought that patients there might enjoy receiving books as gifts and Suriya was able to deliver 150 books in good condition for them. This year she contacted the New York Coalition for the Homeless, but was told that books are not practical for the homeless and that they generally prefer magazines. Suriya is now collecting magazines which she will deliver monthly to various city shelters for the homeless.

Roosevelt Island residents can help Suriya’s Read-a-Book projects by donating new or used books and magazines in good condition. Please deliver them, clearly marked “Read-a-Book Project,” to the Rivercross doorstation at 531 Main Street.

How We Voted: Miller Wins Big in His District, But Bigger Here

City Council Speaker A. Gifford Miller, who represents Roosevelt Island as part of his Council District, ran strongly in his entire district with 78.6% of the vote, and even stronger on Roosevelt Island, where he won over 84% of ballots cast.

Six ballot proposals lost in the City, including one backed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, which would have made City elections “non-partisan.” Democrats opposed the plan, and Roosevelt Islanders voted strongly against it, 521 (74%) to 187. In the City at large, the proposal lost to a 70% no vote, 332,573 to 141,820.

Votes in the City Council race:

	Roosevelt Island		District	
	Votes	%	Votes	%
Miller (Dem)	708	84.3	12188	78.6
Arangio (Rep)	125	14.8	3084	19.9
Milem (Lib)	8	1.0	237	1.5

In Third Open House Session, Berman Talks of Public Safety, Development, Budget, and More

by Dick Lutz

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) is preparing a “mission statement” for the Public Safety Department, according to RIOC President Herbert E. Berman, who met with residents in open-house sessions again last week. At the Wednesday afternoon session, which was for residents of Island House and Rivercross, Berman responded to a direct question from Linda Pickett: “What is Fry’s role? And what is RIOC’s mandate for what Public Safety should do?”

The session ranged over several other topics, including real estate, dogs, RIOC’s budget shortfall, privatization, MetroCard for the Tramway, and school-bus congestion.

Public Safety

Responding to Pickett, Berman said, “Mr. Fry is in



Rivercross resident Vicki Feinmel was among those posing questions at an Open House last Wednesday to...

charge of the public safety on this Island. He is a retired police lieutenant who had a command position when he was active in the police department, and he utilizes the personnel pursuant to the process that he feels is the best for the Island. He deploys the personnel, he deploys the vehicles, pursuant to what he believes is best.”

Berman went on to say that RIOC is “redoing” a mission statement prepared under a previous Director of Public Safety. He also described an arrangement under which some residents will serve on an advisory committee made up of people recommended by RISK, the Roosevelt Island Safety Kommittee. He said those advisory committee members will meet with the RIOC Board’s Public Safety Committee, “and hopefully they will [produce] a proposed, up-to-date mission [statement] which the Board of Directors will then review.

About Fry specifically, Berman said, “My opinion is that Jim Fry... is an extremely knowledgeable law-enforcement person. I have detailed conversations with him... There is a debate – the same debate that goes on with the NYPD – as to whether to have people walking fixed posts or to have people riding in the mobile units. That’s a decision that you leave to the commander of the unit.”

Even while expressing confidence in Fry, Berman said, “I will tell you that we’ve attempted to work out certain issues since I’ve gotten here. For example, the

issue of the defibrillators. The first opinion that Public Safety had was that they did not want the legal obligation to use the defibrillators, and they weren’t wrong in the strictest sense, and I’ll tell you why: Because, what will happen is, and he’s right, that people will call Public Safety if, God forbid, there’s a heart emergency, and they won’t call 911. 911 has the medical ability to be able to give people injections into their hearts, to provide shock therapy, and the defibrillators also have to be used within five to seven minutes of the attack... There’s concern over the fact that people will not call 911, and he’s not wrong... However, we’re training people and we hope that it’ll never have to be used, but... at least they’ll have the training if they can get there early enough to help somebody. People have to go through an education process to make sure they call 911 first. But on any issue that has come up we’ve been able to work it out, where there’s been a conflict between Public Safety and the community. More often than not, I attend those meetings and I try to arbitrate the conflicts, and I will continue to do that whenever possible.”



...RIOC President Herbert E. Berman. A letter from Feinmel appears on page 2; a Berman column appears on page 3.

Island policing was a repeating subject of residents’ questions and Berman’s answers during the Wednesday session. One resident asked that Public Safety address loitering, saying that young people lingering on Island House steps or elsewhere sometimes block access to businesses or impede entry into residential buildings. Another complained about excessive volume in car radios cruising the Island; another about double-parking when drivers leave their cars to use an ATM at the bank, or pick up an order at the Chinese restaurant.

“My position is that anything that creates any kind of safety impediment has to be terminated, and I will review this with Mr. Fry,” Berman promised. He suggested See **Open House**, page 10

Briefly...

The **Disney** company plans about 15 days of Roosevelt Island shooting as part of a film – title not yet known – that will be shot primarily in Toronto, though its story is apparently set on the Island. An independent casting company will be looking for local faces early in December.



Susheel Kurien

A Sports First Two teams met October 26 in a first-ever all-girls match. Story on page 10.

Letters

To the Editor:

After reading an article about the Tram staff recently, I felt compelled to write. This thank you letter is long overdue! I have been an Island resident for several years now and am happier each year I live here. The staff members and residents who give life to the Island make it a great place to live.

A few months back, I had a tragic accident with my toddler. The baby required immediate emergency attention. Had it not been for Gregg, the Tram operator, and Lisa Williams, a Public Safety Officer, I would have surely had a breakdown. The two made sure that I got immediate tram service to the Upper East side, reassured me that my daughter would be safe once I reached the New York hospital, and even hailed a cab for me once we reached the Manhattan tram stop. My daughter remained in the hospital for several weeks. Gregg and Lisa always inquired about the progress of my daughter with genuine concern and a cheerful smile! I truly felt part of a community.

Because of Island staff members, soccer coaches, cheerful people on Main Street who share their shopping carts with burdened mothers like myself, teenagers who rescue abandoned kittens, and people who smile just while walking down the street, I believe I'm the most fortunate person in the world to call Roosevelt Island home!

K. Lawrence

To the Editor:

Last week, some of my fellow neighbors and I met with RIOC's new president, Herbert E. Berman. I thought it was a great way for Mr. Berman to hear what's on our minds and I appreciated the opportunity. Some issues we were concerned with, Mr. Berman asked Sari Dickson to write down to look into, and others have to be put on the back burner because we are in deficit mode. Although Mr. Berman did not cause the deficit, Governor Pataki, the RIOC Board, and RIOC staff did. For the last few years, we kept hearing how we needed development, that the Island can't survive without new development. Well, we now have two new buildings in Southtown and The Child School has opened this school year. How is it that we have brand new development and still we don't have enough money to restore and maintain our Island? Some may say we need more development. I say lousy deals have been made.

Mr. Ryan blamed Dr. Blue for Southtown. Mr. Ryan and this Board made the deal with The Child School. We have no idea what kind of deal Octagon is going to be. Will this deal pull us out of the hole for the future? Only time will tell. No one is talking, and Mr. Berman already feels that this deal, whatever it is, can't be changed.

Although the Presidents of RIOC have changed a few times within the last few years, the Board of Directors hasn't. We do have two new Board members this year, but the balance have been the same for the last few years, and the negotiations on Southtown and The Child School were made on their watch.

An additional sore point of mine is Southpoint. Although the Board does say that Southpoint will be a park, already there is mention that there has to be some type of development to support the costs of a park. I can't help but wonder, how is it that Bryant Park has turned from a homeless, drug-infested park to a fabulous success story? Bilbao, Spain, turned from a rundown, economically-challenged town to a prosperous one with its new Gehry Museum.

There is no reason in the world that Roosevelt Island can't turn around into an economically-sound community, as it was intended to be. With experts and creative thinking, anything can be done. Regardless of who's heading up RIOC this week, the buck stops with the Board of Directors. The wrong people are running this Island and Mr. Pataki doesn't care and not enough of my neighbors care.

Vicki Feinmel

To the Editor:

On the Motorgate parking hike consideration:

Why is it that when RIOC has budget problems we, the residents of Roosevelt Island, are the ones that pay the ultimate price.

I park my car on the roof of Motorgate, and there haven't been lights up there for a very long time now. There are abandoned cars on every floor. Not to mention the car thefts that occur in the facility.

And they are considering raising the rates. RIOC is so out of order! Try fixing the elevators that seldom work and are really slow. Try cleaning up the place in general. Instead of building a new parking garage for the Octagon property that the Mayor has given the "OK" to build, try fixing what we do have (and getting it to work). This facility is underutilized. There is ample parking for all residents who have cars on the Island. Some residents have chosen to park on the Queens side because it has gotten to be so out of order.

One suggestion to RIOC on getting revenue up: Make the people who work here (not live here) kick in for the daily upkeep. Make them park in the Edison facility and take the bus to the hospitals.

And the construction folks – why are they privy to parking just anywhere they want? Take a look outside the office to see the chaos that all the building is causing on a daily basis. We are overpopulated. Yep! Outside revenue, but why would something so simple work?

Buy a clue! Just not on our dime!

Alexis Villfane

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 (E-mail format preferred, or use any wordprocessing software) to put a file on a 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.

Letters deadline for Nov. 22 issue: Nov. 17

After deadline, letters are considered on a space-available basis.

Da Silva Foundation Bringing Donor and Recipient Together

On Wednesday, an 18-year-old college freshman from Ohio whose life was saved through the efforts of Roosevelt Island's Icla da Silva Foundation will meet the donor whose transplanted stem cells created a turning point in her life.

Elizabeth Howarth, 18, of Ohio, will have her first opportunity to thank Sandra Fernandez, 37, of New York City. Although they have never met, Howarth has been kept alive by healthy stem cells that were donated by Fernandez.

Fernandez joined the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) Registry at a bone-marrow drive organized by The Icla da Silva Foundation at her church in 1996. The drive was for a young Hispanic girl from New York who was suffering with leukemia. "I felt I could make a difference in someone's life," she recalled.

Elizabeth Howarth was just like any other 16-year-old girl until 2001, when she was diagnosed with leukemia. To survive, she would need a stem-cells transplant to help her body make new, healthy marrow. Stem cells are immature cells that can develop into red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. For the transplant to take place, Howarth needed a matching donor. Because the characteristics that determine whether a donor and patient match are inherited, the best chance of finding a matched donor is from a sibling, but 70 percent of patients do not find a suitable match within their own families. Although Elizabeth has two sisters, neither was a match, so she needed an unrelated donor for this life-saving transplant.

Her family turned to the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) for help. A search in the NMDP registry identified one compatible donor out of the more than 5 millions registered. The donor was Sandra Fernandez, a Hispanic woman from Manhattan. Although she was not a match to the Hispanic girl that she registered for, she was willing to help anyone in need. Howarth received the transplant of Fernandez's cells in January, 2002, in Ohio. She is now living a healthy life and is currently attending her first year of college.

Howarth and her family will meet Fernandez at a cocktail reception hosted by the Consulate General of Venezuela and The Icla da Silva Foundation.

The Icla da Silva Foundation, named after a young girl who died despite the efforts of Roosevelt Islanders to raise funds for her care, is the largest Latino recruitment group in the United States. It runs 200 recruitment drives each year, has enlisted over 32,000 potential bone-marrow donors, and has facilitated over 150 stem-cell transplants between unrelated donors and patients. The Foundation has consistently met its goal by making more Latino donors available for patients in need. The Foundation also provides logistical, emotional, and financial support to patients and their families around the world.

Luce Recruits Prince for Orphan Effort

Prince Albert of Monaco recently met with Island resident Jim Luce, the founder and executive director of Orphans International Worldwide. The Prince, who had arrived in New York for the Princess Grace Foundation Annual Dinner, agreed to become OI's first Global Advisory Board member. He had written to Luce last spring, pledging to sponsor an Orphans International child in Haiti.

"He believes that we have come up with the premier model for running orphanages, in terms of transparency, accountability, emphasis on small homes, and the importance of education," Luce said. "He is particularly interested in OI's cooperation with other NGOs so that synergies can be developed and redundancies deleted."

Luce arrived at the Prince's Mark Hotel suite bearing a brightly painted key holder from Haiti. Over 45 minutes, the two discussed "expanding the advisory board to include other world leaders – including American celebrities and leaders from varied religions and nationalities – and how we would network with them."

Chamber Plans Holiday Lighting

The Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce is once again gearing up for holiday decorations on Main Street.

Chamber President Julie Palermo is circulating a letter inviting merchants, Island organizations, and individuals to contribute to the fund, with the goal of hanging lights on as many of the available 22 light poles as possible. Full contributions range from \$250 for a pole to \$500-\$700 for a string across Main Street, but smaller amounts are welcome, says Palermo.

In her letter, Palermo says her committee has checked out the feasibility of buying lights instead of renting them, but found that strong winds here would require purchase of more durable fixtures than those that are rented. Her letter suggests fundraising for purchase of lights could begin as early as February, 2004. She also writes, "...due to the transition that is taking place in RIOC, they will not be able to provide many of the services that would be necessary in the installation, storage, and maintenance of the lights... However, RIOC will provide the electrical connections and electricity and have promised to provide more assistance in 2004." Palermo writes that Roosevelt Island Housing Management will provide its usual assistance for the seasonal project.

For additional information, or to pledge a contribution for the project, call Julie Palermo at **1-646-331-3445** or Charlie De Fino at the Youth Program – **1-212-935-3645**.



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

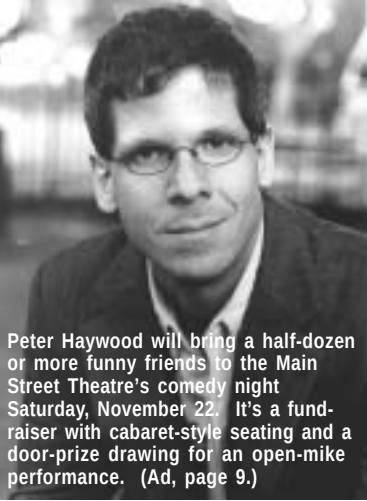
Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Reporters – Mary Camper-Titsingh,
Linda Humphrey, Anusha Shrivastava
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Proofreaders – Linda Heimer, Frances Salten
Photographer – Vicki Feinmel
Typist – Nadya Borisova
Advertising Sales – Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Teri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

Legal Counsel – Lewis Perkiss
Website NYC10044 facilities – Frank Farance
Webmaster – Cathy Lemp

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, Vivianne Codderrrens, Nassima Codderrrens, Thibault Codderrrens, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Valery & Harold Davis, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Julian Edelman, Juanita Elliott, Teresa Hasing, Roberta Hershey, Elaine Kane, Ken Kaplan, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kolba, Eneagua Lewis, Brigitte Loewy, Armando Manalo, Robert Manalo, Clarissa McCraley, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Jenny Olivera-Del Mastro, 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, Nancy Watson, Nina Winteringham, Charlie Wolf

Comic Night



Peter Haywood will bring a half-dozen or more funny friends to the Main Street Theatre's comedy night Saturday, November 22. It's a fundraiser with cabaret-style seating and a door-prize drawing for an open-mike performance. (Ad, page 9.)

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Art As a Gift at Gallery RIVAA, Opening Reception, **Sat., Nov. 8**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., 527 Main Street. Gallery hours Saturdays and Sundays, 11:00-5:00; Wednesdays and Fridays, 6:00-9:00. Free.

John Chapman’s *Harvest* and other poems by Jordan Zinovich, and other poems from his forthcoming book, *The Company I Keep*, read by the poet and by actors Georgie Gray, Stephanie Monseu, and Eric Dean Scott; **Sun., Nov. 9**, 4:00 p.m., Gallery RIVAA.

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.

– The Coming Week –

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 General 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.

– Future Events –

Tex Allen Sextet in Concert, Sun., Nov. 16, 4:00 p.m., St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, 125th Street and Morningside Drive; reception follows. \$20 (children 15 & under, \$15). Additional information: 1-212-662-9125.

Book Discussion – *Passing* by Nella Larsen, **Thur., Nov 20**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Book available at the Library.

The Main Street WIRE – Next issue in two weeks, on **Sat., Nov 22**.

(Get e-mail bulletins in the meantime; to subscribe, send an “Add Me” to nyc10044@rcn.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Nov. 14; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., Nov. 17; fliers due Thur., Nov. 20. Future issues – Dec. 13 (holiday issue), then every two weeks, starting Jan. 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.

Main Street Theatre Comedy Night, Sat., Nov. 22. Note date change. \$16 admission benefits MST&DA scholarship fund. Reservations necessary; call 1-212-361-4449.

Toastmasters Meeting, Mon., Nov. 24, 8:00 p.m. For information, 1-212-935-1254 or 1-212-751-9577.

RIRA Common Council meeting, Wed., Dec. 3, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.

Book Discussion – *Angela’s Ashes* by Frank McCourt, **Thur., Dec. 18**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

Book Discussion – *Pale Fire* by Vladimir Nabokov, **Thur., Jan. 15**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Book available at the Library.

Book Discussion – *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* by J.W. Johnson, **Thur., Feb. 19**, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.



Frances Piazza

Frances Piazza, a long-time resident of the Island, died October 18, on her 77th birthday. She is remembered by her friends and the Roosevelt Island community for her wit, sense of humor, and style. She always wore a hat to match her outfits, and that became her trademark. She was a good friend to many, and will be missed, but never forgotten.

Senior Center

Monday 10-11, Latchhook Class 10-11:30, English as 2nd Lang. 10:30, Blood Pressure Screen 12:30, “Oldies” Movies 1:00, Tai Chi 7:00, Dance Class (Beginners)	12:30, Movie 7:00, Dance
Tuesday 10:00, Computers 10-11, Dance & Relax 1:00, Bingo 6:00, Yoga Class 7:30, Games (RISA)	Friday Pool Tournament (time flexible) 9:30, Yoga Stretch 7:00, Games (RISA)
Wednesday 9:15, Stay Well 10:00, Spanish Class 10:30, Shoppers’ Bus 12:30, Sculpting 7:00, Pokeno (RISA)	Saturday 7:30, Bingo (RISA)
Thursday 10:00, Tai Chi 10:30, Creative Arts	Special Events Mon., Nov. 10 , MetroCard bus, 11:00 Tue., Nov. 11 , RISA General Meeting, 7:00 Tue., Nov. 18 , Fitness for the Future, 11:30 Wed., Nov. 19 , Atlantic City trip Thur., Nov. 20 , birthdays, 12:30 Fri., Nov. 21 , Aqueduct Racetrack trip, 11:00 Sun., Nov. 23 , Annual Dinner, 6:00

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

The RIOC Column

information becomes available.

Last summer, RIOC acquired two portable heart defibrillators, which, when used within six minutes, can, under certain circumstances, restore heart rhythms in heart-attack patients. After consultation with our risk adviser I determined that several officers could be trained in their use. Recently, Public Safety director James Fry arranged for this training and now several Public Safety officers are trained in their proper use. However, I cannot emphasize enough that this is no substitute for calling 911 in a medical emergency. Please, in any emergency, do not call Public Safety first. **Call 911.**

I believe in always presenting issues affecting both RIOC and the Island clearly and truthfully.

To that end, I must report that RIOC is facing a short-term budget deficit and my staff and I are working to see that it does not affect any of the services we provide Island residents. I will provide updates as the situation develops.

Perhaps I was premature when I extolled the “crisp days and chilly nights” of autumn in my last column. Here I sit, pecking out this column in my Bermudas and sleeveless tee shirt, while outside my wide-open window, temperatures more seasonable to June than November dampen my brow and send rivulets down my back. Not that I’m complaining, you understand.

Did you have a nice Halloween? I marched in our parade on October 25 in my hybrid monster costume (part Dracula, part Frankenstein) and greatly enjoyed seeing the outfits of the hundreds of kids who participated. I especially loved the little one dressed up as a Hershey’s kiss! Sherie joined me last Friday to greet Trick-or-Treaters with a fright wig, a mouth dripping gore and “Got Blood?” tee shirt (left over from the Roosevelt Island Day blood drive). Our routine got more giggles than gasps, and our candy was gone by 7:45. I was thrilled to see the number of kids toting “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” containers and we went through all our singles and quarters by the end of the evening. Offered by the United Nations for generations, “Trick or Treat for UNICEF” was probably my own first lesson in civic responsibility. I’ve been encouraging PS/IS 217 to take advantage of this long-standing opportunity to teach even the smallest child to care about his or her peers around the world. And what community could be more appropriate than this world-class agora on a skinny little island?

Did you attend any of the information sessions last July on the Roosevelt Island Tidal Energy project (RITE), sponsored by Verdant Power? They were covered by this newspaper in the July 26 issue and can be accessed on the web at <http://nyc10044.com>. In a nutshell, this project, if brought to fruition, will place fields of underwater turbines in the East Channel of the East River that will generate up to 10 megawatts of power. These turbines will operate solely by virtue of the tidal power of the estuary and will burn no fossil fuels. For an Island plagued by power plant emissions, the potential of saving 68,000 barrels of oil, representing a reduction in pollution equivalent to 167 tons of sulphur dioxide, 30,000 tons of carbon dioxide, and 100 tons of NOx, is exciting and significant.

Verdant Power did their preliminary experiments last winter with a single unit suspended under a barge anchored near the Roosevelt Island Bridge. The next phase may involve a “six-pack” of turbines prior to full implementation. The energy generated, if provided to the Roosevelt Island power grid, could offer less expensive electricity during peak periods of usage and the surplus could be used to extract hydrogen from water that can be stored and used in fuel cells and vehicles.

The RITE project currently operates under a permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that is effective until September 2005. A requirement of that permit and licensing process is the scheduling of public hearings and site tours that will take place some time between November 24 and December 17 of this year. RIRA is among the dozens of

I am pleased to report, after consulting with RIOC’s risk management adviser, that the senior shopping bus to Long Island City will be continued using the Island’s Red Buses, as this part of Queens is in the same coverage area. The schedule is now Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Less encouraging was our adviser’s report that the Red Buses should not be used to travel to the main part of Manhattan. This is an issue that we will continue to revisit and I will keep you posted as more



Herbert E. Berman, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corp.
e-mail: hberman@rioc.com

The RIRA Column

City, State, and Federal organizations invited to take part in these hearings and I know I wouldn’t miss this opportunity for anything. We have a chance to be at the cutting edge of a new age in energy production that is environmentally friendly (turbines spinning at 40 revolutions per minute won’t even muss a fish’s scales), people-friendly (remember, you’re breathing what you wipe off your windowsill) and pocketbook-friendly. Unless we are willing to give up our Hondas,

Dell laptops, and Sony TVs, we had best find better ways of producing energy than the burning of finite fossil fuel supplies. It’s exciting to have a grandstand seat while this happens on our shores.

When your RIRA Common Council met Wednesday evening, the Public Safety Committee offered a new police contact number specifically for identity-theft problems, and I’ll share it with you: **1-866-5-OPT-OUT**. These crimes are more prevalent nowadays, especially in the senior population, and the 114th Precinct is responding to that need.

I hope you had a chance to visit the RIOC offices during their recent Open Houses and shmooze with President Herb Berman. I know they intend to continue the process with several evening events to accommodate working Islanders. Several Roosevelt Island groups have met with Herb on an ongoing basis, and the results are becoming apparent. The Roosevelt Island Safety Kommittee (RISK) has submitted a list of potential members of a new RIOC Board of Directors Public Safety Committee, representing all the residential complexes, to provide an in-depth and ongoing community voice as we sort out the Public Safety Department mission. The first fruits of those meetings were announced last week when we learned that the Public Safety Department has been cleared to take charge of and operate the defibrillators obtained by RIOC. There was some question as to the personal and departmental liability of our officers to take on this emergency medical procedure, but it appears that RIOC’s liability insurance, possibly through New York State indemnification of a State public benefit corporation’s personnel, is sufficient.

Another crisis solved was the problem raised during the August 14 Blackout when the insurance coverage of the Red Buses to operate off-Island was questioned. Having researched the dilemma, RIOC has determined that their bus insurance is sufficient to cover the Senior Association shopping trips as well as any emergency transportation required by a Tram outage or other unforeseen situation.

RIOC has accommodated the community again by acceding to a request by the RIRA Island Services Committee to invite its chair, RIRA Vice President Franz Aliquo, to participate in the Operations Committee of the RIOC Board of Directors. The old adage that two heads (or multiples of two) are better than one certainly applies when RIOC and RIRA work together and pull in the same direction. This augurs well for the future and reminds me of a favorite Ben Franklin quote:

We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.

The Public Safety Blotter for October is now available on Website NYC10044 at <http://nyc10044.com>

The Farmers Market

the highest quality every Saturday at Motorgate

Since 1989

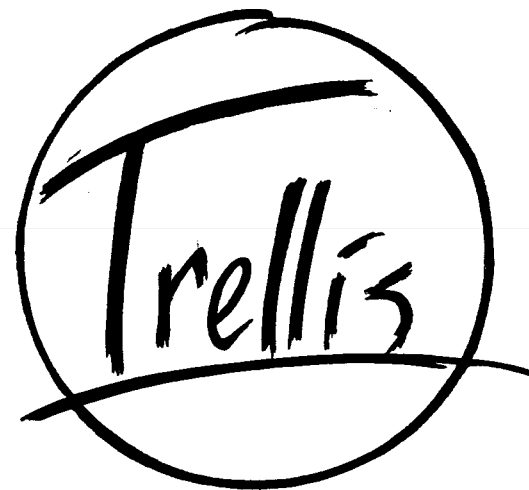


WENGERD FARM

Watson town, Pa.

It's become a Roosevelt Island tradition. The crisp fall air and the good food at the Farmer's Market – and meeting old friends you haven't seen all week. And here's a tip: Try the pears and apples! They're at their peak.

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



The Holidays

They're coming on fast. Soon enough, there'll be that flurry of parties and visitors, along with the traditional overwork of the season that means gift-shopping, entertaining, being a presence at parties... When it all gets to be just a bit too much, build Trellis into your plans. Sit. Have dinner.

Relax with a glass of wine.

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.**

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



Still a few places available for this year

Roosevelt Island Day Nursery

Part-time and Full-time
Preschool Programs

for 3 and 4 year olds
Subsidized Full-day Pre-K

www.ridn.org

We welcome your visit!
4 RIVER ROAD 593-0750

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*

*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

Gallery RIVAA Holiday Art Show



8 ■ 8

November 8th , 2003 - January 8th, 2004



Opening Reception
Saturday, November 8th, 6-9pm



RIVAA Artists' Gift to the Community **Affordable Art**

Maria Casotti, Luigi Cavandoli, Esther Cohen, Antoinette Davis, Selwyn Fund, Eve Gagnon, Rachel Garrick, Toshiko Kitano Groner, Annette R. Hochberg, Arline Jacoby, Eveline Luppi, Dan Nistor, Beatrice Popoiu, Ioan Popoiu, Bill Sinclair, Georgette Sinclair, Edel Stuehmke-Levy, Eliza Sudol, Jeremi Sudol, Tadeusz Sudol, Ilusha Turcihin, and others.



Poetry Reading : Sunday, November 9th at 4 pm
Gallery RIVAA presents Georgie Gray, Stephanie Monseu, Eric Dean Scott, and Jordan Zinovich reading John Chapman's Harvest and other poems.

Gallery RIVAA ■ 527 Main Street ■ Roosevelt Island ■ NY 10044

www.rivaa.com

A Roosevelt Island Double-Dose of Halloween Brings Out the

Photos by Vicki Fein, Paul Katz, and Webb
(More photos, in color, at <http://nyc10044.com>)



A baby wearing a tiger costume, standing outdoors. The costume is orange with black stripes and a white belly patch. The baby is looking to the left.



Unable to Publish WIRE Coverage of Roosevelt Island's Halloween in Color

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.*

5
★ ★ ★ ★
STARS

43 AVE DINER

INDIAN CUISINE

Lunch buffet Mon-Sat 11:30-4:00 \$6.99
Open for Dinner 4:00 PM to 5:00 AM
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

SOME OF OUR SPECIALTIES

ALL CURRIES AND VEGETABLES DISHES SERVED WITH RICE OR NAAN

Chicken Tikka Masala boneless	7.99
Goat or Lamb Curry	7.99
Chicken or Vegetable Biryani	7.99

WE SPECIALIZE IN VEGETABLE DISHES 5.99
Spinach, Black Lentils, Chick-Peas, etc.
All cooked with Indian Spices to your Taste

PUNJABI TANDOOR

Chicken Tikka	7.99
Seekh Kabab	4.99
Tandoori Fish	9.99

FREE DELIVERY MOST NIGHTS
on orders \$15 and over
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

13-15 43rd Avenue – off 21st Street
1-718-784-7444

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

Repair Service Center

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

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

1-718-392-7444

License #730671
Credit Cards Accepted

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

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 school physical 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.

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.*

Delta Dental in-network participant

Some of the Dental Plans we accept toward payment:
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



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.

JET CLEANING SERVICE

Commercial • Residential – Free Estimates

WOOD FLOOR • SHAMPOO • UPHOLSTERY • TILE
STRIP • AWNING CLEANING • OFFICE CLEANING • HOME CLEAN-OUT

Brian Thompson, Mgr.
90 Vanderveer St.
Brooklyn, NY 11207
Tel / Fax – 718-498-1490



INSURED

Island Arts Music Center

*Roosevelt Island's
New Community Music School*

Now Enrolling Students for the Fall Term

Offering instruction in a wide variety of instruments, the Island Arts Music Center is open to students of all ages and musical backgrounds.

Located in the Main St. Cultural Center,
(548 Main St.)
Classes are offered Weekdays and Saturdays

For Information, call (212) 929-8343
Or, visit the Main St. Cultural Center,
and ask about our program.

The Island Arts Music Center was founded by Director of RIVER MUSIC, Robin Russell, trained at Juilliard and Harvard (B.A. in Music). With over 20 years teaching experience with private students, he has been on the faculty of the Turtle Bay Music School, and the Diller-Quaile School of Music.



an evening of standup
comedy with
Peter Haywood
and his funny friends.

Marko Elgart • Greg Contreras • Billy White
Erin Brown • Rory Albanese

\$16 Minimum Donation
For reservations call:
212 371 4449
www.mstda.org

Suggested
age: 16+



The MST&DA programs are supported, in part,
by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

**MAIN
STREET
THEATRE
& DANCE
ALLIANCE**

**Saturday, Nov 22, 9 PM Cabaret Setting
doors open at 8:30 for drinks and "lite fare"**

Garden School

Celebrating 80 Years
33-16 79th Street
Jackson Heights, NY 11372
718-335-6363
www.gardenschool.org

Open House
Nursery – Grade 11
Saturday, November
15
10am

- Nursery Program from age 2
- College preparatory & co-ed
- College counseling program beginning in 9th Grade
- Family conferences
- Gymnasium and playground
- Computer and science labs, dance studio and arts center
- Most faculty with advanced degrees
- Affordable tuition and flexible payment plans
- English Language Academy
- Independent and accredited by Middle States

Average class size:
13

Student– Teacher Ratio:
11:1

College Counseling
Ratio:
15:1

Merit Scholarship Exam
Saturday, November 15
9am
For students entering grades
6-10 in September 2004
Application deadline:
Nov. 12, 2003

*Recent Garden graduates have attended Cornell,
CUNY, Dartmouth, Fordham, Harvard, Ithaca, Johns Hopkins,
NYU, Ohio State, Skidmore, SUNY and Tufts*

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, Property Distribution
- Separation Agreements
- Pre-Nuptial Agreements
- Adoptions

CRIMINAL LAW

- Felonies
- Misdemeanors
- Violations
- DWI

WILLS, TRUSTS and ESTATES

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



Hooray! An awesome PIANO teacher
just moved into your neighborhood!

I teach private music lessons in
PIANO, SAXOPHONE, FLUTE,
and CLARINET to all ages
(and I'm excellent with kids!).

**LOTS OF
EXPERIENCE
AND REFERENCES
1-646-221-8867**



An All-Girls Soccer Match

Roosevelt Island’s young women battled to a spectacular finish at the first all-girl soccer exhibition game Sunday, October 26 (photo, page 1). Under Youth Center auspices, young women playing in the Junior and Senior divisions of the co-ed youth soccer program were formed into two all-girl teams. Inspired by this year’s Womens World Cup Soccer tournament, the two teams of 9-14-year-old young women played a hard-fought hour and 20 minutes of exciting soccer that conclusively proved the maturity of the soccer skills and abilities of our Island girls. Christine Perry (left in photo) coached the GreenMaroon “Lightning” team; Patty Fallone (center) coached BlackGold “Thunder.” High-school senior Seif Dorani (right) was referee. The only goal was scored in the latter part of the second half by Maya Kurien who capitalized on a well-placed assist by Diana Folla during a mêlée in the goal area. Superb play included exciting tackles by players who performed in attack roles they don’t normally get to play when boys take the attack positions in the co-ed league. An excellent turnout of supporters and fans contributed to this fun event that will hopefully be repeated.



Islanders’ Marathon Results



Islanders Karen Bdera (right) and Nick Bdera (inset) and former Islanders Ed and Judy Polcer finished this year’s New York City marathon. Results below, for runners who registered with zip code 10044, were secured for *The WIRE* by Sharon Bermon.

Place		Time	Gender	Age	Age Place
Handcrank	Santiago, Steve	1:53:51	M	45	
Handcrank	Ramirez, Graciela	3:12:18	F	37	
Handcrank	Navarrete, Wladimir	4:14:27	M	41	
1135	Freimer, Meredith L	3:16:08	F	97	30
10664	Intermite, Francesco	4:12:10	M	8510	42 1688
11509	Fiorillo, Matthew	4:15:33	M	9138	30 3721
17657	Conte, Rosanna	4:38:39	F	4346	37 1893
19135	Gomez-Lopez, Carlos	4:44:19	M	14249	37 5730
27248	Popiel, Anne	5:19:01	F	8106	31 3367
29583	Herman, Jillian	5:34:24	F	9158	23 2453
30443	Chenkin, Stuart	5:41:41	M	20894	68 146
33627	Bdera, Nicholas	6:33:11	M	22511	55 1173
33628	Bdera, Karen P	6:33:11	F	11117	42 1715

Tennis Season Wraps

The Roosevelt Island Tennis Association ended its official season with two competitive tournaments.

In late September, the club championships were held. Results, winners listed first, were:

Men’s Singles:	Joe Pereira vs. Garland Poynter	6-1, 6-2
Women’s Singles:	Ozlem Koldemir vs. Atsumi Kolba	6-2, 6-2
Men’s Doubles:	John Rodrigue & Marcello Cali vs. Atul Gokhale & John Dougherty	6-4, 6-3
Mixed Doubles:	Ozlem Koldemir & Oliver Zhu vs. Atsumi Kolba & Michael Kolba	6-4, 6-2

Results of the the playoff finals of the Singles Challenge Ladder in mid-October were:

A Division:	John Rodrigue vs. Michael Kolba	2-6, 7-6(5), 6-4
B Division:	Joern Kornhuber vs. Duncan Lickorish	6-4, 6-2

Though the Tennis Association has officially ended its season activities, the courts will remain open to all permit-holders. The nets will remain in place over the winter. From inside the courts, players can turn on the lights for evening play.

Soccer Standings

Soccer: Youth Program Fall Soccer League standings following games Nov. 1 are:					
Minors (7-8)		Juniors (9-10)		Seniors (11-14)	
Green	4–2–0 (12 pts)	Black & White	6–0–2 (20)	Black & White	9–1–0 (27)
Black & White	3–2–1 (10)	Green	2–2–4 (10)	Burgundy	5–4–1 (16)
Burgundy	2–3–1 (7)	Burgundy	2–4–2 (8)	Green	2–6–2 (8)
Gold	2–4–0 (6)	Gold	2–6–0 (6)	Gold	2–7–1 (7)

Open House from page 1

gested residents register complaints at the office of the Public Safety Department (PSD) and said, “If they’re cumulative, they come to my attention.”

Again, School Buses

Berman said RIOC has met with the head of The Child School about the problem of multiple school buses parked and double-parked on Main Street for long periods while waiting for children to be dismissed from classes. “We monitor it on a daily basis... We told them the only time they’re going to be allowed to be in the bus stops is if they’re picking up or discharging students. The situation has improved dramatically because we had our Public Safety office issue tickets if they ignored us. We warned them first; several of them did, in fact, receive summonses.”

Rivercross resident Raye Schwartz later told Berman, “When I came in here at ten minutes after 1:00, there were three school buses parked in front of Westview. For a 3:30 dismissal? There’s no Public Safety Officer going around to monitor it.” To Schwartz’s complaint of a Public Safety Officer standing idle within sight of school buses “lined up in a crosswalk” on an earlier occasion, Berman said, “Then that guy’s a fool, because we made it very clear on a number of occasions that if they’re inappropriately parked, they’re to get summonses.” Schwartz said she had found buses “double- and triple-parked,” making discharge of passengers difficult.

Berman said RIOC and Public Safety will stay on top of the traffic problems. He added, however, that “there has been, of [budgetary] necessity,” a reduction in the number of Public Safety Officers.

Budget and Real Estate

Residents asked Berman about the relationship between RIOC’s real-estate contracts and its somewhat chronic shortfall in operating income against operating expense. He said he wouldn’t criticize deals made before his arrival. “I will only tell you that anything that I negotiate, I will hope will be at the best price available.” He said RIOC’s current real estate consultant, the Collier firm, is on the Island “at least three days a week,” and has made some suggestions for improving the marketability of open commercial spaces.

He also indicated RIOC plans to work with merchants to improve the look of their shops. “I was struck by the fact that the general appearance of the commercial space on the Island is very dismal. You have little or no ability to see the type of stores. On the west side you have a better ability to be seen [but] to my eye, it’s a very dismal look.

“We will be meeting with various commercial tenants to encourage their creating a better appearance to their stores. Collier has brought in a number of upscale type of prospective tenants to look at the facilities, and hopefully interest them in coming on board. We’re trying to get Dunkin’ Donuts, Starbucks, Subway – any nationally known chain to lend some credibility to the shopping area. I’m very pleased with the [Collier] effort.”

On the subject of Island rental rates, one resident pointed out, “Some people have been quoted \$35 a square foot,” then added, “Nobody pays that on this Island.”

Berman responded, “If \$35 a foot results in no takers, you negotiate. That’s the asking price. It’s not unreasonable considering the location... I assure you that 90% of the prospective commercial tenants know what they can pay and what will be profitable to them.”

One resident commented on prices – “at Gristede’s and the liquor store – higher than anywhere else in the City.”

“The liquor store hasn’t paid rent here in about a year,” Berman said. “I have them in court now.” He added, “He has a very large store [and] probably would have been more successful with a smaller store.”

To one lament about the loss of the bakery, Berman said, “We’d love to have a bakery here, but if there are other tenants who come and they want to pay rent, what are we going to say? No? And take a loss? We can’t do that. I don’t know if any bakery is going to express interest in coming here or not.”

Rivercross resident Linda Heimer asked Berman, “Why can’t the State make up for [RIOC’s] budget shortfall when they are the ones who negotiated a terrible deal on Southtown?”

“I don’t envision that happening,” he said. “A number of years ago Roosevelt Island was told that they had to become self-sufficient. The prospect of getting any State support is very, very doubtful. I don’t care what administration [Republican or Democratic], the State’s running at a deficit of five to ten billion dollars. Over the next five years, this Island’s going to have to become self-sustaining.” Berman acknowledged strong support for specific Island needs from City Council Speaker Gifford Miller and Assemblymember Pete Grannis, as well as State Senator Olga Mendez.

Southtown’s Future

When asked about the specifics of RIOC’s deal on Southtown, Berman seemed to reveal some current thinking at RIOC: “It’s my understanding that [buildings] 1 through 9 was an award given to Hudson/Related. They’ve completed 1 and 2. Upon completion of number 2 they have 24 months in which to start number 3. If they don’t move within the 24 months, then you can go elsewhere and try to get someone else to bid it. [The price] would depend on the market at that time. But if they don’t do it, then, of course, you have other options.” Asked about buildings 5 through 9, Berman added, “We’re having our lawyers research the implications of 5 through 9. We feel that we’re very bound up on 1 through 4. There is a question on 5 through 9, but I’m not certain on that. We’re in a process of researching that. That’s very fragile, an iffy situation. Until the lawyers tell us otherwise, we’re assuming that they [Related and Hudson] have rights.

Octagon Project

“Is the Octagon project going to be a moneymaker for us?” Berman was asked. “I hope so. Right now, my concern with Octagon is whether or not they receive their HUD mortgage approval in appropriate time. About the terms of RIOC’s deal with Becker and Becker for the Octagon location, Berman said, “In the context of today’s market, it probably could be better. In the context of the market at the time it was negotiated, I assume that the people who negotiated the terms felt that it was [a good deal for the Island].”

Asked about legal objections to the Octagon project voiced by Assemblymember Pete Grannis, who has said that the open-spaces law passed in 2002 prohibits construction in Octagon Park other than rehabilitation of the Octagon structure, Berman said, “Our lawyers have told us there’s no legal impediment.”

[Bruce Becker of Becker and Becker told *The WIRE* this week, “We knew from the start that the HUD process would be time-consuming, particularly given the complexity of the Octagon project. We expect to have the HUD approval in place sometime in the first quarter of 2004.”]

Southpoint

When Shirley Margolin, who was instrumental in management of Roosevelt Island in its earliest days as a residential community, raised the subject of Southpoint’s future, Berman said a speaker from the Trust for Public Lands would be coming to Thursday’s RIOC Board meeting. “She’s going to make some proposals. I have great faith in the future of that area as parkland. The only type of development that’s appropriate on the park portion is recreationally-affiliated projects that are consistent with park communities. I took one look at Renwick [the ruin] and I think it’s a natural environment space for a stage...”

Tramway and MetroCard

“We’re in very, very serious negotiations with the Transit Authority” on MetroCard for the Tramway, Berman said. “It’s one of the most ongoing and continuing and tedious negotiations that I’ve been involved in.” Pointing out that RIOC’s budgeting attributes a \$2 million operating loss to the Tramway, Berman added, “The one thing that will give it life and rehabilitate it financially is the MetroCard. I think it’s essential that the Tram continue because it’s a very important part of the Island, so I consider [MetroCard] a priority.”

Continued next page

At 217, an 8th-Grade Raffle



These enterprising 8th-graders at PS/IS 217 snagged voters on Tuesday to sell raffle tickets. They're raising money for their senior trip to Baltimore and Washington. A dollar buys you a chance on a Thanksgiving basket of cheer. Ticket sales will continue through Parent-Teacher Conferences to be held Thursday, November 20.

Open House continued from page 10

Subway Bus Stop

Rivercross resident Vicki Feinmel voiced a commonly-heard complaint about the positioning of the bus stop well north of the subway station, forcing riders either to wait at the stop in inclement weather or dash from the station to the stop when a bus approaches.

“Let me tell you what the problem is. If the bus stopped right in front of the subway [station], cars, in order to pass, would then blindly go into the opposing lane of traffic, and you have a safety problem. The only way to correct that is if you widen the Street so that the bus could comfortably move over and [others] could pass without going into the opposing lane of traffic. At this juncture, because of our budget problems, that’s an issue that has to be revisited when we have the money to do some capital work.”

General Upkeep

During a discussion of commercial garbage haulers using Good Shepherd Plaza between the Chapel and Trellis when they pick up Trellis refuse, Berman commented, “A lot of the zee-bricks are not in good condition, and we have to make a policy decision whether we rebuild with zee-bricks, which are fragile, or go with concrete, which is more durable.”

When a resident proposed a “clean-up crew,” Berman said, “Hopefully, in the next fiscal year, we’ll be able to do that... I hope it’ll change. I can’t guarantee it.”

Goals

Asked about his priorities, Berman said, “My first priority when I came here was to reorganize and rehabilitate this office... When I came here, I found a totally demoralized staff – very, very demoralized – and a major part of what I’ve been doing over the last three months is to invigorate the staff, and I think we’ve come a long, long way.”

Other Items

- Berman agreed there are drainage problems at Firefighter’s Field; his aide, Sari Dickson, said the field can’t be closed for repair work yet because it has been scheduled for matches.

- Berman said that reports that lights are out will get priority treatment by RIOC, as a matter of safety. He said that lights near the north campus of Coler-Goldwater Hospital are the responsibility of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, not RIOC.

- On an emergency plan for the Island, Berman said Chief Financial Officer Patrick Siconolfi is chairing an internal committee developing the plan, and that it will be “put in printed form, and then they’re going to meet with RIRA,” the Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council.

- Berman said stop signs at the turnaround will be moved. “I wholeheartedly agree that it has to be corrected, and it’s being corrected... We had a traffic engineer come up and he made the recommendations for the change. Let’s just listen to the engineer and we’ll see what happens.”

- On privatization efforts for Rivercross, Island House, and Westview, Berman said, “Any privatization effort must carry with it a plan that will be acceptable to the Attorney General, and [RIOC is] not going to approve anything that’s not acceptable or not viable to the people.”

- Several residents thanked Berman for holding the open-house events and announcing plans for later evening events, expressing appreciation for his willingness to listen. Berman reiterated an “open-door policy,” inviting residents to call him, write, or send him e-mails at hberman@rioc.com. [To send a copy to *The Main Street WIRE*, use editor@MainStreetWIRE.com.]

Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified Internist, FACP
Specialist in Adult Medicine

Health Plans Accepted
Aetna/USHealthcare
Empire Blue Cross
CIGNA GHI HIP
Multiplan
Oxford
United Healthcare
Medicare

**1-212-
832-2310**

House Calls
For the frail elderly
and the homebound

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

JOLSON’S WINES & LIQUORS

22-24 31st Street, Astoria
1-718-728-2020

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

Prices valid through Nov. 25, 2003

Chat. St. Jean
Chardonnay
\$11.99
750ml

Rosemount
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

Frixenet C.N Brut
\$9.99
750ml

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

Classified

50¢/word • 1-212-751-8214

Deadline for November 22 issue: **November 18**

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**.

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**.^(12/03)

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**.

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

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

NOTARY PUBLIC – **1-212-935-7534**.

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

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

ROOSEVELT ISLAND POSTCARDS – Color Views of Tram and Lighthouse Park; sets of 20 (10 each) for \$8, or two sets, \$15. Check payable to *The WIRE* to 531 Main Street with your address, phone, e-mail address (if available). Questions: **1-212-826-9055**. Sorry, no phone or credit card orders.

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 doorkeeper. Contact owner at ffandco@aol.com by e-mail.

MOVING? – Use *WIRE* classifieds to sell the stuff you’d rather not move. Reach every apartment on Roosevelt Island and turn your discards into dollars.

GRISTEDED'S

And WHITE ROSE



TWO NAMES YOU CAN TRUST!

“The WHITE ROSE Brand has been sold in New York for over 100 years. It is well recognized for its **VALUE** without sacrificing **QUALITY**. GRISTEDE’S is proud to feature these All-American New York Products.”

Prices effective from 11/8/03 - 11/15/03

John A. Catsimatidis, Chairman & CEO

White Rose
Apple Juice
or Cider
\$1 59
64 oz.



White Rose
Granulated
Sugar
\$1 99
5 lb. Bag



White Rose
Cranberry
Juice Cocktail
\$2 19
64 oz.

All Varieties



White Rose
Lemon Juice
\$1 09
32 oz.



White Rose
Corn or
Vegetable Oil
\$2 49
48 oz.



White Rose
Old Fashion
Seltzer
4/\$2
1 liter

All Varieties



White Rose
Corn
Flakes
\$1 59
15 oz. Box



White Rose
Soda
99¢
2 liter

All Varieties



White Rose
Spring
Water
99¢
gallon

All Varieties



White Rose
Apple
Sauce
\$1 19
25 oz.

All Varieties



White Rose
Tomato
Sauce
4/\$1
8 oz.



White Rose
Saltines
99¢
16 oz. Box



White Rose
Kernelettes or
Cream Style Corn
3/\$2
15 oz.



White Rose
Yogurt
4/\$2
8 oz.

Regular or Light



White Rose
American Cheese
Singles
\$2 49
12 oz.



White Rose
Macaroni
& Cheese
2/\$1
7.25 oz.



White Rose
Peanut
Butter
\$1 79
18 oz.



White Rose
Orange
Juice
\$2 09
1/2 gallon

From Concentrate



White Rose
Bagels
6 PACK
99¢
12 oz.

All Varieties



White Rose
Cat Litter
\$1 99
each

10 LB. BAG!



White Rose
Paper
Towels
69¢
70 ct.

69¢ BEST VALUE



White Rose
Toilet
Tissue
3/\$2
1000 ct. Roll



White Rose
Facial
Tissues
99¢
175 ct. Box



White Rose
Toilet
Tissue
\$1 39
1120 ct.

4 PACK!

