

Next issue:
Sat., Jan. 24

The Main Street **WIRE**TM

Between-issues bulletins by e-mail (Send "Add Me" to WIRE@nyc.rr.com)

Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Tram Hang-Up A crowd of firefighters greeted Tram passengers December 14 after they had spent about an hour hanging over the East River. A ConEd power surge tripped a breaker, denying power to the system, and there were delays starting an emergency generator. About 20 passengers were involved, and over a dozen emergency vehicles responded, just on the Roosevelt Island side. Passengers were cold, but there were no injuries and no panic.

DCHR Hearing Westview Fighting a Proposed Rent Hike

'Tis the season... for increases in the cost of housing. Rivercross residents have been told that a 7% increase in maintenance charges will show up in the cooperative's monthly bills, starting this summer. Island House has been through a DCHR Budget Rent Determination hearing and its residents await the news, good or bad. And this week Westview had its hearing at the DHCR offices on

Beaver Street. The landlord seeks an 11% increase. Residents' representatives say the available numbers support a 23% reduction in rents, but suggest the *unavailable* numbers – the cost of Public Safety services, for example – mean that no rent increase should be granted until all the facts are on the table. Westview residents were briefed Monday night on what its Task Force hopes for. A standing-room-

New Partner for Westview and Island House Comes with a Record of Many Privatizations

The new partner in Island House and Westview is The Sheldrake Organization. Its founder is J. Christopher Daly. The Sheldrake Organization describes itself as "the largest owner and manager of privatized public housing in New York State," and says, "Through enduring partnerships with both government and non-profit agencies, Sheldrake now owns and operates more than 2,500 units of housing in seven counties throughout New York State. Furthermore, Sheldrake currently has Federal and State applications pending, the approval of which will lead to the renovation and construction of an additional 1,500 units." In a related development, RIOC has received a proposal for extension of the ground leases for Westview and Island House (see story, page 8, and the RIOC President's column, page 3).

Daly did not respond to messages left this week at his office in Hempstead, Long Island. *The WIRE* was not able to determine whether a deal has actually been made, nor to determine what stake Daly's company will hold in the Roosevelt Island properties. According to an aide to City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, Daly has an appointment for a meeting with Miller. Both Island House and Westview are currently Mitchell-Lama properties under the supervision of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), which sets rental rates. This week, in fact, DHCR held a hearing on the owner's request for

a rent hike for Westview (see story, above). If the buildings are privatized – that is, privately mortgaged and removed from the Mitchell-Lama program – they are no longer under



Photo: CUNY-TV, *The Stoler Report*
J. Christopher Daly

DHCR supervision, and owners are free to raise rents. But on its website, Sheldrake makes a point of saying it maintains affordability in the housing it owns or manages: *The Sheldrake Organization is currently focusing on the development of affordable housing and, more specifically, the conversion of public housing to private ownership. Through pro-active management of its more than 2,500 units throughout New York State, Sheldrake has become engrained in the economic, social, and cultural fabric of the communities it serves. It is the mission of this Organization to preserve and main-* See **Daly**, page 8

RIRA Council Asks for Local Election of the RIOC Board

Calls for Governor and Mayor to Appoint Elected Residents

by Dick Lutz

The newest member of the RIOC Board, Deborah Beck, appeared before the Residents Association Common Council Wednesday night. She responded to a litany of Councilmember concerns about bad development deals, a deteriorating Island, complaints about the Public Safety Department, and bad decisions on matters ranging from bus routes to landmarks, then told the residents on the RIRA Common Council, "If you don't feel empowered, empower yourselves." Minutes later, the Council passed

resolutions calling on the Governor and the Mayor to appoint only elected residents to the RIOC Board. "Be it resolved," reads the resolution aimed at the Governor, that RIRA "requests that the Governor... pledge to fill all vacancies and expired seats [on the RIOC Board] with individuals who have been democratically elected by the community, until such time as the legislature can enact, and the Governor will sign into law, legislation

tions are available on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com with this issue of *The WIRE*. The Council resolutions, which had been prepared in advance, were not a direct response to Beck's call for residents to "empower yourselves." Rather, they appear to be a response to resident leaders' frustration that the Governor has failed to fill out his Board appointees in accordance with the law he signed in June, 2002.



Deborah Beck of the RIOC Board, at Wednesday night's RIRA meeting.

that will implement local democratic control by the people of Roosevelt Island." The resolution directed to the Mayor has similar language. The Governor appoints five members of the nine-member Board. The Mayor recommends two additional people to the Governor, one of whom must be a resident. Under a law Governor George Pataki signed in September, 2002, four of the Governor's choices must also be Island residents, though there is no requirement that any be chosen in a resident election. But the Governor has allowed terms of RIOC Board appointees to expire without replacing them, and Mayor Bloomberg has been slow to submit a name after a resignation. At present, resident Board members Patrick Stewart and David Kraut are continuing service on expired terms, as is non-resident Leo Kayser. Another resident appointee, Susan Whitaker, resigned. If all Board seats were now filled under the terms of the 2002 law, residents would have a controlling majority on the RIOC Board. The Common Council's resolu-

In her hour-long conversation with members of the RIRA Common Council, Beck was upbeat. She told the Councilmembers, "My sense is that the RIOC Board and the leadership of RIOC now has an energy level and, within the constraints of the current financial situation, is desirous of improving the situation on Roosevelt Island. "Having lived here since 1977, and lived through the period when that was the norm – where they were trying to make things better – and then we went into the pits for a while, now we have a new administration, which I think is very well-intentioned. Will their good intentions lead to the type of actions that will satisfy everybody in this room? I don't know. But I would certainly want to be there encouraging them. You have a situation now, for the first time in a good number of years, where we have people who are really interested in getting things running properly. Whether they can pull it off...? I'll certainly do all I can to help. But I think you have an environment that has not existed See **RIRA**, page 8

Briefly...

Motorgate Crime – The December Public Safety Blotter, which will be posted at nyc10044.com this weekend, shows a dozen incidents of vandalism in Motorgate on December 18, in areas 3A, 3B, 6A, and 7C. **Tram Out of Service** – The Tramway went out of service Thursday morning after some fuses blew. As *The WIRE* went to press, indications were that the Tram would probably be running by Thursday evening. **Maloney Honored** – Rep. Carolyn Maloney, the Island's Congressional delegate, was named to *Ms. Magazine's* "50 Women Who Made a Difference" list, the only member of Congress to receive the honor. She was recognized for her work on women's issues, ranging from a law expediting processing of DNA in rape cases to her work chairing the Congressional Women's Caucus. **Hammer Honored** – Rivercross General Manager Mitchell Hammer was named Property Manager of the Year by the New York Association of Realty Managers.

Letters

To the Editor:

Judy Berdy is one of our Island’s greatest assets, but I was distressed to read her negative letter published December 13 in which she unjustly indicts “the dozen members of the Maple Tree Group (MTG)” for the views expressed in an earlier letter (November 22 *WIRE*) by one of its members – another Island asset – Nurit Marcus. Exercising her right to comment on several well-recognized shortcomings of RIOC, Nurit had listed a dozen or so.

Judy writes she was “most offended by the tone of the letter,” and stated Roosevelt Island has a “need for action-oriented residents who will actually volunteer to raise funds, do projects, and get out of Trellis onto Main Street.” She suggests, in an excessively broad critique, that “our Maple Tree friends should look to the positive side of living on this Island.” In addition to mixing up a single MTG member with the group as a whole, my friend Judy implies that MTG members make no contribution to that positive side of life here.

I know for a fact they have not only helped improve life on our Island, but they have been enormously helpful to me as I attempt to make a change in the lives of children around the world through Orphans International. In my friend’s confusion, I believe she does a serious disservice to both MTG and its several dozen members. I have seen with my own eyes that MTGers have been active at the core of many Island activities, including Judy’s own Historical Society. I understand that MTG members have scored other successes as well:

- The convener of MTG was instrumental in having our Library become part of the New York Public Library system.
- A member spearheaded the 9/11 Memorial just west of the Chapel. With others, she organized 9/11 memorial events two years in a row.
- MTG members have organized and contributed to RIRA’s Thanksgiving dinner for Island firefighters each November since 9/11/01.
- Several MTG members fought a Southtown deal, now recognized as a financial mistake for RIOC, through RIRSD.
- Two members created the *Our Lives* first-Sunday series at Gallery RIVAA.
- At least nine members of MTG serve (or have served) on the RIRA Common Council, in several cases chairing important committees.
- Another member spent several years lobbying for the cameras and annunciators that make subway stations here and at Lexington Avenue safer.
- Two or more were responsible for bringing movies to Southpoint last summer.
- Through RIRA, MTG members created summer dances on the pier.
- On behalf of RIRA, members raised funds for its Legal Action Committee, creating and selling an Island cookbook in cooperation with the PTA.
- Another member contributes *Website NYC10044* file-server service.
- One member coaches youth sports teams and serves on the Youth Center’s Board of Directors.
- Nurit herself is a member of the Tree Board and, years ago, was a founder of the precursor of Island Kids

And we should not forget that MTG members fought for and got legislation giving residents a majority of the seats on the RIOC Board of Directors – and that Island democracy is, in fact, MTG’s one clearly-defined target mission.

My friend’s letter was a 12-gauge blast badly aimed at all MTG members. But a precision rifle shot at Nurit, though somewhat more appropriate, would have been unfortunate as well, as I find Nurit to be perhaps the sweetest person to inhabit our Island. RIOC’s many failures should not be ignored or papered over any more than its precious few successes should be. In her letter Nurit was simply voicing entirely reasonable disapproval of the lapses of a highly-paid but underachieving RIOC staff. Her letter hit the mark.

Jim Luce

This issue’s editorial is on pages 6-7.



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To the Editor:

With the current High Alert status that our city has been experiencing, I am writing in an effort to see if you may be able to help me find out some answers to some questions that possibly other residents have been thinking about too.

Specifically, what new measures are being taken to protect the citizens of Roosevelt Island? Are there additional security measures at any of the entry points to the Island? Secondly, I (as most of the residents) have also noticed a continued lack of attentiveness to the disastrous state of Motorgate. Aside from the filth and need of proper lighting, why is there a growing number of deserted cars that are not being attended to, which clearly pose a danger to the Island? These cars, if left on a street, would certainly become suspicious to anyone else. Understanding that Motorgate is a private garage, when is it an appropriate time for the governing parties to become involved in a collective effort to protect our safety?

Lastly, at least for today, numerous studies have been conducted on the effects of lighting and its relation to safety; simply put, well-lighted places are safer places. How come there isn’t proper lighting when exiting the subway and walking toward Main Street? I see the lights turned on by the water walkway, but none, at all, on the main path; they seem to be sitting there just waiting to be turned on.

These questions may all be very trivial to some, but I think not to most. Hopefully *The WIRE* can play an important role in helping those of us who are concerned to sleep a bit sounder. Thank you in advance for your assistance. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cynthia Hornig

Editor’s note: After the Blackout, RIOC President Herb Berman promised an emergency plan, to be made public. *The WIRE* will report on it as soon as it is available.

To the Editor:

The December 13 issue of *The WIRE* carried a three-pronged letter from Judith Berdy, one of the 3000 or so active Island residents. One prong acknowledged RIOC shortcomings and offered apologies for them as though RIOC is unable to deal with those shortcomings. RIOC shortcomings are many, obvious, and need to be addressed.

The second prong was unfortunate. In the public press, she passed judgment upon the civic activities of another active Islander.

The third prong was a slur against a larger number of residents. From time to time, Berdy has attended meetings of the Maple Tree Group, along with over 100 other residents. Everyone who has attended knows that MTG focuses on securing local democracy. Topics such as the 16 Island problems raised by Nurit Marcus (another of the 100+ MTG participants, whose letter Berdy was criticizing) are properly left to other groups with other missions. All the active MTGers, like Berdy, work hard in a variety of other attempts to make the Island a better place. To suggest otherwise is a canard.

Citizen interest and concern needs to be nurtured, not run down. There is room for all residents to follow their interests in working on Island problems. Over 150 existing Island organizations, not just RIOC, deserve support and informed participation.

Community issues need the public press. Historically criticism and dissent, as shown in Marcus’s letter, is an American privilege. This Island community is fortunate to have *The WIRE* as a forum in which RIOC can be praised or criticized.

David J. Bauer, Convener
Maple Tree Group

To the Editor:

I am writing to you for two reasons. The first reason is the matter of a letter of complaint about the football players “chopping the field into muck.” This is highly untrue. The soccer league also plays there, in cleats! If you look at the fields, the only place where the fields are destroyed is in the center, and towards the goal. Why would we play running towards the soccer nets? I’m not saying that we, the football players, don’t contribute to ruining the fields, but please do
See **Letters**, page 10

To the Editor:

On January 4, along with several of my neighbors at 625 Main St., I tried calling Public Safety between 4:00 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. to complain about people shouting and talking very loudly along the promenade behind 625 Main St. After several attempts, with no response from Public Safety, I contacted the door station at 625. I was informed at that time that several of my neighbors had called, as well, to no avail. The door station could not contact Public Safety, either! Was anyone home? I contacted the phone company, and they stated that the lines were OK. What would have happened if this were a more severe problem?

At 7:00 a.m., I called Public safety, and the officer stated that they had just come on duty and did not know of any problem.

Public Safety should explain this lack of response and correct any problems if they exist.

(Please do not print my name, as I am sure that PSD will target me in the future.)

Name Withheld

To the Editor:

Most everyone who takes the RIOC Bus to and from the subway seems pleased with the decision to move the bus stops closer to the subway. This is a welcome change for all – particularly now, during the cold winter season.

But the new non-rush-hour bus schedule is baffling. Over the years on Roosevelt Island, many of us grew accustomed to coming out of the subway knowing the Red Bus schedule has been tied to pick-ups at the Tram at least every quarter hour. But now during non-rush-hour periods the bus bypasses the subway to stop only twice an hour. This is a change that seems to make no sense. The bus still picks up at the Tram, but bypasses the subway by going around the back side of the Southtown buildings. Is there money to be saved by this? The bus still runs, but it seems to bypass revenue by skipping the subway station where frustrated riders either wait up to a half hour or longer, brave the cold and inclement weather, or take the Queens Commuter bus, if they are lucky, with a free transfer from their MetroCard.

The new schedule seems particularly odd given the accommodation of the new bus stops. It seems that RIOC has given something nice to riders while at the same time taking something important away.

Perhaps I missed something with the announcement of the new routes. I don’t understand the logic involved in this new change. I know that my family and I are far from the only ones that find this new change quite a hassle. The transportation options on Roosevelt Island seemed to be a great plus living here. I hope the previous schedule can be restored.

Jack Lipton

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 copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to 212-755-2540 (call ahead to 212-826-9055). Clearly-handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance, and to editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

Letters deadline for Jan. 24 issue: Jan. 19

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

The holidays are over, the ball has fallen in Times Square, and we have settled into winter’s dark and hush. I count the days until “pitchers and catchers” signals the start of spring training, baseball, and the quickening of life.

No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
—Matthew 6:24

This has often been my theme when discussing the RIOC Board of Directors. How can a Director, especially one residing on Roosevelt Island, serve on this Board at the pleasure of the Governor and also serve the needs of his or her neighbors and him/herself? For Island residents, the actions of this Board are not abstract but specific to the well-being – the future viability, really – of this planned community.

Without the direct endorsement of the Roosevelt Island voting public, even Directors who are our neighbors can never really be said to represent this community, only the master who appointed them.

This lesson was reinforced for me at the December RIOC Board of Directors meeting. I had heard rumors that both Westview and Island House had new owners and that the negotiations with RIOC for new ground leases, essential for those owners to buy out of the Mitchell-Lama system that has protected our affordable housing for almost thirty years, were in progress. I approached Patrick Stewart, Board member and Island House resident, to get his input. He told me that, as an Island House tenant, he felt duty-bound to recuse himself from the ground-rent discussions.

I’m no expert on New York State political ethics (an oxymoron if ever I heard one) and don’t know if Patrick is truly required to distance himself from these talks and the vote that will result from them. I do know that the resident members of this nine-member Board are not of much use if they cannot participate in Roosevelt Island matters that directly affect themselves. We would be better off with a Board composed entirely of off-Island carpetbaggers who were committed to maintaining Roosevelt Island as a bastion of middle-class affordable housing than a Board composed of a majority of Islanders (as required by law but never put into effect by Gov. Pataki) who shrink from defending our interests.



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

My point is this: If resident Board members cannot participate in the seminal issues of Island life because of their “fiduciary” responsibilities to a public benefit corporation and to a governor who has not only never visited this community, but who abuses his powers of political patronage here, then the system is flawed, is a failure of American democracy, and should be replaced by a Board elected of and by the community. When will Albany act on our behalf?

Also discussed at the December Board meeting was the fate of the Smallpox Hospital at Southpoint, also known as the Renwick ruin. Throughout the past spring and summer, the Board has discussed plans for stabilizing this fragile landmark so that it might survive the winter. However, it was decided a day after winter began to perform a special photographic survey, much cheaper than the temporary stabilization first envisaged, that would mark the building’s stones for restoration even after they crumble in this winter’s snows.

I’m not an engineer, but the RIOC Board has had months, if not years, to figure out how best to preserve this irreplaceable landmark. To decide at such a late date to simply let the elements have their way seems to me yet another rationalization for inaction. It means that, should the Renwick hospital fall this winter, and until a plan is finalized to include it in some Southpoint Park project, it will sit as a desolate pile of stones rather than as a monument to this Island’s history. What a shame.

It’s *déjà vu* all over again: The Manhattan-side Tram elevator is again out of service and awaiting parts. Didn’t we just do this last spring? At that time we made the case that the external lift, being used only for the wheelchair bound, should be made available to anyone unable to climb the steep stairs to the Tram platform. A chair was provided for that purpose. Operating this system is a drain on Tram personnel, as someone is required to manually operate the secondary lift. However, the alternative is to require the elderly, the ill, and the frail to either negotiate the stairs or walk five blocks to the F-train station and hope that the elevators are working on both the Manhattan and Roosevelt Island sides. RIOC President Herb Berman has promised to revive the old standards of use for the external lift, including providing a chair, and subject to the time constraints and

See **Katz**, page 8

Bernie Schwartz

Bernie Schwartz died of a rare form of cancer at age 69, December 20, 2003. A memorial celebration is scheduled today (Saturday, January 10) at 1:00 p.m., at the Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Road.

Bernie taught social studies and English in Brooklyn. Although he was an assistant principal, he had to turn down appointment to a school because of kerataconus, an “orphan” eye disease which required several cornea transplants. Instead, he was appointed to Board of Education headquarters, where he became coordinator of in-service teacher training. Later, until his retirement in 1991, he headed the textbook acquisition and review program.

Bernie moved to Roosevelt Island in 1981 with his wife, Raye, and their children. He was treasurer of the Youth Soccer League for five years. Among other community activities, he was a member of *The Main Street WIRE* “stuffing” crew, where his consistent good nature and warm humor often made a routine task a delight. He also helped the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association with its annual fashion show, acting as an escort.

He tutored Russian immigrants through a Brotherhood program at Central Synagogue, and co-chaired the entertainment programs for the blind.

In retirement, Bernie followed his lifelong dream to be a writer. His first book, *Memoirs of Mr. D.*, told the story of a former mentor, Adolph Dembo. A chance meeting at Dembo’s funeral, with Rivercross neighbor Gerry Chatanow, whom he knew only by sight, led to his next book, *Another Time, Another Place: A Neighborhood Remembered*, which he co-authored with Gerry. At the time of his death, Bernie was researching and working on a book about comedy with Paul Herzich, a fellow educator. Bernie’s wife, Raye, hopes to continue working on the book and get it published.

As an organ transplant recipient because of his “orphan eye disease” Bernie always felt he wanted to give back and donate his organs to scientific research. Thus, his corneas were donated to the eye bank, while other tissue was donated to cancer research.

In addition to wife Raye, Bernie is survived by their daughter Wendy, son Lewis, sister Min Myar, godchildren Evan and Allison Myar, nephew Maury Myar, and nieces Sheila Fox Myar, Andrea Lindenbaum, and Laurel Ruggiano.

Donations in Bernie’s memory may be made to: Columbia University, c/o Dr. K. Papadopoulos Cancer Research, 161 Ft. Washington Avenue, New York, NY 10032; or Eye-bank for Sight Restoration, 120 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005.

I wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2004.

Dick Lutz, publisher and editor of *The WIRE*, prompted the content for this installment by passing along several questions from Island residents on a number of issues ranging from the nation’s Orange Alert status from the Department of Homeland Security to broken streetlights near the subway.

One resident wanted to know what RIOC was doing regarding the elevated alert status announced over the holidays. The answer is RIOC has been implementing several safety initiatives since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

First, New York City, unlike the rest of the country, has been on Orange Alert since 2001. RIOC staff has coordinated its safety efforts with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, the NYPD and the City Office of Emergency Management.

Activities include, but are not limited to, Tram safety procedures – which have been in place for years – evacuation plans, and strategic planning for all of New York City. As both Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg have stated on numerous occasions, New York City is well protected and that includes the Island.

One thing I did have to order over the holidays was the closing of Southpoint. This was viewed as a prudent act by law enforcement due to Southpoint’s proximity to potential targets in New York City. As many of you may have noticed since 2001, law enforcement agents are often on the Island, especially when the United Nations is in session.

City OEM also has provided RIOC with booklets we dis-



COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Bernie Schwartz Memorial Gathering, Sat., Jan. 10, 1:00 p.m., Manhattan Park Theater Club.

– The Coming Week –

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon., Jan. 12, 8:00 p.m. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577 / 212-935-1254**.

RIOC President’s Open House for Eastwood and Manhattan Park residents, **Tue., Jan. 13**, 5:00-7:00 p.m., RIOC office, 591 Main Street. To attend, call RIOC at **212-832-4540** or e-mail JFRM@RIOC.com.

RIOC President’s Open House for residents of Island House, Rivercross, Westview, and Southtown, **Wed., Jan. 14**, 5:00-7:00 p.m., RIOC office, 591 Main Street. To attend, call RIOC at **212-832-4540** or e-mail JFRM@RIOC.com.

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

– Future Events –

Eastwood Building Committee meeting, **Thur., Jan. 15**, Senior Center Community Room, 546 Main Street.

Historical Society meeting, **Tue., Jan. 20**, 7:00 p.m., Island House Community Room, 555 Main Street.

The Main Street WIRE – next issue **Sat., Jan. 24**. (To receive e-mail bulletins in the meantime, send an “Add Me” message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Jan. 16; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., Jan. 19; fliers due Thur., Jan. 22. **Future issues:** Feb. 7, 21; Mar. 6, 20; Apr. 3, 17; May 1, 15, 29; June 12; July 3 (Fourth of July issue), 31; Aug. 28; Sept. 11, 25; Oct. 16, 30 (pre-election issue); Nov. 6 (post-election issue), 20 (Thanksgiving issue); Dec. 4, 18 (holiday issues), then twice a month starting in January, 2005. (Schedule subject to adjustment.) **Phone/fax** for news, **212-826-9055/755-2540**; urgent matters **917-617-0449**. phone/fax for display and classified advertising placement and information, **212-751-8214/755-2540**. **To list your organization’s Island event in this column**, 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; there is no charge.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed., Feb. 4**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public access near beginning of session.

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

Senior Center

Monday
10-11, **Latchhook Class**
10-11:30, **English as 2nd Language**
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen**
12:30, **“Oldies” Movies**
1:00, **Tai Chi**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)
Tuesday
10:00, **Computers**
10-11, **Dance & Relax**
1:00, **Bingo**
6:00, **Yoga Class**
7:30, **Games (RISA)**
Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00, **Spanish Class**
10:30, **Shoppers’ Bus**
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 flexible)
9:30, **Yoga Stretch**
7:00, **Games (RISA)**
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo (RISA)**

Special Events

Tue., Jan. 13, 7:00, General Meeting
Mon., Jan. 19, 6:00, Martin Luther King celebration
Wed., Jan. 21, Atlantic City trip
Fri., Jan 23, time tba, Murder Mystery Dinner

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

tributed to the Island housing companies for all residents with the advice always to have a “go” bag ready with fresh water, working flashlights, toiletries and other items one might need in an emergency.

Motorgate was the subject of another query regarding the abandoned automobiles in the garage and the length of time it takes to remove them. I can report that the garage operators have checked all of the vehicles and that the legal process is under way to remove them. Since the vehicles are private property, until they are legally declared abandoned, the process takes time.

A resident also wanted to know about the out-of-order streetlights at the subway. The lights had shorted out during the recent rains and snow and the timer had malfunctioned. Once last week’s rains stopped, we repaired them.

Mr. Lutz asked me whether RIOC had proposed extending the ground leases for Westview and Island House.

See **Berman**, page 8

The RIOC Column



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



Island Arts



Music Center

*Roosevelt Island's
New Community Music School*

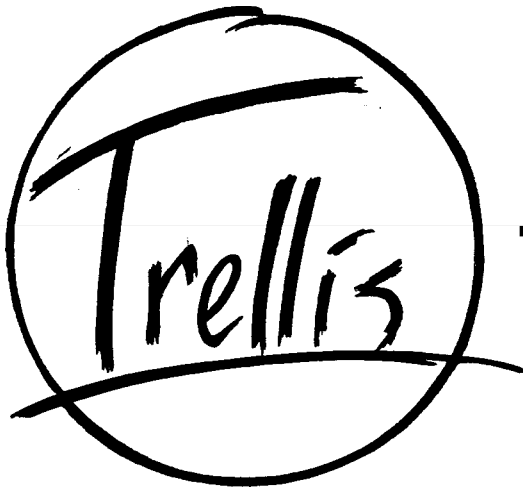
Enrollment open now

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.



Happy New Year

Together, let's celebrate the promise of a new year with optimism for life's possibilities and the potential for Roosevelt Island's remaining the best place in the world to live. At Trellis, we're delighted to be part of this terrific community, and delighted to welcome you for breakfast, lunch, dinner, take-out, or just coffee. See you at Trellis...

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!

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Denise Sheppard

*In Loving Memory of a Friend,
Neighbor, Volunteer and most importantly a Great
Mother.*

We will miss you.

Always in our thoughts

The Roosevelt Island Youth Program Inc

Longing to show what *you* can do as the Governor-appointed President of the USA's last oligarchy? **Pick up the dice!** Now *you* can try ***your*** hand at...

The Game of RIOC



START

Get Governor's nod. RIOC Board dutifully rubber-stamps his choice. You are now President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. Win six-month honeymoon. Practice saying, "I've only been here a short time," and "That happened before I got here."



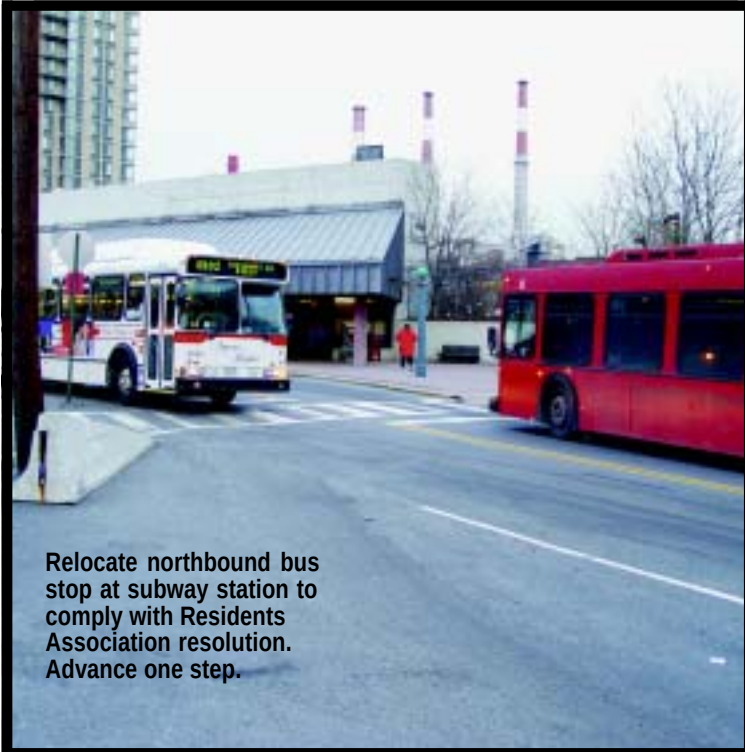
Hold Open-House sessions for residents. Advance 4 steps.

Win a *Friend of Fry* card. Get lifetime quasi-legal parking.

Roll dice to advance.



Tram operator-m declares Tram ca. Take his word. C Then do indepe Oops. Kill order



Relocate northbound bus stop at subway station to comply with Residents Association resolution. Advance one step.



Also relocate southbound bus stop in accordance with nobody's wishes. Then discover unsafe footing in the designated spot. Change it back. Go back one step, roll dice.



Issue incomprehensible e-mail bulletin about bus schedule. Congratulations! You win Bar Association *Communicator of the Year* award.

Pataki signs law...



...giving residents the majority of seats on the RIOC Board. Advance one square.



He then takes over a year to name the first new resident appointee.

The *Game of RIOC* is a collaborative effort that includes the work of David Bauer, Linda Heimer, Cathy Lemp, Dick Lutz, Ethel Romm, Connie Tanner, and many others.

During that year, millions in devel contributions. A President of RIO the RIOC Board, hands him the jo Secretary of Sta wrong with this p

The real question is:

Can we set the *dice* aside? Can we eliminate the *chance* of bad choice, by the Governor, for RIOC Presidents? Can elected residents, rather than political appointees, steer the future course for Roosevelt Island?

While we've had some fun here at RIOC's expense, much of this *Game of RIOC* really represents a blundering State government trying to run a local community, and screwing up – at *residents'* expense. And, unlike this game, *that* game isn't over.

As appointed Presidents come and go, each tends to accept a deteriorated Island as the norm, and then accept a little further deterioration in the name of budget, while carrying underperforming political appointees on an overpaid staff.

There ought to be a way to *fix* this, and there is: It's called *democracy*, and it involves those whose lives are ruled electing those who do the ruling – and hiring competent professional community management. The resident vote was 92% *yes* for that concept in 1998. It's six years later, and 230 years after the USA started proving that democracy works. It's time the State let Roosevelt Islanders elect Roosevelt Islanders to oversee the running of Roosevelt Island.

Will the resident leave p turn ou street l

Never They a already

What will be Ro Island's future? for your final mo up (good luck),



Keep a religious school in Blackwell minischool, and keep the Youth Program out, just long enough for the Youth Program to lose hundreds of thousands in City funding for a needed expansion. Then kick the school out with no replacement tenant lined up. Then, in a bid for Comedy Hall of Fame, describe RIOC as "essentially a real estate agency." Keep playing this game. (You are unqualified to play *Monopoly*, which is a real estate game.)



1. Spend 1970 tax money in a complete renovation of Blackwell House.
2. Allow Blackwell House to deteriorate completely, *again*.
3. Talk endlessly about restoring Blackwell House.
4. Other players fall asleep from boredom. Opportunity to cheat. Advance at will.



Bring a prestigious new school back to the Island. Advance four pigeon steps.

Do it with no plan for bus traffic brought by busing-intensive student body. Lose four turns while waiting for a parking space. (But don't worry about it. You don't live here. And besides: *You're the RIOC President*. You can park anywhere you please.)

Let decades pass while waiting for a developer to save Southpoint and the Renwick landmark. Open the park, but then make a dollar-driven decision to let the ruin fall down. Tell public, "We'll take pictures of it." Get annual *More of the Same* award.

Oops! You are caught taking extra pay. You are banned from the Island, but get six months pay for staying home, then you are fired. **Sorry.**

Narrowly miss pedestrian pushing stroller. Lose four turns while seeking exit from the traffic circle from hell.



Accept *unishment*: Governor promotes you to NYS Assistant Secretary of State. (Congratulations.)



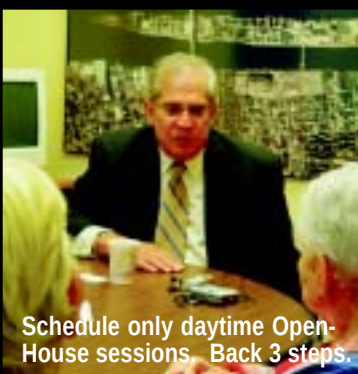
Name City's most confusing traffic circle after Governor George. Get \$10.



Manufacturer
cabins decrepit.
Order new ones.
Independent tests.
Lose turn.



Forbid
right turn
at end of
new Main
Street,
forcing
cars to
circle
Goldwater
Hospital to
reverse
course.
Lose turn.



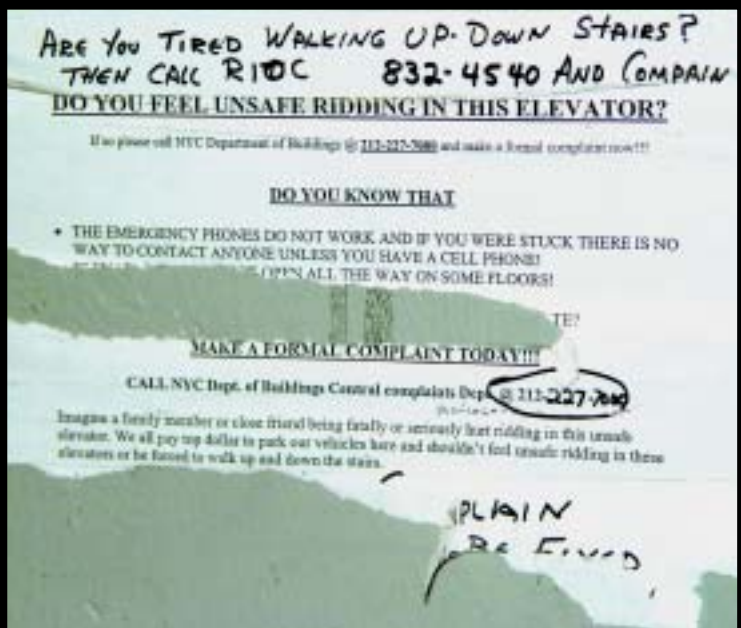
Schedule only daytime Open-
House sessions. Back 3 steps.



Demonstrate
total lack of
people skills.
Leave under
cloud. Pataki
names you
Commissioner
of Human
Rights.

No topping this!
Leave game.

Dr. Jerome Blue
RIOCC President 1996-1999



Motorgate north elevator down.
Lose a turn for each of six
consecutive weeks (& counting).

Notice with tear-off phone
numbers (all taken) posted
by unknown Motorgate
user and augmented, over
time, by others.



Lose a
turn.



Hey, kids, it's RIOCC's
**SKATEBOARD
SLALOM!**



In a misguided effort to
capitalize on the
success of Skateboard
Slalom, you recreate
the General Motors
Proving Ground on
Main Street outside 40
River Road. It is a distinct
non-hit with drivers.
Go back a step. Roll dice.



"Discover," 25 years late,
that Red Buses may really
not be insured for those
trips to Manhattan. Or
maybe they are. But maybe
not. Take weeks figuring it
out. Meanwhile, describe
the Great Blackout Walk
from Queensboro Bridge as
benevolent exercise
program for residents.
Is it farther to Manhattan,
or by bus?



he accepts
oper campaign
Also, the
C is fired by
and Pataki
b of Assistant
te. What is
picture?

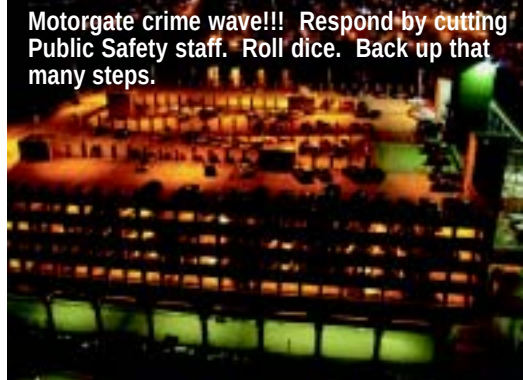
Creatively rename
deteriorating
brickwork in Good
Shepherd Plaza, sell
tickets. Advance 1
step. Unsteady
walkers beware.



Encourage pigeon abstract art
at Manhattan Tram station.
Fail to clean up. Back 4 steps.



A dozen
incidents of
vandalism on
12/18/03



Motorgate crime wave!!! Respond by cutting
Public Safety staff. Roll dice. Back up that
many steps.

last
t to
please
t the
ights?
mind.
re
y out.

Sell about 4000
tickets for
Fireworks at
Southpoint. Pat
yourself on the
back for this
bonanza!

Finally get tough on
commercial rents. Start
by evicting Bakery for not
paying previous owner's
back rent, denying
residents a popular
service – with no
replacement lined up.
Chew on dice. Lose turn.



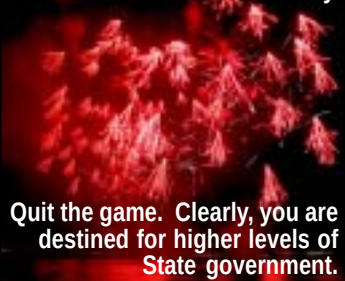
Residents have lost
track of the number
of weeks (one
estimate this week:
three months), so
you can cheat:
Shave the number at
least a little.

Another elevator! Tram station
elevator goes unrepaired. Go
back one step for each week, up
to the limit of squares in game.



osevelt
Roll the dice
ove. Odd goes
even goes left.

Later, announce that you
actually managed to lose
money.



Quit the game. Clearly, you are
destined for higher levels of
State government.



Make space available
for Island artists'
gallery. Advance!

Wait ten years. Wait a
little longer. Then some
more. Get Tramway on the
MTA's "One City, One Fare"
free-transfer MetroCard
system. You are honored
in a ticker-tape parade by
Island's last remaining resident.
Advance three steps.



Sign in window of token
booth at Manhattan
Tram station, greeting
tourists and guests.



Post loser notice about Tram
elevator. Go back 1 square.



Wait a quarter-century, then open Southpoint Park
for something more than Fourth of July fireworks.
Win pat on the back from each player.



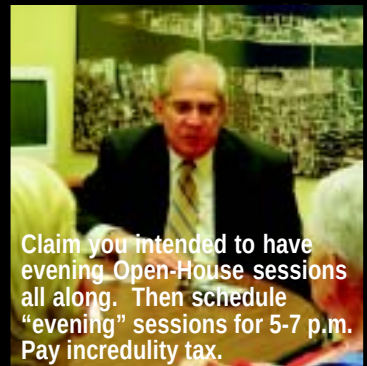
Get Public Safety Officers
trained on defibrillators.
Roll dice again to advance.

Blackout!

In response,
promise an
emergency
plan.

Advance a step.

But lose a turn for every
month (four and counting)
that plan is not forthcoming.



Claim you intended to have
evening Open-House sessions
all along. Then schedule
"evening" sessions for 5-7 p.m.
Pay incredulity tax.



Highly-respected
CFO (and
temporary
Acting
President)
moves on.

Gain desk,
parking space,
and somebody for Board
members to blame.

RIRA from page 1

before, and so you have an opportunity that didn't exist before, to see some sort of response to your communications rather than a stone wall.

"There's a desire to make it better. That's why I'm doing it. I'm not doing it to get my picture in *The WIRE*, God knows – or to get a lot of e-mails."

Beck said she feels the Island's most pressing problem is a cash-flow shortage that she attributes to over-optimistic projections by "the prior administration" based on revenue that was expected from Southtown. She added a concern about the Island's aging infrastructure and agreed with another, expressed by RIRA First Vice President Steve Marcus, that the Island's Public Purpose Fund is being depleted rapidly. "If in fact that pot does not get replenished each year, then I think that's something that the Board of RIOC should address... to at least put in place some kind of plan that will enable that fund to have a steady stream [of income]."

On other matters:

- Beck responded to Council-member James Whalen's suggestion that the Tram should be shut down: "I believe the Tram is a critical amenity for Roosevelt Island, and that we have to figure out how to make it more economically viable for people who want to use it, but

Rent from page 1

cost increases," he said. "It appears that this whole security situation needs to be restructured and rebid and redesigned for a more equitable distribution of costs."

- Residents Association President Matthew Katz pointed out that no public guidelines exist for the Public Safety Department, saying it would be inappropriate for rents to go to a higher level to fund services for which no current mission statement or guidelines exist.
- The Westview Swimming Pool, recently reopened, was raised as an issue, with the suggestion that Westview residents may be subsidizing non-resident users, even though residents of other buildings pay higher rates to become members of the Westview pool.
- The attorney representing tenants, Kevin McConnell, compared Westview rents, at \$314 per room, with other Mitchell-Lama developments, for which he cited an average room rate of \$142. He called Westview's rate the highest in the State, and pointed out that the second-highest is Island House, "which Westview tops by 9%."

In a brief countering presentation, Housing Management CFO Michael LeConte defended some of the budget figures, saying, "There are two [main] issues: electricity and insurance." He said:

- Insurance costs have increased greatly as a result of 9/11.
- Electricity, which cost \$884,000 in 2002, is projected to cost \$1.1 million in the coming year.
- He cited a 70% increase in natural gas costs from 53 cents per therm, to 90 cents.
- Water and sewer will soon be charged on flat-rate basis at \$472 per unit, an immutable figure.

DHCR staffer Elliott Ashry, who ran the hearing, told those attending the meeting that the figures and presentations will be considered over the next several weeks, and a determination of a rent increase will then be forthcoming. He commented that while management is asking 11%, "we see it as something less than that." He later told *The WIRE* that plans are to announce the Island House and Westview decisions at the same time.

who look at their budgets and say, 'I can't afford to use the Tram.' For people who have a choice, they look at the bottom line and they say to themselves, 'This is madness; I can't afford this, because it adds two dollars to my budget every time.' We've got to do something to make it economically viable again... We have to look for a way to rationalize it as part of the overall transportation system, and not expect any gifts."

- In response to a suggestion that the Octagon project be rebid when Becker and Becker site control expires, Beck said that starting from scratch would risk years of delay in mounting a replacement project. "The current developer is very close to being ready," she said, "and whether you like the design, or the terms of the agreement, whether what was negotiated years ago makes sense if you started again today – those are all [valid] issues, but the reality is that the phase of development prior to actually putting a shovel in the ground can be anywhere from three to seven years... To throw in the towel and start again would be damaging to Roosevelt Island and to its need to do something to get a better cash flow to support the Island."

- Beck was asked if she feels "development is the only right thing for the Island." "If you have some alternative to provide revenue for this Island, we would all like to know what it is. Until something else comes along that creates the kind of largesse we experienced when Roosevelt Island was first built... Don't forget, we had a terrific run on Roosevelt Island in the '70s and the '80s because we were the star in the firmament of planned communities in New York State." She said the Island earned kudos for Governors Rockefeller through Cuomo. "Enormous amounts of government subsidy flowed to this Island, not just to build the buildings, but to prepare the land, to put the subway station in, put the Tram in place, to build the seawall – all of those things cost millions and millions. Now we're at a very different place historically. We're no longer the star in the firmament of new developments. If there's any money, it's going to go to Queens

Katz from page 3

judgment of Tram personnel. Bottom line: if you need to use the lift for medical reasons, ring the buzzer provided and demand that staff accommodate you.

You've read about Life Frames Inc. and the Living Library project at Southpoint that many Roosevelt Island organizations (RIRA, PS/IS 217, RIVAA [the artists' collective] and the Senior Association come to mind) have worked on for well over a year now. I met this week with Life Frames Executive Director Bonnie Sherk, and Rose Harvey, Regional Director for the Trust for Public Land (TPL). The RIOC Board of Directors has commissioned TPL to work on the planning and financing for a Southpoint Park that will be wonderful and a destination worth visiting. The potential for synergy between these two professional organizations takes my breath away. The Roosevelt Island organizations have worked and will continue to work as volunteers to ensure that Southpoint Park, our park, will be a new oasis, accessible to our hospital and disabled communities as well as a four-star attraction for tourists. It's my hope that Bonnie Sherk's experience and services can be satisfactorily compensated as part of the professional team that will make our Living Library project come to pass. After all, you get what you pay for, and this is Bonnie's business. Trust for Public Land and RIOC, are you listening?

There is an obituary in these pages for a Roosevelt Islander, Bernie Schwartz. Teacher, memoirist, and proud Brooklynite, student and purveyor of comedy, activist and good neighbor, Bernie was just fun to be around. We got to know each other on those Friday mornings when "the Stuffers" convened to collate and box this newspaper prior to distribution. Bernie had the gift of turning a boring, repetitive job into an opportunity to share stories and laughter, and his irrepressible energy kept us going through the hours of labor. His bravery through his last illness was an inspiration. My condolences to Raye and the family. I'm glad I got to spend some time with Bernie; he was worth knowing and truly enhanced my life.

And finally: I spoke with RIOC's departed acting president, Pat Siconolfi, last week. Pat is back at DHCR and I had called to wish him well after four and a half years with us on Roosevelt Island. He acknowledged the warm wishes of the residents with whom he had dealt during his tenure here and sent his best wishes to all of us for a happy and successful new year. Best of luck, Patrick!

Daly from page 1

tain the welfare of our residents, to provide high-quality affordable housing to communities in need, and to continue being New York State's leading developer of privatized public housing.

Sheldrake's properties range in size from a 36-unit senior citizen building in Hempstead, Long Island, to a 496-unit building in Mount Vernon. They range west to North Tonawanda, near Buffalo.

Sheldrake describes itself as a "driving force behind the revival of Hempstead Village... Originally founded by J. Christopher Daly in 1988 to develop distressed and blighted commercial properties in suburban Hempstead, the Sheldrake Organization has grown rapidly into a full-service real-estate firm which owns, manages, develops, and leases residential and commercial property throughout New York State."

In its description of the Moore Heights project in Middletown, Sheldrake's website says, "As in all privatization projects, the goal is to maintain the affordability of the apartments for low and middle-income tenants, while upgrading and maintaining the quality of each unit. Renovations are aimed at restoring the complex to comply with or exceed current housing-quality standards and to reduce operating and future maintenance costs." The site also describes Shel-

West or to lower Manhattan or a zillion other places. We're not going to get that kind of money anymore... We've got to find ways to support the Island. The only way you do that is with more people. I don't know any other way to do that."

- Beck encouraged Council-members to communicate directly with the RIOC Board, in writing. "That gets the idea memorialized... I wouldn't have said this under the past administration, because you would have laughed me out of here. And under Jerry Blue, having had some personal experiences with him, I wouldn't have made this suggestion. But we have what I hope is more than just a window of opportunity to express constructive

Is Privatization Imminent?

Not according to RIOC President Herb Berman, who responds in his column (page 3) to a *WIRE* question on whether RIOC is about to extend ground leases for Westview and Island House. The ground-lease question is critical because an extension is a virtually certain necessity before lenders will consider a private mortgage. Berman says a "preliminary offer" "has not even risen to the level of informal discussions."

Berman also writes, "...although many residents have linked this to potential buy-outs from the Mitchell-Lama program, RIOC plays a very limited role in this process." However, because RIOC is the gatekeeper on any ground-lease extensions, it is widely believed that, with privatization presumably impossible without an extension of the ground lease, RIOC is in a position to protect residents by imposing contractual conditions on any ground-lease extension. Neither Berman nor members of the RIOC Board have yet taken a position on imposing such conditions.

Opher Pail, Chair of the Westview Task Force, says he spoke with Berman and aide Sari Dickson recently, but was turned down and brushed off when he asked for information on the offer proposing ground-lease extension.

One Westview resident reported this week that she signed and returned a two-year lease for her Westview apartment, only to have it returned to her with the lease period changed to one year. When she inquired, she received a letter from Housing Management stating that "lease renewals for Island House and Westview will now be for one year only. This is based on the owner's decision." On Thursday, Housing Management General Manager Doryne Isley confirmed that lease renewals in Eastwood, as well, will be limited to one year. The change suggests preparation for privatization.

drake as "a development team comprised of real estate, construction, housing, and government finance experts who assist both local housing authorities and non-profit agencies [to] achieve their housing goals. By utilizing [government-as-

sistance programs], Sheldrake has the unrivaled ability to perform substantial renovations to existing buildings with minimal cost and inconvenience to resident tenants." The Sheldrake Organization website is at <http://www.sheldrake.com>.

suggestions about whatever it is you think should be looked at or changed, or redirected or modified, and I would urge you to do that with the whole Board." In response, Government Relations Committee Chair Margie Smith asked that residents be consulted in advance of RIOC's making changes in bus stop locations or routes, rather than after the fact.

- Beck said that new bus routes are now being reconsidered. She said she hoped for the "same level" of service provided before recent changes – specifically, restoration of quarter-hour non-rush-hour pickups at the subway station.

- Asked if she feels she represents residents, Beck pointed out that "None of the administrative staff [of RIOC] lives on the Island. The bumpy start that the Berman administration had with the Blackout, the bus stop, and the Child School [school bus] stuff, all comes from people who are at the beginning of a learning curve. It's our job, as resident members of the Board, to provide them with an understanding of the impact of what they're doing. The bus stop issue was a perfect example. To their credit, they called together a group of residents as well as RIOC Board members and staff to go over a possible

alternative, which will lead to a solution that will be better... My view is we should all have at least the level of service that we had before."

Earlier in its meeting, the Common Council voted not to restore Debra Mount Cornet, who had missed three meetings while ill, and was thereby automatically removed from the Council. Before the vote, discussion of Cornet's prior Council service centered on members' feelings that she had failed to serve adequately on committees and had engaged in behavior that obstructed Council activities.

When informed of the vote on the motion to restore her to the Council (7 against, 5 for, with some abstentions), Cornet made a statement before leaving the meeting: "I've never seen a person in all my years not allowed to come back to the Council who's missed meetings. This is the first time I've ever seen it, and I can only say that [the apparent purpose] is to stifle dissent, and of course the community won't learn about that because of the relationship you have with *The WIRE*. And I'm very sorry that my colleagues here feel that way about me, and in my many years of volunteer service here, I am sorry that I have such little respect from my fellow people."

Berman from page 3

The short answer is no, but we have received a preliminary offer about extending the ground leases. This has not even risen to the level of informal discussions and, should the matter proceed, it will receive full consideration. At this time there are no plans for it to be on the Board agenda. It should be stressed that although many residents have linked this to potential buy-outs from the Mitchell-Lama program, RIOC plays a very limited role in this process.

Mr. Lutz also forwarded an anonymous complaint stating that no one had answered the phone at the Public Safety Department for more than 90 minutes. Right now, I am investigating this complaint. Any time there is a breakdown in communication, it is completely unacceptable.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that I will be holding two Open Houses here at RIOC offices so I can get to meet even more people and listen to their ideas and concerns. The first Open House will be Tuesday, January 13, from 5 to 7 p.m., for residents of Eastwood and Manhattan Park. The next evening, Wednesday, January 14, also from 5 to 7 p.m., will be an Open House for residents from Westview, Island House, Rivercross, and Southtown. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Please don't forget to log onto our website at www.rioc.com and register for e-mails of RIOC advisories and announcements. Again, a happy and healthy New Year to all.

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



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750 ml

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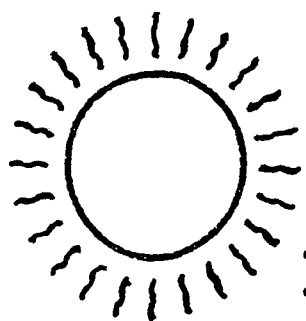
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MOUNT TOM DAY CAMP

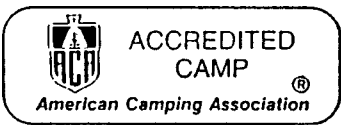
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Just too much to do?
Not feeling well?
No time?
Hate doing
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**Give yourself a break!
Let us do your laundry!**

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**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.**

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**Our philosophy: Our office offers adults
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Astoria, NY 11106
Tel: 718-728-5563**

Letters from page 2

not try and place the blame solely on us. In addition, are these fields for show? Last time I checked, these fields weren't for show. The fields are made for recreation and, most likely, there is a budget for the reseeding of the fields.

I am also outraged by the fact that soccer is over and you, *The Main Street WIRE*, give them publicity and report on their games. What about the football players? When you provide publicity to the soccer games and put people's names into the paper, you make them very proud and the same for baseball. Why not do the same for the football players? Other players and I are upset by the fact that you give in-depth reports on them and not even a simple score listing for football. We would like some recognition, please!

Daymond Walford

Editor's note: *The WIRE* is volunteer-operated. While we had full coverage of Youth Program football last year, this year no volunteer stepped forward to provide reports. At this writing, we still seek a volunteer reporter for current sports activities.

SPORTSWIRE

**The WIRE seeks a volunteer reporter
to cover Youth Program sports and
other recreational activities on the
Island. Call 212-826-9055.**

Holiday Lights Contributors

Julie Palermo of the Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce has provided this list of contributors to the holiday lights on display along Main Street this season:

Contributions received

Housing Management	\$750
Residents Association	250
RIOC	250
St. Frances Cabrini Parish	250
Roosevelt Island Racquet Club	250
Dr. Flannigan	150
Capri Pizza Shop	100
Disabled Association	75
Stationery Store	50
Roosevelt Island Cleaners	50
Dr. Larry Itskowitch	50
Dr. Jack Resnick	50
Dr. Katherine Grimm	50
We Are One	25

Pledges

Youth Center	250
Senior Association	250
NY Presbyterian / Cornell-Weill	250
Trellis	amount unknown
PTA	amount unknown

Palermo says additional contributions from organizations, businesses, and individuals are welcome. She can be reached at 646-331-3445.

MEABI Liquors Stop -N- Save



We Give Discounts On Full Case Orders
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Monday through Wednesday \$1.00 Off
On All 750's, Liters, Half Gallons (Liquors Only)

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Clan McGregor Whisky



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Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

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Have a Happy and Healthy 2004

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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.

Classified

50¢/word • 1-212-751-8214

Deadline for January 24 issue: January 20

RIVERCROSS SUBLET – 2 bed, 2 bath. Call **212-3535-1082**.

FREE ADORABLE HAMSTER – Cage, toys included. Call **718-205-7557**.

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

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

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

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE – Only \$11.95 a month. Dental, vision, prescription medication and chiropractic services for \$11.95 and receive up to 75 percent discounted services with your membership when visiting a licensed doctor. Just call **212-755-6172** for free information.

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

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

PIANO TUNING – \$75. Used Steinway pianos for sale. Ben Treuhaft, toll-free **866-505-3173**. Formerly with Steinway & Sons.

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

ROOM WANTED – Woman, 34, seeking room, long- or short-term, in Rivercross, Island House, Westview, preferably with private bath. Call **646-299-2588**.

NOTARY PUBLIC – **212-935-7534**.

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

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


**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 **212-751-8214**.

Jack Resnick, M.D.

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House Calls

For the frail elderly
and the homebound

GRISTEDES'S

Prices Effective To 1/14/04

CHECK OUT THE VALUES IN OUR FRESH MEAT DEPARTMENT!

Boneless • Center Cut Pork Chops \$4⁹⁹ lb. 	USDA Choice • American Long Bone • Shoulder Lamb Chops \$3⁴⁹ lb. 	Whole • Grade A • Seasoned Perdue Roasting Chickens \$1¹⁹ lb. 	Grade A • Split with Rib Perdue Chicken Breast \$1⁹⁹ lb. 	Fresh • Boneless • Country Pork Spare Ribs \$3⁹⁹ lb. 
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PHILADELPHIA BBQ CHICKENS

BEST BUY IN TOWN! **\$3⁹⁹** each **Whole Only**

Healthy Choice Ice Cream 2/\$7 56 oz.  Assorted Varieties	Silhouette Ice Cream Sandwiches Cups or Fudge Bars \$3⁹⁹ 4-6 Pack! each	Le Carb Low Carb Ice Cream \$2⁹⁹ 16 oz.  Assorted Varieties	White Rose Bagels 99¢ 12 oz.
White Rose Yogurt 4/\$2 8 oz. 	La Yogurt Yogurt 4/\$2 6 oz.  Assorted Varieties	Axelrod Yogurt 4/\$2 6 oz.  Assorted Varieties FAT FREE!	White Rose Sour Cream \$1¹⁹ 16 oz. 

IN CYPRUS, THE LEMONS ARE SUN KISSED!

“GRISTEDES has unlocked a well kept secret when it comes to lemons. The Mediterranean Island of Cyprus, off the coast of Israel, has internationally renowned high quality lemons. These golden yellow lemons are juicy, thin-skinned and smell great. Cooks the world over count them as their friends. You can request recipes using Cypria lemons by contacting: CTCNY@cyprustradeny.org”.



3/\$1

Golden • Chiquita Bananas 59¢ lb. 	Red Flame • Seedless Grapes \$2⁴⁹ lb. 	Extra Large Cantaloupes \$1⁹⁹ each 	California Broccoli \$1⁴⁹ each 	Sweet • Bartlett Pears 99¢ lb. 
OLD FASHIONED Deluxe Egg Salad \$2⁹⁹ lb. 	CLASSIC Tortellini Salad \$3⁹⁹ lb. 	BOAR'S HEAD Oven Gold Turkey Breast \$7⁹⁹ lb. 	BOAR'S HEAD Fat Free • Low Sodium Ham \$8⁴⁹ lb. 	ALPINE LACE Swiss Cheese \$5⁹⁹ lb.  Fresh, Sliced or By The Chunk
#2, #8, #35, #75, #9 Ronzoni Macaroni 3/\$2 1 lb. pkg. 	Honey Nut or Regular Cheerios \$3⁹⁹ 14-15 oz. 	Progresso Classic Vegetable Soups \$1⁹⁹ 18.5-19 oz.  Including Fat Free!	Progresso Tradional Meat & Chicken Soups \$1⁹⁹ 19 oz.  Including Fat Free!	Progresso Rich & Hearty Soups \$1⁹⁹ 18.5-19 oz.  Assorted Varieties
Bounty Towels Big Roll \$1⁹⁹ 90 ct.  Grande White	Charmin Toilet Tissue \$5⁹⁹ 9 ct. pkg.  BIG SQUEEZE	Tide Clean Breeze \$5⁹⁹ 50 oz.  Ultra Liquid	Dawn Liquid \$3⁴⁹ 25 oz. 	Cheer Detergent \$7⁹⁹ 100 oz. 

USE YOUR DIAMOND VALUE CARD FOR THE ITEMS BELOW! If you don't have a GRISTEDES'S "Diamond Value Club (DVC) Card" apply now! **YOU WILL LIKE THE BENEFITS!**



Patsy's Pasta Sauce \$4⁹⁹ 26 oz.  Assorted Varieties Limit 2 • exp. 1/14/04	Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna 2/\$1 6 oz.  In Oil or Water Limit 2 • exp. 1/14/04	Apple & Eve Cranberry Juice \$2⁹⁹ 64 oz.  Limit 2 • exp. 1/14/04	Lipton Tea Bags \$1⁹⁹ 100 ct. box  Limit 2 • exp. 1/14/04	Tropicana Orange Juice \$2⁹⁹ 59/64 oz.  Including Carafes! All Varieties Not Blended Juice Limit 2 • exp. 1/14/04
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At GRISTEDES'S, our customers opinions and suggestions count. If you have a complaint or problem, we want to know! You can call our CONSUMER HOTLINE at (212) 484-5700, e-mail us at consumer@gristedes.com, Fax us at (212) 247-4509, or write to us at 823 Eleventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019.