

Next issue
in two weeks:
Sat., Sept. 25

The Main Street WIRE™

Now in its 25th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Three possible futures for the Renwick Ruin appear in Southpoint plans to be shown by the Trust for Public Land in meetings here Tuesday.

Three Southpoint Park Plans Are Set for Tuesday Meetings

by Dick Lutz

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) will present three possible plans for Southpoint Park in meetings Tuesday (September 14) at 2:00 and 7:30. The concepts respond to a wish-list developed by the organization in interviews with some three dozen community leaders in a process begun in April.

The three plans are shown on pages 12 and 13; they are also available on a website maintained by the landscape architecture firm that created the concepts, Mark K. Morrison Associates (see web ad-

dress on page 12).

The Tuesday meetings are intended not only to present the concepts to the community, but also to generate reaction that will guide the project team in selecting elements for a preferred plan. Charles McKinney, project director for TPL, notes in a late-August report, "Simplification is likely."

The plans provide performance spaces, outdoor classrooms, art, picnic areas, ferry and boat facilities, and shoreline access to the river. They vary in their use of the Renwick Ruin, a smallpox hospital built in the mid-19th Century, and in other specific ways suggested by their names: *Wild Gardens / Green Rooms* tends toward the natural, *Visionary* includes the Louis Kahn design for an FDR memorial, and *Parc Ville*, which contains the most commercial elements, is envisioned as an exten-

sion of the Main Street community.

In a "vision" for the park based on a survey of the site and community and advisory council input, planners are charged to "Create a dynamic park that resonates with the spectacular Island site, its ruin and landforms, as well as the 'egalitarian and multi-cultural promise of Roosevelt Island.' Enhance the shoreline, the wild and natural landscape, and the ecology of the site for communal enrichment... Use the architecture and landforms to create performance venues and environmental art that will attract large numbers of visitors." See **Southpoint**, page 20

Hesitant Green Light for Octagon Plan

by Dick Lutz

The RIOC Board gave a go-ahead to the Octagon Apartments project last week – sort of.

In three resolutions containing exceptions and caveats, the Board said no to the idea of underground parking beneath the Octagon tennis courts, but said OK to on-site parking under the building. It said

OK to a change from 500 to 511 apartments. It permitted a change in the lower-rent portion of the building, changing it from a plan for low-income residents to one targeted at medium-income families.

Perhaps most significantly, the one-page resolution titled "Approval of Plan and Project and Design Guidelines" suggests there may be a wariness over the 2002 Open Spaces law specific to Roosevelt Island. This is the lan-

guage of the resolution, with emphasis added:

"The Plan and Project... are hereby approved subject to the following conditions: (i) the premises to be leased shall not include the park facilities or the tennis courts; (ii) all project parking shall be confined to the leased premises; and (iii) **prior to the effectiveness of any lease for the project**, RIOC shall have received all of the required approvals from the Comptroller and Attorney General of the State of New York **and all required consents of the legislature of the State of New York** to the project substantially as approved by RIOC."

In its Monday meeting, the Board spent an hour in executive session, then passed its resolutions in three quick votes, with no explanations offered. (Two other See **Octagon**, page 17

Vote Tuesday

Limmer Bequest Kicks Off *The WIRE's* 25th Year

The Main Street WIRE begins its 25th year of publication with a financial boost, thanks to the late Ruth Limmer, who remembered the newspaper in her will with a bequest of about \$13,000.

Ruth Limmer was a writer and teacher of writing. For 20 years, she served as a professor of English and writing at Western College for Women in Oxford, Ohio, then became chair of the English Department at Goucher College in Towson, Maryland, in 1974. At a December, 2001, memorial event on Roosevelt Island, over 50 people gathered – many of them former students who had maintained contact with her over the years. Without exception, they praised her as a devotee of excellence in writing who worked tirelessly to instill in them her own disciplined attitude about the use of language.

One of her former students at Western College was Donna Shalala, who later became U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Earlier, while serving as Assistant Secretary for Policy Research and Development at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Shalala invited Limmer to join her in that office, then later made Ruth



her assistant when she became President of Hunter College.

In retirement, Limmer continued to work as an editor, specializing in books by historians and English-language scholars. She edited the first biography of Nikita Khrushchev and wrote the foreword to a book by Bella Spewack, among other projects. She was actively involved in the Lower East Side Tenement Museum on Orchard Street, and edited the museum's newsletter, *Tenement Times*. In 1997, her *Six Heritage*

See **Limmer**, page 22

Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper

WIRE 25

Marking a quarter century of service to Roosevelt Island

Resident Gets Summons After Shooting a Photo

Public Safety Officers handcuffed and detained a long-time resident last week in an incident involving photography for a letter he was sending to *The WIRE*.

Ronald G. Musto, PhD, was taken into custody Wednesday, September 1, after he refused to provide his name to Public Safety Officers who appeared outside Musto's apartment building, Westview, as he was taking photographs to illustrate the letter (page 2).

"I was taking photos of the air-conditioning units on The Child School building below my Westview apartment. When I finished, I also stopped just beneath 575 to take a shot of a peace banner in our apartment window in 595 Main Street. I was accosted by two young men, who approached and began interrogating me. I told them to mind their own business, but did not ask for their names. One claimed to be the 'super' for The Child School, and said I was on his property; the other was carrying an air-conditioning filter." One called him a "homo," Musto said; the other suggested he was a "terrorist."

"About five minutes later, two officers from Public Safety – a Sergeant Wright and a female officer

– arrived. Without ascertaining the situation or questioning the two men, the sergeant asked me for ID. I felt there was no cause for such a request, and refused. When I asked the reason for the request, I was told the police now have the right, after 9/11, to stop anyone and ask for ID. I still refused, and was then told that I would be 'cuffed.' I did tell them that I live in Westview, pointed to my window, and told them I was photographing that, and See **Summons**, page 17



Katz: No Run for Third Term As RIRA President

Matthew Katz announced Wednesday night that he will not seek a third term as president of the Residents Association in the November election.

In his column in this issue (page 3), Katz writes, "I've been a member of the RIRA Common Council for almost eight years, with two terms as president. It's enough. I intend to take a sabbatical from the Council, at least for the next two

Candlelight Memorial Observance

Tonight at 7:00,
Good Shepherd Plaza

Junior Tennis Wraps



The New York Junior Tennis League wrapped up its season two weeks ago. Kids got certificates and some won prizes. (More on page 10.)

The Editorial Page

The Limmer Bequest

The Main Street WIRE loses a little money on virtually every issue published, this one being a rare and quite agreeable exception. Like other enterprises trying to survive in this Island microeconomy, this newspaper suffers from the pressures of scale in a world that rewards mass. The newspaper has always needed an “angel” – someone or some business that could afford to underwrite the equipment and continuing expenses that regular publication demands.

For years, that angel was Dr. Jack Resnick. The WIRE was born of his and his neighbors’ need for information – to know those things one needs to know to be an intelligent citizen. He carried the newspaper, ignoring its dribs and drabs of financial loss, always hoping for break-even.

Times and lives change, and in 1996 ownership of the newspaper passed into its present hands, its losses borne by a consulting practice whose equipment, space, and phones it could use, and from which it could cadge paper and supplies. But lives and times continue to change. Retirement frees one to focus more purely on the specifics of a journalistic enterprise, but it shifts more direct expense to the publication, and losses are more keenly felt.

Ruth Limmer’s dying gift is thus a very welcome one. The company that prints The WIRE will be grateful for a clearing of longstanding debt, as will others whose forbearance has been the currency of continuity for the newspaper.

But Ruth’s gift is welcome for a far more important reason. She recognized the importance of a newspaper serving as ferret and conduit. She understood the value and power of words used with deliberation, craft, and feeling. She appreciated the need, in a community like ours, for the binding force of something we all have in common.

Ruth Limmer valued these things so much that, as she faced the end of her life, she left a gift that will help The Main Street WIRE to continue in the realms she knew and loved – words, thoughts, and Roosevelt Island.

Vote Tuesday

There’s a primary election Tuesday. Not sure how to vote? There have been meetings on the Island in which both Nelson Denis and José Serrano have sought support as challenger to State Senator Olga Mendez. It’s important to make a choice, and to vote, so that the voting power of Roosevelt Island, in simple numbers and proportion of turnout, is seen in the halls of power.

Denis shows an admirable independence and personal determination. Serrano has the backing of Assemblymember Pete Grannis and Rep. Carolyn Maloney. Both have spoken of the need to fix Albany’s “three men in a room” troika of broken State government. One will challenge Mendez. Show, by your vote, that Roosevelt Island will speak loudly in November.

Halliestock

We commend to your attention an event called Halliestock, which will take place September 18. We’d have an advance report, but space is tight in this WIRE, so we’ll simply direct you to an ad on page 6.

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Editor’s note: This Island Observer was written in 2002, but not published in The WIRE at that time. (It has been available on Website NYC10044 at nyc10044.com.) It is published now because it recounts an incident similar to last week’s in which a resident was handcuffed by Public Safety after taking photographs.

January 10, 2002
Sometimes, even in a community as small and peaceful as Roosevelt Island, it takes some extraordinary measure to bring you the news.

Forget the fact that RIOC often demands a Freedom of Information filing for information that should have been public a year before. Forget the fact that any information at all, no matter how critical to daily routine, is only grudgingly shared.

Forget all that. Want something really hard? Try taking a photograph.

That’s right... a photograph. Thursday morning, wanting a fresh picture as an update to illustrate The WIRE’s January 12 report on the Island’s extended Tramway outage, I bicycled to the Island Tram station, digital camera at the ready, to get a picture of our grounded cabin #2.

For the best angle, I stepped up on the grass where the cabin is parked, only to have Public Safety Officer Anderson (badge #1572, I’m told, though her first name is unavailable) leap from her

island observer

Cushman Scout to tell me I could not take pictures. “I’m from The WIRE,” I said, and though I continued speaking, she didn’t wait. “You cannot take pictures anywhere on this Island without permission!” She was shouting – unnecessary given the fact that she was approaching fast and nearly upon me by then.

I tried to say, ”I need this picture for the paper going to press...” but never got out the word ”today“ before Anderson stiff-armed my camera, bouncing it off my face and glasses. I think I yelled something worthy of an articulate wordmeister, like, “Hey!” and as I lowered the camera from my face, I think it probably passed her chest a little more closely than she would have liked. We were, by now, ample belly to ample belly.

She swore. I swore. She radioed for help. I took my cell phone out of my pocket to call RIOC President Rob Ryan, or someone else at RIOC who might provide the PSO with better information than she apparently was working with. (There is a RIOC rule that a permit is required to take pictures on the Island. It’s intended to extract fees from movie companies and fashion photographers, and doesn’t apply to the press.) Ryan and his top staff were unavailable, other than RIOC’s new Public Information Officer, John Melia, who seemed confused by my call and the shouting he was hearing in the not-so-background.

In no time at all, a trio of PSOs had arrived to take me into custody. My hands were cuffed behind my back, and I was plopped, immobile and wrists hurting, into the back of their car. It occurred to me that this was rather harsh treatment for what had transpired to that point, but of course the assisting officers were taking PSO Anderson’s vastly inflated word for what had happened before their arrival.

See **Observer**, page 22

Letters

To the Editor:

I note in the last issue of The WIRE that RIOC has said it will take 30 days to provide a list showing the vehicles permitted to park free on Main Street for unlimited periods of time. At first I thought this response was a typical abuse of public office, since it surely cannot take 30 days to reach under the counter and copy a sheet of paper. Then it occurred to me that perhaps the list is in constant use to train our Public Safety officers and, as such, may not be readily available. An important part of the work of our Public Safety officers is ignoring certain vehicles parked on Main Street. In order to perform that task efficiently, it must be necessary to memorize the make, model and license number of almost 100 vehicles. This, no doubt, is the cause of the frequent disappearance of the officers for extended periods of time – they all are in memory class.

Now that I know a list is in use I have some questions about it. First and most important, how do I get on the list? Is there a formal procedure with applications and interviews? If so, where do I obtain an application and where will my interview take place?

Is the list restricted to Roosevelt Island residents? If so, must I show proof of residency? Do I need two pieces of identification, including one with my photograph, or will my interviewer accept my assertion that I am indeed a resident?

Since there are many more vehicles owned by Roosevelt Island residents than there are spaces on Main Street, there must be a formula to assign each applicant his or her proper place on the list. Is preference given to length of residency and, if so, where does my move-in date of September 1976 place me on the list?

Also, will my 1936 Hudson Terraplane receive a preferred slot on the list on the basis of age and infirmity? And when my beloved, if ancient, automobile finally is sent to the recycling yard, can I sell my place on the list to a person of my choosing, or must it go to the next person on the list?

It would seem from Geof Kerr’s survey that having a handicapped ID or a license plate with a wheelchair emblem automatically places one on the list. My personal physician has indicated to my wife on more than one occasion that I suffer from a number of serious mental deficiencies. Do I apply to RIOC for a handicap ID, or is this handled through the Public Safety office?

After having both knee joints replaced in 1994, I now find after prolonged sessions of prayer while kneeling that I am mobile only with the help of a sturdy assistant. A quick calculation shows that the purchase of a wheelchair would cost far less than a monthly parking slot at Motorgate. If I appear for my interview in a wheel chair, am I automatically entitled to a license plate showing my disability?

These are questions that many Roosevelt Island residents must be pondering and we would appreciate a response from RIOC within the usual 30-day waiting period.

Jim Baehler

Letters deadline

for Sept. 25 issue:
Tuesday, Sept. 21

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

To the Editor:

It is with sadness that I inform you that someone broke into Island Kids this last Thursday, Sept 2. To all of us at Island Kids, it’s hard to imagine why someone would do such a thing. We are a non-profit organization and our only purpose is to have a place where kids can come and have fun. Whoever did this was a thoughtless person whose only intention was to damage property. They damaged one of our inside doors so badly that a major repair is now necessary. They also stole our only stereo, which the teachers use to play music for the kids.

We filed a police report, but we still urge residents who live around Island Kids to let us know if they saw anything suspicious that night.

Anna Palm
Island Kids Director

Dr. Maari de Souza
Executive Director
The Child School
587 Main Street, NYC10044

Dear Dr. de Souza:
This is the third, and I regret first public, letter that I address to you. In two earlier certified letters we informed you that ever since the installation of the venting/air-conditioning system on the roof of The Child School buildings at 585 and 587 Main Street, we have been subject to unacceptable levels of noise pollution. We have waited over 120 days for a resolution of this issue from you, but none has been forthcoming. I am also informed by Mr. Neal Weissman of



575 Main Street that he notified RIOC of this situation in August, 2003, and made a public request for a resolution to this issue through a letter published in The WIRE September 6, 2003. Perhaps some further public airing of this issue will elicit a more positive response from you.

The systems on these buildings go on at 7:00 every morning, turn on and off irregularly, and create not only constant industrial noise but associated rattling and shaking of unit doors and container structures. See **Letters**, page 22

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; *letters submitted anonymously are not considered for publication.*
Preferred form of submission: E-mail to **Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com** (plaintext e-mail format preferred, or attach a file created using any common wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files containing macros), or on a PC-standard 3.5" disk left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*.
Alternatives: Typed copy left at 531 Main Street. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **Letters are subject to acceptance and to possible editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

September brings the start of a new school year and the start of some much needed repair work on the Island. As you probably already noticed, work has begun on the ramp leading to the Roosevelt Island bridge. That work is being performed partly by the developers of Southtown, Hudson and Related.

Work will also begin soon on Main Street between Gristede's and the AVAC building. We hope to start the project within the next several weeks. The work that will

be performed there will be temporary until a permanent roadway design is in place.

Work is also complete on the Island's soccer fields. The wet weather and extensive use of cleats on the fields last season destroyed the surface of the fields. As a

result, they had to be closed for several months to recondition them and allow the new seeding to take hold. The newly refurbished fields reopened on September 1. We ask that everyone using the fields respects the fact that cleats are not allowed and that care has to be taken when playing on wet fields.

The other newly refurbished item is the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation phone system. In early August, the old system finally crashed, destroying the voice mail in the process. We replaced it as quickly as possible and listened to resident requests when selecting a new one. When the phone is busy, callers can now go to an automated operator. They will then have the option of holding for a live operator or proceeding through a voice system.

We are also continuing to work to find the best solution for the elevators and escalator at Motorgate. The first bids that came back were not acceptable and the project is currently being rebid. We had hoped that the repair work would begin in late summer, but that time has been delayed to the mid to late fall. We are very frustrated by the length of this project and appreciate your patience.

It is anticipated that within the next several years the new plans for Southpoint will also be started. The next step in the process is about to begin. The Trust for Public Land is holding a public meeting on the three potential plans on Tuesday, September 14. The meetings will be from 2:00-4:00 and from 7:30-9:30 in Good Shepherd. We urge everyone to attend and voice their opinions. The plans will be posted in the window of Gallery RIVAA and can also be viewed at <http://www.markkmorrison.com/roosevelt/pdf/concepts.pdf>.

The summer ended with a dull thud this past Labor Day weekend as I labored to prepare for last Wednesday's first RIRA Common Council meeting of the fall season. There's so much happening, I hardly know where to start. Possibly, the beginning would be best:

Good news first. Our State Assemblymember, Pete Grannis, again has found funds to support many Island organizations including

your Resident Association. RIRA will have \$1,200 to enhance its operations, and the Senior and Disabled Associations will each have \$6,000 for their programs. Our Youth Program has an extra \$12,000 for recreation, education, and counseling

services, and PS/IS 217 will have \$9,000 to spend on educational materials through their PTA. Also our public library branch will share \$15,000 with two other branch libraries. Thanks, Pete – you always come through.

Excess noise shouldn't be a problem on our sleepy little Island, but it is. I was jolted from sleep early last Saturday morning when a Keyspan steam valve roared open and, especially if you live on the east channel in Eastwood, I bet you were too. When I called the new Keyspan II plant control room, I learned that they started to put a new unit on line late Friday night with the resulting steam (and also a minimal gas) release. We have an agreement that operations like this, likely to produce loud venting, will be conducted during weekdays only and not at night or on the weekend. I'm waiting for clarification from Keyspan's Community Development Director.

Have you noticed the continual clatter from low-flying helicopters this summer? Sure, we've seen an increase in police and military flights, especially during the Republican National Convention. But commercial flights appear to be flying on the River and over our Island with impunity. In my discussions with the Helicopter Noise Coalition, the east-side group that helped to remove the 60th Street Helipoint, there seems to be some confusion as to whether altitude regulations even exist, although I've seen regulations that appear to require a minimum 1000 foot altitude over City buildings. I will follow up with the Manhattan Borough President's Helicopter Task Force, meeting later this month. Stay tuned.

From the ethereal to the mundane: There is an area of sidewalk near the Gristede's front door and directly in front of two stairwells into Motorgate that stink of urine and are covered with pigeon droppings. This is unpleasant any-

Some other things remain the same as we enter the Fall season. The bridge remains operational. We have had further discussions with the Department of Transportation. We will continue to provide any updates from them as soon as

they are received. At this time there is no set date when the 24-hour operation will cease.

As soon as we receive updates of any kind regarding transportation or Island events they are posted on the kiosks, given to building management, and added to our web site. Anybody seeking information is also invited to sign up for e-mail updates or call the RIOCI information hotline. To sign up for the e-mail updates, please visit the RIOCI web site at www.rioc.com. There is a place to sign up for the updates located on the left-hand side of the home

page. The phone number for the hotline is **212-308-6608**.

As many of you are aware, the Board voted to extend the time for the Octagon project pending certain governmental approvals. We also hope to have more information on this by mid to late Fall.

I am also proud to report that, for the second straight year, the mobile mammogram machine has come to Roosevelt Island. For the past several weeks we have posted signs on the kiosks and given copies to building management announcing that the machine would be here on September 9. If you were unable to utilize this valuable service this year, I urge you to watch for it next September. We are hoping to make it an annual event.

I also want to take the opportunity to wish all the students, teachers, and support personnel at PS/IS 217 and The Child School a good school year. I also want to remind everyone that there are several Safe Havens for students around the Island, including the RIOCI offices.

Finally, I wish everyone celebrating the Jewish New Year a healthy and a happy one. I also wish everybody a great Fall season! I look forward to being able to report that all of the repairs mentioned are well on their way to completion before the start of the next season!

where on the Island but especially so in such close proximity to our major food vendor. Gristede's manager, Adrian Ramirez, informs me that he has taken care of pigeons directly in front of his doors by installing anti-perching devices and that workers in RIOCI uniforms perform the maintenance of the sidewalks around his store. In fact, Adrian got a cleanup crew out to deal with the mess as soon as I brought it to his attention. RIOCI President Herb Berman informs me that this maintenance is the responsibility of Motorgate and Gristede's, not RIOCI. Adrian has dealt with that part of the problem he sees as his concern. Herb informs me that he has implemented regular walk-throughs with people from Manhattan Park (co-owners of Motorgate) and I hope a solution can be found without delay. This isn't rocket science; it just needs someone to take charge. Herb?

On Tuesday I attended a Second Avenue Subway Task

Force meeting convened by the Transportation Committee of Community Board 8. The thrust of the meeting was Phase I, the portion of the new subway to extend from 96th Street to 63rd Street, including the connection to our F train. The tentative plan, pending full funding of the necessary \$3.8 billion, is to begin the 36-month project in February, 2007. The MTA's Ian Taylor, who is the station design manager, suggested that the impact to our F-train service would be mostly at night and on weekends. Questions were submitted

in writing, and my questions regarding the specifics of this disruption were not addressed before the meeting adjourned. We were promised written responses at a later time, which I will share with you when they are received. What struck me at this well-attended meeting was the depth of opposition to the Second Avenue subway project in general. Transportation Committee co-chair Dan Quart stated that the Lexington Avenue line is currently running at 140% of capacity. I think people mostly are concerned with the many years of disruption in their lives on the Upper East Side and are less concerned with the impact on subway congestion that this project will effect.

Did you read Karen Stewart's diatribe in the last WIRE? See **RIRA**, page 10



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

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Landscape and Beyond, opening party for new show at Gallery RIVAA, **Sat., Sept. 11**, 6-9 p.m. Hours: Sat., Sun., 11-5; Wed., Fri., 6-9.

9/11 Memorial Observation, **Sat., Sept. 11**, 7:00 p.m., at the memorial tree in Good Shepherd Plaza. Candles, contemplation, and song.

Emerging Artists Exhibition Opening at Socrates Sculpture Park, 32-01 Vernon Blvd. (left off the Roosevelt Island Bridge), **Sun., Sept. 12**, 2:00-6:00 p.m.

– The Coming Week –

Montauk Credit Union hours **Wednesdays** 9:00-12:00 through September (closing September 30).

Primary Election Day, **Tue., Sept. 14**, 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. at PS217.

Presentation of Southpoint Park Concept Designs by the Trust for Public Land, **Tue., Sept. 14**, 2:00-4:00 p.m. and 7:30-9:30 p.m. (attend either meeting), Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public participation encouraged.

George Bernard Shaw's Press Cuttings, performance by the Shaw Project, **Tue., Sept. 14**, 7:00 p.m., Amphitheater behind the pizza parlor on Main Street. Free.

First Annual Halleistock, a celebration of kindness and the life of the late Hallie Geier, former Roosevelt Islander, **Sat., Sept. 18**, noon-6:00 p.m., Sunnyside Gardens Park (39th Avenue at 49th Street in Queens). Performances, art activities; \$25/family or \$10/person. (See ad, page 6).

Salsa Dance with music by Los Calientes, **Sat., Sept. 18**, 8:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m. \$20. Tickets and information: **212-826-5646**. (See ad, page 7.)

– Future Events –

La Leche League for breastfeeding mothers, **Tue., Sept. 21**, 1:00 p.m., 20 River Road #5P. Free. (First meeting on Roosevelt Island.) For information: **212-832-1188**.

Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8 meets, **Tue., Sept. 21**, 7:30-9:00 p.m., Westview Community Room. Topics on agenda include police protection and related issues.

The Main Street WIRE – next issue **Sat., Sept. 25**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an "Add Me" message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Sept. 17; decision on inserts for *The Bag*, Tue., Sept. 21; inserts due Thur., Sept. 23. **Future issues:** Oct. 16, 30 (pre-election issue); Nov. 6 (post-election issue), Nov. 20 (Thanksgiving issue); Dec. 4, 18 (two December holiday issues). **In 2005:** Jan. 8, 22; Feb. 5, 19; Mar. 5, 19; Apr. 2, 18, 30; May 14; June 4, 18; July 2, 30; Aug. 27; Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17. **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-related event in this column**, please 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 for such listings.

Icla da Silva Foundation Annual Fundraising Awards Reception, **Thur., Sept. 30**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Avalon Hotel, 16 East 32nd Street. \$50 ticket includes raffle entry for a two round-trip tickets to any Continental Airlines destination in South America, and other prizes. Additional information at <http://www.icla.info>, or call **212-813-1515** for raffle tickets.

Residents Association Common Council Meeting, **Wed., Oct. 6**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Senior Center

Monday	10:30, Creative Arts
10-11, Latchhook Class	12:30, Movie
10-11:30, English as 2nd Language	1:00, Drawing with Pastels
10:30, Blood Pressure Screening	7:00, Dance
12:30, "Oldies" Movies	Friday
1:00, Tai Chi	9:30, Yoga
7:00, Dance Class (Beginners)	10:30, Computers
Tuesday	1:00, Bridge
10:00, Computers	6:00, Dance & Relax
10-11, Dance & Relax	7:00, Games (RISA)
1:00, Bingo	Saturday
6:00, Yoga Class	7:30, Bingo (RISA)
7:30, Games (RISA)	

Special Events
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Tue., Sept. 21, 7:00, RISA General Meeting
Thur., Sept. 23, Health Fair (morning; time to be announced)
Tue., Oct. 26, Flu shots

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The RIRA Column



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9/11

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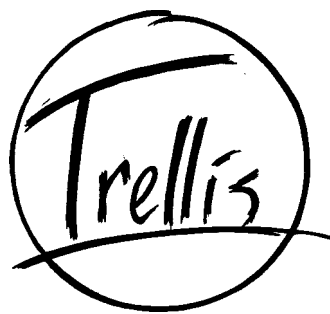
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Carole Kennedy, in Ukraine, Teaching Women Business Skills

by Judy Berdy

Roosevelt Islander Carole Kennedy is now a Peace Corps volunteer in Poltava, Ukraine. She's working for an agency that teaches computer and management skills, and helps women start their own businesses. I recently spent a week with her.

Her new home is a lovely city of 300,000 people, in an agricultural region about 200 miles east of Kiev. Coincidentally, a former inmate in the Blackwell's Island Penitentiary, Emma Goldman, visited Poltava in 1923. In her book, *My Disillusionment With Russia*, Goldman described Poltava as a famous "manufacturing centre of peasant handicrafts" including "beautiful linen, embroidery, laces, and basket work," but she noted that, under the Bolsheviks, those industries were virtually suspended. Goldman quoted a woman in charge of promoting the crafts as saying, "The peasants have lost their art impulse, they have become brutalized and corrupted." (On-line, see marxists.org/reference/archive/goldman/works/1920s/disillusionment/ch20.htm.)

Carole was staying with a family when I visited. There were four generations of women: daughter (age 20), mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother (in her 80's).

Grandmother was constantly trying to feed Carole, who had never eaten so much soup in her life. The apartment, though not luxurious, was comfortable for the family



Carole Kennedy

and Carole. But Carole had not yet mastered the hot-water heater. Running hot water is not automatic in Poltava apartments. To shower, you must think ahead, and turn on a temperamental gas appliance that looks fearsome.

That five-story apartment house, where Carole was on the third floor, had no elevators. She is now lean and trim, thanks to lots of walking, and jokes that she has no need for a gym.

Carole and I had a great time together exploring Kiev and Poltava. We were constantly amazed that there is apparently a fear of fresh air. No matter how hot the weather, every window is closed in stores, on buses, and in public buildings. Luckily, the hotel rooms are air-conditioned – a real treat. Carole promises to report on the temperatures when the notorious winter strikes and lasts for six long months.

"The people here can't get over that I come from a little Island in the middle of the East River and use a Tram for transportation," Carol says. She notes that the Americans and Russians had an air base here during World War II, and there is a very nice section of the small space museum devoted to our efforts in the war. "They have a big American Flag and other memorabilia beautifully displayed. It made me feel very good to see that our efforts have been remembered."

Carole is living on her own, starting this month, in the same neighborhood where she's been a boarder. She's looking forward to the change. She sends her regards to all her Roosevelt Island friends and misses the neighborliness of the Island. Her e-mail address is carolek5312000@yahoo.com.

How's This for a Unique Summer Vacation: 1.) Pack. 2.) Fly thru 12 Time Zones. 3.) Unpack in Bali. 4.) Open an Orphanage.

by Marlene Flom

If you asked four Islanders, "What did you do this summer?" they would respond, "We went to Bali, Indonesia to open an orphanage – Bali House – for Orphans International!" Here is their story.

Jim Luce (founder and president), Marlene Flom (trustee), Ethel Romm (advisory board), and Nurit Marcus (child sponsor) were the four happy travelers. Jim urged each of us to take an extra suitcase filled with toys, books, and clothes for the children. He gave us red bandannas to put on the suitcases and we looked like a troupe of traveling gypsies. We arrived at JFK for the 24-hour trip, stopping in Vancouver and Hong Kong; we lost a day. There is a 12-hour difference between Indonesia and Roosevelt Island!

We were met by Dani Sirait, the founder of Bali House, when we landed in Denpasar, Bali's capital. You may remember that Dani lived on Roosevelt Island for the last two years. He gave up his journalistic career for a year to dedicate himself to Bali House and see to its smooth daily operation.

Dani and Jim worked through Orphans International (OI) America for two years to build the foundation which would one day hold Bali House. The opening gala was spectacular, with 140 in attendance, including civil

and religious leaders as well as performers, visiting orphans, and an international delegation. Dani went on to coordinate our successful first World Congress in a sun-drenched hotel near the orphanage, in Sanur, where Marlene spoke about houseparenting and Ethel spoke about financial advice, respectively.

Jim and Dani stayed at the orphanage while Marlene and Nurit stayed at a lovely cottage hotel in Ubud, an artistic colony one hour from Denpasar. Ethel stayed with an artist friend of Dani's. There is a gentle spirit in Ubud, coupled with greenery and flowers. One-lane roads become two lanes of hair-raising driving – but there is no road rage, only patience. The population of Bali is 95% Hindu, and the living is mellow. The weather was a perfect 80 degrees with pockets of humidity. The Farmer's Market on Roosevelt Island would want to buy the fruits and vegetables here. Outstanding!

Getting back to the opening: people gathered inside the front gate as Balinese dancers performed a welcome dance and Jim and the Hindu president of OI Bali cut a red ribbon, bringing the crowd through Bali House for a tour. Dani served as co-master of ceremony. Jim gave the keynote address, which was simultaneously translated into Indonesian, although he opened with the Hindu greeting "Om swasti astu" and ended with "Om shanti shanti shanti" (a wish for peace individually, collectively and universally). Jim credits the training he has received through the Roosevelt Island Toastmasters for his ability to speak to audiences.

Children of both Hindu and Christian orphanages nearby performed and played

When the Saints Come Marching In. After a wonderful catered lunch with a cool green melon drink, chicken sate, and more, we all sang *We Are the World*. And then we danced around the courtyard in joy for the birth of Bali House.

There was a surprise birthday cake for Jim, whose birthday it was – his 45th! Dani presented Jim with a tremendous oil painting, done by a collective of Indonesian painters, of what the orphanage campus would be like in five years with more houses, a library, and a computer lab. Elaborate!

Bali House is a beautiful six-bedroom dwelling with four bedrooms for children, one for two staff members, and a spacious guest bedroom. Three other rooms serve as teaching and play areas. There is a full-time cook. This is no *Oliver Twist* story: the children live only two to a room and can have second portions of any food they want. When you enter Bali House you feel serene and happy – as though the house is blessed by good spirits who are watching over the children.

And speaking of the children – we have eight beds in Bali House, and five are currently filled. The children include Fauzan (7 years old), Andre (11), Robert (10), Elsi (8), and Rizky (8). Two of the children are

Catholic: Robert, a refugee from East Timor, and Elsi, from the neighboring island of Negara. Three of the children, all from Bali, are Muslim: Fauzan, Andre and Rizky. Fauzan is a first for OI Worldwide as he is defined as a "pre-orphan" – his mother can no longer care for him, and is expected to die shortly. The children are bright and get along well together.

Our thanks go out to Dani Sirait for his excellent handling of so many details to accomplish the opening of Bali House. He also made our stay as comfortable and varied as possible. We miss Dani, but he is needed in Denpasar to oversee the smooth functioning of Bali House.

Back to reality in New York. OI has plenty of work to do – contacts to make and funds to raise. Interested? See our website at www.internationalorphans.org or e-mail Jim at JimLuce@aol.com.



Elsi



Andre



Fauzan



Robert



Rizky



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Evening Service 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 17th
Second Day Morning Service 9:30 a.m.

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Friday, September 24th
Kol Nidre 6:30 p.m. *SHARP*

Saturday, September 25th
Morning Service* 9:15 a.m.
Sermon/Yiskor Memorial Service 11:15 a.m.
Study Session 4:30 p.m.
Afternoon Service & Ne'ila* 5:15 p.m.
Sounding of the Shofar 7:30 p.m.

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Primary Election Tuesday



José Serrano (left) and Nelson Denis are contending in the Democratic primary, each seeking to challenge State Senator Olga Mendez for her seat. Mendez switched parties to become a Republican, making a vigorous Democratic challenge likely. Both Serrano and Denis, pictured in appearances on the Island, have decried Albany's "three men in a room" government.



RIRA from page 3

I truly wish she would apply her talents to working on behalf of the community rather than belaboring this constitution and bylaws question. To clear the air of misinformation, I would assert that the constitution and bylaws, debated now these many months, is not "my vision" but has had the input of a committee as well as the full Common Council, including the constant participation of Karen Stewart herself. Her problem is that she violently opposes any change in any facet of RIRA activity and has made it clear that she will not accept compromise or consensus. Given the deficiencies of the current constitution, she has the tools to tie up the process almost indefinitely. Karen states, "Almost one quarter of the Council does not have e-mail." No, three Members don't have e-mail and receive official notices by other means. The e-mail debate this summer was in lieu of face-to-face constitution committee meetings (committees traditionally don't meet during the summer except to plan summer programs) and the three computerless Council members were not members of this committee.

Prior to my election, RIRA was becoming invisible on Roosevelt Island because it had no public face. In the last four years, we've created and produced programs that have given RIRA a reason to sustain your attention: blood drives, Roosevelt Island Day breakfasts, parties, dances, movie screenings, auctions, sock hops, lobbying trips to Albany, insurance fairs, the 9/11 memorials, and all the rest. Karen and Patrick Stewart have participated in none of these while maintaining their seats on the Common Council by virtue of membership in other organizations. The most critical asset of RIRA is that you elect your representatives, Island-wide and by building district, thus giving us the right to claim that we speak with the voice of the Roosevelt Island community. The Stewarts, however, have been elected to nothing since 1998, and opted not to run, not even from Island House, in 2002. And now, Karen has proposed eliminating any mention of the Roosevelt Island Council of Organizations (RICO) from the revised constitution even though she has voted a Council seat for the last four years only by virtue of her membership in this moribund group. Yes, the constitution allows her to do so. However, RICO doesn't speak for Island organizations (or anyone else) and hasn't done so for a decade or more. One might expect personal integrity to trump the an-

tiquated rules of an outdated constitution, with Mrs. Stewart taking a seat only when elected to the post. However, Karen took the ethically challenged route and has voted her Council seat representing no one but herself.

Karen's screed urges you to pay attention to what happens at Council meetings, and so do I; not just on constitutional questions, but also on the real business of the RIRA Common Council, which is making a difference. Sure, a forward-looking, viable set of rules makes our jobs easier. But you need to pay attention this fall to the candidates for Island-wide office and from your buildings. What have they done and what do they promise to do? We should be judged by the quality of the work we've produced and the difference in the quality of life that our work has accomplished. The RIRA elections will take place at PS/IS 217 on Election Day, November 2. As RIRA members, the minimal participation expected of you is an educated, considered vote.

Far better would be your decision to take part in the RIRA Common Council by running for office yourself. Life on Roosevelt Island is, in many ways, more demanding than in other parts of the City where life is more anonymous. Our status as a planned community, owned by the City and operated by the State without community participation in our governance or decision-making, has made it so. Nevertheless, we choose to live here (are proud to live here!) despite the problems of transportation and inadequate shopping, restaurants, and entertainment options. What makes life tolerable here is the participation of the community in the life of the Island, individually and through our many organizations. And RIRA gives you more

opportunity to impact our issues than any other forum available to us. We reconstituted the Elections and Nomination Committees at our September 8 meeting, and I would welcome your calls to discuss the duties involved in Common Council membership. Make a difference!

And finally: I've been a member of the RIRA Common Council for almost eight years with two terms as president. It's enough. I intend to take a sabbatical from the Council, at least for the next two years. The last four years have been fascinating but I took the job on as a seven-day-a-week proposition, and that's just what it has been. I don't begrudge the time I've put in, but I used to be a well-rounded fellow. Now, my conversation is so exclusively Roosevelt Island-oriented that my friends and family cringe when they see me coming. I'm tired, and I just need to un-focus and smell the flowers again. I've been proud of my service; especially when I've been useful. I've enjoyed participating in the programs we've imagined and produced, serving drinks or even simply cleaning up afterwards. I've especially enjoyed chatting with you on Main Street about Island issues and working to deal with specific problems. Writing this column has been an unexpected joy; I thought I would dry up after two issues! To whomever my successor is: If you don't use this space to share information with the community and to vent your opinions, you are cutting off your nose to spite your face. How many elected representatives have the use of a "bully pulpit" every two weeks? So don't be stupid, *write!*

I intend to use my remaining columns to comment on the elections and yes, to campaign for folks I think will do a good job. The U.S. presidential elections are critical this year and I hope that the interest in them will result in a good turnout for RIRA as well. Our politicians count voter turnout, y'know, and RIRA's status with them increases with the percentage of qualified Island voters who pull the levers.

One last thing: On Tuesday, September 14, you will have the opportunity to help create Southpoint Park. The Trust for Public Land will convene a Town Meeting at the Chapel from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and again from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. This is important to the future of the Island and you should make it your business to participate. And while you're there, take note of how many Council Members have made this Town Meeting a priority and note who they are. That's one way to know whom to vote for!

Between-issues bulletins... Send "AddMe" to editor@Main Street WIRE.com

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A sample:

Bullet

I know how to bite the bullet
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I sometimes mayhap soar
to lofty heights of song,
also love clear linear airs
when I attain them.

Sing my alfresco flavored bouquets
to wild friends and tender lovers.

NYJTL Wraps Season

The New York Junior Tennis League (NYJTL) wrapped up its summer activities on August 28 with awards and a trip to Kids Day at the U.S. Open. Pictured on page 1 are all the award winners, including: Damian Skiba and Kerrone White, ranked first and second on the League's competitive ladder, as well as joint recipients of the League's Most Valuable Player award; Omar White and Alex Schrum, top Sportsmanship award winners; Moctar Toure, Best Attendance; Lauren Abdul. Most Dedicated; Alim Greaves, Most Improved; and Djavan Guy, Most Helpful. The following participants earned distinctions in the League's Summer Reading Program: Gold Readers, Robert Gallagher and Sean Doyle; Silver Readers, Kaitlin Abdul, Colleen Doyle, and Lauren Abdul.

Also pictured are the supplemental-award winners, as well as Mike Kolba, President of the Roosevelt Island Tennis Association, who was on hand to congratulate the children on their efforts, and the staff of the League: Daniel Cherif, Alex Kornhuber, Hasan Wazani and Joyce Mincheff.

NYJTL will resume tennis activities for ages 7-18 at the Roosevelt Island Racket Club, on Saturday, November 6, 6-8 a.m.



Katz from page 1

Preparing for November's election, the Council chose chairs for its Nominations Committee and Election Committee, Mark Chipman and George Reither. Chipman's committee will seek nominees for the 30-some Council seats; Reither's will run the election. All Island residents over 18 are eligible to vote in the RIRA election, regardless of national citizenship.

In other action, the Council voted 15-4 to send a revised constitution for the organization to a Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, with an earlier

informational session to be scheduled. The action was taken over the objection of Karen Stewart, who maintained that the full revision had not been presented to the Council, in writing, at a previous meeting. Frank Farance, serving as parliamentarian, advised that a written version was not required; Katz then ruled that the Council had ample opportunity to consider the general intent of the proposed revisions at the prior meeting, and to study the printed version subsequently distributed, and the vote was taken.

Islanders Join Massive Protest March During GOP Convention



Photos: Brad Benson

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Contemporary landscapes integrated with a dynamic art gallery, conference and dining facilities inside the Smallpox ruin, Louis Kahn's FDR Memorial, and a woodland mount where walkways are intertwined with a series of artistic features. This concept focuses on the creation of a visionary new public park.
Estimated cost: \$49 million.

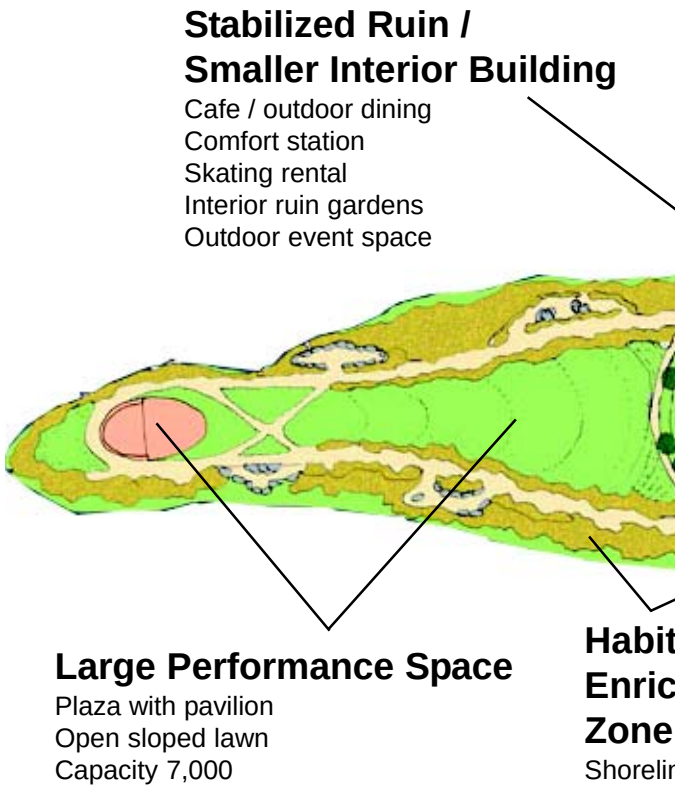


Wild Gardens / Green Rooms

A picturesque park comprised of a series of themed landscaped "green rooms," providing the visitor with a diversity of educational, cultural, restorative, and recreational activities. This concept includes rustic stone architecture, a cafe space within the stabilized ruin, performance and ice skating adjacent to the ruin, specialized winter-interest landscapes, and a performance space seating 7,000. **Estimated cost: \$33 million.**

These pages are adapted from materials available on the Internet at http://www.markkmorrison.com/roosevelt/concepts/concepts_files/frame.html. They will be presented, with further detail, in two meetings Tuesday (choose either or both) at 2:00 and 7:30 in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Each meeting is scheduled for about two hours.

All the plans suggest improved shoreline access from the gates to the Tram station and to Goldwater Hospital. (See story on page 1.)



Concepts for Southpoint Park in Meetings Tuesday

Parc Ville

A park-like extension of the Main Street village – an embracing of community, commercial use, Goldwater Hospital, and amenities in a waterfront park setting. This concept introduces a crescent of public/private buildings, which include a restaurant, dining terraces, and event facilities, as well as speculative retail spaces with terraces, a boathouse for small boat storage and workshop, and a variety of performance spaces. Landscape elements include strolling gardens, water features, and a stabilized ruin garden. **Estimated cost: \$79 million.**

Sun Deck

Wood deck
Built-in furniture
Observation opportunities

Large Performance Area



Stone seating bands
Theatrical lighting
Capacity 7,000
Open lawn

Intimate Performance Area

Small stage
Sloped lawn
Capacity 200

Fishing Deck



Shade structures in performance area for senior citizens, non-ambulatory individuals, and the general public

Stabilized Ruin

Pedestrian access
Interpretive display
Passive seating area

Multifunctional Performance Area

Films, dance, special events

Woodland Walk

Walk to Artistic water display & overlook
Outdoor classroom
Birder's platform
Native planting
Possible interactive features

Boat Pier

Ferry access
Boat ramp, dock, and storage
Workshop and boathouse
Kayak launch
Fishing

Village Crescent – Colonnade



Waterfront restaurant / outdoor dining
Speculative retail / Office space
Comfort station
Gift shop

Waterfront Overlook



Passive seating area
Native planting
Built-in seating
Observation opportunities

Gatehouse



Restaurant
Shoreline terrace for casual dining
Comfort station
Information
Pedestrian gateway

Woodland Gathering Area



Overlooks
Water features
Sledding hill
Interpretive display
Interactive landscapes
Native plantings
Picnic grove

Multipurpose Plaza

Ice skating in winter
Amphitheater seating
Public plaza with water feature

Boat Pier

Boat launch ramp
Fishing

When the Tram is out, and there's no Red Bus alternative transportation...



August 30, 11:50 a.m.
Waiting for the Q102 at the Chapel shelter: Nancy Brown, aide Brenda Padilla, and Brenda's children, Joshua and Johanna.



11:57
Q102 (bus #494) arrives...



11:58
...but the wheelchair lift can't be extended with this concrete thing in the way.



12:00
After bus is repositioned, boarding.
Continue at right →



12:32
This involves a perilous crossing of Queens Boulevard...



...where some of the curbs are impassable for a motorized wheelchair...



...and the lights don't allow crossing in one quick dash.



12:38
Waiting. Any bus will do, but...



1:18
...time for the return trip. We're waiting for the Q60 outside The Blue Room (formerly Favia) at 60th and 2nd.



1:35
Three buses have lined up at the stop, but all three drivers claim their wheelchair lifts are not working.



1:38
One of the drivers, after realizing the situation is being documented, attempts to forbid photography. Unsuccessful, he then calls in an alert, claiming that a terrorist is taking pictures of the Queensboro Bridge.



1:41
Another finally decides to try the lift on his bus and, of course, it works. But it's unlikely he would have tried without the camera there.



1:51
The lift functions upon arrival in Queens Plaza, as well.



3:05
Waiting near Queensbridge Apartments.



3:20
A willingly accommodating Q102 driver arrives.



3:27
We cross the bridge to Roosevelt Island...



3:33
...and we're home. Elapsed time for the return trip: 2 hours, 15 minutes.

...here’s what it takes for a wheelchair user to make a round trip to Manhattan



12:01
Boarding completed.



12:10
After a circuit around the south campus of Coler-Goldwater Hospital, another wheelchair boards.



12:19
After a circuit around the north campus of Coler-Goldwater, we leave the Island...



12:21
...and unload the second wheelchair passenger on Vernon Blvd.



12:30
We unload at Queens Plaza for a change to a Manhattan-bound bus.



12:39
...the first Green Lines driver (bus #281) doesn’t ask about the waiting wheelchair passenger and, instead...



...just drives away.



12:45
The driver of the next bus, a Q101 (bus #408) boards Nancy.



12:56
Finally – Manhattan. Elapsed time: about an hour.



After a brief shopping stop in Manhattan...



1:56
Another crossing of Queens Plaza, to the Island-bound Q102 stop.



2:07
Waiting... waiting... at 23rd Street and Queens Plaza, for the Q102.



2:21
Bus #358 can’t get close enough to the curb, so preparing to board is a problem. But it doesn’t matter – the driver says his wheelchair lift doesn’t work.



2:50
A half-hour later, the next Q102 (#494) speeds past, never looking, accelerating. Ironically, this is the same bus on which we started the journey at 11:57 a.m.



2:51
Nancy decides the best strategy is to use the next block of waiting time to go to the next Q102 stop.

What does it mean to someone in a motorized wheelchair when the Tram is out of service, and a trip into Manhattan is necessary?

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) has suspended the practice of providing Red Bus service to and from 60th Street at Second Avenue, citing deteriorating buses. According to RIOC VP Sari Dickson, “protracted use in Manhattan is still an [insurance] issue,” as well. Dickson also says that, during the last Tram shutdown, Queens Surface Transit and MTA told RIOC that it could not use their bus stops to pick up or discharge passengers,” citing complications related to work on the Queensboro Bridge. Seniors and disabled Islanders who use Access-A-Ride complain

that it is often (some say always) late or seriously unpredictable. That means a scheduled appointment requires considerable latitude and, often, wasted time. The subway is not viable for most motorized wheelchairs, because their wheels cannot deal with the gap between the car and platform here. That leaves bus service. The WIRE asked Nancy Brown to make the trip by available bus lines to test their usability. The test trip documented here was made in a non-rush period on Monday, August 30. Total travel time was nearly three and a half hours.



Nancy Brown Misty

Nancy Brown comments:
All in all, the trip was a nightmare, especially the trip back to the Island, where a total of five buses refused to pick me up. It was very hot, very frustrating, and totally exhausting. A trip that ordinarily would have taken just 45 minutes by Tram or maybe an hour with the Red Bus, took us three and a half hours. I would never, ever make that two-bus trip into Manhattan again. The subway is not a viable alternative for someone in a wheelchair, unless accompanied by someone strong enough to boost the chair over the large gap between the platform and the subway car. Also, you can’t always rely on the elevators being in service at various destination subway stations. Red Bus service into the City during a Tram shutdown is an essential service needed and deserved by the disabled community and its seniors.

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who produce
*The WIRE***

**Thanks for
keeping the
flame**

**Jack Resnick, MD
Founding Publisher**

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Summons from page 1

the female officer then said she knew me.

“I was handcuffed and walked to Public Safety by a contingent of four officers. Their attitude and demeanor were professional. I informed them that I was preparing something for *The WIRE*, but when I asked to call an attorney, I was told I was not under arrest, and that the process of writing a summons would take only five minutes. Forty-five minutes later, I was still in custody. I had been handcuffed to a chair for a half-hour. Finally, I was issued a summons for ‘Disorderly Conduct’ with a court date of October 29.”

Musto said he expects to contest the summons, and is conferring with an attorney to consider further action in the matter.

Musto’s experience parallels that of *WIRE* editor Dick Lutz, who was handcuffed and detained in January, 2002, when a Public Safety Officer ordered him to stop photographing a Tram cabin sitting in the grass at the Island Tram station. Like Musto, Lutz was handcuffed, held incommunicado at Public Safety, then issued summonses. In Lutz’s case, the summonses were later voided by Public Safety Chief James Fry. (See *Island Observer*, page 2.)

Other residents taking pictures on the Island have had similar experiences with Public Safety, though they have not generally resulted in arrest, handcuffing, being held incommunicado, or being restrained at the Public Safety Office.

A professional photographer, Kurt Wittman, has been approached several times by Public Safety Officers when testing equipment. He and his wife were cuffed the week after 9/11/01 when men aboard a Coast Guard vessel spotted them in the water off the Island, doing underwater photography. The charges, for trespassing, were later dropped.

Wittman now carries a copy of a memo from RIOC President Herbert E. Berman that he can show to officers who question his right to take pictures. It reads, in part, “the taking of still pictures on the Island, at allowable sites, is permitted so long as the taking of the pictures does not constitute an obstruction and is not for commercial pur-

Octagon from page 1

resolutions declared any environmental impact to be insignificant, and extended site control to provide more time “to resolve certain open issues.”)

Parking

After the RIOC Board meeting, resident Board member David Kraut told *The WIRE*, “The tennis court parking is out.” But because a portion of the financing Becker and Becker lined up for the project depends upon on-site parking, and because the resolutions provide for temporary courts, the eventual fate of the under-court parking may be yet to be determined. Likewise, the plan for temporary courts could be altered by a further Board resolution.

If no further Board action changes last week’s decision to eliminate under-court parking, on-site parking would be limited to the area under the 13-story apartment wings that will extend outward from the Octagon landmark.

The Grannis Position

The greater ambiguity about the future of the project may arise from conflicting interpretations of the 2002 Open Spaces legislation. Assemblymember Pete Grannis, the Democrat who represents Roosevelt Island, has taken the position that the language of the 2002 Open Spaces legislation prohibits construction or reconstruction beyond the walls of the landmarked Octagon ruin. RIOC President Herbert E. Berman has dis-

poses.”

In June, 2003, the Acting President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), Patrick Siconolfi, issued a clarification of RIOC policy on photography on the Island: In a memo to PSD Chief Fry, Siconolfi wrote, “It is the policy of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation that permits will not be required for recreational photography or videography. The press will also not need permits to take either still or moving pictures on Roosevelt Island.” There has been no subsequent announcement of any change in photography policy.

RIOC Vice President Sari Dickson declined comment on the matter because it is an “ongoing investigation.”

agreed with the Grannis interpretation, along with Becker and Becker. While neither has signaled any recognition that the Grannis contention may be valid, there was no other explanation of the resolution language specifying that “all required consents of the legislature” be obtained.

That wording appears to be a response to a letter Grannis sent to Commissioner Judith Calogero, who heads the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal, on August 11. Grannis wrote that “it is my position that the use of any open land in Octagon Park for this proposed project contravenes the public trust doctrine as an illegal alienation of land deemed to be municipal parkland...”

Late last week, Grannis saw the language in the Board’s resolution as recognition of the validity of his view. “I have argued from the outset,” he said, “that the project’s intrusion on the open space surrounding the landmarked Octagon Tower as delineated in the General Development Plan (GDP) would violate Chapter 493 of the laws of 2002. My position, unambiguously communicated in my public statements and written communications in connection with this project, is that an amendment to the law is needed if this project is to move forward. Now, after two years of ignoring this legal impediment, it appears that RIOC has finally acknowledged the validity of this position, in the resolutions adopted by the Board August 30.”

Grannis continued, “With the removal of what the Board’s resolutions term ‘park facilities’ and the tennis courts from the land RIOC proposes to lease for this project, and the call for moving the project’s underground parking from beneath the tennis courts to the more tightly defined leased premises, the Board now joins me and the Island’s other elected public officials in recognizing the need to protect the integrity of open space in this area.”

RIOC has provided no information on what legislative approvals it might seek, nor is it known how approvals might be obtained, during the 32-day extension provided in the resolution, with the Legislature out of session and not expected back in Albany

until after the November election. But the resolution extending site control does empower Berman to grant further extensions “if deemed advisable within his appropriate discretion.”

Late last week, Bruce Becker, President of Becker and Becker, hailed the passage of the resolutions, while noting that there are details remaining to be cleared up. This week, he said, “If by taking more time there is broader support for the project, I’m for taking the extra time.”

Lower-Rent Units

The plan for lower rents for a portion of the 511 apartments has been altered in the Becker and Becker proposal. Eligibility for the restricted-rent apartments will now be pegged at 150% of “Area Median Income” (AMI), a federal housing guideline. The result:

- Studio apartments renting for \$1,611 will go to applicants earning \$66,000 per year or less.
- One-bedroom units, at \$1,722, will be limited to those earning under \$71,000.
- Two-bedroom apartments, at \$2,068, are limited to tenants with household income under \$84,750.

The bulk of the apartments, however, will go at market rate.

No process has been announced for application for the restricted-rent apartments. If past practice is followed, it is likely a lottery will be involved.

Tennis Courts

The resolutions provide for Becker and Becker to construct six lighted temporary tennis courts in Southtown on the Queens side of the extended Main Street, south of Blackwell House and north of the soccer field, where Southtown buildings 7, 8, and 9 are planned. Initially, temporary courts were in the plan because construction of underground parking at the Octagon Park tennis courts would make them unavailable for an extended period. The presence of the temporary courts in the plans approved last week is taken by some to suggest that the Board’s position on the use of the Octagon courts may later be subject to adjustment based on legal opinions to be sought from the State.



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\$20.00 registration fee will be applied.

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As *The WIRE* Enters Its 25th Year, Past Editors Remember...

by Jack Resnick

I can’t believe that this issue of *The Main Street WIRE* marks the beginning of its 25th volume. Wasn’t it just a few years ago that a group of us were having dinner and bemoaning the absence of the Tram?

It was February of 1981. The annual two-week shutdown of the Tram for “routine maintenance” had become a four-month ordeal of hour-long bus commutes into Manhattan. (The Roosevelt Island subway service was not to begin until 1989.) The cable from which the cars are suspended was being replaced. Somehow, it had dropped onto First Avenue. News was hard to come by. When would our link to Manhattan be restored? Nobody was talking. The New York press didn’t give the story much coverage.

A bunch of us were having a long weekend dinner at our apartment. The rumors flew around the table. They got more intricate and paranoid as more wine was consumed. Wouldn’t it be great, someone asked, if there were a local newspaper on Roosevelt Island that could ferret out the information? It must have been the wine talking, but I heard myself say that I had had newspaper experience in high school and college. I knew how to put out a paper. Let’s do it, I said. Glasses were raised, toasts were made and so *The Main Street WIRE* was born.

Luckily, a lot of the people around the table that night were professional writers. Amazingly, when we posted flyers asking for volunteers. even more people showed up. During its first few years *The WIRE* was blessed with a dozen or so volunteers who divided up the work. Our first news editor, Clare Walker, had been a London newspaper editor before coming to the Island. Her professionalism set the standard for years to come.

A few years later, Clare was succeeded in the role of News Editor by Mark Perkiss. Mark was a young 20-something just out of college, looking for a career. He volunteered for *The WIRE* and took to journalism like the proverbial duck to water. We lost Mark after a few years. He moved off Roosevelt Island to become a reporter for a Trenton newspaper, this time with an actual salary. Mark’s evolution is one of my fondest *WIRE* memories.

I served as *The WIRE*’s editor and publisher for its first dozen years. When I could no longer afford the time, fate smiled on us and a real newsman showed up. Jim Bowser, who had been a professional journalist and novelist, offered to take over the editorship and kept the paper going. He had already served the Island in many other posts – president of the Rivercross and Community Library boards, chair of the Youth Center board, and vice-president of the Residents Association. When you need a job done well, find someone who is already overloaded.

By 1996, Jim’s health forced him to scale back and, God bless him, Dick Lutz appeared on the scene. With Dick’s arrival, my continuing role as publisher also came to an end. (That meant my evenings of laying out *The WIRE* with my desktop publishing software and my monthly attempts to pay its bills finally ended.) I turned *The WIRE* completely over to Dick – although he’s been nice enough to list me on the masthead as founding publisher and run the advertisement for my medical practice.

Roosevelt Island is fortunate to have Dick. The energy and personal resources he spends on providing this community with a newspaper are more than you could possibly imagine. Here’s something I know for certain – he could use some help. If you’ve the time and inclination, give him a call: **212-826-9055**.



by Mark Perkiss

It’s hard to believe that *The WIRE* is starting its 25th year of publication. I first joined *The Main Street WIRE* starting with its second edition, after having written a few stories for its predecessor, *The Island View*.

Little did I know then that my experience with *The WIRE* would lead to a journalism career that has included stints at The Associated Press, United Press International, and now *The Times* of Trenton in New Jersey, where I am a political reporter.

When I joined *The WIRE*, I was lucky enough to fall under the wing of the paper’s first news editor, Clare Walker, the first in a string of professional journalists or writers to hold that position. She gave me encouragement and insight and helped push me toward a reporting career.

The WIRE was a tremendous training ground for me. It let me gain experience in covering a wide array of issues ranging from urban development to the workings of city and state governmental agencies to local politics.

While there were a number of important stories on Roosevelt Island in the mid to late 1980s, the ones I remember best are those dealing with the experiment of a ferry run from the Island to lower Manhattan, the shutting down of the tram because of a nationwide insurance crisis, and the paper’s coverage of crime, particularly drug selling from what was then known as the Green Kitchen.

That coverage led to threats of lawsuits against the paper and me, but Jack Resnick, who founded *The WIRE*, encouraged me to continue pressing the issue, which culminated with a raid on the restaurant and the arrest of its two owners.

I remember talking Jack into the paper covering the meeting of the state agency that finally approved what is now Manhattan Park and getting the story in the issue that would come out the next day.

Needless to say he was concerned about trying to make changes at the last minute and risking our press schedule, but I refused to back down saying the story needed to be covered and he finally gave in.

I raced out to our publication office in Queens that afternoon to rewrite much of the story with new details. When Jack arrived to give final approval to the issue and put the paper to bed, I remember how pleased he was that we had been able to get daily news into the paper.

I’ll admit that I was a bit intimidated by Jack when I first started writing for the paper, but I got over that. My admiration and respect for him grew tremendously in the years I served as news editor before moving to Chicago to join the AP in 1988, however. He encouraged me to be aggressive in our coverage of Island affairs, whether they were the doings of RIOC or countless other issues, and we became good friends.

I developed many friends through my work on *The WIRE* and people on the Island grew to know who I was – rather heady stuff for a twentysomething. That was driven home to me when my dad, who has lived on Roosevelt Island continuously since 1977, was approached by someone who asked him, “Excuse me, but aren’t you Mark Perkiss’ father?”

My time on *The WIRE* was both a joy and a tremendous educational experience. The paper holds a special place in my heart.



Another path offers the visitor a chance to climb a modest rugged mount. From its top, there are views of the sunrise, the sweep of the metropolis, the twinkle of the Queensboro Bridge lights, and the gliding Tram.

On the way down, the visitor is drawn by glimpses of sunny lawns and the sounds of a cascade tumbling into a pool where rocks lie, half-covered by water, providing places to sit and walk. A succession of winding paths through clumps of trees leads to a rustic wall and then an opening. It is the ruin, stabilized, but weathered; it is sunny and filled with ferns. A brick floor is dappled with moss; it is a beautiful room, open to the sky. Windows offer glimpses of bright green lawns and a hedge-enclosed garden.

Through the arch, into the space beyond, is an artistic building housing a theater or café. On its roof is a shady terrace; here the ruin’s windows reveal a sweep of the river extending into the distance. In the foreground is an oval of shimmering water, embraced by stone steps and an artistic planting. In the winter, the plants form a winter garden, the oval of water an ice rink, and the hill behind offers sledding. In the summer, this slice of hill slopes gently to the point, providing a place for large-scale musical performances, movies, or weekend picnics.

Visionary

Sculptural walls and a spiral of artistic plantings draw visitors into large sweeps of plantings that change color with the seasons. They encounter park environments and artistic elements that draw on the environment for their inspiration. Art enhances the visitor’s experience and appreciation of the site, its living things, and natural phenomena like the river, the stars, the movement of the sun, and the wind. Artistic structures incorporate the large quantities of the site’s salvaged stone.

A crystal-shaped building of glass hovers inside the sta-

by Jim Bowser

My style of editing *The WIRE* was to count on other people to do it. I love to wander the Island, just talking to folks. Then, every two weeks, in a meeting at Jack Resnick’s apartment, people would gather to contribute information on meetings they had attended. Some of their reports were well-written; others were just notes from which I could work.

I also attended a lot of meetings, to the point where I wore myself out. Nonetheless, I tried to cover most of the sessions in person, because that was the best way to sense the dynamics of the meeting – something not really satisfied by someone else’s notes or recollections.

Relying on other residents to bring in information produced a widely varying cast of characters for those meetings at Jack’s. Usually, they included Judy Berdy, Barry Puritz and Karen Puritz, and – of course – Terri Resnick, who provided both reports and fresh-baked cookies. Judy Connorton was frequently at the table and Ginny Ewald was a regular.

If I couldn’t cover a meeting, Nancy Masterson would often attend for me.

Ken Paul used to contribute frequently. Gian Picco was a source for me at the United Nations – then became famous with the release of the hostages held in Iran. *The Post*’s Paul Rigby provided cartoons and, when he moved to Connecticut, his son Bay did some. Shirley Margolin was a faithful reporter of what the State government was doing. Linda Heimer was a frequent contributor. Charlie De Fino provided a good deal of information on our youth. Debra Mount Cornet was faithful in rounding up news, reporting on it at the biweekly meetings, and then sometimes she would write the stories. Tim Johns reported regularly on progress at buy-out attempts.

I have to mention Beverly Shutes. She did all the typing from my hasty notes, managing to translate them into readable English.

The politicians and Island officials were always cooperative: Charles Rangel, then Congressmember Carolyn Maloney, when she took over; Gifford Miller, who’s now City Council Speaker; State Senator Olga Mendez, and Assemblymember Pete Grannis.

One memorable incident occurred when RIRA President Patrick Stewart and his followers gathered outside the RIOC offices, and wouldn’t let anyone in. Then RIOC finally opened the door for a couple of people, but those inside the offices never saw the crowd that was outside. That was always the trouble with most RIOC people – they were confined to the office and didn’t see what needed to be done around the Island.

The new President, it seems to me, is trying to do things about the physical condition of the Island, and to make more friends for RIOC. Mostly, he needs to talk to more people, as a good reporter for *The WIRE* would.



bilized ruin. At night, it glows, casting rays of light through the windows. Its four floors of interior space could accommodate a variety of uses including a gallery, a retreat or conference center, a theater, or a museum. Certainly, it would include a restaurant and publicly accessible rooftop terrace. At ground level, mossy brick paths lead to a walled garden inside the southern portion of the ruin.

South of the ruin is the Kahn memorial to Franklin D. Roosevelt. A monumental set of granite steps raise the visitor to a wedge of grass surrounded by pollarded linden trees. After traversing successive funnel-shaped gardens, the visitor enters a granite room at the tip of the Island. Walled by masonry of unquestionable tectonic honesty and ceiled by the light of the sky itself, the memorial room allows outward views only to the south, down the river and past the UN toward the Williamsburg Bridge. The nearby tumult of Manhattan and its spiky midtown skyline are screened from sight.

Parc Ville

A modest ensemble of imaginative contemporary buildings are arranged in an arc to create a remarkable street. Their terraces, loggias, and public spaces provide comfort in all weather – a place to meet your friends or someone new. The public rooms will accommodate a variety of uses including dining, boat building, entertainment, and commerce.

Below, a strolling garden for romance and reverie undulates. It beckons with the expectation you will experience something wonderful. Artful water, sunny lawns, and shady groves embrace the Renwick ruin. Its windows and doors offer views of its interior, its vine-covered walls and theatrical deterioration. Paths lead to the naturalistic shoreline, enhanced with arcs of deck that allow sitting, sunning, and fishing.

A wedge of lawn on a soft hill accommodates performances and spectacles, such as the fireworks. The stage and lawn are shaded with artistic structures like sails, softly illuminated at night. The wedge of lawn will accommodate all manner of spectacles including light shows and large-scale art performances. Theatrical lighting makes this a place of unparalleled night beauty.

Southpoint from page 1

tors from the rest of the world.”

A listing of principles touches on the question of visitors: “Help make Roosevelt Island an economically sustainable and culturally vibrant urban Island village.” It calls on the planners to “program the park so visitors are drawn to its unique character and spectacular events, thus contributing to the economic health of the community and the operating costs of the park,” but also to respond to the “rhythms and majesty of the river,” “to provide for special-needs visitors,” “provide times of solitude and quiet,” and for “times of communal gathering and celebration.”

“Make the park a source of pride and community identity.”

Here are condensed versions of the text descriptions of the plans, which are illustrated on pages 12 and 13.

Wild Gardens / Green Rooms

A rustic stone gatehouse with a small tower and an archway greets visitors. It offers a place to eat and rest on stone terraces and balconies overlooking the East River. Through the gateway, a wide shady path meanders along the top of the rugged shoreline through dense trees. The bank of the East River is so rocky you can get down to the water only along a narrow winding path. The shoreline offers places to sit on rocks, to listen to the river, and to watch crabs play on the rocks. Sitting low, near the water, the sounds and sights of others fade. There are frequent opportunities for solitude.

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Limmer from page 1

Tours of the Lower East Side – a Walking Guide was published.

On Roosevelt Island, she was active in RICLA, the Roosevelt Island Community Literary Associates, which operated the Island’s community library until it was taken over by the New York Public Library. She served as President of the Island Library for several terms.

In a letter to *The WIRE* published a year after Ruth Limmer’s death, her fellow Rivercross resident Mickey Karpeles-Bauer noted that her neighbor had given generously to Island organizations, and recalled how many of her students had gathered on the Island for her memorial, many speaking warmly of her no-nonsense wit and demanding discipline in teaching writing.

Of the bequest to *The WIRE*, Managing Editor Dick Lutz said this week, “Because she was a writer, a teacher of the writing discipline, and a lover of language, Ruth Limmer’s gift is particularly meaningful and touching. In some sense, it is the ultimate review of the newspaper, and a recognition of its role in the fabric of our community.” Lutz said the Limmer bequest will be used to clear some of *The WIRE*’s accumulated debt, and toward the purchase of a badly needed proof-page printer to replace a slow seven-year-old unit that creates a deadline bottleneck in preparing each issue of the newspaper.

Letters from page 2

tures. These units are so large they effectively add 50% to the height of the Island House school. Vibrations penetrate our apartment even with windows firmly closed. In addition, the system remains on when the school is closed and empty, and in weather below 70°.

Your school is, in effect, taking from us much of what we pay for to live here. We moved to Roosevelt Island (some of us nearly 30 years before The Child School) and have paid a premium in rent for our apartments’ quiet, fresh air, and lack of urban/industrial noise. The constant noise pollution and changes to our air quality due to the systems on The Child School rooftops now affect 135 apartments in Westview and Island House and force us to live with closed windows and air conditioning. These factors have begun thus to severely interfere with the habitability of our apartments. In addition, the noise pollution and vibrations also disturb our sleep, produce anxiety, and affect our health and wellbeing and our ability to conduct our social and professional lives.

Whether Island House or Westview remain privately owned or are converted to resident ownership, noise pollution is a major factor affecting the habitability and market value of these apartments. Constant machine vibration can have serious structural effects. The net effect of 135 apartments running their air-conditioners constantly just to keep noise out increases pollution and adds thousands of dollars to building operating expenses; it will increase air-conditioning unit replacement costs for the affected apartments – costs which will be borne by all building residents. Current and potential new owners should take heed and join us in our efforts to reach a solution.

Since May, we have requested and received three visits from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) noise inspectors in our apartment at 595 Main Street. After the last visit, we were informed that a sum-

To the Editor:

About that unticketed, privileged Toyota: I find the parking issue so offensive, as do many other people. It’s just unfair to all those Roosevelt Island drivers who use the parking as originally intended – for short stays to load and unload. The rare times that I do drive onto the Island for the purpose of loading or unloading, I have given up any hope of finding a space.

A few years ago, when I had to take my daughter to the airport early in the morning (about 5:00 a.m.), there was no place to park at my building. On the other hand, last summer we had close friends visiting from Long Island. They inadvertently parked across from Motorgate in the handicapped zone and were given the maximum parking ticket, probably within an hour of parking. I think the ticket was for \$165, and I could not successfully appeal it. The handicapped sign was covered by a tree bough, the blue paint was faded, and none of the other cars had handicapped plates, although they did have handicapped tags hanging from the rear-view mirrors. I sometimes wonder how many of those signs are being used legitimately.

I suggest that Main Street be used solely for loading or unloading and that, if handicapped individuals are due special privileges, their vehicles be required to have handicapped plates.

The situation is so much worse than what it was when I moved to Roosevelt Island in 1992, and therefore a radical policy change is required. I truly hope that we will see justice done.

Name Withheld

mons was issued to The Child School and a court appearance set for September 29 for a violation under Noise Code section 24-237.

Ronald G. Musto, Ph.D.

Editor’s note: This letter was condensed for publication. The writer has also provided information on how to lodge a noise complaint with DEP; see page 23.

Between issues, get *The WIRE*’s e-mail bulletins. Send an “AddMe” to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com.

Observer from page 2

At Public Safety’s office I was frisked, cuffed to a rail in the muster room (muster *closet* might be more descriptive), and held incommunicado while summonses were prepared.

The 114th Precinct was called in, and Sgt. James Heffernan informed me that Anderson was claiming physical injury and was being checked out by Emergency Medical Services. (Huh?) He explained the likely course of events to me (summons, court appearance, and probably it would be tossed out), but I was lost in thought: Anderson, clearly, realized she had overreacted, and was trying to build a case that I had somehow gotten physical with her. Apart from the belly-bumping she did, we had no contact, but I realized she would want to cover her posterior.

An hour later, while writing this chronology, I was still incommunicado, waiting for summonses to be issued. Eventually, three were presented to me: Disorderly conduct, trespassing, and harassment. Pretty standard stuff, but as Heffernan had carefully avoided saying, mostly bovine deposits, since there had been no signs indicating I could not step up on the grass for a better angle, since nobody had been disorderly until Anderson stiff-armed my camera, and harassment was the way *I* was treated, not anybody else.

When I finally left the Public Safety Office, now more bemused by the experience than angry, I realized my bicycle was yet to be recovered, so I returned to ask where it might be. There, I encountered Chief James Fry, who asked me to join him in his office for a chat.

It was a pleasant chat, and Fry even complied when I suggested he have PSO Anderson join us. She didn’t like it when he let it be known the summonses would be voided. She even didn’t like it when I said to her, “Can this be OK between us?” She stomped out, saying, “No I’m not OK with it.”

For the record, I specifically asked Fry to be sure Anderson was not hurt by this incident. I’ve overreacted myself at times, in my younger days – and she is younger. (Fry promised he would make her comfortable with the outcome.)

The lessons to be learned here are, I suppose, that you can’t fight City Hall or Public Safety – that an officer with ire will call in reinforcements whose job it will be to respond to the situation as described, rather than attempt to ascertain what the situation really is.

There are also lessons in it for Roosevelt Island and Public Safety, having to do with overreaction, proper understanding of the rules being enforced, and – let me not fail to mention – something we call the First Amendment.

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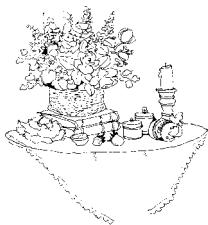
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Want to Complain About Noise?
Here's How, Step By Step

by Ronald G. Musto

According to the NYC Noise Code, section 24-237, Circulation Devices, "No person shall operate or permit to be operated a circulation device in such a manner as to create a level in excess of 45 dB(A) when measured inside the dwelling unit affected in a line with the window nearest the exterior face of such circulation device. The measurement shall be taken with the window fully open at a point three feet from the open portion of the window."

While the combined noise level of all units will be considered after new city legislation goes into effect after January 2005, at present a summons can only be filed against individual units.

Here are the steps to arrange a free noise inspection that could result in serious fines for offenders:

- Call 311. Ask for the City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- Describe the source of the noise (e.g., ventilation systems on a building roof). Provide both your address and the address from which noise is emanating.
- Request a DEP inspection-team visit, and record the case number and the name of the agent taking the call.
- If a visit hasn't been scheduled within a week, call again with your case number.
- During the visit, write down the inspectors' names (there should be at least two inspectors) and badge numbers.
- The inspectors will need to take readings with the noise source turned on, and one with ambient noise only.
- Ask the inspectors for the readings, and about what action DEP will take.

You can buy your own easy-to-use decibel noise meter at Radio Shack for about \$50.00. It's a good idea to begin recording decibel levels at night, during the day, on weekends, etc. Cheaper units don't meet DEP standards for legal measurements, but they provide measurements accurate enough for logging purposes.

Here are some additional sources of information:

- Article on Mayor Bloomberg's attack on noise pollution – www.citymayors.com/environment/nyc_noise.html
- The Noise Pollution Clearinghouse – www.nonoise.org
- The Council on the Environment – www.cenyc.org/HTMLPE/noise.htm
- DEP (noise code) – www.nonoise.org/lawlib/cities/newyork.htm
- The legislative aide at DEP – **718-595-3497**

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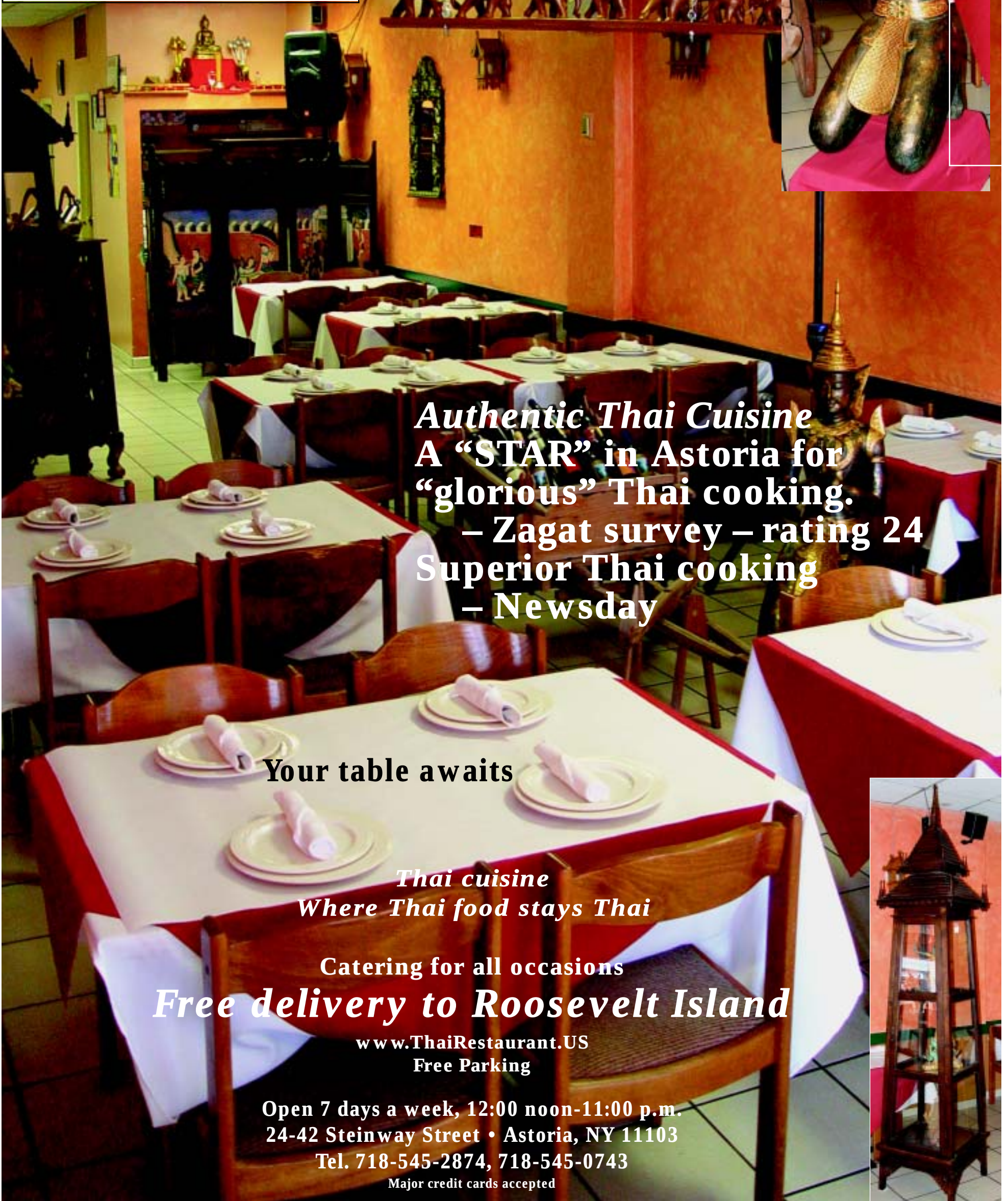
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