

WELCOME
FIREWORKS
VISITORS!

The Main Street **WIRE**™

25th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Solstice This was Roosevelt Island's view of sunset on June 21 – the Summer Solstice.

Real Estate

Before Youth Center Deal, RIOC Board Wants More Data

The Youth Program may have moved a quarter-step closer to getting expansion space in Thursday morning's meeting of the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC). The Board also failed to ratify a handshake deal for a lease, made by its real-estate consultant, to give the former Montauk Credit Union space to MovieBank, a DVD-vending machine operator. And it created a committee to

consider extension of the ground lease for Eastwood. **Youth Program** The Board discussed at length how to proceed on the Youth Program's request for the minischool space, last occupied by the Lilies School, at the south end of Eastwood. The request has been pending for some time – years, as some count it. Board member John Mannix noted the frustration to See **Real Estate**, page 6

Watchdog Planned for RIOC, Similar State Operations

by Erik Kriss in Albany

The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) will be under closer scrutiny under a bill the State Legislature passed last month. The legislation, part of an agreement between lawmakers and Governor George Pataki, subjects all state public authorities to stricter guidelines and more oversight. It was one of a handful of reform measures approved during the just-concluded 2005 legislative session and came in response, many observers say, to growing criticism about State government dysfunction. The public authorities reform bill would create an outside inspector general's office to investigate the approximately 700 quasi-independent state agencies, and an outside budget office to evaluate their finances. It also requires public authorities to get at least "fair market value" when they sell property. See **Watchdog**, page 17

Business

Chamber of Commerce Gets NYS Help In a Drive to Improve Island's Economy

The Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce is inching forward in a plan to improve the business climate here. With the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), the Chamber has drafted help from the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), City and State legislators, and other Island organizations concerned about the

Island's mercantile health. At a meeting held last week, dentist Dr. Larry Itskowitch recalled the history of past efforts to make things better for merchants. "I was the 28th resident on the Island," he told a group of Islanders and legislative representatives gathered at Gallery RIVAA. "The original Roosevelt Island brochure con-



Hector Santana of Empire State Development describes a plan of attack.

Briefly...

Visiting for the Fireworks? You're visiting one of New York City's great communities – perhaps the very best – and there's construction all around, which means your next home could be here. After the fireworks have begun to fade into memory, come back for a look at the real Roosevelt Island, where the people live.

Eastwood residents will hear the terms of the rent deal struck with the building's owner by their Eastwood Building Committee at a meeting Wednesday night (July 6) at 7:00 at the Good Shepherd Community Center, when their attorney provides a report.

Speaking of Eastwood, **Dark Water** opens Friday (July 8). Much of it was shot on Roosevelt Island, and it suggests a new slogan for marketing the building: *Eastwood – It's not all that scary.* Can the owner sue if tenants move out after seeing this flick? Publicity materials (there's an on-line "experience" at darkwater.movies.go.com/experience.html) describe the movie as a "haunting, chilling film about a young woman on the edge... a psychological thriller... Her new apartment – dilapidated, cramped, and worn – seems to take on a life of its own. Mysterious noises come from the empty apartment upstairs and there's a



persistent leak of dark water in the bedroom ceiling. Her imagination runs wild, leaving her unable to distinguish between reality and fantasy..." Yep, that's our Island.

On the other hand, **Roosevelt Island is "trendy,"** according to NewsMax, a website that bills itself as "America's News Page." Before you start bragging to friends about where you live, however, be aware that the article got something wrong about Kofi Annan, the subject of the article. The full quote: "Kofi Annan moved out of a condo he owned on Manhattan's trendy Roosevelt Island when he became the UN chief on January 1, 1997." Annan lived in Island House, a rental building, while here. The full article, mistakes and all, is at <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/ic/2005/6/19/111459.shtml>.

A phone number previously published for registering for possible housing at the new **Octagon Apartments** was incorrect. The number is **888-292-4990**; by e-mail, EHarrison@BeckerAndBecker.com. Gotham Construction, which is handling the work at the site, held a topping-off party for workers last week, and there are panoramic photos on pages 8 and 9.

With this issue, **The WIRE** goes on its summer schedule. Next issue: Saturday, July 30. Fortnightly publication resumes with the issue of Saturday, August 27, which will complete the newspaper's 25th year.

vinced me to go forward [with a dental practice here] because it said, 'It will be a town designed to create better lives for the 5,000 families who will soon call it home.'

He continued, "Unfortunately, it has not been easy for the Roosevelt Island business community. During the first 27 years, the average number of owners in those 14 stores that changed ownership for economic reasons was three. A store changed ownership an average of every nine years. Even though the census identifies an average income on Roosevelt Island of \$50,000, that income is mostly spent in Manhattan.

"Future success depends on a considerable increase in population, but also on a considerable economic and visual improvement in the business corridor. This will encourage people to move here, our residents to spend their money here, and not move away. We are asking Empire State Development Corporation, RIOC, politicians, and building owners to help the Island achieve this improvement."

Roosevelt Island Historical Society President Judy Berdy spoke of the kiosk which once dispensed trolley tokens to travelers crossing the Queensboro Bridge, and which now sits on the Southtown grounds awaiting installation at the Tramway as a visitor center.

See **Empire State**, page 6

Aiming for March Occupancy, Octagon Apartments Topped Off



From the Octagon Apartments' north tower, which was finished first, a swarm of workers can be seen finishing the east tower. There are panoramas of the view in this issue's center spread. The project employed over 1,000 workers. The project will be owned by The Multi-Employer Property Trust (MEPT), a real-estate fund that pools over 250 pension funds to invest in such properties. Looking south, in the background are the Citicorp Tower in Queens, Keyspan's Ravenswood power plant, the Roosevelt Island Bridge and Queensboro Bridge, and the Manhattan Park buildings. To be added to the list for the 100 affordable apartments or the 400 market-rate apartments, call **888-292-4990**. Panorama assembled by Paul Katz

The Editorial Page

Just Common Sense

Roosevelt Island has a shot at getting a credit union to re-
place Montauk, which couldn't make a go of it here.

But RIOC is in the process of losing that opportunity. Residents need to speak out now to save it.

RIOC has turned over the marketing of its commercial real estate to Jones, Lang, Wooten. RIOC President Herb Berman said recently that he turns over all real-estate matters to the JLW consultant, Paul Maas. And indeed, the RIOC Board hired Maas to handle the job.

But it appears Maas has been turned loose without reason-
able guidance, allowed to make “handshake deals” with potential tenants without first checking with the RIOC Board or any com-
mittee of its members. So recently, when faced with a choice between renting the old Montauk Credit Union space to a DVD vending-machine company (MovieBank) or bringing in a credit union (for which the space is already ideal) – at a lower rent – Maas naturally went for the higher rent, the higher commis-
sion, and the MovieBank deal – and shook hands on it.

On Thursday, in a split 4-4 decision, the RIOC Board decided against approving that handshake deal, a bit of wisdom excercised by Patrick Stewart, Michael Shinozaki, Mark Ponton, and David Kraut, all resident members of the Board.

Just before the vote, a question had been raised by another resident member, Deborah Beck (who ultimately voted for rent-
ing the space to the MovieBank operation, largely to preserve Maas's credibility in his handshaking, it seemed): **Should RIOC perhaps give a preferential lease rate to community-critical services like a credit union?**

To which we can only respond, **Duh!**
But Board Chair Mary Beth Labate expressed doubts that the RIOC Board can set such priorities for the community with a “one man's treasure is another man's trash” kind of worry. It's no wonder she feels inept in making such choices for the commu-
nity: She doesn't live here, and during the meeting it became clear she wasn't even aware that we have a New York National Bank branch on the Island. That just goes to show why the RIOC Board should be elected, and elected from among residents who live here and *do* know what they and their neighbors need to make this a viable community.

A sacrifice of \$5,000 a year in rent to choose a vital credit union service over a movie vending machine that would probably drive the General Store (which markets movie DVDs and tapes) out of business is a no-brainer. But it wasn't even considered seriously by Maas, who also doesn't live here and is oriented al-
most entirely to the cash in a deal.

Want a \$534 million credit union here, offering greater con-
venience and higher interest rates – and mortgages for coming property purchases? If you do, you best speak out *now*, before the RIOC Board meets again with a different quorum assembled, and votes against the community's best interests.

To be heard on this, communicate your views to RIRA Presi-
dent Steve Marcus via e-mail to SteveAtRIRA@verizon.net. Just say *yes* to common sense, and *yes* to the notion that RIOC's real-
estate guy should be governed more by community needs than by a few dollars difference in commission.

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Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
Reporters – Mary Camper-Titsingh, Anna Doumnova, Anri Wheeler
Albany Correspondent – Erik Kriss
Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
Proofreader – Linda Heimer
Photographer – Vicki Feinmel
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Judi Arond, Bubu Arya, David Bauer, Mickey Karpeles Bauer, Steve Bessenof, Phillip Bias, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chipman, Nassima Codderrrens, Thibault Codderrrens, Vivianne Codderrrens, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Alicia Cordovano, Asaah Coston, Ryan DeAbreu, Jevon Degraffenreidt, Alexander Dienstag, Rebecca Dougherty, Julian Edelman, Teshawn Edmonds, Parker Ellis, Don Eremin, Bryan Ewald, Dan Folla, Diana Folla, Wesley Gibbs, Anthony Hasan, Teresa Hasing, Armida Heimerdinger, Roberta Hershey, Ken Kaplan, Mattie Kaplan, Matthew Katz, Mike Kolba, Phuong Lee, Brigitte Loewy, Omari Mack, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Anh Nguyen, Mai Nguyen, Jenny Olivera-Del Mastro, Joan Pape, Ilana Papernik, Harry Patel, Sheila Patel, Raye Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Muhammad Fahad Shakeel, Alan Ulick, Nina Winteringham, and students of Legacy High School.

Letters

To the Editor:

While I agree with the notion expressed in your June 18 issue that banning Saturday night concerts from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd is severe, I completely disagree with and disapprove of the blame cast upon the Catholic Parish and Father Miqueli. Your editorial belittled the very real concerns Father Miqueli has about the condition of the Chapel and the potential damage to sacred objects, such as the altar.

I don't know the facts concerning the condition in which the Chapel is left after such events or the facts concerning the general frequency of using churches for such events and I suspect you don't know either. But it doesn't matter. What matters is the Church. And the Chapel of the Good Shepherd is a church. It is sacred to hundreds of residents of the Island, both Catholic and Protestant. I guarantee that it means more to those residents as a church than it means to others as a concert hall.

It is better to work towards solutions to the problem of sharing the Chapel than to place blame and your editorial did propose one reasonable solution. Another would be to use a security deposit to hire someone to clean up or repair the Chapel as needed after concerts or other events.

Whatever the ultimate resolution is, I believe that respect for the be-
liefs of all of the residents of the Island is very important. I am sorry that your editorial did not rise to that ideal.

Marguerite Camaiore

To the Editor:

Thank you, Mr. Herb Berman, for standing up, doing the right thing by the St. Frances Cabrini Parish, and acknowledging the priority of having the Good Shepherd Chapel reserved for Mass and religious services on Saturday evenings and Sundays. Although I understand the importance of Good Shepherd Chapel serving as a community center on the Island, I believe this comes with respecting the sacred space of the sanctuary. In preparation for the latest concert, our sanctuary was disturbed and the altar moved. I was appalled! The sanctuary of a church is holy space; altars contain relics of saints and are revered by Catholics. The altar is the place where the consecration takes place in which bread and wine are turned into the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the central focus of the Mass. Needless to say, I consider the disturbance of the sanctuary a great disrespect. I do not expect everyone to share my faith or beliefs, but I do expect mutual respect when using an area that others share.

The past two weeks have raised several questions in my mind. There seems to be a thunderous silence in *The WIRE* and events concerning the Catholic Church on Roosevelt Island. Starting with the death of Our Beloved Holy Father John Paul II, in which a third of the world watched, there was not a word mentioned in *The WIRE*. We had a special Mass on Friday, April 6, at 7:00 p.m. for Our Holy Father (which was announced and posted in the Good Shepherd Plaza); it was beautiful and the Chapel was packed; again, not a word appeared in *The WIRE*.

When Pope Benedict XVI was elected and installed there was no men-
tion of this, either, in our Island newspaper.

Recently Msgr. Denis Madden, who lives on Roosevelt Island, was made Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore. This is wonderful news and a great honor that one of our residents is made Bishop. Unfortunately, this was not in *The WIRE*.

On May 7, when a group of our children living on the Island made their First Holy Communion, Fr. Miqueli celebrated a magnificent Mass. The church was packed and overflowing with parents, relatives, and friends. The children worked very hard all year long and I certainly believe that this would have been a great human-interest story; what child does not want to be in the newspaper (especially their Island newspaper) and what parent is not proud when their child's accomplishments appear in the local newspaper?

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini is a great parish and Fr. Miqueli is an awe-
some shepherd who nourishes our faith and leads us ever closer to God. It makes me wonder why our events and activities, as important as they are, do not appear in *The WIRE*.

Dolores L. Perez, M.D.

Editor's response:

- *The WIRE's* focus is on Roosevelt Island, which is covered inad-
equately by other media. Replacing Island news with material on the death of Pope John Paul II would have duplicated extensive coverage in other media at the expense of news available nowhere else.
- Each faith represented on the Island has developed excellent means of communication with its adherants. *The WIRE* has covered changes in pastors and other items of Island-wide interest. An example in this issue is coverage of a memorial service for Fr. Joseph Gorman; past examples have included photo features on reenactment of the Nativity, CYO fashion shows, and other events. While First Communion is important and a warm family event, it does not qualify as “hard news.” Space permitting, however, such an event might be covered as a fea-
ture, if *The WIRE* is informed of it. In this case, we were not informed.
- Similarly, *The WIRE* was not informed of Msgr. Denis Madden's advancement to Bishop, and therefore could not report on it. As a rule, *The WIRE* wants to report on such promotions and honors when space permits, but can't report information not made available.
- *The WIRE's* editorial did not oppose use of the Chapel for Saturday and Sunday services, only RIOC's ban of Saturday evening concerts after that day's religious uses have ended.
- The altar in the Chapel was moved frequently under previous priests, without protest by parishioners or others. Many Catholic parishes conduct Masses in community centers where altars are moved into place for services and later cleared for other events; doing so suggests no disrespect to the parish, sancuary, or priest.

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 will not be published.*

Preferred method of submission: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (plaintext e-mail format preferred, or attach a file), 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. All letters subject to acceptance and to editing for length and clarity. Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

To the Editor:

Regarding RIOC's recent decision to end late Saturday evening social events in the Church of the Good Shepherd, I find it interesting that the editor of this newspaper, so outspo-
ken regarding so many Island issues, chooses to whitewash the problem as finding the church in “occasional mild disarray,” and is directing such a harsh and mean-spirited attitude toward the new parish priest. While a suggestion was made in *The WIRE* that perhaps a cleaning deposit could be charged and an employee design-
ated to ensure that the premises are ready for Sunday-morning Mass, ref-
erence was made that the problem amounted to someone possibly leav-
ing a stray Coke can behind or the altar being moved and not returned to its original position, offending the (allegedly intolerant and sensitive) parish priest. That the situation came to this end leads me to believe that there wasn't an isolated occurrence, and judging by the litter on Main Street and in the buildings, left not only by children but many bad-man-
nered and inconsiderate adults as well, I'll bet it was not an errant Coke can that set this off.

I think that the entire religious community using the Church of the Good Shepherd has every right to expect anyone using the building for secular purposes to show the utmost respect for the church, the altar, and all religious accouter-
ments contained therein. That there should be a need to hire someone to clean up after the allegedly cul-
tured people who organize and at-
tend these social events is a dis-
grace. Instead of singling out and criticizing Father Miqueli, why not put the blame where it really be-
longs?

Gail Montague

Editor's response: Elimination of litter at its source would be an excellent solution, but people are not perfect. The editorial objected to RIOC's solution of that problem – or whatever problems arise from the Chapel's use as a community center – by denying its use for Sat-
urday night events, rather than ad-
dressing it in a more practical way. On another point, what part of the editorial does the writer feel “singled out and criticized” Fr. Miqueli or alleged that he is intol-
erant and insensitive? (The edi-
torial is on line at nyc10044.com/wire/2520/edit2520.html.)

To the Editor:

Westview's lawyers argue that the Master Lease between the City and State fixes, until 2068, the per-
centage of subsidized housing in Northtown, and that any change would violate the General Develop-
ment Plan (GDP) provision that only 25% of the units may be mar-
ket rate.

One problem with this argument is that the owners are not parties to the Master Lease. They will argue that they are not bound by its terms, which conflict with their indepen-
dent statutory right to withdraw from the Mitchell-Lama program.

Another argument the owners will make is that the GDP is, after all, a “development” plan that ap-
plies only to the initial development of the Island, and wasn't intended to fix the ratios for 99 years. In-
deed, even the Master Lease con-
templated that Mitchell-Lama units would become market rate “conven-
tionally financed housing” when their 30-year tax exemptions end.

It also must be noted that the Master Lease and GDP have been previously amended by the City and State, and could be further

See **Letters**, page 14
Additional letter on page 8

Since 1996, I've been the Communications Chair for the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association. I'm responsible for RIRA's internal and external communications, including websites, discussion forum, and mailing lists. At lot has happened with technology over the past 10 years.

Circa 1996-1997

In 1996, I dreamed of offering some kind of "complaint" service that would provide a *public* recording of problems with products and services. I was very frustrated with many products and services and I felt that, had there been some public awareness of defects in products and services, the manufacturers or service-providers would have a strong incentive for improving their products/services.

Although I had some ideas, the main

problem was technology: the world wide web was still far from a mature technology (in those days, there were so few websites that *The New York Times* still had listings of new websites that were coming online); the best internet service for an average user was the 28.8Kbps modem; disk drives were small (500MB was considered a large disk); the JPEG digital image standard was barely complete; and color printing was expensive and relatively rare.

Around 1996-1997, I experimented with some of these ideas and got some very good results. Back then Westview and Island House had a combined tenants association (the Westview-Island House Task Force), and I applied these ideas to maintenance issues in the buildings' public areas. The Task Force had ongoing complaints, yet the managing agent (Roosevelt Island Housing Management) stated that many issues were being worked on. Several members of the task force, including myself, would do biweekly walkthroughs of the two buildings to report these problems on a tracking sheet – we really wanted to get to the root of the maintenance problem.

As we come together to celebrate our Nation's birth this July 4, it is a good time to celebrate the many splendors of Roosevelt Island as a place to live and visit.

The 147 acres that make up Roosevelt Island are located in the East River, in the borough of Manhattan. Originally known by the Algonquin Indians as Minnahannock, loosely translated as Long Island, the island was purchased in 1637 by Wouton van Twiller, the Dutch governor of Nieuw Amsterdam, and renamed "Varckens Eylandt" or Hog Island.

In 1921, the island was renamed Welfare Island to reflect its role as a repository for the ill and outcast.

In 1968, New York City Mayor John Lindsay organized a committee to explore options for using Welfare Island, and the idea of

a residential community was born. In 1969, the New York State Urban Development Corporation signed a 99-year lease with New York City to develop the Island, using a master plan designed by architects Philip Johnson and John Burgee as its guideline. This plan called for a mixed-income community of 20,000 people living in 5,000 units in a largely traffic-free environment.

The Island was renamed Roosevelt Island in 1973, and the first residential complex opened in 1975, followed a year later by three additional housing complexes, bringing the total number of units to 2,141. In 1989 an additional complex of 1,107 units was completed. The General Development Plan for the Island was amended in 1990.

The New York State Legislature created the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) in 1984 as a public benefit corporation charged with maintaining, operating and developing Roosevelt Island. Unlike its predecessor, the state Urban Development Corporation (UDC), RIOC does not have the authority to issue bonds. The State of New York holds a 99-year lease on the island, which will expire in 2068; ownership will then revert to the City.

On the northern end of the Island stands the Lighthouse, built in 1872 and designed by James Renwick, Jr., the famed Irish architect who also designed St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Lighthouse was built with stone quarried on the island with convict labor from the island's numerous institutions. Also designed by Renwick was the Smallpox Hospital (1854), located on the island's southern point. At the time of its construction, smallpox was an epidemic responsible for one in every hundred deaths in New York City. Because of the highly contagious nature of the disease, the Island setting was considered ideal. When the city transferred patients with contagious diseases to

Within the *first* month, we had some serious problems with the maintenance staff: they became very upset because they thought our complaints were merely intended to disgrace and embarrass them. However, by the *third* month the maintenance staff *loved* this complaint system. Why? Because the complaint system also tracked the time and completion of the

issues.

So both the managing agent *and* the tenants were right: the maintenance staff was completing a significant amount of work, *and* new maintenance problems would always arise (thus, the ongoing perception that there were always 100 problems outstanding).

Because this system was so successful, most of the maintenance problems were under control, the tenants were happy, the managing agent

was happy, and the managing agent instituted its own tracking system and software (especially because costs, time, and materials could be better controlled).

RI-311.org

In RIRA we've been talking about this kind of tracking system for Roosevelt Island services: everything from the minibus, to Motorgate, to public safety, and so on. Technology has changed and a new on-line capability is now possible for the average user.

The system has just gone on line and we are in the early stages of reporting problems. This is where you can help. If you find something is wrong, please re-

See **RIRA**, page 16

North Brother Island in the last quarter of the 19th Century, the Smallpox Hospital became a nurse's residence. It was abandoned in the 1950's. Today it is New York City's only landmarked ruin. Adjacent to the Smallpox Hospital stands the Strecker Laboratory. Built in 1892 to the design of Withers & Dickson, Strecker Laboratory served as the pathology building for nearby City Hospital, now no longer standing. In 1907, the laboratory became home to the Russell Sage Institute of Pathology, a leading scientific organization of its day, which later became affiliated with the Rockefeller Institute. In the center of the island, on Main Street, stand two more landmarks: Blackwell House and the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Blackwell House was built in 1794 and is the fifth oldest wooden house in New York City. The Chapel of the Good Shepherd, now known as the Good Shepherd Community Center, was built in 1888 (Frederick Clarke Withers, architect). The banker George M. Bliss gave the Chapel as a gift to the Episcopal City Mission Society to serve the patients and inmates on the island. Its bell, now in the village square, used to ring to wake the laborers in the nearby Almshouse. In

1835, under architect Alexander Jackson Davis, the New York City mental health facility was built. When it was completed in 1842 it was already considered to be one of New York's great buildings and was visited by notables such as Charles Dickens, who wrote of the buildings' magnificent rotunda in his *American Notes*, but also commented on the distressing conditions. The building, now known as

the Octagon Building, gained further notoriety in 1887 when Elizabeth Cochrane, who wrote for the New York World under the name of Nellie Bly, feigned insanity to expose the deplorable conditions, which included prisoners from Blackwell Penitentiary serving as "nurses." In 1894, New York City built a new mental health facility on Ward's Island and the building was renovated and renamed Metropolitan Hospital. It remained in use until the 1950's when Metropolitan Hospital moved to East Harlem. It was partially demolished in the 1970's, and much of its remaining interior was damaged by 1982 arson. On Labor Day, 1999, a second fire obliterated much of the building's upper

See **RIOC**, page 16



Frank Farance
RIRA Communications Chair
e-mail: frank@farance.com

COMING UP

– This Extended Weekend –

Stillness, an exhibit at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street, **Sat.-Sun., July 2-3**, and continuing through Sun., Aug. 14. Gallery weekend hours, 11:00-5:00; also Wednesday and Friday, 6:00-9:00. **Opening reception, Sat., July 9, 6:00-9:00.**



Fireworks at Southpoint, Mon., July 4, evening. \$18. Tickets available on the RIOC website, rioc.com, and at the Manhattan-side Tram station. Gates open at 5:00. No coolers, chairs, backpacks, or alcoholic beverages may be carried onto Southpoint grounds.



– The Coming Week –

Eastwood Building Committee meeting for all Eastwood residents to hear terms of rent as the building privatizes, **Wed., July 6**, 7:00 p.m., Good Shepherd Community Center.

The movie **Dark Water** opens, **Fri., July 8**. (See *Briefly*, page 1.)

Opening Reception for **Stillness**, an exhibit at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street, **Sat., July 9**, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Additional Gallery hours in listing above.



– Future Events –

Book Discussion Group at the Library, **Thur., July 21**, 6:30 p.m., *Kitchen*, by Banana Yoshimoto. Copies of book available at the branch.

The Main Street WIRE – Next issue, **Sat., July 30**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an *AddMe* message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Advertising Deadline:** Ads in the paper, Thursday, July 21; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Mon., July 25; inserts due Thur., July 28. **Future issues:** Aug. 27; Sept. 10, 24; Oct. 8, 22; Nov. 5, 19; Dec. 3, 17. **News phone, 212-826-9055**; urgent matters **917-617-0449**.

Phone for display and classified advertising placement and information, **212-751-8214**. **To list your organization's Island-related event here**, e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up questions. There is no charge for such listings.

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

Book Discussion Group at the Library, **Thur., Aug. 18**, 6:30 p.m., *I'm Not Scared*, by Niccolo Ammaniti. Copies of book available at the branch.

RIOC Board of Directors Meeting, Thur., Sept. 8, 4:30 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The Board's afternoon meetings usually conclude with an opportunity for public comment, specific time uncertain.

Open House New York, Sat.-Sun., Oct. 8-9. Includes visitors to Roosevelt Island's Southpoint.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, Thur., Oct. 20, 9:30 a.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

RIOC Board of Directors Meeting, Thur., Nov. 17, 4:30 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The Board's afternoon meetings usually conclude with an opportunity for public comment, specific time uncertain.

Senior Center

Monday
10-11:30, **English as 2nd Language**
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screening**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
1:00, **Tai Chi**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)

Tuesday
10:00, **Weightlifting**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
2:00, **Bingo**
6:00, **Yoga Class**
7:30, **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00, **Computers**
10:00, **Spanish Class**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**

12-2, **Painting & Sculpting**
7:00, **Pokeno** (RISA)
Thursday
9:30, **Weightlifting**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance**

Friday
9:30, **Yoga**
10:30, **Computers**
1:00, **Bridge**
7:00, **Games** (RISA)
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Sun., July 3, 2:00, Fourth of July observance

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



The **Public Safety Blotter** for the first half of June has been posted at nyc10044.com/wire/2520/blot2520.pdf. When ready, the Blotter for the last half of June will be posted at nyc10044.com/wire/2521/blot2521.html.

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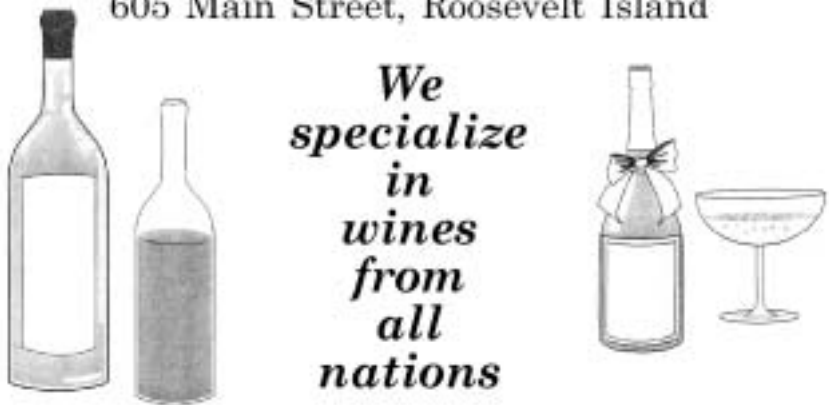
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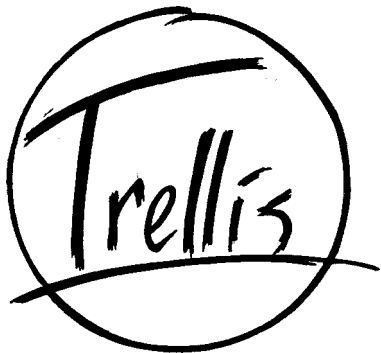
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Empire State Development Corporation Promises an Island “Tourism Envelope,” Part of a Broad Plan to Improve Business

Empire State from page 1

“When I came here in August of 2003,” said RIOC President Herb Berman, “I was struck by the lack of commercial activity. I think that the vitality of a community is measured by the vitality of the commercial strip. We have a commitment to improve the commercialization of Roosevelt Island’s Main Street. We have retained a real-estate consultant who is devising plans on how to improve and market Main Street.”

Berman said that RIOC efforts are under way. He said RIOC has cleaned the street kiosks on which notices are posted, and has painted their tops; is replacing garbage cans on Main Street, and has plans to replace street lighting on the Island.

Representing Empire State Development was the director of its northern Manhattan office, Hector Santana. He told the gathered Island leaders about ESDC’s efforts toward creating a “tourism envelope” for the Island. “The little bit of tourism we have is on the Tram,” he said. “In fact, the Tram is internationally known, in guidebooks from Germany to Italy to Spain. And what happens is that generally the tourists get on the Tram, enjoy the scenery, get out on the landing on Roosevelt Island, and wait for the next Tram going back. We have to make sure they see that there are other things they can do when they come to the Island.” Santana said that on one trip to the Island by Tram he observed two groups that limited their stays to the waiting time between Tram departures. He said he encountered another group, walking, unaware of things they might do while here.

“By putting together a ‘tourism envelope’ on the Island, we can keep people here.”

“Generally speaking,” Santana said, “we want an economic development initiative to increase economic activity through capacity-building of organizations such as RIVAA and the Chamber of Commerce, through business development by helping the small businesses on the commercial strip, through street beautification, and through destination development, which is a very important component of tourism.”

He said barriers to success include the current lack of a coordinated tourism strategy, and a lack of foot traffic.

Speaking of ESCD’s efforts to evaluate Roosevelt Island as a tourist destination, Santana said, “We feel Roosevelt

Survey Results

Empire State Development’s survey of Islanders brought out these views, as reported by Hector Santana of ESDC:

What new businesses would you like?
48% Another restaurant
42% A gourmet food store

What stores do you patronize?
66% Gristede’s
24% Chinese take-out

What would improve the Island’s commercial climate:
53% Competitive pricing
33% Improved service

Would you discourage tourism?
66% No
21% Yes
13% No response

Responding to the survey, 88% said the commercial corridor needs beautification.

Island has the assets to make this a success.” As assets, he listed parks and open space, proximity to Manhattan, residential and commercial development, the Tramway, and waterfront access.

As part of an action plan, Santana listed these suggestions or plans:

- An unmanned tourist-information kiosk at the Manhattan-side Tram station
- An unmanned visitor’s kiosk at subway station
- Training Tram and bus personnel to announce destinations

“We have to develop a more touristic attitude than we have now,” he said. “That means retraining people.” He

also spoke of signage as an important component that can welcome tourists, and added, “Southpoint Park will play an important role in any tourism package we put together.”

Santana called the Main Street commercial strip a “distressed community,” and urged legislators to consider a tax-credit program to assist merchants. He urged creations of partnerships involving RIOC, RIVAA, the Residents Association, the City and State Chambers of Commerce.

During a Q&A session that followed Santana’s presentation, RIOC President Berman explained why replacement of Island street lighting is taking time: “We need City approval for the lights because we want the City to maintain them.” Berman also urged residents to forget failures of the past decade in efforts to improve the business climate. When a resident remarked about the charm of Battery Park City, Berman responded, “Not by the hair of our chinny-chin-chin can we compete with Battery Park City. They have great bonding capacity and a lot of things that we can’t do.”

Berman also said that RIOC has been visiting shopkeepers. “Every store owner has been told that, unless they keep their stores clean, spruce their stores up, when it comes to renewing their leases, that’s going to be an issue that’s going to be a major problem to them. So we’re going to come down hard. But the moment we come down hard on somebody, people complain that we’re trying to drive business out. But I agree it has to happen.”

Asked about RIOC’s failure to repair streets, Berman said, “We can’t invest the money – and we have money in the budget to start street reconstruction – but we can’t invest the money until the City has done all the work they have to do with the pipes under the streets. We have leaks. We are on the phone on a daily basis with the City trying to get them to come and take care of the pipes. We can’t fix the streets until they fix the leaks under the streets that cause the streets to fold.”

Berman cited work on the brickwork in Good Shepherd Plaza, said repair work on Meditation Steps has been completed, and that concrete work is being done along the promenade. “Major efforts are being made to catch up on the work that has to be done.”

Real Estate from page 1

Youth Center must feel, and said “We can’t keep moving the finish line. We need to do this in a way that is timely, because this discussion has been going on since I came on the Board, so it’s been years, and I’m sure years before that. We have to take responsibility to end the endless debate, provide to RIOC staff and the Youth Center management exactly what we want – not kind-of what we want, not ‘we want this but we’ll ask for something later,’ and set a date that it has to be here, and if it’s here, commit to a vote after a reasonable view.”

Mannix added, “I think having the highest-quality Youth Center in a marquee location is important. I think the Blackwell [minischool] is an appropriate location... I’d like to get this off our agenda. It’s really for the benefit of the kids and everybody else that we do so.”

In the end, the Board decided to ask for more information, and to investigate whether the Eastwood space currently occupied by the Youth Center might be available on a long-term basis, and to factor that into the program’s overall needs.

One key question is whether the Youth Program needs both floors of the Lilies space, known as the Blackwell Minischool. Long ago abandoned by the City school system, the building may be the Island’s best piece of currently available and empty commercial real estate, given its central location.

But a dozen years ago, RIOC committed the space to the Youth Program and, on the strength of its availability, City Council Speaker Gifford Miller has been holding nearly \$2 million in City funds for renovation. Because the City requires certainty of long-term availability before such funds can be spent, however, it appeared the program’s current Eastwood space would not qualify, and Youth Center Director Charlie de Fino has been pressing for a commitment on the minischool.

RIOC Board Chair Marybeth Labate set out three requirements for a final consideration: Knowing the costs, documentation of the need, and making certain the program has the capacity to carry out the functions it has pledged to put into the space. “I would not want to make a decision on this without knowing the outcome of the Belson talks,” she said, referring to the owner of Eastwood.

Mark Ponton, the resident who chairs the RIOC Board’s real-estate committee, pushed for earlier movement on the question, and suggested the Board put into perspective the questions of the space requirement. Referring to an agenda item calling for purchase of new Tram cabins, he said, “I would not want to be the guy who approved purchase of two new Tram cabins with zero facts while, at the same time, turning down \$2 million that somebody’s insisting they’re trying to give me. I don’t want to be that guy, because I think that’s stupid.”

Ponton continued, “What is the downside if we do something wrong? If we give the Youth Center 50% more space than they need, will the kids be at a loss for what to do next? I

doubt it. If we had to make an error, wouldn’t we want to make an error in favor of having a youth center that’s better than it otherwise might be, as opposed to having space that’s inadequate?” Ponton repeated a question he has asked before: “Are we trying to make things easy, or are we trying to make things hard?”

A vote on the matter could wait until September unless the Board schedules a special meeting.

MovieBank

After approving a lease for the Post Office space in the Motorgate complex, the Board considered at length a handshake deal made by its real-estate consultant, Paul Maas of Jones, Lang, Wooten, to rent the former Montauk Credit Union space on the street level of Island House to Movie Services, Inc., for a DVD-movie vending machine.

The deal came into question earlier this week when USAlliance Credit Union, which had been making plans to come to Roosevelt Island to the Montauk space, announced that it was scrapping those plans for an office here because it had been told, by Maas, that the Montauk space had been rented. *The WIRE* issued an e-mail bulletin (subscribe to the service by sending an “AddMe” message to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com) with that news, noting that DVDs are already available in the hardware store across from the credit union space, and that the credit union, which many feel is a service needed on the Island, would be paying only about \$5,000 a year less than MovieBank.

Resident Board member Deborah Beck raised the question of whether some preferential lease rate might be set for services needed in the community. “We should look at certain uses that are critical to the community’s needs, so we don’t lose basic functions we need. We may want to identify certain uses that we may wish to recommend be given a preferred rent to get services that we would have difficulty getting otherwise.”

Mannix suggested putting that question in Maas’s hands. Labate seemed doubtful about the Board’s ability to make such preferential decisions on behalf of the community. “Defining what is essential to the Island becomes a very provocative question. I’d be interested to see how we determine what is essential for the majority of the Islanders. What’s essential for one may be irrelevant to another,” she said.

The question of whether New York National Bank has some sort of exclusionary clause in its contract was also raised, but not resolved. (Earlier this week, a resident checked and told *The WIRE* that the movie-rental operation in the hardware store does have an exclusive, but it’s not clear whether it applies to a DVD-only competitor.)

Resident board member David Kraut suggested that loss of video rental might drive the hardware store out of business, since a major part of its revenue is derived from movie rentals. “Income from video rentals underwriters the cost of the rest of the store, which has stuff available that we need,” he said.

Maas, joined by Board chair Labate and resident Board member Deborah Beck, argued that the Board should approve the deal, since Maas had shaken hands on it, suggesting that second-guessing could undercut his ability to act on the Board’s behalf. Maas said that MovieBank would surely rent space at the new Riverwalk building, thereby denying the lease income to RIOC. (Maas is not commissioned on commercial rentals in Southtown.) He said that, on that basis, the possibility of a Starbucks coffee shop had been lost in the existing Main Street commercial strip.

Maas said that if a lease were given to USAlliance at the \$15/square foot/year the credit union initially offered, the deal would have cost RIOC over \$800,000 in the lease of space to the post office, since the lower rate would have to be disclosed to the Postal Service, which rents based on market conditions.

Representatives of USAlliance told *The WIRE* last week that Maas failed to respond to their offers, made no counteroffers, and wouldn’t negotiate. Maas explained to the Board on Thursday that it’s normal not to respond to offers that are well below the asking price. RIOC was asking \$35 a square foot; the last offer USAlliance put forward was \$20 a square foot, but there were indications that it would negotiate upward if contacted.

When the vote was taken, four resident members voted against award of the lease to Movie Services, Inc. They were Michael Shinozaki, Patrick Stewart, David Kraut, and Mark Ponton. Resident member Beck voted for the lease, along with Labate, Mannix, and the representative from the Governor’s budget office. (Resident board member Alberteen Anderson was absent.) With a 4-4 tie, the lease was not approved.

Eastwood

The Board authorized its real-estate committee, composed of Mark Ponton, Deborah Beck, and John Mannix, to engage in discussions of an extension of the ground lease for Eastwood. That action ties in with negotiations recently completed between the Belson organization and the Eastwood Building Committee, the terms of which are to be revealed to Eastwood residents in a meeting Tuesday night (see *ComingUp*).

Several members of the Board spoke at length about their commitment to sustain the availability of affordable housing for current Roosevelt Island residents, but noted that their ability to meet with and negotiate with residents is very limited or nonexistent, because they have no direct contractual relationship with tenants. It was noted, however, that the RIOC Board has final say over extension of ground leases, and that it can use that power to protect residents.

The discussion of the Board’s fiduciary role, on behalf of the State and on behalf of Roosevelt Island residents, was extended, and will be the subject of a future *WIRE* report. Meanwhile, a transcript of major segments of Thursday’s meeting is in preparation and, when ready, it will be posted on *Website NYC10044* at nyc10044.com, with this issue of *The WIRE*.

Plans to Improve Island’s Accessibility for Tourists Recalls a Resident’s Project, Now Three Years Past, Never Implemented



For years, and continuing today, tourists have taken the Roosevelt Island Tramway, only to land on the Island and find no clue of where the community’s commercial district might be, where a meal might be had or, for that matter, any idea of which branch of Coler-Goldwater is in what direction. Three years ago, resident Tony Vita tackled that problem and produced a signage and electronic kiosk proposal, and presented it to the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation. To date, the project has languished.

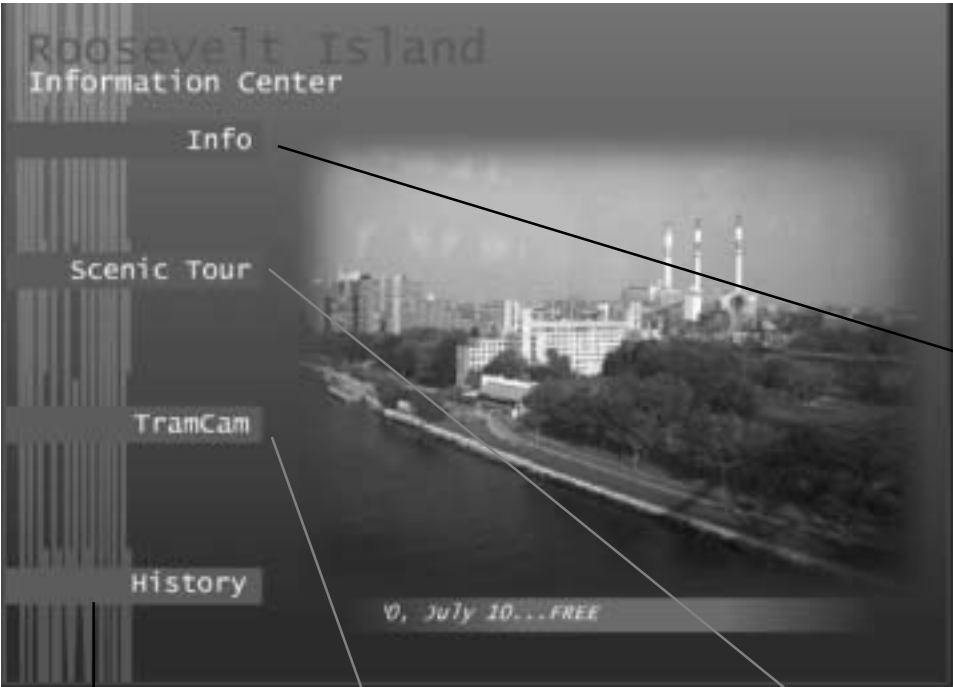
Tony Vita

This sign, with an updated electronic zipper at the top, would provide both general information and timely suggestions of what can be seen and done on the Island.

This is the first screen of an electronic kiosk that might be available at both Tram stations and the Island subway stop. Pointing at an item would trigger a follow-on screen with more information.



Clicking on “Info” would bring a map to the screen, with listings of Island attractions, businesses, and playing fields. A further click would provide information on the specific listing.



The Island is rich in historic landmarks and scenic views. Pointing at “Scenic Views” on the main screen would start a slide show



A “TramCam” would tempt tourists to make the Island trip.

Multiple screens of history would show off the Island’s landmarks and tell the story of the various roles Roosevelt Island (formerly Blackwell’s Island, then Welfare Island) has played in the City’s history.



With a Retrospective of 20 Years of Children & Teen Shows, Nancy Howe and The Main Street Theatre Have a Last Goodbye



by Larry and Harriet Parnes

In the brief period since Welfare Island became Roosevelt Island is it possible to say that we have reached the end of an era?

Yes, and it happened on Sunday night (June 19) at the conclusion of *Getting to Know You*, a retrospective of Nancy Howe’s 23 years directing the Main Street Children’s Theatre and The Main Street Teen Theatre. Nancy, with her husband Worth, will be moving shortly to Portland, Oregon, to be near their daughter Kate and their grandchildren.

Over last weekend, over 70 members of the current MST company as well as “original cast” members appeared in four performances. After introducing themselves and noting the play in which they debuted and their age at the time, they performed scenes from practically all of MST’s musical productions. It was amazing to see how much talent has been developed on the Island, thanks to Nancy. And after the emotional finale, it was evident how much Nancy is loved by her “kids” and their families.

Our daughter Gabby was one of those on stage on Sunday. She started with MST at age eight, with a bit part in *The Wizard of Oz*. A few years later, Nancy chose Gabby to play Princess Winifred in *Once Upon a Mattress*. We believe that was a turning point in Gabby’s life and who she is today is due in large part to the Nancy’s guidance, love and patience. It was thrilling for us to watch Gabby sing *I’m Shy* from *Once Upon a Mattress*.

Gabby and countless other children are *not* shy because of Nancy. Nancy found a way to include every child in a performance. She often did shows with three different casts. She reminded us on Sunday that when the MST staged *The Sound of Music*, the von Trapp family had a few extra children. And as the youngsters grew into teens, they persuaded Nancy to do plays for them – often more serious drama or comedy.

On Sunday, while doing songs from *Bye-Bye Birdie*, the “teenagers” gave Nancy a vocal tribute by singing *We Love You Nancy*, instead of *We Love You Conrad*. And though there were no formal presentations at the end, many cast members gave Nancy their own gifts, and it was most appropriate when the entire cast sang to Nancy their version of *I’d Do Anything* from *Oliver!*, another show in the MST repertoire.

Our family owes much to Nancy and Worth, and so do many of the Island’s past and present residents. How can we pay tribute to the Howes? First, let’s simply rename MST The Main Street Theatre – founded by Nancy and Worth Howe. Second and probably most important, let’s continue to support MST by attending its performances whether or not you have children or friends in the cast.

We hope that some day Nancy and Worth can return to the island and direct one show with children of the MST company. Until then, Nancy, Worth, good luck and we’ll miss you.

To the Editor:

The musical *Oliver!* features a tender, poignant song we heard at last weekend’s musical retrospective, called *Where Is Love?* It’s not hard to find on Roosevelt Island. For 22 years it has glowed in the hearts of Worth and Nancy Howe, founders of the Main Street Theatre. They’ve loved their work and reveled in the creative process of crafting show after wonderful show. Just as important, they’ve loved and nurtured the Island’s children. In so doing, they fostered not only talent, but also the self confidence, pride, and strength that springs from consistently doing one’s best.

The Howes’ energy, enthusiasm, and kindness were inexhaustible. Whoever heard of repeatedly staging *three* casts to give as many children as possible a chance to soar? We were awed by Worth’s and Nancy’s dedication and hard work. Suffice it to say that all nine of the von Trapp children in each of the three casts had seven costume changes! Small wonder that our kids and their friends looked forward eagerly to every single show they were in and continued to participate in theater well into their teens.

Over the years, the Howes helped to forge a remarkable community of caring parents and neighbors who cherished not only their own children’s accomplishments, but those of all the players. Although we left Roosevelt Island 15 years ago, we still honor the Howes and thank them gratefully for the joy they brought to us all. May their new lives bring them happiness, fulfillment, and yes, fun!

I want to express, on behalf of myself, my family, and all Roosevelt Islanders, our deepest thanks to Nancy Howe, who is bidding the Island adieu after 22 years as director of The Main Street Theatre. It was with a strong mixture of joy and sadness that my wife and I attended the latest show, which was a reprise of some of the great moments of the shows past, by many of the hundreds of kids that Nancy has trained. The event was an opportunity for kids and young adults to pay tribute to a teacher that they know is one of the very best that they’ve ever had.

My daughter spent ten memorable years with Nancy, and I really can’t think of anything that I’ve enjoyed more than seeing her and her friends in these shows. Only someone who really knows and respects her charges could show such a great knack for casting. Nancy loves her kids, and that love has been returned by her students and anyone else fortunate enough to know her.

Nancy will join her husband, Worth, who went off to Hollywood last year. Worth was a genius at creating sets for the shows and his suggestions went a long way to making them the success that they were. Worth was gruff with the kids, but by the time they reached the age of ten, they usually figured out that he was really a big teddy bear.

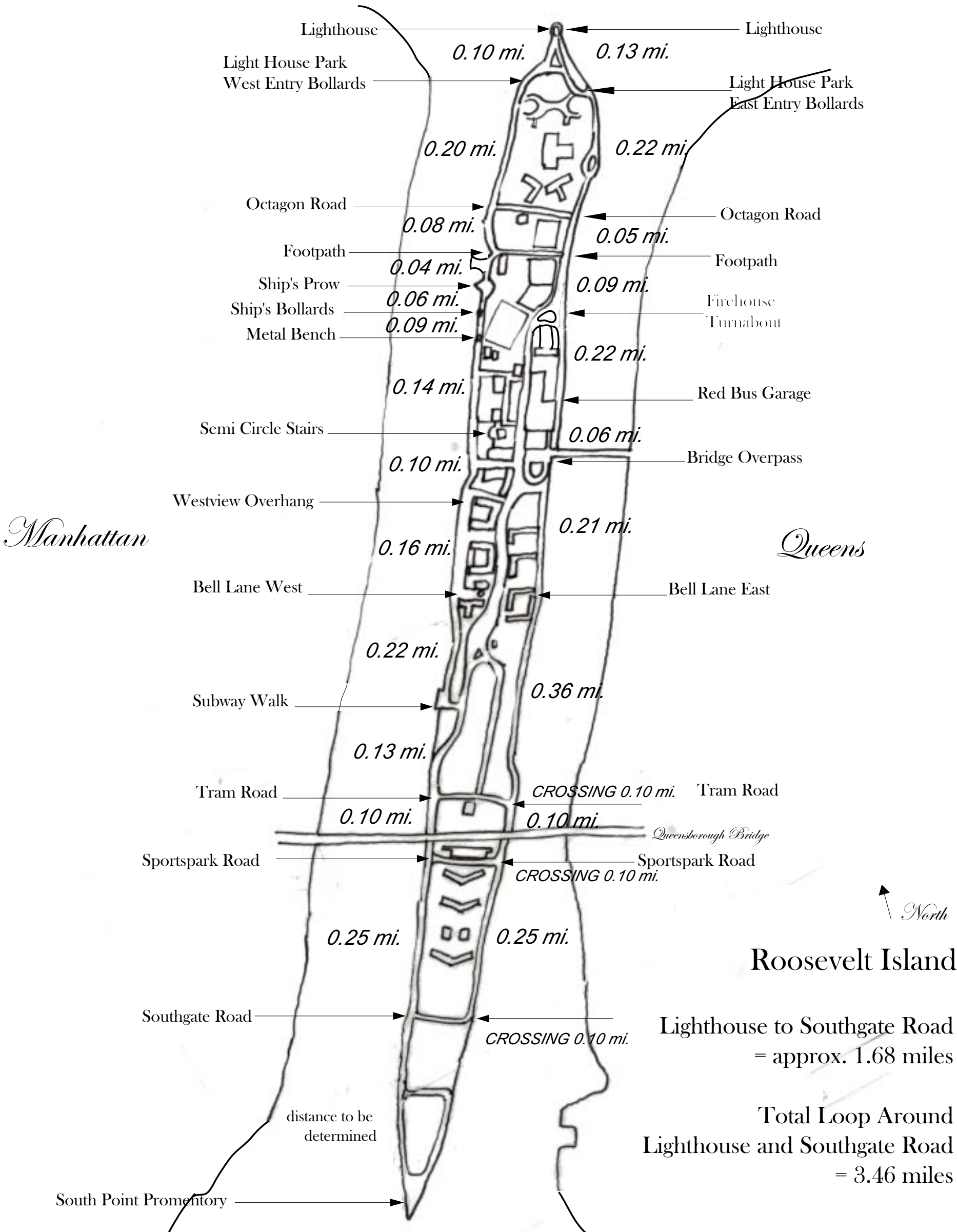
Nancy and Worth deserve the very best of health, happiness, and fortune, and I hope they come back often for visits.

Steve Marcus, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association

Jill Rifkin

LOOPING MAP for Walkers, Runners, Wheelers

by Marc Diamond and Marianne Lau



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As the Octagon Park Apartments Celebrate a Topping-Off Day, The



A schooner passes in the west channel in this view from the north tower of the Octagon Apartments.

The Octagon Apartments project, designed by Becker and Becker, will contain apartments sized from studio to three bedrooms, a fitness center, a private clubhouse, and a business center, among other amenities. The design received a Green Building Tax Credit.



The Octagon tower, seen at the right as Becker and Becker envisions it will look at night, will be the centerpiece of the new structure in an adaptive reuse of the landmark.

The Tower itself is all that remains of Blackwell Island's Pauper Lunatic Asylum designed in 1839 by Alexander Jackson Davis, the Frank Lloyd Wright of his time. Last week, with its cupola removed, it was being rehabilitated. When complete, it will include a reconstruction of the flying staircase that circled the inside of the Octagon tower.

Architect Bruce Becker, left, talks with RIOC President Herb Berman, and Island dentist Larry Itskowitch



Coler Hospital is on the left in this view, looking across the east channel toward Socrates Sculpture Park,



WIRE’s Camera Catches the Glory of Views from the Island



Panoramic assemblies
by Paul Katz
for *The Main Street WIRE*

ments building. Coler Hospital is in the right foreground, and the Triboro Bridge is visible in the distance.



Costco, and the park on Vernon Blvd.



A Diverse Community Braves Rain to Remember a Beloved Priest



by Judy Connorton and Eliza Kimball

In a Ceremony of Remembrance and Thanksgiving two weeks ago, Islanders marked the first anniversary of the death of Fr. Joseph Patrick Gorman, who served Roosevelt Island as pastor of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish for the 14 years ending in 1999.

Through the threat of a storm and occasional sprinkles, a crowd of nearly 100 of all faiths gathered in the Eastwood Amphitheater where Fr. Gorman had offered many Labor Day masses. The group included current and former parishioners; Idesia Bastos, a lifelong friend of Fr. Gorman; and two of his sisters – Jeanne Gorman Hveen and Sister Rose Ellen, a Dominican nun.

Patty Stanek Fallone led the gathering through the program that she noted, “Joan Markey had so eloquently written.” It began by recalling events on Roosevelt Island 20 years ago when Father Gorman arrived, and included quotes from him and from Cardinal O’Connor, Roman Catholic prayers, the Jewish prayer for the dead, the 23rd Psalm and the Beatitudes, descriptions of what a priest is, literary readings, and, perhaps most touchingly, personal reminiscences from several who were especially close friends of Father Gorman – Patrick Stewart, Robin Russell, and Nestor Zapata.

Stewart recalled once riding the Tram with Fr. Gorman to visit Archdiocesan headquarters. He said the priest looked down at the building and said, “You know, sometimes they think we work for them, when it’s really they who work for us.” Russell spoke of Fr. Gorman’s love for all and his wisdom, and recalled many conversations at Andy’s Place (now Trellis) ranging from religion to art, philosophy, and current events. Zapata remembered his sense of humor, his love of golf, and how he once introduced him and Frank Gibbs, both long-time ushers at Mass, as his “troops in the trenches.”

Interspersed throughout the spoken program, hymns were led by Martin Garrat, accompanied by Brian C. Bigley, playing uilleann pipes, and pianist Robin Russell of River Music. Ed O’Flynn sang his trademark *Danny Boy*. When the sprinkling, which Zapata called “Father Joe’s tears,” intensified and threatened to interfere, neighbors spontaneously sheltered the musicians and readers with their umbrellas.

Many in the gathering spoke of Fr. Gorman quietly among themselves before and after the program. Laughter arose in recalling his at times eccentric wardrobe – plaid trousers, tweed jackets, and colorful hats. Others recalled that Fr. Gorman said he dressed that way to make it easier for people to approach him as he thought clerical garb sometimes could intimidate. And people from all walks of life did approach him. He ministered to many Islanders in need, heedless of whether they were parishioners or not. This approach to his ministry was true to his view of the Catholic Church as one that reaches out to all.

In a 1985 *WIRE* article introducing him to the community, Father was quoted: “A true spiritual life consists of concern for others as opposed to a me-and-God relationship,” which he described as “narcissistic, privatized religion.” He pointed out, however, that he wasn’t advocating activism alone, but “activism that is founded in prayer – that’s the power pack.”

Part of his legacy was the establishment of a homeless shelter in the Good Shepherd basement. While volunteers actually ran the shelter, he maintained a strong connection, often stopping in to sit with the guests and socialize.

He had a great partner in running the parish in Sister Regina Palamara. They would sit in Andy’s twice a day, over endless cups of coffee, discussing parish matters and greeting all who stopped by, ministering from their booth. With seemingly infinite energy, Sr. Regina supported the Catholic Youth Organization and Island teenagers, and spread the Gospel to the children, leading the Catholic education classes. She also ran the Thrift Shop that helped to finance the parish, and strongly supported the shelter. Her bread pudding, sent to the shelter in voluminous amounts, was famous, as were the children’s Thanksgiving and Christmas pageants, which she organized and produced. She was aware of the ceremony for Father, helping to choose the hymns, and she regretted her inability to fly in from California. In spirit, she was with the group honoring Fr. Gorman.

As the ceremony drew to a close, attendees were encouraged to take one of the long-stemmed white roses provided and walk to the waterfront. More remembrances of Father were shared along the way, and then the roses were tossed together into the dark waters to cries of “To Father Gorman!”

Afterwards, a bouquet of white roses and babies breath was donated to the Church for use at Sunday Mass in loving memory of Father Gorman.



Fr. Joseph Gorman
April, 1999

by David Kraut

I was not able to attend the recent memorial for Father Gorman but, if I had, I would have told this personal story, which I think shows the quality of the man.

My wife Martha’s death came as a total surprise and I was shocked, and I had no idea what to do. Fortunately the “Roosevelt Island Public Telegraph” works very fast, and by the next morning Father Gorman had heard, and he called and offered to come over.

I should point out that I was not a member of Father Gorman’s congregation nor did I share his faith. I knew Joe from serving on the Youth Center board of directors and from other public activities. We held each other in high respect, but we were what you might call “civic friends” as opposed to “personal friends.” Be that as it may, he came right over, and told me some of the steps you take when someone has died.

I said to him, “Joseph, I am not a member of any congregation and you’re the only cleric I know personally, of any faith. Would you do the funeral?” And Joe Gorman said, “Yes.”

We talked a little further and spoke of Martha and I mentioned that she had been raised Lutheran. Father expressed some interest in that and I showed him Martha’s confirmation Bible, which had her baptismal certificate folded inside.

The funeral was held a few days later and I noticed that, during the Mass, Father Gorman said, “She died in Christ.” Something struck me and after the service I asked Christian friends, “Is it important that the deceased ‘died in Christ?’” And of course they were quick to inform me how important this is.

But you see, when Joe Gorman told me he would perform the funeral service, he did not know that Martha was Christian. He had assumed that she was Jewish, as he knew I am.

And yet, his response to me when I called to him in my need was, “Yes.” Not, “Was she Catholic?” or “Was she Christian?” Simply, “Yes.” He only later found out she was Christian.

He just said, “Yes.”

And so that “Yes” will resound for me forever and that is why I have ever after thought that Father Joseph Gorman was a very good man. And if you will permit a Jew to comment thus: *A very fine Christian man.*



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Letters

continued from page 2

amended to accommodate changes to market-rate housing. That was done in 1990 when the percentage of market rate housing allowed in Southtown was increased from 40% to 60%. A change could now be made for Northtown to also have 60% market-rate housing instead of 25%.

Affecting these legal issues are the potential political changes in both the City and State government. After the elections this year and next, what will the Mayor, Governor and City Council of November 2006 think about allowing Westview, Island House, and Eastwood’s owners to leave Mitchell-Lama?

Given the vast disparity between the market rates owners could charge to rent or sell Westview’s units and the current prices charged tenants under the Mitchell-Lama program, the stakes are high. Litigation seems probable unless negotiations now being conducted protect residents from market forces or give them low “insider” rights to purchase their units. Since owners ideally would like ground leases, due to expire in 2028, to be extended until 2068, the State has some leverage over them and can insist on some rent protection to prevent widespread tenant dislocation. On the other hand, owners do not need the State’s consent to withdraw from the system and may decide to do so, charge market rates for rentals to mostly new tenants and not worry about extending their ground leases for another 22 years.

How these legal, political, and market factors play out remains to be seen. Stay tuned!

Robert Chira

The writer, a longtime resident, practices law in the City.

To the Editor:

As a candidate to represent Roosevelt Island in the New York City Council, I feel obliged to comment publicly on the current proposal in the Council to increase the number of terms Council Members can serve.

I am running a grassroots campaign, meeting voters individually and hearing their ideas and concerns. I believe elected officials should be there to listen to their constituents. Unfortunately, incumbent Council Members are losing sight of this responsibility when they ignore two separate referenda in support of term limits. It is only appropriate in times of emergency for Council Members to discuss altering their own powers.

Therefore, I pledge that as a Council Member I will never tamper with the term limits set for me by the voters of New York, and I hope the other contenders in this race will do the same.

Dan Quart

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

I did three-hour tours on Saturday, June 25, and Sunday, June 26. I am happy to report that the Island is completely litter free.

We were at Lighthouse Park on Saturday, and there were about 400 people using it, including fishermen and lots of family groups, barbecuing and picnicking – the most crowded I have ever seen it. All seemed to be off-Islanders.

I thought the place would later be a disaster. Instead, it was spotlessly clean by noon Monday, and the only litter was one basket in the Coler Parking lot.

Southpoint Park was spotless.

Thanks to the ground crew for keeping on top of the litter.

Judith Berdy

Editor’s note: The following letter explains, from the producer’s viewpoint, the cancellation of a schedule of performances in the Eastwood Amphitheater. Because it has been posted in the community, it is followed by a letter in response.

To the Editor:

Many are stopping me on Main Street, asking me *why* and hoping we’ll continue the Roosevelt Island Free Theater with your vote of confidence backing our endeavor.

First, let me commend Doryne Isley (Roosevelt Island Housing Management) for purchasing the sound equipment after RIOC approved my proposal providing funds for Anthony Moran, an expert on the mixing board, to pay for his expertise. The fact that it seems to whistle with the wind rather than enhance the sound is another matter which should perhaps be taken up with the manufacturer.

Next, let me commend Carol da Silva, who spent hours with Tony on her day off, trying to set up the system. What happened to her thinking between that day and the weeks that followed is an unsolved mystery.

I myself was up each day at 7:00, all year actually, working on a splendid program for our Free Theater, casting and rehearsing several of my own plays, one of which had just played off-Broadway in the Sam French Festival 2004, and another of which has since been selected for the Sam French Festival 2005 (admission \$15 there, but both were to play on Roosevelt Island free).

Since my Artistic Director was seriously ill during the planning stages for 2005’s schedule, I was at first entirely on my own, scouting the City for plays I wished to bring to the Island, scheduling those whose producers and directors I convinced would benefit from the exposure, also scheduling rehearsals, cancellations, trying to keep everything straight

To Mayor Michael Bloomberg:

It has been a long time since my husband, Matthew Katz, then President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, and I, had the opportunity to attend your inauguration and later meet you at the reception. Prior to your winning the election, you afforded this community the opportunity to meet you at a Roosevelt Island Town Meeting sponsored by the Residents Association. This was a very well-attended event, as this community has one major interest: the preservation of affordable housing. We were especially interested in your position regarding affordable housing in New York City, which you strongly supported at the time.

Last week, the City Council passed the Tenant Empowerment Act. I am writing to ask that you please sign this bill, and not veto it as has been reported you intend to do.

There is a dearth of middle-income housing and it is rapidly being removed from sight and mind. This housing is where the people live who really make this great city run. Mayor Bloomberg, it is in your hands to help save our homes and, in doing that, save New York City as the kind of economically and ethnically diverse City it is known to be.

We are shoe repair stores, grocery store cashiers and shelf stockers, teachers, firemen and cops. We are secretaries or administrative assistants and other clerical workers in your office and other City and State government offices. We are lower-level MTA employees. We are painters, sculptors, dancers, classical singers, giving this City its reputation for the wide-ranging arts available to the locals and out-of-towners. We work in the diners, restaurants and hotels catering not just to New Yorkers, but also to this country’s and the world’s visitors (maybe even to the Olympics). We are everywhere and we need to see that our lives in and as part of this City count. We need your help to protect what is left of affordable, but rapidly diminishing, middle-class/middle-income housing

as the programs began.

Among our most important bookings, Tom Cox, director of the Instant Shakespeare Company, which shares a fascinating history with Dramatists’ Book Store, the founders.

When Tom Cox asked to re-schedule his rehearsal, at which I planned to give him access to our new sound equipment, some of which worked, for his and the cast’s familiarity, I did not hesitate to grant it.

It seems I did not cancel the sound equipment for the cancelled rehearsal, though I thought I had.

When I asked Carol Wednesday morning, June 8, for the equipment needed for the performance of *The Tempest* that evening, she said I could not have it. Why not? Because the maintenance men had come with it a previous evening and we weren’t there. I explained that Tom Cox had booked three more performances of Shakespeare plays in our Free Theater. If we failed to supply their simple needs, probably all 3 would be cancelled.

To all this, Carol simply reiterated, “You can’t have it!” When I asked to see Doryne Isley, who is as interested in theater for the Amphitheater as we are ourselves, she said I could not see her until the next morning. Ridiculous. By that time *The Tempest* would have played without its hurricane. Carol was sounding the death knell for our Free Theater. I kept requesting the urgent need for a mike and sound equipment. She kept repeating, “You can’t have it!” I finally walked away.

The planned programs alone would easily be valued at \$50,000, a conservative estimate – the schedules including family programs – sing-alongs, magicians, clowns, the equipment so elaborate it was necessary to schedule a parking place for their truck. Wow! With all these arrangements depending on me, I still asked nothing for my services.

Since I first came to Roosevelt Island in 1976, I have given my services gratis to the Island. At first, art therapy with troubled children and also with Seniors. Finally into theater (my Artistic Director and I formerly mounted 40 shows in the Amphitheater here, the only sustained effort in that environment).

I am 90 years old, and proud of what I am still able to do at my age – free theater in the Amphitheater, and stand-in for any character not able to go on. I formerly managed a 19-year-old girl – and now a 35-year-old, hypochondriacally old man!

The Island is lucky to have me. The merchants on the Island benefit from our performances. The very night *The Tempest* played, 12 of us went to Trellis.

I am lucky to have as my friend and co-worker, my Artistic



This photo is available as a 4¼*5½ color notecard with white envelope. 15 for \$10; quantity limited; first come, first served. Send orders, with check payable to *The WIRE*, to 531 Main St., NYC10044 (or leave at the concierge desk at 531 Main Street). If off-Island or in a non-doorkeeper building, please add \$1.29 for postage. (Sorry, no phone orders.)

stock.

We’re not looking for handouts. But we must continue to have affordable housing support in order to stay and offer our services and maintain an economic balance in this great City. Tenants in every kind of subsidized housing need protection. Middle-income tenants are being ignored and pushed out of the City and we need your help now!

Many New Yorkers fear reading again, as our housing disappears, the headline: “New York, Drop Dead,” the recipients having changed slightly.

Please, don’t veto the Tenant Empowerment Act.

Sherie Helstien, Secretary
Roosevelt Island Residents Association

To the Editor,

During this week’s Island House Tenants Association meeting that lasted over four hours, members of RIRA and the community gave wholeheartedly of their time to oversee the voting process and assure both its efficiency and fairness.

It is with heartfelt appreciation we thank Steve Marcus, Margie Smith, Mary Camper-Titsingh; Vicki Feinmel, Joyce Mincheff, and Ron Schuppert for their hard work, involvement, commitment, and tremendous help they gave to all of us in Island House.

Florence Diallo
Lee Edelman
Frank Farance
Ahmad Kamal

Letters deadline for July 30 issue: Tuesday, July 26

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

Director Mel Haughwout. Equity, of course. He has been on stage since the age of seven, entrepreneur and frequent director for theater at Trinity Church downtown until 9/11, impressed with my original efforts and working with me since 1999 and 2000, traveling all the way from Staten Island to give his services, along with mine, to this his adopted community, and to theater lovers everywhere.

Have we lost the Shakespeare opuses? No! Mel and I are even invited to exchange performers with them, as needed. How, under the circumstances, did we manage this? Did one of the three of us buy the simple equipment that William Shakespeare needed for that evening, to avoid catastrophe? Whatever.

Let’s say *The Tempest* had its hurricane.

So have I! It is almost impossible to calm a tempest in its fury. Anyone who would destroy free theater is no one on whom I would care to waste a word.

Nor would I care to deprive my community of the theater we have built up here. With continuing support, which we receive every day, we may re-institute Free Theater on Roosevelt Island in July.

The Mentalist and the American Society of Magicians, with clowns, jugglers, and a truckload of equipment, were scheduled to perform here in June. Family shows. They are now scheduled for three months of performance on a popular cruise line, but will be happy to join us on their return if we can book them in September!

The only sustained performances in the Amphitheater – this year’s better than ever – were ours. Should we assume, with many indications on Main Street, that we have the community’s vote of confidence? Perhaps letters in support of Doryne Isley, who we believe is in continuing support of our enterprise, are necessary.

This is our labor-of-love for the Island and theater lovers everywhere.

Lila Gilbert, Producer/Playwright
Mel Haughwout, Artistic Director

To Lila Gilbert:

I am sorry you felt the need to cancel the remaining plays, and I apologize if the equipment was not available on such short notice.

Unfortunately, when you requested to see Mrs. Isley, she was not on site.

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance to you.

Very truly yours,

Carol da Silva, Community Relations Director

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RIRA from page 3

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Example

Step #1: Go to the RI-311.org website and register as a user (you’ll need an e-mail address).

Step #2: Look at issue #7 (see the accompanying screen illustrations), which reports a problem with exposed electrical wiring. See the photos that clearly illustrate the problem. The Assigned-To data shows who has the “baton” for fixing this problem. The Status data shows the current stage in the lifecycle of the issue.

Expectations

We can’t promise that every problem will get fixed, but at least we can have a dialogue with the responsible parties via public documentation about the outstanding issues and priorities.

We expect to continue and refine this RI-311.org experiment over the next year. We don’t expect it will be an overnight success, but we do expect that it will communicate the Island’s problems to the responsible parties (e.g., RIOC, Gristede’s, Public Safety) and, over time, the responsible parties will improve their level of service.

I hope to have future reports on the RI-311.org system. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact me at frank@farance.com and put RI-311.org in the subject line of your e-mail.

I thank Frank Farance for his contribution of this issue's *RIRA Column*. Frank has been a dedicated and effective RIRA representative for many years and I offer sincerest condolences on the loss of his father this week.

-Steve Marcus, RIRA President



RIOC from page 3

portion and caused severe damage to the interior.

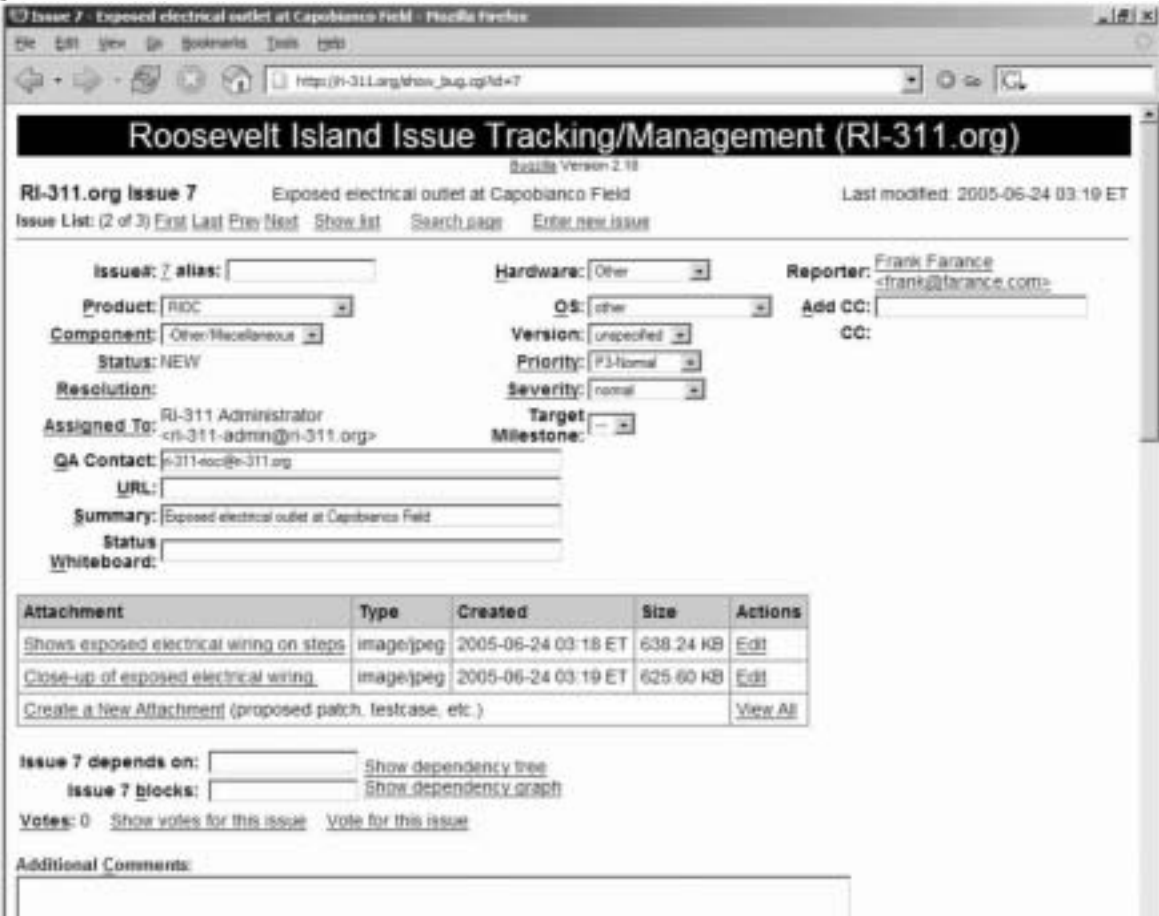
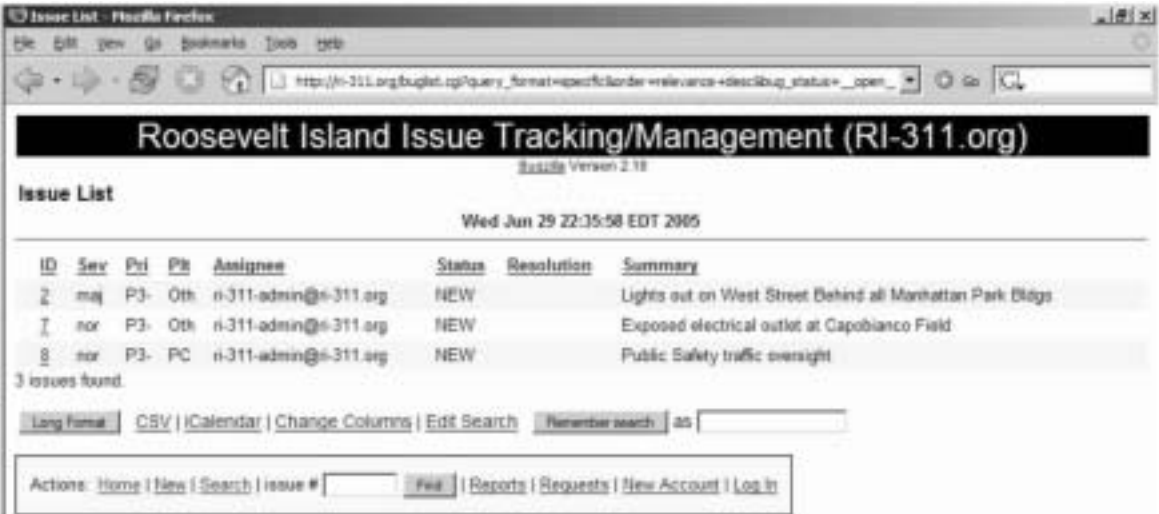
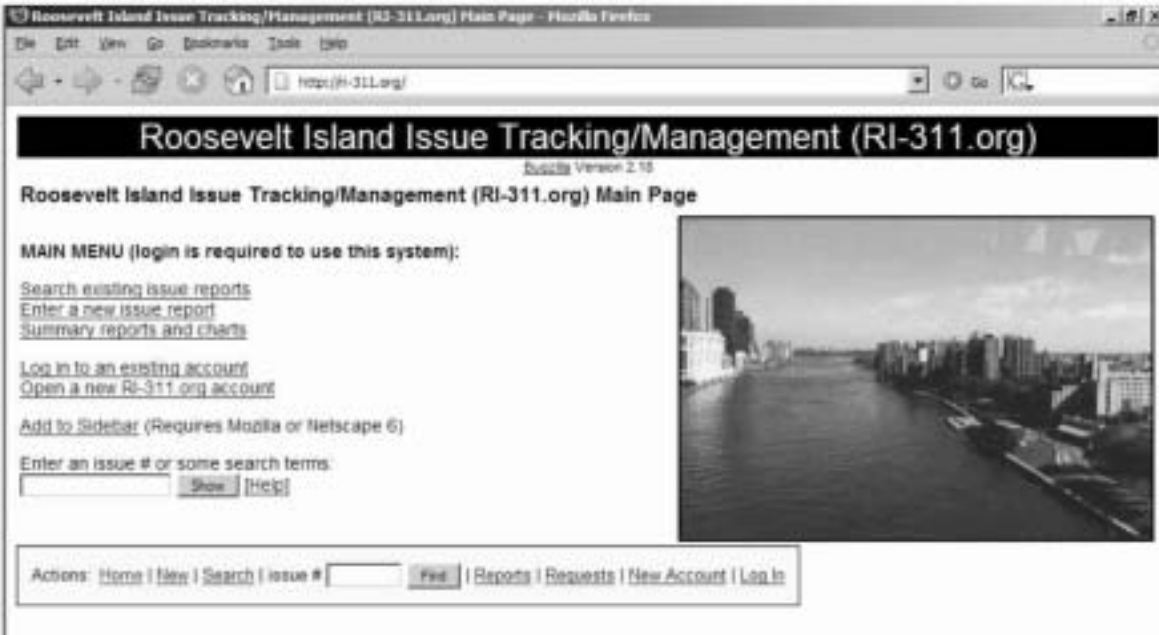
The landmarked Octagon Building is the surviving portion of the former Metropolitan Hospital, constructed in 1839 under architect Alexander Jackson Davis. It remained in use until the 1950’s when the Metropolitan Hospital moved to East Harlem. The wings were demolished in the 1970’s, and much of the Octagon’s remaining interior was damaged by arson in 1982. On Labor Day, 1999, a second fire destroyed much of the building’s upper portion and caused severe damage to the interior.

The redevelopment plan calls for rehabilitation of the Octagon Building and construction of two residential wings, substantially in the footprint of the original wings. The plan would also transform the existing unused outdoor space into a public ecological park that can be enjoyed by the residents of the Island. In addition, first-floor space within the Octagon Building would be available for community purposes, such as an ecology center.

So for those of you visiting for the first time, coming back for the fireworks or living here, welcome to one of New York City’s Greatest communities!

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Facing Privatization, Island House Residents Meet and Work Through Issues of Resident Representation and Openness

Island House residents packed the Good Shepherd Community Center Tuesday night, meeting for nearly five hours to vote on amendments proposed for the bylaws under which a committee of five tenants is working out plans for resident ownership.

Over 200 were present, reflecting the high stakes involved in the future course of the building, and what form resident ownership might take. While there was attraction as the clock passed the 10:00 p.m. mark, then clicked past 11:00, most stayed until a final vote. Some left their proxies behind with neighbors, and many attending carried multiple proxies.

The Island in Transition

At issue were proposals to:

- Require more openness, for example, by posting minutes and by opening board meetings to tenants.
- Limit board voting, and voting for all tenants, to one person per apartment
- Increase the size of the Board.
- Call for a vote of confidence and possibly, as a result of the vote, hold new elections for members of the committee.

Prior to the meeting, contending groups of residents dropped fliers at the thresholds of Island House apartments. The Board issued one urging that the proposed amendments be rejected. The Board's vice-chair, Renato Folla, issued a dissent, and later complained that someone had gone around removing his flier to keep it from residents.

Debate centered on a proposal developed by Frank Farance and Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, with a particular focus on the provision calling for a vote of confidence (or no confidence) in the existing five-member board. Although those in attendance, already becoming impatient, voted two to one against a proposal to consider the proposed bylaws amendment paragraph by paragraph, a series of proposals were put forward to alter the amendment.

One advance flier characterized the "real

intent" of the Farance/Kamal amendment as being "the overthrow of the current board." Indeed, there had been discontent over the election of the existing board in a meeting where only 40 votes were cast. Graham Cannon defending the board as having a "proven track record" and as possessing "the kind of fast, flexible business and political skills required to succeed in our conversion... At a point when we're in serious negotiations with Sheldrake [the company that has the building under purchase contract], putting in place inexperienced leadership can only work against us." Folla took the opposite stand: "Deals are not buried because of changes in an executive structure." Folla urged expansion of the board to include representatives of "other groups such as seniors, future renters, and the international community." He pointed out that the board had been elected after a meeting called by Sheldrake

As late at 10:30 p.m., 170 votes were still being cast. The vote of confidence section was removed from the proposed amendment by a narrow margin, 99 to 92. A proposal to restore it in an altered form went down 95 to 87 or 98 to 89 (votes were recounted).

Given the narrow margin to tailor the amendment by removing the vote-of-confidence language – thereby effectively giving the existing Board a narrow vote of confidence – it seemed unlikely the proposal, as altered, would attract the two-thirds vote required to change the bylaws.

But the final vote, collected by members of the Residents Association Common Council who were not Island House residents, gave the amendment a vote of 150 yes, 53 no – almost three-quarters. It suggested tenants – at least those holding proxies – were paying close attention to the printed material that had preceded the meeting, and to

the questions, answers, and debate that came before the vote.

Provisions in the amendment for more openness, more reporting, open meetings, and limiting board participation to one person per apartment survived the process and, presumably, are now part of the bylaws under which the Island House Tenants Association does business.

The Greater Question

But questions centering on how the board operates are a small skirmish compared to a larger question, and a more important vote, yet to be taken, among the Island House tenancy. The bigger question is what form a plan for resident ownership will take – whether tenants will favor, in that future vote, a plan for scaled equity increasing over a

period of perhaps ten years, or will prefer a full-equity plan under which they could "flip" their apartments for an immediate profit, should that be their desire.

The WIRE reported on the plans, as being developed by the IHTA board, last issue (on line at nyc10044.com/wire/2520/wire2520.html). To the extent that there is controversy over which plan tenants will ultimately favor in a vote that is expected to be "preferential" rather than "binding," there is, to an even greater extent, uncertainty over what the underlying numbers will be in a final deal: mortgage costs, maintenance, and the ground rent the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation will charge the tenant-owners of a privatized building.

Stay tuned.



Watchdog from page 1

"What we now have is the ability to investigate wrongdoing, to know what's going on with the finances as they're going on, and we have minimum standards for disposition of property," said Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, the Westchester Democrat who led the fight for the bill as chairman of the Committee on Corporations, Commissions & Authorities. "It will be enormously helpful across the State."

"When you have something like RIOC, you had a crying need for this kind of transparency and oversight," Brodsky said, calling RIOC "another poster child in a row of poster children for reform."

RIOC has seen its share of scandals, most recently the firing of former president Robert H. Ryan. In 2003, the RIOC Board charged Ryan with granting unauthorized payments to himself and other RIOC employees for volunteer work following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and fired him from the \$125,000-a-year job.

The Pataki administration hired him three months later, at \$110,000, as an assistant secretary of state despite a State hiring freeze, with Pataki aides saying the job qualified for a health and safety exemption from the freeze because it involved helping New York City conform to new state fire code requirements.

Critics such as Assemblymember Pete Grannis, the Democrat who represents the Island, have suggested RIOC used the bonus payments as a pretext for getting rid of an official who was causing political problems. Ryan had been Pataki's campaign manager in 1994 when Pataki captured the governor's office by beating incumbent Democrat Mario Cuomo.

And he was the second straight RIOC president to stir controversy. His predecessor as president, Jerome Blue, was a protégé of Pataki's political mentor, former U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato.

Blue caused trouble first at RIOC, then as commissioner of the state Division of Human Rights, then at the Battery Park City

Authority where he was vice president of construction, and finally at the New York City College of Technology, where he served as interim vice president for research, governmental and corporate affairs.

RIOC isn't the only example of patronage at public authorities. The father-in-law of Pataki's chief campaign strategist pleaded guilty last year to trying to charge the state for personal trips to Florida and Texas. And the state Comptroller's Office nullified a contract last year that would have awarded residential development rights along the Erie Canal for \$30,000 to a politically connected Buffalo businessman.

"These were soviet-style bureaucracies that were unreachable, secretive, and largely controlled by a political class using them as patronage mills and cash cows," Brodsky said. "We now have structures in place to stop that. What we found was a systematic breakdown, and, systematically, this will get fixed."

Following a 2004 legislative campaign season dominated by demands for reform, lawmakers rewrote some of their own house rules in January, requiring themselves to be in their seats to cast votes and giving committees more authority.

Six months later, after passing the first on-time budget since 1984 at the end of March, they wrapped up their session by requiring reporting of contract lobbying, overhauling the State budget process (a measure subject to voter approval), and mandating computerization of local campaign contributions, in addition to the public authorities reform bill.

"I don't think there's ever been a time when there's been this number and this magnitude of reforms passed by both houses," Pataki declared near the end of the legislative session.

Not everyone was so euphoric. Reform groups praised the achievements, but called them only a start to improving a system that had been plagued by late budgets and gridlock for two decades until this year. Even

Pataki said that "there's more to do," citing the need for campaign finance reform and reiterating his support for a ban on gifts from lobbyists to politicians.

Blair Horner, legislative director for the New York Public Interest Research Group, said the public authorities bill provides "modest improvements in the oversight of authorities."

The inspector general and budget office "will be under the control of the governor and not truly independent," Horner noted in a column for *The Post-Standard* of Syracuse. "Time will tell if this new system works."

Asked for comment on the pending law, which hadn't been sent to the Governor's desk as of Wednesday, RIOC President Herb Berman told *The WIRE*, "We have seen the details of the legislation. Whatever the legislation requires, we'll abide by. The governor has already ordered changes that we

have complied with, such as the creation of an audit committee."

David J. Bauer of Roosevelt Island's reform-minded Maple Tree Group agreed, saying he will not trust such reform "until it gets put in place and then time has passed to see whether anyone will follow through." He did say the fair market value standard "should help."

Bauer, who has worked as municipal manager in communities in Pennsylvania and Connecticut, added, "The practice on the Island has been to provide land to people who appear to be political contributors without having a system for open proposals/bids, and in the case of the Southtown buildings, RIOC actually seems to have paid costs normally the burden of the developer. As a result, the patrimony that development should provide the future operations has disappeared or not even been provided for."

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by Saul Nadel

Baseball Majors (11-13)

It was a beautiful, warm day to play baseball on June 18. The Red team took on the Purple team in this year’s championship game. It turned from a sure win for the Purple team into a very close game. The Purple team won, 11-9.

Purple scored early. Alberto Marzan walked and Peter Camilleri followed with an RBI triple. Alberto Marzan added a two-run home run in the next inning, scoring Baba Kane. Baba Kane hit a single, scoring Marquis Cromartie in the third inning. Down 10-1 after three innings, the Red team was poised to make a comeback. They cut the deficit to 10-4 in the fifth inning on consecutive singles by Shawn Lee, Justus Burgos, and Angelo Rivas. In the bottom of the inning, Purple added another run. Another rally started in the sixth and final inning. The crowd was going crazy as the Red team scored five runs. Jared Francis got bit by a pitch. Alex Guyton then cracked a three-run homer. The very next batter, Shawn Lee, hit a solo home run. However, Purple held on to win.

Shawn Lee started for the Red team. He threw hard pitches and even recorded nine strikeouts, but the Purple team kept on hitting the ball and picking up walks. Peter Camilleri was the winning pitcher for Purple. Through the first three innings, he allowed only one run. Both pitchers pitched the entire game.

Shawn Lee reached base every time, collecting two hits and two walks. Justus Burgos was 2-3 with a walk. For the Purple team, Mathew Stachnik had two hits and a walk. Graham McMillan had three walks every time he was at the plate and scored all three times. Manuel Villeges had an RBI groundout in the third inning.

Marquis Cromartie, Peter Camilleri, Anthony Fallone, Baba Kane, Alberto Marzan, Sean Luna, Carlos Rivera, Graham McMillan, Mathew Stachnik, Manuel Villeges and Marko Oydanich were on the winning Purple team.

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