

Next issue
in two weeks –
Sat., Nov. 19

The Main Street WIRE™

26th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Biggest Crowd Ever? Perhaps the largest crowd ever marched in last Saturday's Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Youth Center, Housing Management, RIOC, Blackwell Management, Manhattan Park, and the Octagon. They were led by the WBCL Posse Fife & Drum Corps from Mt. Vernon, NY (photo below). Full color coverage, pages 8-9.

Briefly...

- The Island **Chamber of Commerce** has started its drive to fund **holiday lights**, seeking \$275 to sponsor a pole (there are 22), \$500-700 for strings across Main Street, and other donations. To get involved or get more information, call Julie Palermo at **646-331-3445** or Carol da Silva at **212-838-4747**.
- **Orphans International** will hold its annual fundraiser Tuesday, November 22, at the Harvard Club. Ticket prices are \$100 in advance, \$110 at the door. OI anticipates a 2005 tally of over \$250,000 in raising funds to raise global citizens among the world's orphans. For more information, call founder Jim Luce at **212-755-7285**.
- RIOC has stepped up placement of bait traps in a **rodent control effort** and warns residents to keep children and pets away from "black square boxes" on the ground, which contain poisonous bait. Residents are also asked to clean up after lunches and picnics to deny sources of garbage to populations of pests.
- In a joint bulletin with RISK (the Roosevelt Island Safety Committee), RIOC says it is also stepping up **parking enforcement**, and warns that "handicapped hooks" – tags that hang from rear-view mirrors – do not entitle their holders to unlimited parking on Main Street. Such tags permit use of designated spots in parking lots, not on streets.
- In September, RIOC issued a list of 16 "**summer work tasks**" that had been completed, with another dozen or so ongoing with completion anticipated by now. The suspension-torturing roadway outside 40 River Road has been repaved (and other Z-brick repairs were yet to be undertaken). Lumber was replaced at Meditation Steps, then painted. Footbridges in Lighthouse Park were replaced, and Belgian block was repaired on the west promenade. And wooden benches Island-wide have gotten new slats. Still on the punch list: Repairing/replacing street lighting Island-wide.
- Elevators at the south end of **Motorgate** have been fixed or replaced, as well, but the north-end elevators remain dormant in a dispute between RIOC and Manhattan Park: RIOC says Manhattan Park is responsible, but those elevators have been out of service for well over a year. Manhattan Park management did not respond to a message seeking its view of the problem.
- PS/IS217 students are engaged in a one-month **Penny Harvest**, aiming at a goal of 25 thirty-pound sacks and formation of a Roundtable, a decision-making group empowered to contribute funds to community projects of their choice. Information from Guidance Counselor Susan Cohen at **212-980-0294**, extension 3230. The project ends November 23.
- A movie company closed off access to **Southpoint Park** last Sunday, without authorization, according to RIOC. A RIOC spokesman says Public Safety (**212-832-4545**) will always know Southpoint's status, should the question arise in the future.



RI Housing Starts an Upscale March

With the release of rental rates for the new Octagon Apartments and for Eastwood units going to market rate, Roosevelt Island's affordable housing is starting a slow march upscale. Taken together with luxury housing in Southtown and potential privatization of Island House, Westview, and Rivercross, the demographics here are about to change.

At Octagon Park, a studio apartment will go for as low as \$1,300 per month for a resident qualifying for one of the 100 affordable units; that will require annual income between \$48,750 and \$66,000. But even in the affordable category, studio rents will go as high as \$1,650. The range for studios in Eastwood, once they become available at market rates, will be \$1,164 to \$1,236.

Monthly rentals at the Octagon will rise to as much as \$6,000 a month for a three-bedroom apartment; Eastwood rates for three bedrooms are currently projected to top out at \$3,190.

In the Brodsky committee hearings last month, former RIOC Board Chair Mary Beth Labate revealed that the renter composition of Southtown's first two buildings, dedicated to Cornell-Weill and Sloan-Kettering, is being evaluated

Eastwood Market Rates	
Studio	\$1,164 - 1,236
1-BR	1,552 - 1,760
2-BR	2,100 - 2,373
3-BR	2,900 - 3,190
4-BR	3,600 - 3,960

for satisfaction of Southtown's "80-20" obligation in which 20% of the development's apartments are to be affordable. That raises the prospect that no or little additional housing in the affordable category will be built there.

Purchase prices at Island House and Westview, presuming tenant associations there negotiate some form of resident ownership, are being projected in the hundreds of dollars per square foot, with rental rates or sale prices for any vacated apartments in those buildings likely to rise substantially. Even presuming rent-level protections for existing tenants who don't buy, the demographics in those buildings will

begin a rise should privatization plans work out.

And at the Rivercross cooperative, shareholders are anticipating as much as a 40 to 50 percent increase in monthly costs in any privatization plan, which would require a new mortgage, a possible increase in ground rent, and a change in tax structure.

Changes in Eastwood are not likely for as much as a year, while the owner goes through a right-sizing process to qualify as many tenants as possible for Section 8 vouchers, and changes in Island House, Westview, and Rivercross will await some firm movement on privatization. But the announcement of market rates at Eastwood and Octagon Park, and the 2006 opening of Southtown building number three mark a clear line in the calendar, past which Roosevelt Island economic demographics will inevitably climb upward.

Octagon Park Apartments			
	100 Affordable Apartments		Other Apts
	Income range	Rent range	Rent range
Studio	\$48,750 - 66,000	\$1,300 - 1,650	\$1,400 - 2,200
1-BR	61,740 - 70,650	1,600 - 1,764	1,600 - 2,900
2-BR	74,130 - 85,500	2,118	2,300 - 3,800
3-BR	85,680 - 97,650	2,448	4,100 - 6,000

In Privatizations, a Power Dance

news analysis by Dick Lutz

Dorothy Davis sees it as a dance. It's the interaction among Island House tenants, the building's owners, and RIOC. "The three each come with their own power," Davis says. "The dance becomes how to negotiate so everyone wins."

At Westview, it's more of a saber dance. Chad Marlow of the Public Advocacy Group, which now represents tenants there, has written John Mannix of the RIOC Board of Directors to reassert a legal contention put forward by the tenants – that there are 23 more years to run in Northtown's middle-income requirements imposed in the "Major Lease" under which New York State is developing New York City's Roosevelt Island. For that reason, the argument goes, Westview cannot be privatized without some committed plan to retain Northtown's mix of middle-income affordable housing.

Who holds the power? The RIOC Board – specifically Mannix, in a position statement in which other Board members have concurred – that its real power comes only at the end of the process, and it's the power to extend the buildings' ground leases, or not. Sheldrake is known to have significant clout in Albany, but how firmly the Governor's office can or will intervene on its behalf is not clear. And despite a widespread feeling that the RIOC Board simply rubber-stamps the hiring and deal-making done in Albany, Mannix has voiced a Board resistance to any higher-level influence that might shake the Board from its determination to protect the existing population of residents.

The Sheldrake Organization holds the power of potential ownership but, given the stance of the RIOC Board, it will surely want tenants to sign off on any request for the ground-lease extension it needs to make privatization work. That is, presenting a plan that has the endorsement of a majority of residents is sure to enhance its chances of getting good ground-lease and tax deals. Conversely, asking for them with clear and reasoned resident resistance could be problematic.

Does this mean residents hold the power cards in negotiations to privatize?

If tenants are united – either for or against a plan – they should be able to bring considerable pressure to bear through the political structure and, as in the case

of Westview, through hints at litigation. But RIOC and Sheldrake, as one observer points out, have the power to walk away from the deal and know where they'll sleep that night. Residents, by contrast, have a good deal more at stake – their homes.

Nobody wants to lose in any game involving their shelter, so residents have reason to be concerned and cooperative in trying to structure a deal, or militant in prosecuting a case against privatization without a middle-income housing preservation plan.

A delicate dance, indeed.



Look familiar? Katie Lorah, an urban planning graduate of NYU, turned herself into Roosevelt Island for Halloween, complete with a lighthouse at her toes (the north end), the Renwick Ruin on her head (Southpoint), and the Queensboro Bridge. The costume, which she made from scratch in five hours, cost about \$20, including a green track suit.

Photo by Ryan Hagen.

The Editorial Page

Endorsement:
Lappin for Council



Roosevelt Island is losing a strong City Council voice – Gifford Miller – to ill-advised term limits.

But the good news is that a strong new voice is ready to take his place. Jessica Lappin, Miller’s key aide through years of fighting for Roosevelt Island’s needs, will become Miller’s elected replacement on the Council if Island voters turn out in strength on Tuesday.

Lappin, who was here last Saturday for Roosevelt Island’s Halloween parade (photo), has been an important presence at every major Island event – particularly those that really count – for half a decade. She knows our issues. She’s learned how to deal with power. With the knowledge and the skills, she’ll be a valuable addition to the team of legislators that represents the Island.

There is a danger that, seeing the mayoral election as cut and dried, Island voters will stand down on Tuesday. Every failure to vote is effectively a vote for Lappin’s opposition. He has mounted a strong challenge but, so far as we know, has never visited Roosevelt Island and may be unaware of the Island’s special situation in the political picture.

Clearly, we need every strong advocate we can find and elect. Jessica Lappin will fill that role – but only if she gets every possible Roosevelt Island vote.

See you at the polls Tuesday.

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To the Editor:

Two very important issues will be on the ballot on Election Day, November 8, and I urge voters to support both Question 1 and Question 2. With a yes vote on both of these critical proposals, which will be in Column 8 on the far right side of the ballot, Roosevelt Islanders can support reforming New York’s much-maligned budget process and ensure funding for the first segment of the long-awaited Second Avenue Subway line.

Question #1, an amendment to re-vamp New York’s infamously dysfunctional budget process, gives voters the opportunity to put an end to chronically-late state budgets and to ensure that the process by which the budget is adopted is more open, accountable and efficient. The proposal would make the Governor’s budget more transparent and would create an Independent Budget Office (IBO), modeled on successful offices in Washington and many other states, to provide legislators and the public with objective financial information, a key ingredient of meaningful budget negotiations. Supported by Common Cause, NYPIRG and The League of Women Voters, this agreement would be the first step in a larger movement to reform business-as-usual in Albany.

Question #2, the Rebuild and Renew New York Transportation Bond Act, is particularly important because it would provide \$450 million to build the first segment of the Second Avenue Subway. The Bond Act would allocate \$90 million for the purchase of new, clean-fuel buses, as well as additional funds for new subway cars and a rail link between the Long Island Rail Road and Grand Central Terminal.

On Tuesday, New Yorkers have an opportunity to vote for progress and change – the start of the City’s first major subway line in 65 years and better, on-time state budgets. It is important not to miss the chance to support these important propositions. Vote yes on ballot Questions 1 and 2.

Pete Grannis
Member of Assembly

To the Editor:

I was appalled by the recitation of RIOC’s financial malfeasance presented to the Brodsky hearings on October 17 through the Hitsman communication to DHCR Commissioner Judith Calogero and reported in the October 22 issue of *The Main Street WIRE*. We might expect such behavior from the officers of a rogue corporation, but such blatant feeding at the public trough by senior officers of our State public-benefit corporation beggars the imagination. One doesn’t expect to see base compensation for government workers increase from one year to another by figures exceeding 25%, especially during a salary freeze. Where else in public or government service does compensation increase by that much? Then there are the additions and benefits (some ten categories were listed, including “Cash Payments for Unknown Reasons”) that amounted to as much as 31.55% of base pay. Nice work if you can get it.

This included extra compensation as a “World Trade Center Appreciation Bonus” for three senior officers with payment for as much as 26 hours of volunteer work in a single day! Curious, especially given the 18 hours “on the Pile” claimed by Mr. Ryan in addition to the base compensation for 8 hours. See **Letters**, page 10

Letters

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

Let me start by saying that I do not envy your job. As highlighted in the most recent issue of *The Main Street WIRE*, you hold a position that was previously occupied by unseemly character(s) who enriched themselves and left us with deteriorating infrastructure and disappearing open space. In short, the trust of this community was betrayed. Even worse, due to the “un-American” system of governance that exists on this Island, there was nothing we could do about it. We were powerless to remove a tyrant, and when he was finally gone, we could not even assure ourselves that it would not happen again because we were not allowed to evaluate and elect a replacement.

When you were appointed, all we could do was cross our fingers and hope for the best. Some of your actions have given me hope for the future. As I indicated in my prior letter to *The WIRE* a few weeks ago, many of the improvements you have made to the Island over this past summer should be recognized and lauded. Furthermore, I believe that the Request for Initial Proposals (“RFIP”) for various portions of the Island may be a step in the right direction for much needed change, including the revitalization of the Island’s retail sector. Even if well-intentioned, your means of issuing the RFIP, however, was imprudent, given that this community is still reeling from the transgressions of the last administration. Unilaterally issuing RFIPs for multiple sites, including part of what is supposed to become Southpoint “Park,” without input from – or even notice to – this community can only be expected to garner the admonition and criticism that it did. Such actions echo past RIOC administrations. Furthermore, hiring spokespersons such as George Shea, instead of responding directly to public concerns about the RFIP, only worsens this community’s sense of alienation from its governing body. If you are to gain the trust of this wounded community and energize those who care about this Island, you need to go above and beyond to reach out, inform, and listen.

Meanwhile, I also ask you not to prejudice this community and believe that all of us are combative or anti-development. While I believe improvement is needed in Island management, I strongly disagree with the language and tenor of many of the columns authored by RIRA President Steve Marcus. While certain elements of the Octagon project should have been modified to meet community concerns, I believed that the Octagon litigation was too little, too late, and would only end as it did with further negative legal precedent and, as you have pointed out, money wasted from the RIOC coffers on legal costs. However, what you can learn from Mr. Marcus’s columns and the Octagon litigation is that this is a community of people who care but have no meaningful process by which to make their voices heard. It has been left with only *The WIRE* and the courtroom to vent its frustrations.

This is where you can make a real difference: by giving this community a voice in its own destiny and making RIOC a more accountable and transparent system of governance. Simple steps would include scheduling RIOC meetings at hours that working members of the community can attend, and allowing more active public participation at meetings. Further-reaching efforts would include seeking community feedback on planning for the future use of Island space (both developed and undeveloped) and demonstrating a true commitment to preserving certain open space on the Island by lobbying for its designation as State parkland. By allowing Roosevelt Islanders to become invested in this community’s future, you will be able to transcend the tarnished history of past RIOC Presidents, avoid the specter of litigation at the mere suggestion of land development, and help make this Island into the model community that it was originally intended to become.

Kevin Klesh

To the Editor, *The New York Times*:

Of course, *The Times* has every right to endorse anyone it sees fit for public office. However, the reasons presented should make better sense than those presented in the October 23 endorsement of Joel Zinberg for the Fifth Councilmanic District seat. Dr. Zinberg is a cardiac surgeon with a law degree and, if it were necessary to vote heart surgeons onto the staff of Mt. Sinai Medical Center, I certainly might vote for him. As you noted in your endorsement editorial, Jessica Lappin, in her role as Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the City Council, has done the work of that legislative body for four years while doggedly attending to the needs of Speaker Miller’s constituents, especially on Roosevelt Island, where I live.

Politics and government service should be treated as a profession and the requirements for office should deal with the professional training and experience required by the job, not an extraneous recitation of credentials. Cardiac surgeons are not necessarily experts on health care legislation or stem cell research, as your endorsement suggests; public servants (and their staffs) who daily deal with the nuts and bolts of passing laws and handling the problems of district denizens are more likely to have that expertise. For better or for worse, New York City’s term limits have denied us a professional cadre of long-term elected officials. Eschewing a proven professional like Ms. Lappin for a political dilettante is simply bad judgment.

Matthew M. Katz

Letters deadline for Nov. 19 issue: Tuesday, Nov. 15
Letters received after deadline are considered on a space-available basis.

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Name Withheld publication 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, but allow extra time before deadline for typesetting. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. All letters are subject to acceptance and to editing for length and clarity. Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

Of course I'd like you to read this whole column, but if you only get through this sentence, let me leave you with this: **Please vote this Tuesday.** Our community has always had above-average participation at the polls, and that translates to above-average attention paid to us by our elected representatives. Even though you may think that the Mayor's race is sewed up, the outcome for our City Council seat is by no means a lock, and the winner will have major impact on the amount of funding that we can receive in the next few years. So read up on the candidates and vote

for the ones that you feel will best represent your interests and the interests of your community.

One of these days, it is my fondest hope that I can write an upbeat, folksy piece about the nice things that people are doing in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, it ain't gonna be this week, and not because there aren't nice people to talk about. It's because I'm stuck discussing the latest ways that your State-appointed board is planning to screw the Island. This month it's five "Requests for Initial Proposal" (RFIP's) guaranteed to completely wreck the Island so that our Guv can repay some more favors. The deals involve 1) building a 21-28 story tower on the parking lot of Coler Hospital; 2) sale of RIOC's majority interest in Motorgate garage to a private concern; 3) leveling the power plant, Sportspark, and the tennis bubble for a commercial enterprise; 4) paving over Southpoint Park for development (the request for proposal doesn't care whether it is commercial or residential); and 5) selling the commercial property on Main Street to a private company.

This maneuver is repulsive on every level. It's hard to know where to start. There isn't a shred of urban or social planning, just a random giveaway of precious resources. Virtually every part of it violates the General Development Plan, but that's O.K. – the "Request" says that the GDP may be changed. Ratio of residents to open space? Nobody gives a damn. Nor has anybody thought about traffic or parking for the new influx of cars. Loyalty or concern for the shop owners on Main Street? The hell with 'em; money talks. The garage is the only place to park, but who cares if selling the monopoly to one of the Guv's buddies will trigger huge increases in parking fees.

Almost a year ago, resident experts in power planning met with Herb Berman to discuss upgrading the power plant to a 30 MW facility that would be less polluting than the current facility, would offer significant income to the Island, provide plentiful hot water for heating the hospitals and new Southtown structures, and allow the older buildings the opportunity to inexpensively convert their infrastructure for sizeable savings. The site would be built with grants from NYPRG that would entail minimal expense to RIOC.

Roosevelt Island is the first destination of the "Uniting Painting" exhibition, created by political cartoonist and fine artist Ranan Lurie. The monumental art exhibition begins as a canvas hanging 75 feet from the UN ceiling, turns into a carpet as it moves down the stairs of the building's main lobby, turns into canvas again, and then moves outside flowing onto the UN Plaza's pavement toward the East River and lands, again on canvas, on the southernmost tip of Roosevelt Island. Lurie's vision is for the art to continue its path around the globe.

The concept for the painting dates back to 1968. Lurie created artwork – incorporating painting, mosaics, pebbles, and more – that snaked around his Connecticut house. Lurie brought the idea to the UN about 18 months ago, and offered to do the project at his own expense. Nearly \$500,000 later – and with the help of a crew of about three dozen people – the "Uniting Painting" project at the UN and Roosevelt Island was completed.

Lurie said he has an agreement in place for a version of the "Uniting Painting" to be done in Greece. Other possible locales include Cyprus, Great Britain, India, South Korea, South Africa, Egypt, and Jerusalem. The designs would be Lurie's, with the execution done by local artists.

The idea of the painting is to serve as a symbol of "unity and goodwill" among different cultures and religions. Lurie added that the painting, by "refusing to be confined to one area" and by adjusting to various indoor and outdoor environments, also symbolizes the curiosity and adaptability of humankind.

I was proud to represent Roosevelt Island, along with RIOC Chair Deborah Boatright, and RIOC staff Brad Harlan and Carla Van de Walle, at the unveiling held this past Tuesday evening at the UN. Ambassa-

Although Mr. Berman promised to follow up with NYPRG representatives, no effort of any kind was made.

Each "RFIP" costs \$4,000 to \$8,000 to submit – wanna bet they only get one or two for each project? Wanna bet the single bidder gets to write his own contract? Oh yeah, the "real-estate consultant" gets a hefty commission for anything he sells – so you can be sure that he's got the community's best interests as a top priority.

Although these are major changes that will have enormous and far-reaching effects on the community, there hasn't been a single public discussion of why these are good ideas. The Guv's folks just assume that the ciphers on the RIOC Board will rubber stamp whatever gets pushed under their noses, like they do with most of the other awful suggestions they get.

How about the RIOC website? Have a look at all the rules and regulations and self-congratulation these jokers put there – with not a word about the RFIP's they are so anxious to solicit. But the real-estate developer that's been given carte-

blanche to sell off huge parts of the Island has no problem with hawking its wares at www.joneslanglasallerorooseveltisland.com.

Makes you feel good that these are the very people who will negotiate the ground lease extensions for Eastwood, Island House, and Westview. Since, of course, there is no news from RIOC on this crucial decision, I will guess that Eastwood is probably already negotiated, giving the landlord very generous terms in exchange for the same lousy space for the Youth Center, while RIOC moves their offices to the spacious area at Lilies School. This deal will be kept secret, while RIOC screws Island House and Westview out of millions – all to be paid by residents either in the form of higher rents or higher mortgages if they ever can buy their apartments.

Folks, if we don't demand decent government, as loudly and as actively as we can, these people will destroy your community and price you out of your homes. Write your elected officials, and make a stink at the RIOC meetings. We just have to stop them for another 12 months, and we'll have a chance to elect a governor who cares about this place. Oh yeah, and don't forget to vote this Tuesday!

dors and other dignitaries from over 50 countries also attended the UN event. The fact that this project is under the UN auspices and was created by such a prestigious artist, will ensure that its message of world peace will spread around the globe. I am proud that Roosevelt Island is participating in this international event.

"Uniting Painting" will remain at the UN until early 2007. For more information, please visit the website: www.unitingpainting.com.

While you are down at the southern tip of the Island viewing the art exhibition, you will be standing directly in front of U Thant Island. Not many people know the history of U Thant Island. It is an artificial Island that was built in the 1890s. U Thant Island was named for the Burmese secretary-general of the United Nations between 1961 and 1971.

The island was built by subway pioneer August Belmont, who was completing the Steinway Tunnels under the East River. Piano manufacturer William Steinway had begun the tunnels in 1890, hoping to extend trolley service between Manhattan and Queens. Steinway died before the project could be finished, but Belmont stepped in. Belmont Island (as it was then called) was made up of landfill from the excavated tunnel.

For the next 70 years, Belmont Island was all but forgotten, but in 1976, United Nations employees who

Continued, with photo, on page 8; See **RIOC**



Steve Marcus, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Assn.
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– This Weekend –

◁**J. Wayne Olson's Questions for a Fetus**, a series of art installations, continuing through December, Rivercross Window Gallery, sponsored by the Mother Earth Committee. November: *Evil Part II; Language* (signs and symbols of communication). December: *Routes* (the paths of cultures and races).

New York Junior Tennis League 2005 winter program starts, 6:00-8:00 a.m., **Sat.-Sun., Nov. 5**, every weekend to the end of March, Roosevelt Island Racquet Club, under the bridge at the Tram station.

Free, ages 7-18, only sneakers required. NYJTL provides equipment.

Tram out of service, Sun., Nov. 6, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., for FDNY rescue and evacuation drill.

Group Show continuing through Nov. 13 at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street. Gallery hours Wed. and Fri., 6-9, Sat. and Sun., 11-5.

GROUP SHOW

– The Coming Week –

Election Day, Tue., Nov. 8, 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., PS/IS 217.

Community Board 8 Land Use Committee Meeting on a Hudson-Related application for inclusionary housing credits for Southtown Building 4 (to be built at 425 Main Street), in a plan to dedicate 24 apartments to special-needs residents, **Wed., Nov. 9**, 6:30 p.m., Hunter College School of Social Work auditorium, 129 East 79th Street. Additional information from CB8 at **212-758-4340**.

Medicare Part D Seminar, Thur., Nov. 10, 7-9 p.m., conducted by Islander Ellen Polivy, for residents on Medicare. Free. Call **212-750-6242** for location (on Roosevelt Island) and reservation.

– Future Events –

Eastwood Building Committee Bazaar, Sun., Nov. 13, 3:00-8:00 p.m., the Senior Center, 546 Main Street. Information: Fay Vass, **212-755-4089**.

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.

Book Discussion Group, Thur., Nov. 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Library. *The Map of Love* by Ahdaf Soueif.

The Main Street WIRE – Next issue, **Sat., Nov. 19**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an *AddMe* message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Advertising Deadline:** Ads in the paper, Thursday, Nov. 10; decision on circulars/inserts for *The Bag*, Tue., Nov. 15; they are due Thur., Nov. 17. **Future issues:** Fortnightly through December: Dec. 3, 17; then fortnightly, resuming Jan. 14, 2006. **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 in this column**, 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.

La Leche League meeting for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, **Mon., Nov. 21**, 10:30 a.m., 536 Main Street (behind Capri Pizza). Free. Information: **212-832-1188**.

Orphans International Fourth Annual Benefit, Tue., Nov. 22, 6-9 p.m., Harvard Club, Manhattan. Tickets \$100. Information at oiww.org or (212) 755-7285.

Roy Eaton Plays at BargeMusic, Thur., Dec. 1, Brooklyn. Music of Gershwin, Chopin, Joplin, and Still. Tickets at www.BargeMusic.org.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, Wed., Dec. 7, 8:00 p.m., Good Shepherd Community Center. Meetings begin with an opportunity for members of the public to make presentations to the Council.

La Leche League meeting for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, **Mon., Dec. 19**, 10:30 a.m., 536 Main Street (behind Capri Pizza). Free. Information: **212-832-1188**.

Book Discussion Group, Thur., Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m., at the Library. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi.

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.

The RIOC Column

Senior Center

Monday

9:30, **Yoga**
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, **Chinese Massage**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
2:00, **Bingo**
2:00, **Painting and Sculpting**
7:30, **Games** (RISA)

Wednesday

9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00, **Heart Health Care**
10:30, **Computers**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
7:00, **Pokeno** (RISA)

Thursday

10:00, **Get Stronger Bones**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**

Friday

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

Saturday

7:30, **Bingo** (RISA)

Special Events

Mon., Nov. 7, 9:30-11:30, Flu Shots, first-come, first-served (no appointments)
Thur., Nov. 10, 10:30, Aqueduct Park trip
Fri., Nov. 11, Veterans Day; no lunch will be served
Wed., Nov. 16, Atlantic City trip
Sat., Nov. 19, 6:00, RISA Annual Dinner

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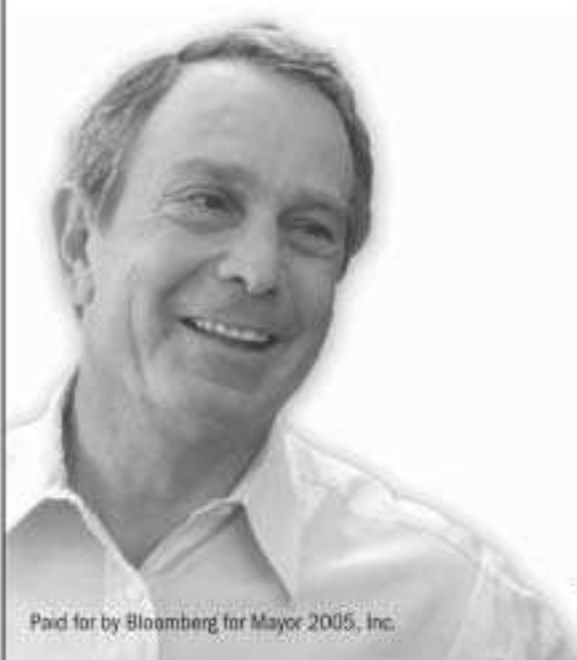
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Vicki Feinmel
Paul Katz
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An Important message to ALL
Roosevelt Island Democrats

**WARNING:
TUESDAY IS
ELECTION DAY**

It is important that all R.I. Democrats vote on Tuesday...for the Democratic slate.

For Mayor: **Fred Ferrer**
For City Council: Our Roosevelt Island advocate,
Jessica Lappin

Why is it important to vote on Tuesday ?
Democrats who stay home on Tuesday and do not vote are helping the closet Republican opponents running for mayor and City Council. In most campaign efforts neither candidate freely admits to being a Republican....that would connect them with the party of Bush, Cheney and Rove – you know, the guys from Abu Ghraib.

Most important for Roosevelt Island is the election of Jessica Lappin, a tireless advocate for Roosevelt Island for seven years working with Gifford Miller. We need her.

**Vote for Ferrer and Lappin on Tuesday
WE CAN'T AFFORD ANOTHER FOUR YEARS OF
REPUBLICAN RULE**

Paid for by Islanders Grace and Don Eremin

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
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Jessica Lappin has worked for seven years with Island residents to:

- Bring the Tram into the Metrocard system;
- Protect affordable housing on Roosevelt Island;
- Expand and improve the Roosevelt Island public library;
- Partner PS/IS 217 with the Lincoln Center Institute;
- Preserve AVAC from budget cuts; and
- Convince DOT to change their policy to bring disabled Island residents into Manhattan.

RIOC from page 3

were followers of spiritual leader Sri Chinmoy rediscovered the forlorn island and redecorated it by planting trees and flowers. The island was renamed for U Thant, a good friend of Chinmoy.

On another note, congratulations to Hous-

ing Management and Doryne Eisley on the wonderful Halloween events this past Saturday. As well, Housing Management, RIOC's Public Safety and RISK worked co-operatively to ensure that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Halloween night.



**Free Medicare
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Why you must make a choice or risk losing money

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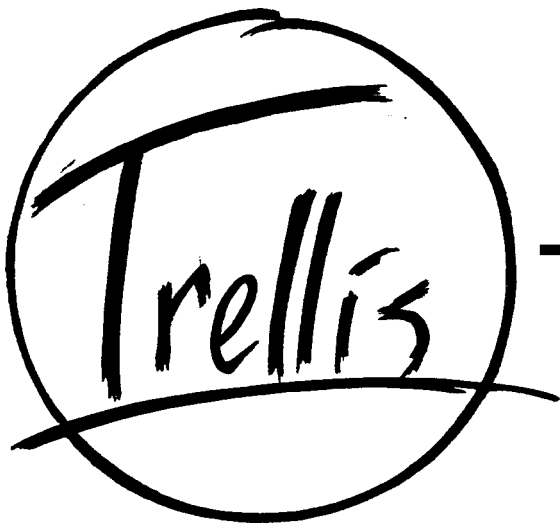
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Deadline for Dec. 3 issue: Tuesday, Nov. 29

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Letters from page 2

of RIOC-oriented work (clearly, never accomplished) that he also pocketed. Given the number of selfless New Yorkers who volunteered during those awful days without any thought of added pay, it makes my stomach turn.

I don’t know if the root causes were intentional fraud by those senior officers and/or by the financial/human resources staff. It is possible that ignorance of or failure to delineate the RIOC, public-benefit corporation, and State statutes governing senior compensation, failure to oversee senior compensation by the RIOC Board of Directors, by the Chair Designee of the Board (Mary Beth Labate), or by the Commissioner of DHCR who is also Chair and CEO of RIOC, or a combination of all of the above, were the culprits, but its stinks just the same.

It seems that criminal charges won’t be filed against any of those who partook of this massive largesse. At this point, almost three years after the fact, I’m left with two questions:

- Will any of those who benefited from inappropriate compensation, former President Ryan, former Vice President Antonek, former CFO Siconolfi, or current General

Council Leitner, be required to return monies not owed to them? I understand that, incredibly, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Antonek still feel that even more special financial benefits are owed them. Can I be confident that these requests will be denied, as they should be?

- Will RIOC, the RIOC Board of Directors, and Commissioner Calogero be required to make the compensation rules for RIOC, spelled out in the laws of New York State, the statutes that created RIOC in 1984, the RIOC bylaws and the RIOC Employee Handbook be in keeping with other State compensation procedures and standards and less obscure, and will they take the necessary steps to insure that these rules are complied with and that the Board oversees staff compensation as it is required to do?

When no one is watching the store, the greedy will have their way. One way or another, every dime of administrative salary comes *directly* from the pockets of Roosevelt Island residents or workers. Neither the current RIOC administration nor its governing Board have had word one to say about the ripping off of this community. For starters, a public apology would be nice.

Sherie Helstien



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