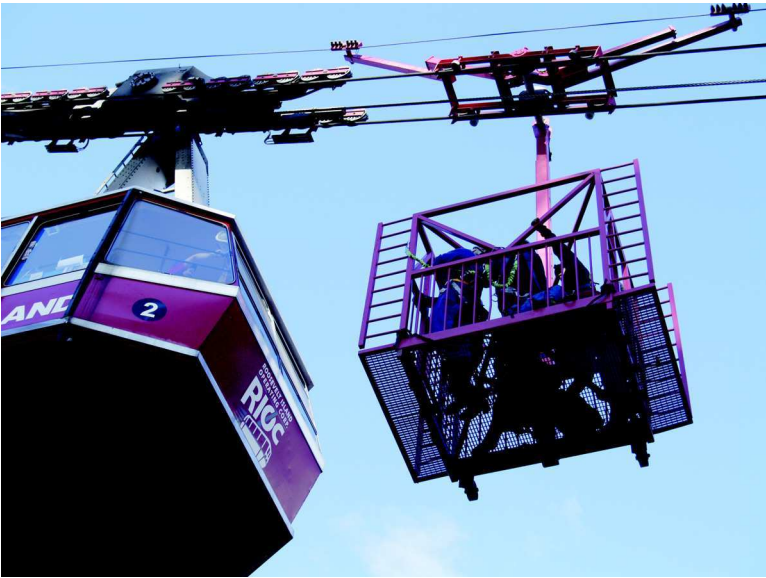


Next issue
in two weeks:
Sat., Dec. 2

The Main Street **WIRE**™

27th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



The rescue cage approached a Tram cabin last week in a preparedness exercise that involved RIOC, Public Safety, the City Office of Emergency Management, FDNY, and NYPD. More of Paul Katz's photo coverage on page 7.

By a 95.5% Margin, Voters Ask For Election of the RIOC Board

Matt Katz Takes Residents Association Presidency

Residents want more say in the running of Roosevelt Island, the November 7 election showed. They elected Matthew Katz as Residents Association President to be point man in demanding and articulating that greater voice. In particular, election results show Islanders want something done about transportation and emergency planning. Giving careful consideration to co-generation proposals for the Steam Plant also showed strong among resident concerns.

An elected RIOC Board of Directors scored high – 95.5 percent – as Islanders responded to referendum questions on the Residents Association ballot. That number bested the highest previous figure, 92% in the 1998 election, asking for more resident input, through the ballot box, in Island operations. Results were in line with the wishes of the Common Council of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, which had put the questions on the ballot. (*The WIRE* also editorialized in favor of a yes vote on all six questions in the November 4 issue.)

themselves and of those, 97 percent voted yes. **Emergency Planning** A public review of emergency planning scored almost as high, with 96.5 percent (1089 to 39). “Residents have not been permitted to see the emergency contingency plans that City and State entities claim exist for our community. Do you support a public review of, and input on, existing See **RIRA Election**, page 6

A Democratic Roosevelt Island Led Both City and State in Mid-Term Voting

Analysis by Dick Lutz

Roosevelt Islanders led a national trend against something Republican – or many things Republican – in last week's midterm election. Island voting gave Rep. Carolyn Maloney her greatest percentage margin – 89.5% – in this year's re-election campaign, for example. Across New York State, voters surged to the Democratic ticket and gave Eliot Spitzer 69 percent of the vote. In the City, he scored 83.4 percent. But on Roosevelt Island, voters gave him 87.7 percent of their votes. But Assemblymember Pete Grannis led his Democratic colleagues on the Island, pulling 89.6 percent of the Island's votes (82.1 percent district-wide). Grannis beat even Jessica Lappin's score of 89.0% on the Island when she ran for City Council in 2005. Only State Senator Jose Serrano, who had no opposition, did better.

Whether the total effect was a reverse-coattail reflection of President George W. Bush's plunging approval among voters or a reaction to Pataki administration policies, it didn't matter to the Democrats. This was their year. Democrats even took control of both houses of Congress. In New York State, neither the Assembly nor the State Senate changed hands, meaning the Governor-elect will operate, as Pataki did, with a split legislature, but Democrats appeared to gain in both the Assembly (three or four seats) and the Senate (one probable, as *The WIRE* goes to press). Islanders' unhappiness with the Pataki administration's activities on Roosevelt Island also came out in voting on referendum questions put forward by the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (see separate story, page 1), notably in a 95.5 percent vote asking for an elected RIOC Board of Directors. See page 6 for full results available at press time.

At PS/IS 217, New Principal's Principle Is “Understand Every Single Child”

by Jami Bernard

She hardly looks older than a student herself, and with her carefree brown hair and soulful eyes, she's certainly a user-friendly improvement over the scowling, ancient school principals of old. Mandana Beckman herself is amazed at her meteoric rise from someone torn between being a doctor or teaching math to becoming the new principal of the Roosevelt Island School. “It was a fast track,” she agrees with a small, self-conscious laugh. In the hallways, the children greet Beckman, 31, like a lifelong friend. In many ways, she is, because Beckman has been at PS/IS 217 for seven years, most of her professional career, and these kids have grown up alongside her. “Those kids who stay the whole time” – from pre-K through 8th grade – “you get to know them. The ones who will graduate this year? They were my students! I already know the students, who they are and what to do to push them forward,” says Beckman, who took over from retiring principal Sherry Gregory in September. “Prior to Miss Gregory, who was here for eight years, there were a lot of transitions. So that's the nice thing about me [succeeding Gre-

gory], the teachers already know me, there's that trust, a shared vision, moving the school together.” Forward momentum seems to be the priority for Beckman; it comes up again and again in her language. She speaks often of “movement” and “direction.” One of her goals as principal is to have all 45 or so teachers and staff working together with the students and each other to improve, to motivate, and to keep the children and their parents happy enough with the school that no one will depart for greener pastures at, say, a private school.

“Things here have gotten better and better ever since I've been here,” says Beckman. “It really is a neighborhood school, where these kids see each other in school and out. They have their own relationships with each other outside of school. It offers a consistency.” The Roosevelt Island School is part of the City's Region 9, District 2, which also encompasses a few schools on the Upper East Side, where Beckman was raised and still resides. She attended PS6 in her day, then Wagner, Bronx See **PS/IS 217**, page 10



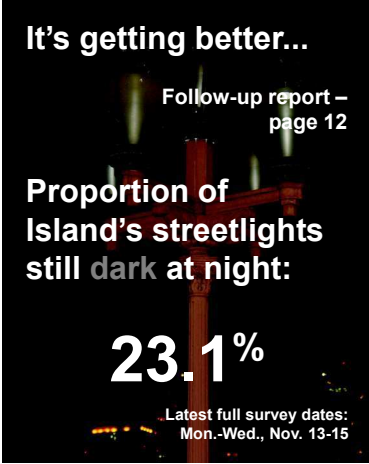
Transportation

The highest peak of dissatisfaction was on the transportation issue. “There are serious transportation needs on the Island such as subway overcrowding, Red Bus scheduling, and school-bus and rush-hour traffic jams,” the referendum question posited, then asked, “Do you support an expert review of current transportation options and a plan for the future that includes resident input?” On this issue, 1,126 voters expressed

Bus Problems Continue; RIOC Considers Action

by Jami Bernard

There's no more depressing sight to a mother trying to herd two young children with colorful backpacks to school than the double doors of a Red Bus slamming shut in her face. That's what happened at 7:35 a.m. Thursday as one particular mother and her children (and their backpacks), along with an older schoolchild and another woman on her way to work, were turned away from a packed bus at the stop outside the Church of the Good Shepherd. Thus it goes on the Red Bus line every morning during the commuter rush these days – and this happened to be an unseasonably mild November day. Although rain, even storms, were expected – one man ran to the curb with his umbrella pointing as if to skewer the bus and hold it steady – it was a morning in which anyone who was hale, hearty, and on time could conceivably walk instead of ride. Imagine a colder, wetter day. This has come to the attention of RIOC president Herb Berman, who acknowledges the problem in his *WIRE* column today. He proposes commandeering one of the seven Red Buses for Octagon express service during rush hour. “We are discussing the possibility of using one of our buses as an express bus during rush hour from Octagon to the subway and Tram to relieve the pressure,” writes Berman. “That express bus would run every half hour making the express loop, leaving the other buses to handle the remaining demand.” In his column, Berman attributes



this possibility to “the stronger financial position that the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation finds itself in, which in turn is tied to the increased revenue that comes from responsible development.” He cites a \$30 million reserve fund, the addition in the past year of three buses to the previous fleet of four, and a commitment to preserving “a multiplicity of transportation options because, after all, this is an island.” Berman's pledge of an express bus is a change from the September RIOC Board meeting, when DHCR Commissioner and RIOC Board Chair Judith Calogero said the only way to improve Red Bus service would be to raise the 25-cent fare, because RIOC didn't See **Red Bus**, page 7

Briefly...

Tram service will run hourly Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 to 2, for inspection purposes. PS/IS 217's **Penny Harvest** continues through Wednesday (November 22). Canisters are available at various spots on the Island. The sponsor, Common Cents New York, aims to give kids a sense of the need for meaningful contributions to society. This is the program's eleventh year. The *Daily News* reports that **PS/IS 217** has the City's most crowded classroom – 7th grade, with 40 students in a room. **Eastwood** has reorganized its tenant representation and the building has a modernization schedule (see story, page 10).

The Editorial Page

What’s Next?

Last week’s elections on Roosevelt Island should present some important opportunities for the Island.

With a new administration in Albany run by “a Governor who actually knows how to find his way here on the F train” (as RIRA President Matthew Katz often describes him) and a solid series of votes on referendum issues to back up resident demands for better and more responsive administration here, we may be emboldened to cross our fingers over the oft-voiced hope that things can now change for the better.

Where we go, hopefully, is toward an elected RIOC Board of Directors that will *act* like a Board of Directors and take matters into its own hands in setting policy for management and development of the Island, and exercise the power the appointed Board has had – but has never exercised – to hire an experienced municipal manager to run the Island’s day to day operations and an administrative staff whose resumes offer something beyond a political connection and a favor owed.

Fall for Arts

One example of RIOC mismanagement that deserves some attention is the recent *Fall for Arts Festival*.

The WIRE doesn’t like to rain on anybody’s parade, and that’s why comment on this event has been reserved until now.

Fall for Arts was one of eight events for which RIOC contracted with an off-Island supplier, paying **\$80,000**. Of the eight events, six were outdoor concerts, poorly publicized and sparsely attended. Each should have been staged for \$2,000 or less. If done by RIRA, which has experience doing this sort of thing, and done with true RIOC cooperation, \$1,200 to \$1,500 would have been more than enough.

The seventh event was *Fall for Arts*, and there will be a sports day in Spring, 2007.

From the \$80,000, subtract the \$12,000 that is the maximum the six concerts should have cost, and you have \$68,000 remaining to divide between *Fall for Arts* and the sports event. Assuming the sports event might cost as much as half that amount, it looks like at least \$34,000 went into *Fall for Arts*.

Decent weather meant attendance was maximized but, if the cost was anything like \$34,000, the cost per attendee was well over \$50. That’s *without* counting what RIOC charged local artists who wanted to show *and* sell their works.

Even allowing for some experimentation, there was an oversupply of ineptitude in putting the event together. Where residents were fully engaged, as in the case of the Roosevelt Island Visual Arts Association (RIVAA), activities made sense, were fun, and were scheduled reasonably. Where RIOC thought it knew what would be best for residents, we got events scheduled as far away as the Coler Hospital front yard, where few showed up at an early hour for *Kidstage*. For that matter, nobody had an advance clue that there would *be* events for kids – not until the *day of the event* when *The WIRE* was finally able to publish a program.

The very multiplicity of events, scattered far and wide, did little to get the most bang for the buck. If scheduled for milder weather, over several weekends, and with funds placed in the hands of residents who know by now how these things should be done here, all of it could have been less expensive and each event would have been better attended.

Meanwhile, RIOC pulled out all the stops, even advertising through a flier delivered with *The WIRE* (thank you). But if resident organizations were allowed to drive anchors for advertising banners into the brickwork of landmarks like the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, they could point to true RIOC cooperation in the mounting of their events. *The WIRE* doesn’t endorse such use of landmark walls, but this is the kind of cooperation RIOC can give to itself when it really wants to do something. Residents, on the other hand, have learned to expect serious roadblocks and endless red tape when they ask for something out of the ordinary. RIOC even finds ways to make the ordinary impossible.

Somebody at RIOC came up with the idea for this *Fall for Arts Festival*. Good idea or bad, residents at large were not consulted. In a nutshell, that’s a chronic problem with RIOC – failure to seek the advice and consent of the appropriate committees of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association.

Most important, RIOC funds would be more wisely spent through resident organizations rather than off-Island organizations. When the off-Island folks are hired, after bids or not, there’s an appearance of shoveling Island money out the door to somebody who’s owed a political favor. When it stays on the Island, there’s the expertise of folks who’ve lived here and done this sort of thing for years and, consequently, real value for the dollar.

By way of example, consider the Halloween events and years of Roosevelt Island Days. Both are better-attended and better run. Experience counts.

DL

Letters

To the Editor:

I have had continuous difficulty in obtaining service from Access-A-Ride. I phoned MTA complaints (718-339-3322), to whom I was referred by Access-A-Ride. They told me they don’t follow up on complaints; they simply mail a copy of the complaint to Access-A-Ride. This is about my fourth complaint. I was also advised by the MTA person to write to the Mayor, bringing to his attention the multiplicity of difficulties for Access-A-Ride patrons on Roosevelt Island. I hope others will do the same.

Elizabeth (Liza) Williams

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

I sincerely hope you aren’t the one who decided the placement of the new Westview bus shelter.

I was truly astonished, and not just a little bit dismayed, when I left my building this past Monday afternoon, walked to the Red Bus stop and saw what appeared to be a growth of quite large proportions growing out of the *middle* of the sidewalk in front of the deli. My goodness, what could this extraordinary thing be, I thought? Imagine my surprise when I found it to be a bus-stop shelter! I immediately assumed, of course, that it must have been a mistake made by the workmen who installed the structure, as I felt sure you couldn’t possibly have been aware of this very inconvenient, not to say inappropriate, placement.

Surely, you would have recognized that the site needed to be a few feet to the north, placing it nearer to the crosswalk and closer to the curbside. This placement would have taken advantage of the ample open space between Westview and the deli, affording more walking room on the sidewalk behind said structure, as in the placement of the shelter at Good Shepherd Plaza.

As it is, two strollers, two wheelchairs – actually two of anything in tandem – are hard put to pass in front of said edifice, much less behind it. Therefore, I felt quite sure this was just a contractor’s goof – right? – and not a plan OK’d by you, the head of RIOC, which agency, as we all know, is in charge of the betterment of the Island and, by extension, the comfort of the life of the community.

I urge the relocation of the shelter. I feel sure, now that you have

To the Editor:

As the buildings keep going up on Roosevelt Island, and the population swells, we need to think seriously about alternative ways of getting off this Island. Both the Tram and subway are already maxed out at rush hour. There are those buses that go somewhere in Queens and Ferry Service had been tried before. But to the best of my knowledge no one has yet proposed this idea:

Let’s build a staircase at the foot of the 59th Street Bridge that would wrap around one of its legs and provide a free alternative escape route for those motivated people who are already walking because they have given up on the overcrowded Roosevelt Island buses. If you cannot wait in the ever-growing line at the Tram, just walk up to the bridge and Manhattan is only half a Bridge away.

Another alternative would be an elevator up to the bridge, but perhaps that idea is too forward-thinking. It is so forward-thinking that it actually once existed in the distant past. While that would be nice, I would be happy to settle for a staircase to the heavens.

Neal Weissman

To the Editor:

I sent this letter to Judith Berdy, President of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society.

Dear Judy:

What a glorious sight! As the Tram was touching down on Tuesday, I looked out and saw the new Visitor Welcome Center being moved into position.

And of course you were there, watching and supervising like a proud mother hen making sure her chick crossed the road safely.

All of Roosevelt Island owes you a huge debt of gratitude for saving the kiosk. You had the imagination to visualize the possibilities and the savvy and political connections to make it a reality. I hope this will be an inspiration to other Island residents.

It is possible for one person to make a difference. Thank you.

Sharon Berman

been made aware of the ineptness involved, that you will rectify this with all possible speed. I thank you for your consideration.

Teri Sheridan

To the Editor:

As an invited member of the panel at the October 23 *Roosevelt Island Market Oriented Housing 1975 to 2006* panel discussion, I was most eager to participate and learn more about the design concepts of our early architects and planners. It would be a rare opportunity to get some of the Island planners in the same room at the same time.

I have been in contact with James McCullar, Vice President of the AIA New York Chapter for some time after a Spring event on the Island’s beginnings to do this panel. He was on the original Johansen team to design Rivercross and Island House. I was eager to hear and ask about their concepts for the buildings. Unfortunately, this part of the evening never arrived.

Instead I got an earful of embittered comments from certain former and current RIRA Common Council members and a few other Islanders. This was not a RIRA or RIOC community meeting on the Island but a special program for architects and professionals at the American Institute of Architects Center for Architecture in Manhattan. Our neighbors decided to take their bad manners to someone else’s event.

After a stream of negative comments and pointed questions, Commissioner Calogaro made an inappropriate comment about NIMBY and racism. This comment was uncalled for and the Commissioner was off track.

Bruce Becker and Alfreda Radzicki of Octagon and Southtown were panel members and are used to the usual audience members and their negative comments. However, I was appalled and sorry that certain parties were thrilled to see the event side-tracked.

The story in *The WIRE* was just as prejudiced. I noticed that my only negative comment on the lack of assimilation of the Southtown residents was the only one of my ten minutes of remarks that Ms. Bernard chose to write about.

I will privately invite some of the panelists to meet with myself and others and we can discuss the original concept in a civilized way. It will be on the record for future Island historians to read and learn from.

Judith Berdy

Letters deadline for December 2 issue: Tuesday, November 28 Letters received after deadline considered on a space-available basis.

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of local interest, 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*. If you e-mail a letter, expect a confirming response and, if you don’t receive one, *resend* and call 212 826-9055 to alert us that it’s been sent. **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.



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Growth carries opportunities and challenges, and the recent occupancy of the apartment building at the Octagon has led us to step up a rethinking of transportation options on Roosevelt Island.

And that rethinking is possible because of the stronger financial position that the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation finds itself in, which in turn is tied to the increased revenue that comes from responsible development.

Because Octagon is now the northernmost stop on our Red Bus routes, there have been occurrences during the morning rush hour when the buses are already full by the time they reach Main Street. We are discussing the possibility of using one of our buses as an express bus during rush hour from Octagon

to the subway and Tram to relieve the pressure. That express bus would run every half hour, making the express loop, leaving the other buses to handle the remaining demand.

One of the reasons we can even think about setting up that kind of service is because of our expanded fleet. A year ago before Octagon opened, we had four buses in our fleet, while we now have seven. The new buses are environmentally state-of-the-art, and allow us greater flexibility in shifting to meet the transportation needs. And they proved their worth during the recent Tram outage, when we were able to use our additional capacity to operate rush hour express service from the Island to Manhattan

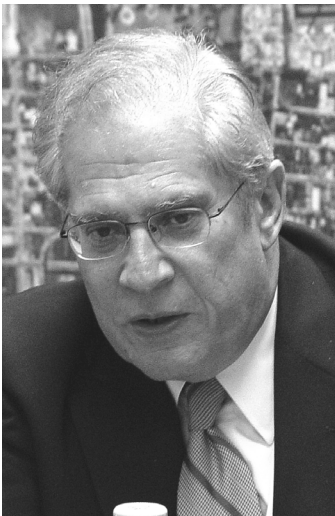
We also are looking into stepping up enforcement against double parking on Main Street by delivery trucks during rush hour, which causes delays in bus service and other vehicular traffic.

The Tram outage also reinforced our long-held belief that Roosevelt Island needs a multiplicity of transportation options because, after all, this is an island. That is why we have begun discussions about bringing back ferry service to supplement the Tram, subway and bus service, as well as the bridge to Queens for automobiles, which we already have.

A ferry would have been a much-appreciated transporta-

tion safety valve this past summer, especially on weekends, when track work disrupted F train service.

It is helpful to revisit the recent transportation history of Roosevelt Island, which began with ferry service and the old elevator that carried passengers down to the Island from a bus stop on the 59th Street Bridge. The Tram opened in 1976 as a temporary solution until subway service was introduced. When the F train stop was opened in 1989, the Tram had become such a signature element of life on Roosevelt Island that it was maintained in service, even beyond the life span it was projected to enjoy when it was first opened. Now with the State-supported complete modernization of the Tram scheduled to begin as early as next



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

year, the Tram will remain one of the major transportation options for Island residents and visitors for decades into the future.

I also want to note that consideration of these enhancements of our transportation options is only possible because of prudent fiscal management. It was not that many years ago that RIOC was broke, with debt totaling around \$1.5 million. Now we have about \$30 million in the bank, drawn from ground leases, sale of development rights, retail rents and other sources, including a special fee paid annually by Octagon for the extended bus service. We have used that money to enhance the amenities on the Island as well as to tackle the capital needs in the areas of streets, sidewalks, lighting, electrical work, elevator repairs and the Tram itself, as well as the purchase of the new buses.

Sometimes it is hard to see, but we believe it all fits together to make Roosevelt Island such a special place to live, work and play.

I'm back.

It seems that I received 79.1% of the votes cast for RIRA president in the recent elections. But who's counting?

Many friends and neighbors asked if I was nuts for running again or whether I was simply a masochist. While accepting the possibility of insanity in the family, I did have reasons for wanting to take on this two-year task along with a new Common Council. After twelve years of King George Pataki ruling Roosevelt Island like a foreign colony, we now have an opportunity to work with a new governor and a new regime. Eliot Spitzer has talked with us and has sent his political and community representatives to learn our issues and needs. He even participated in a Town Meeting here to address our concerns directly; a tack his predecessor never considered. New York's governor is the key elected official in the decision-making processes for Roosevelt Island, and I'm looking forward to working with a man (and an administration) who knows us and wants to improve the quality of life here. Further, Spitzer has committed to

sending us trained, experienced, competent community managers to work within RIOC and the RIOC Board of Directors sphere of influence and we intend to hold him to his promise.

In the last Common Council meeting of the Steve Marcus administration, the RIRA Constitution was amended to include the residents of Octagon Park Apartments. I'm looking forward to working with the new delegates from Octagon and Southtown as well as the newbies and old-timers from the Northtown buildings. So that we can hit the ground running at our first December meeting, I conducted an orientation earlier this week to share the procedural rules of the Council and to bring new and old members together for the first time.

While many issues will present themselves over the next two years, there are several that will engage our attention immediately: Many Island leaders have worked towards a Southpoint Park that will attract users who live here, people from all of New York City, and visitors from around the world. I sat on an advisory council convened by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to produce a conceptual plan for that park and, when it comes to pass, it will be a proud day for all of us who worked and dreamed. However, a cloud hovers over these plans. The RFIP (request for initial proposal) issued for the northernmost three acres of the park could involve construction of additional residential apartments, commercial development or almost anything else; the proposals (and proposers) are a secret. In the election referendum questions you, the voter, made it clear that you support parks that are truly parks with a ringing 87.6% endorsement of the TPL "Wild Gardens/Green Rooms" plan. We've lost too much open space to development that was ill-conceived and contrary to the spirit of our General Develop-

ment Plan. We want a park that's a park and nothing but a park and that's what we're going to have.

Our new neighbors at Octagon inadvertently have created a transportation snafu for those of us living south of their complex. The Red Buses taking rush-hour commuters to the subway and the Tram are filled by Octagoners, creating overcrowding problems for those in Manhattan Park and points south. It's ironic that, when Manhattan Park was built during the Cuomo administration, additional buses were negotiated into the final agreement. In fact, the \$5 million per annum ground rent that Manhattan Park pays is the most significant portion of the RIOC budget. Octagon Park, which was obliged to cough up a single \$11 million payment to RIOC for its ground lease, has no such obligation. Adding insult to injury, DHCR Commissioner and RIOC Board of Directors Chair, Judith Calogero, suggested at a Board meeting that we all chip in with higher Red Bus fares to defray the cost of additional Roosevelt Island surface transportation. That, dear friends, is called *chutzpa*.

So. We intend to hit the ground running with energy, commitment, enthusiasm and an agenda of issues already forming. At this point, I'd like to plagiarize – from myself – several statements from previous RIRA columns. In my first column, dated November 19, 2000, I said, "Will my writing be biased, opinionated and subjective? Y'betcha!" That won't change. In my last column, dated November 6, 2004 I said, "During the first RIRA debate in 2000 a prescient questioner asked me how much time I would devote to the task [should I be elected]. Ruffled, I answered, 'As much time as it takes.' Little did I know how many hours every week that would entail." I now know very well how consuming the RIRA presidency can be. Again, my answer hasn't changed.



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
e-mail: MatthewKatz@verizon.net

I want to thank former President Steve Marcus and former Vice President Margie Smith for their efforts over a stormy two-year term and also thank them for continuing on the RIRA Common Council, Class of 2006, as delegates from Rivercross. Their contributions will be essential to our success. Also, thanks to Nominations Committee Chair and current Vice President, Mark Chipman, and Elections Committee honcho and current delegate from Eastwood, Joyce Mincheff, for producing a superb, flawless election this year. Joyce, you and your team of volunteers (and you know who you are!) worked the polls from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Election Day and then adjourned to the Trellis to finish counting the votes. I'm tired just thinking

COMING UP

– This Weekend –

Opening Reception for *From There to Here: A.R. Hochberg, Retrospective of a Printmaker's Life*, Sat., Nov. 18, 6-9 p.m., Gallery RIVAA. Gallery hours are Sat.-Sun. 11-5, Wed. & Fri. 6-9.



– The Coming Week –

Tram service hourly only, 10-2, Tue.-Wed., Nov. 21-22. Thanksgiving Day, Thur., Nov. 23.

– Future Events –

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group Open House, Mon., Nov. 27, 8:00 p.m. For location and information, call **212-751-9577**.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, Thur., Nov. 30, 4:30 p.m., Good Shepherd Community Center.

The Main Street WIRE – Next issue, **Sat., Dec. 2**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an *AddMe* message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Advertising Dead-**

lines: Ads in the paper, Wed., Nov. 22; decision on circulars/inserts for *The Bag*, Tue., Nov. 28; they are due Thur., Nov. 30. **Future issues:** Dec. 16 (holiday issue). **In 2007:** Jan 13, 27; Feb 10, 24; Mar. 10, 24; Apr. 7, 21; May 5, 19; June 2, 16, 30; July 28; Aug. 25; Sept. 8, 22; Oct. 6, 20; Nov. 3, 17; Dec. 1, 15. **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.

Annual Holiday Bazaar, Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3, 546 Main Street, sponsored by the Roosevelt Island Seniors Association. Vendors contact Pilar Sierra at **212-750-3952**. **Toastmasters Public Speaking Group Open House, Mon., Dec. 11, 8:00 p.m.** For location and information, call **212-751-9577**. **Book Discussion Group: *The Bluest Eye*** by Toni Morrison, **Thur., Dec. 14** (date has changed), 6:30 p.m. Group meets monthly, third Thursday, at the NYPL Roosevelt Island branch. **Book Discussion Group: *The Slave*** by Isaac Bashevis Singer, **Thur., Jan. 18, 6:30 p.m.** Group meets monthly, third Thursday, at the NYPL Roosevelt Island branch. **Book Discussion Group: *Bruised Hibiscus*** by Elizabeth Nunez, **Thur., Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m.** Group meets monthly, third Thursday, at the NYPL Roosevelt Island branch. **Book Discussion Group: *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*** by Dai Sijie, **Thur., Mar. 15, 6:30 p.m.** Group meets monthly, third Thursday, at the NYPL Roosevelt Is-

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.

Senior Center

Monday

9:30, **Yoga**
10:30-11:30, **English as 2nd Language**
10:30, **Blood Pressure**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
1:00, **Computers**
1:00, **Tai Chi**

Tuesday

9:30, **Get Stronger Bones**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
2:00, **Bingo**
2:00, **Paint & Sculpt**
7:30, **Games (RISA)**

Wednesday

9:30, **Yoga**
10:30, **Computers**
10:30, **Shoppers' Bus**
7:00, **Pokeno (RISA)**

Thursday

9:30, **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

RISA 30-Year Anniversary event and Annual Dinner, today (Sat., Nov. 18), 6:00 p.m.

All-Day Bazaar, Sat.-Sun., Dec. 2-3, 9:00 a.m.

Atlantic City trip (Tropicana), Dec. 8

Holiday Party, Sat., Dec. 23, 8:00 p.m.

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

about it!

The RIRA Common Council is composed of volunteers elected by you, me, all of us. We are your neighbors and, like you, have jobs and families and interests away from Island issues. What we have in common is a passion for Roosevelt Island, for the quality of life that residing here affords and a dedication to preserving and enhancing that unique, small-town, island existence in the heart of the Big Apple. We will be as successful as our combined efforts allow and as your attention and participation requires.

Y'all come on down to a RIRA Common Council meeting or two and watch us work. We won't let you down.



FREE Pick Up and Delivery On Roosevelt Island and ALL 5 Boroughs!

SOLGAR
SPONGEABLES
COSEFINI
JASON
KISS MY FACE
AVALON
CALIFORNIA BABY
SEVENTH GENERATION
METHOD
OLIVIA
AMERICAN GREETINGS
ORGANIC PRODUCTS
HEALTH & BEAUTY AIDS
& MUCH MORE!

CITY VIEW PHARMACY in Astoria is YOUR neighborhood pharmacy. With FREE PRESCRIPTION PICK UP and FREE DELIVERY of ANY items in all 5 boroughs, everyone can enjoy great **CITY VIEW** service. Our family-owned and operated business has just one goal: to provide the highest level of personalized pharmacy care and exceptional service for our customers. Discover the **CITY VIEW** difference!

- ♦HIV / AIDS / ONCOLOGY SPECIALISTS
- ♦ONE to ONE IN-STORE COUNSELING
- ♦DISEASE MANAGEMENT & ADHERENCE TOOLS
- ♦SURGICAL & MEDICAL SUPPLIES
- ♦MEDICARE PART D & ALL INSURANCE PLANS
- ♦10% SENIOR DISCOUNT
- ♦VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS





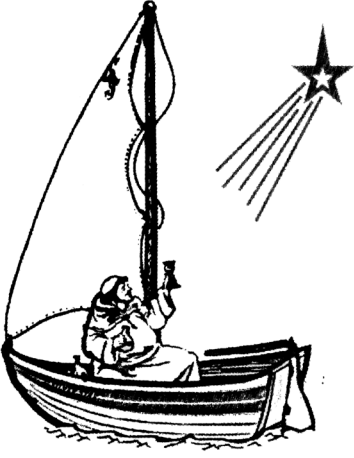
CITY VIEW'S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE BENEFITS CITY HARVEST. DROP OFF CANNED FOOD DONATIONS AT CITY VIEW 11/6 - 11/21 OR LET US PICK IT UP. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

"City View... We Care For You."

CITY VIEW PHARMACY 23-07 Astoria Blvd. PHONE: 718-545-2550 FAX: 718-545-2555 NEW EMAIL: info@cityviewpharmacynyc.com

Silver Star

Restaurant



An Amazing Dining Experience
SINCE 1965 • OPEN 24 HOURS

Call now for Thanksgiving dinner reservations: **212-249-4250**

1238 2nd Av. at 65th St.
Full liquor service on premises
Catering for all occasions

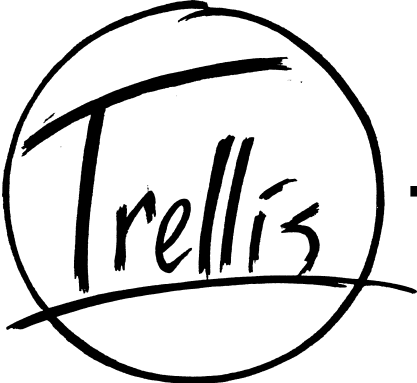
The Child School Legacy High School

have openings in the following positions:

- Assistant Teachers
- Coaches for our Physical Education Program

If you are interested, please fax resume attention to:

Lalig Vartanian at 212/223-5031



Thanksgiving

Join us for Thanksgiving Dinner at Trellis:

- Choice of soup or salad
- Fresh warm bread
- Baked or sweet potato
- Vegetable
- Stuffing
- Turkey – white or dark meat
- Dessert
- Beverage

\$15.95

See you at Trellis. Bring a neighbor.

212-752-1517

*At the heart of the community,
next to the Good Shepherd Community Center*

**Trellis: 6:00 a.m. to midnight,
7 days every week. We also deliver.**

GRISTEDES

of ROOSEVELT ISLAND

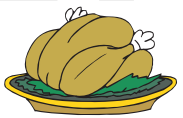


Prices
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To
11/23/06

OPEN THURSDAY - THANKSGIVING DAY!

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION THANKSGIVING COUPON

Any Size **TURKEY**
\$5⁰⁰ OFF



Limit 1 per customer • With a single \$75 or more purchase not including Turkey, coupon items, IGT Card, cigarettes • exp. 11/23/06 • 9315

For Your Holiday Needs, We Carry A Full Line of Fresh And Frozen Turkeys In All Popular Sizes, Including:

Jaindl Farms, Shady Brook Farms, Perdue, Empire Kosher, Murray's Butterball & Harvest Brand



USDA Center Cut **First Cut**
\$9⁹⁹ lb.
Rib Roast **\$8⁹⁹ lb.**

Grade A **Perdue Oven Ready Roaster**
\$1⁹⁹ lb.
In a Bag **NEW!**

Hillshire Farm **\$3⁴⁹ lb.**
Spiral Sliced 1/2 Ham

Bruce's or Princella Cut Yams
40 oz.

White Rose Apple Cider
\$1⁹⁹ 64 oz.



Southern Yams
lb.

Fresh Ocean Spray Cranberries
\$1⁹⁹ 12 oz. pkg.



Heinz Gravy

D'Italiano Bread
plain or seeded
\$1⁶⁹ 20 oz.



2/\$3

Coca Cola

Martinelli's Sparkling Apple Cider
\$2⁹⁹ 25.4 oz.



\$1²⁹

Ronzoni Pasta

Ronzoni Lasagna
curly or oven ready
2/\$3 8-16 oz.



99¢

Ocean Spray Cranberry Sauce

Snapple Iced Tea or Drinks
12 Pack
\$8⁹⁹ 16 oz. bottles



2/\$3

Nabisco Snack Crackers

College Inn Broths
Assorted Var.
99¢ 14.75 oz.



2/\$5

Dawn Liquid Dish Detergent

Vanity Fair Napkins
all occasion or dinner
\$2²⁹ 40-100 ct.



\$3⁶⁹

The Biggest Variety of Dairy & Frozen!

Breakstone's Sour Cream

Cracker Barrel Cheddar Cheese Sticks, Bars or Cuts
\$2⁹⁹ 8-10 oz.



\$1⁵⁹

The Freshest Deli in New York!

Made From Part Skim Milk Store Cut • Imported from Norway
Jarlsberg Swiss Cheese Wedge

Imported From Italy Fresh Sliced
Prosciutto Di Parma
\$14⁹⁹ lb.

\$4⁹⁹ lb.

Haagen Dazs Ice Cream, Yogurt or Sorbet
16 oz.

Green Giant Vegetables In Sauce
boil in a bag or harvest fresh
\$1⁷⁹ 7.5-10 oz.



2/\$7

Mix & Match In Any Combination

Coconut Custard, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato or Apple

Fresh Baked 8" Holiday Pie



\$3⁹⁹ ea.

GRISTEDES
Diamond Value Club
WITH YOUR DVC CARD

USE YOUR DIAMOND VALUE CARD FOR ITEMS BELOW

GRISTEDES
Diamond Value Club
WITH YOUR DVC CARD

Domino Granulated Sugar
\$2⁵⁹ 5 lb.
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Chock Full O' Nuts Coffee
assorted grinds not decaf or flavored
\$2⁹⁹ 11-13 oz.
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Pillsbury Flour
reg. or unbleached
\$1²⁹ 5 lb.
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Thomas' English Muffins
assorted varieties • 6 pack
2/\$3 12-13 oz.
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Heineken or Amstel Light Beer
\$12⁹⁹ 12 oz.
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Nature's Own Apple Juice
\$1⁹⁹ 64 oz.
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Bounty Select-a-Size, White or Print Towels
\$14⁹⁹ 60 ct. rolls
LIMIT 2 • exp. 11/23/06



Roosevelt Island Voting in the November 7 Mid-Term Election: Across the Board, Much More Democratic Than City or State

	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Governor	Island		City		State	
Faso (Rep)	133	8.6	143,323	12.5	1,217,516	29.2
Faso (Con)	15	1.0	21,561	1.9		
Faso total	148	9.5	164,884	14.4		
Spitzer (Dem)	1,186	76.3	851,313	74.1	2,882,524	69.0
Spitzer (Ind)	44	2.8	36,449	3.2		
Spitzer (WFam)	133	8.6	70,186	6.1		
Spitzer total	1,363	87.7	957,948	83.4		
McCourt	16	1.0	14,094	1.2	76,668	1.8
Clifton	11	0.7	3,774	0.3		
McMillan	17	1.1	5,653	0.5		
DeLuca			2,518	0.2	76,668	1.8
Total for Others	44	2.8	26,039	2.3		

	Island		City		State	
Callaghan (Rep)	205	13.2	174,569	16.9	1,614,777	39.9
Callaghan (Con)			24,769	2.4		
Callaghan total			199,338	19.4		
Hevesi (Dem)	1,262	81.3	698,829	67.8	2,337,030	57.7
Hevesi (Ind)			27,322	2.7		
Hevesi (WFam)			58,983	5.7		
Hevesi total			785,134	76.2		
Willebrand	59		30,368	2.9	97,729	2.4
Cain	15		8,554	0.8		
Cotton	11		6,694	0.6		
Total for Others	85	5.5	45,616	4.4		

	Island		City		State	
Pirro (Rep)	204	13.6	177,378	16.5	1,614,777	39.9
Pirro (Ind)	27	1.8	28,149	2.6		
Pirro (Con)	19	1.3	21,027	2.0		
Pirro total	250	16.7	226,554	21.1	2,337,030	57.7
Cuomo (Dem)	1,020	68.2	753,022	70.1		
Cuomo (WFam)	113	7.6	65,625	6.1		
Cuomo total	1,133	75.7	818,647	76.3	97,729	2.4
Treichler	89	5.9	16,447	1.5		
Garvey	13	0.9	6,344	0.6		
Koppel	11	0.7	4,552	0.4	97,729	2.4
Total for Others	113	7.6	27,343	2.5		

	Island		City		State	
Spencer (Rep)	178	11.4	165,740	13.8	1,320,571	31.4
Spencer (Con)	19	1.2	21,955	1.8		
Spencer total	197	12.6	187,695	15.7		
Clinton (Dem)	1,168	74.9	882,917	73.7	2,811,981	66.8
Clinton (Ind)	37	2.4	33,071	2.8		
Clinton (Wfam)	110	7.1	66,843	5.6		
Clinton total	1,315	84.3	982,831	82.0	79,773	1.9
Hawkins	25	1.6	16,869	1.4		
Russell	13	0.8	4,583	0.4		
Calero	8	0.5	3,325	0.3	79,773	1.9
VanAuken	1	0.1	2,594	0.2		
Total for Others	47	3.0	27,371	2.3		

	Island		District	
Rep in Congress				
Maio (Rep)	155	10.5	19,724	15.8
Maloney (Dem)	1,157	78.2	93,565	74.8
Maloney (Ind)	39	2.6	4,291	3.4
Maloney (WFam)	128	8.7	7,486	6.0
Maloney total	1,324	89.5	105,342	84.2

	Island		District	
State Senator				
Serrano (Dem)	1,117		26,526	
Serrano (WFam)	131		1,871	
Serrano total	1,248	100.0	28,397	100.0

	Island		District	
Assembly				
Fandal (Rep)	149	10.4	4,796	17.9
Grannis (Dem)	1,149	80.3	20,906	77.9
Grannis (WFam)	133	9.3	1,136	4.2
Grannis total	1,282	89.6	22,042	82.1

Note: Where totals of percentages appear incorrect, it is due to the effects of rounding when calculating component percentages.

Voting in RIRA Election

Referendum Questions

	Yes	No	% Yes
Elected RIOC Board	934	44	95.5
Reserve RI's parkland	976	138	87.6
Storefront/Motorgate control	927	196	82.5
Transportation review	1092	34	97.0
Public review of emergency plan	1089	39	96.5
Preserve Steam Plant options	1042	85	92.5

Officers

President	Votes	%
Matthew Katz	832	79.1
James Whalen	104	9.9
Raj Kumar	89	8.5
Ian Sundwal-Byers	27	2.6

Vice President (unopposed)		
Mark Chipman	906	100.0

Common Council

Eastwood		546 Main Street	
Joyce Mincheff	107	Dolores Green	47
James Luce	106	Island House	
2 River Road		Frank Farance	95
Steven Heller	12	Rams Woodcock	90
James Whalen	7	Rivercross	
4 River Road		Margie Smith	209
Jim Bates	18	Steve Marcus	204
Manhattan Park		Ron Schuppert	174
Lynn Chambers	85	Ellen Polivy	89
Raj Kumar	84	Howard Polivy	61
Mark Chipman *	83	Ethel Romm	46
Kimberly B. Lingle	83	Southtown	
Jonathan M. Kalkin	82	Amit Gupta	35
Ian Sundwal-Byers	81	Gad Levanon	26
Erik B. Stocker	81	Octagon	
George Reither	79	Deborah R. Dorft	56
Westview		Charlie Berg	53
Petra Kaizer	114	Betty A. Walker	53
Zlatko Ramljak	106	Alan Siegal	51
Sherie Helstien	102	Julie White	51

*Mark Chipman will serve as Vice President rather than represnting Manhattan Park.

Website NYC10044 – <http://nyc10044.com>

RIRA Election from page 1

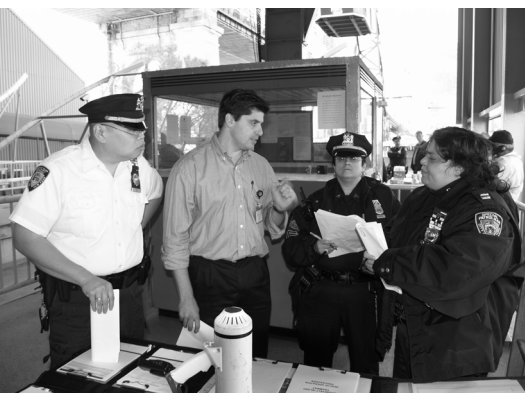
emergency evacuation plans?” asked the referendum question. Whether the transportation and emergency planning votes will have any effect remains to be seen. None of the referendum votes are controlling. The RIRA Council sought a unified voice to back up future work with the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, the MTA, emergency planners, and politicians.

Steam Plant
Voters also asked for a serious study of options for making use of the Steam Plant to lower energy costs, possibly through co-generation. The vote was, in part, a reaction to a RIOC real-estate proposal that envisioned possile demolition of the Steam Plant, which currently provides steam for the two hospital campuses on the Island. The contract of the real-estate consultant who put that proposal forward expires this month, its renewal to be considered by the RIOC Board. (The proposal would also have offered the land under the Sportspark and the tennis bubbles for possible development, and a “big-box retailer” was mentioned as a possible tenant.)
Only two referendum questions scored yes votes below 90 percent. Voters were least sure on keeping local control of Northtown’s retail storefronts and Motorgate, which RIOC had proposed, in a Request for Initial Proposals, to put in private hands. Even so, 82.5% weighed in as RIRA Council Councilors hoped they would, voting yes. The vote was 927 to 196.
On preserving parkland, the yes vote reached the 87.6 percent level (976 to 138), responding to a question that noted RIOC “is considering using one-sixth of Southpoint Park for commercial or residential development.” The question: “Should all remaining parkland and uncommitted open space be used solely for parks and park-related amentities?”
Tallies in the RIRA election appear on this page.

Transportation

Emergency Agencies Spend a Day Preparing... Just in Case

WIRE photo coverage by Paul Katz



Red Bus from page 1

have the funds. Calogero also said at that meeting that RIOC would improve transportation at cost to Islanders only if Islanders took it into their hands to tally daily ridership and get up a petition demonstrating rider frustration.

On Thursday morning, the mother and children who didn't make it onto the 7:35 a.m. bus were demonstrating their frustration a different way – through the body language of annoyance and despair. Along came another full-to-bursting Red Bus five minutes later; it didn't even make a pretense of stopping, just zoomed on down Main Street toward the subway station, leaving a growing sea of colorful schoolchild backpacks bobbing on the sidewalk.

According to the bus schedule posted on the website of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. (RIOC), rush-hour buses run every 7½ minutes. But because of an increased passenger load from the new Octagon apartments at the north end, the buses have become unmoored from their schedules, which means they bunch and run in packs, leaving gaps in the service.

That's how the mother and her kids finally got a lift. Hardly three minutes after the second bus ignored the family, a third with plenty of room trundled along. The double doors opened and the bus swallowed up the mother, her children, the older kid, the business-

woman, and six more riders who had joined their group.

Winter 2006-07 can be expected to present new challenges to transportation on Roosevelt Island. The Octagon at the north end and the new buildings of Southtown have added hundreds of apartments to the Island's population density. The Octagon and 455 Main Street filled up during this past spring and summer, with notable effects on the subway rush hour already observed and reported in *The WIRE*. Now that the weather is turning, surface commutes are increasingly compromised as well.

As one resident of Island House put it, "It used to be you could time leaving your apartment within two minutes in order to make it to work at a certain time. But now the wait for the Red Bus can be up to half an hour, which adds an hour to your commute. There's no way to know if you'll make it on time now."

RIOC hasn't announced a schedule for implementing an express bus. When it starts, certain kinks will need to be worked out. For instance, would Octagon riders be eligible for only the express service, or would they continue to crowd the regular buses as they came by?

Until that is worked out, there will be more scenes like the one on Thursday, when the Red Bus acted like a toddler who sometimes

dawdles, sometimes skips ahead in a burst of energy. There was a nine-minute wait between the nearly empty 7:47 bus and the overloaded 7:56 bus, which then turned away eight riders. In between, a Q102 City bus happened along and picked up stragglers willing to pay full MetroCard fare for the five-minute ride.

The eight left behind by the 7:56 were picked up by the 7:57. The 8:01 picked up 14, including a man on crutches, and the 8:04 and 8:06 had plenty of room to spare. Some

buses disgorge riders at the subway and Tram like a clown car, in a seemingly never-ending stream, while others have empty seats.

At 8:14 and 8:15 there was a switcheroo, in which a "bunched" bus pulled around and passed the bus ahead of it outside the Trellis diner.

After the 8:15, the wait for the ensuing buses was, in minutes: 5, 3, 2, 5, 1, 4, 5. A man in a wheelchair waited patiently through four buses, not even trying to get on, until a poky bus ambled along; it

was clear that mounting this bus was unlikely to aggravate too many type A clock-punchers.

As a comparison, a *WIRE* reporter rode one particular Red Bus around and around the Island during a balmy rush-hour morning in October. Again, there was a chance of rain and most people carried umbrellas, but it was still warm and dry enough to walk if necessary.

During those October circuits, no one at a Main Street stop was turned away. But neither was it particularly easy to get on. Morning commuters are disgorged through the Octagon's main doors in rhythmic bursts tied to the tides of the elevators. Just when the bus doors are about to close, another elevator-load of worker bees swarms forth, delaying that bus and tying up the bunched one behind it.

The average age of an Octagon resident is 27, so the unfortunate visual effect is of a bus service in which the youngest, healthiest specimens always get on and always get seats, while mothers struggling with wriggly children, older people with limited range of motion, and, basically, anyone downriver of the Octagon greets each bus with anxiety, wondering whether this is the bus with their name on it.

"Sometimes it's good, sometimes it's really, really bad," said the October bus driver. "Today is good; I don't really know why."





Open House

Tomorrow

Sunday, November 19
1:00 to 3:00

Wine and Cheese will be served
455 Main Street, Apt. 11A
1 BED, 1-BATH, 737 SQ FT

corner living room, magnificent city, skyline, river and bridge views.
\$620K; C/C \$480, **pay no taxes for 20 years** + an additional 5-year tax abatement

Please call **Natalia Chin, VP** for additional information
Phone: 212-727-6198
Email: nchin@elliman.com
Prudential Douglas Elliman
26 West 17th Street, 7th floor, New York, NY 10011

Newly Elected Common Council Members Meet in Orientation



New delegates to the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) Common Council met Monday night with some old hands in an orientation session led by RIRA Matthew Katz and others. **Seated, l to r:** Sherie Helstien (Westview), Julie White (Octagon). **Front standing row:** Amit Gupta (Southtown), Raj Kumar (Manhattan Park), Matthew Katz (President), Joyce Mincheff (Eastwood), Margie Smith (Rivercross), Kimberly Lengle (Manhattan Park), Gad Levanon (Southtown), Petra Kaizer (Westview). **Standing in back:** Zlatko (Ziggy) Ramlijak (Westview), Eric Stocker (Manhattan Park), Frank Farance (Island House), Mark Chipman (Vice President), Steven Heller (2 River Road), Jonathan Kalkin (Manhattan Park). Inset: Betty A. Walker (Octagon), who was not at the meeting. RIRA Common Council meetings are open to the public, and include a public session in which residents are invited to bring matters to the Council's attention. Meetings are held at Good Shepherd Community Center, in the lower level, at 8:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

ISLAND KIDS, Inc.



FAMILY CENTER

New Mothers Group ★ Creative Play ★ Musica Para Mi ★ Music with James
Eco-circle for Toddlers and Preschoolers ★ Craft Club ★ Cooking ★ Tumbling
Seminars and Support for Parents ★ and more

Island Kids has its roots in a playgroup started in the early 80's by a group of parents committed to bringing the Roosevelt Island parenting community together. Today, Island Kids strives to support family and community by offering daytime classes for infants to four year olds and afternoon and evening classes for older children and adults. Sessions are typically 45 minutes long and include mother and baby support groups, creative play for toddlers, music classes in Spanish and English, science and cooking classes, and aerobics and yoga classes, just to name a few. Island Kids stands firm in its mission to serve the entire Roosevelt Island community, and therefore offers scholarships to those who might otherwise not be able to participate in our programs.

Classes for the Whole Family

Make your own **Gingerbread House** for the Holidays
A workshop for Parents and Children

Saturday, December 16th

Call **212-317-0216** for more information and to register
– Space is limited –

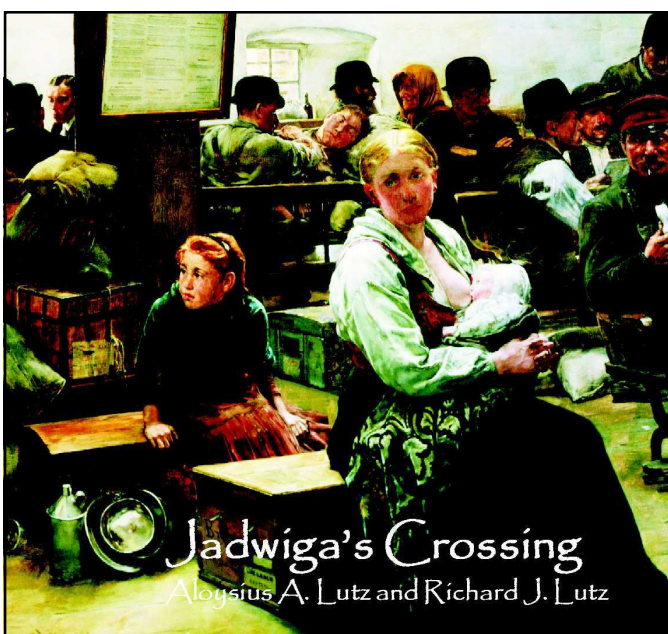
And, starting In January 2007
Eco-Circle Science for Toddlers
and Pre-schoolers

Call now for more details

Come for the colors... Take home real nutrition

The Farmers Market

every Saturday morning, under the ramp at Motorgate



Available now for early Christmas shopping

***For most
of us,
how did it
begin?***

It began with an adventurous ancestor – someone who saw the promise of America, and had the self-confidence and daring to strike out in a new land, believing in the dream of a free country.

***Jadwiga's Crossing*, \$19.95**

now at **We Are One**, 599 Main Street
and on the web at JadwigasCrossing.com

The inspiring story of a young married couple on the greatest adventure of their lives – leaving their homes and culture for life in a new land called America, braving hardship and uncertainty for the risk of freedom. Suitable giving for ages 14 to 114.

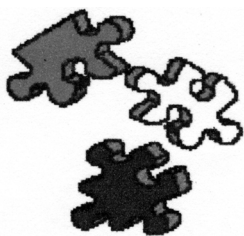
For Christmas 2006, a gift of reading and of heritage.

Salamis Service Center & Auto Body

718-392-7451

- 10% discount for Roosevelt Island residents
- Free towing for Roosevelt Island residents
- Licensed Inspection Station

Mon.-Fri., 8AM-6PM, Sat. 8AM-4PM (closed Sun.)
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PS/IS 217 from page 1

Science, and received teaching degrees and licenses at Hunter and Baruch. A proud product of the New York public-school system, Beckman notes that things today are different from when she was a kid – there are computer classes, of course, but also there’s an informality and classroom design that was unheard of years ago. Children often sit on carpeted floors or in groups, because spending an entire day in assigned seats in military-style rows is so, well, Old School.

“I do make it a priority to visit classrooms and visit kids during lunchtime and assemblies, getting to know them,” says Beckman. “Once you know your kids, you know the pulse of your school, and then you can make decisions about what needs to be done to move the school in a certain direction.”

Her philosophy? “Understand every single child, meet them where they are, and help bring them to the level they need to go. That means addressing the needs of the struggling child and the gifted child, and getting teachers to collaborate with one another.”

An announcement comes over the PA system, something to do with Treasure Island tickets, and Beckman looks sheepish, as if caught pulling the cat’s tail. Apparently she’s instituted a reward system in which teachers can randomly bestow a Treasure Island ticket upon a child who has behaved uncommonly well. On Fridays, this ticket can be thrown in the hopper for a chance at a coveted prize – an ice cream. Before parents rush to extract their children from a school that slathers their kids in sweets, let it be known that the chances for actually winning the one ice cream are only

slightly better than for winning the Lottery, because there’s a lot of good behavior going down in the four-story building. Nevertheless, hope springs eternal, and the PA helpfully instructs the children not to run while on their way to the Treasure Island drawing.

The Treasure Island initiative is a small part – what Beckman would probably call a “tweak” – of an overall plan to make the assemblies “warmer.” There’s a Student of the Month assembly that not only makes the children feel like King/Queen for a Day, but gets their parents involved as well. There are monthly workshops to help parents understand the curriculum – it seems every couple of years there are new ways to teach the new New Math, and the parents need to know, say, that they no longer “carry the one” when adding columns. The parent workshops also help deal with communication difficulties, because many Roosevelt Island parents speak a different language at home and need to know some verbal shortcuts that align with the school’s methods of teaching and encouraging.

Beckman came to Roosevelt Island after student teaching at her alma mater, PS 6. Then, after teaching for a while at PS/IS 217, “I left the classroom to become a math staff developer, and since math was something I did focus on when I was teaching, it wasn’t out of the ordinary.”

When several teachers went back to school for administrative licenses, Beckman got hers too, and slipped right into the job of assistant principal when PS/IS 217’s was promoted to principal at another school. “So here I was with the license, and the same thing happened again, when Miss Gregory announced this summer she was re-

tiring.”

Beckman was “shocked” when Gregory told her she was ready for ascension to the educational throne. “She was a great mentor in the sense that she was very supportive, and here we’re always planning ahead, so she had let me start certain [administrative] things and take initiatives.” As second in command, Beckman had begun a Saturday math program and “tweaked” the assemblies, so she was already making principal-like decisions before switching to the driver’s seat.

“At this school, I could see where I could go next,” meaning that she understood what the school needed to retain the students through 8th grade, to involve the parents more in the school’s vision, and to encourage greater communication among teachers of different grades so that the students have continuity as they progress through the grades.

Beckman’s fast track to principal almost got sidelined early on, when she left college and took a job at a bank. At the memory of that, she makes a face as if there was liver in the school lunch. Indeed, a woman whose centerpiece on a conference table is a child’s pop-up rendition of the Central Park zoo, complete with a construction-paper giraffe, and whose walls are decorated in lime green and hot magenta, is not likely to have enjoyed a career in a buttoned-down corporate environment.

How did I end up in banking? I was still babysitting on the side!” says Beckman. “That’s when I realized, I wanted to work with kids. I quit Chase, went to Hunter for my teaching degree, then just started student teaching at PS6.”

Because of her love of math, Beckman has instituted Saturday math programs for grades 3, 4, and

Housing Eastwood Tenants Reorganize; Building Has Modernization Plan

Eastwood, leading Roosevelt Island’s original “WIRE” housing into a new era of privatization, has a modernization schedule, a new tenant organization, and newly elected officers.

Tenants are now organized as the Eastwood Residents Association (ERA), with new bylaws adopted October 24. The tenant Board of Directors, which will continue to use the name, Eastwood Building Committee (EBC), includes Co-chairs Fay Vass and Amelia Fontes, Treasurer Harry Devine, Secretary John Rochford, and Assistant Secretary Laila Amatullah Jalliyl. Ed O’Flynn will represent seniors on the Board, and representatives for the physically challenged will be Linda Meyers and Geraldine Eismann.

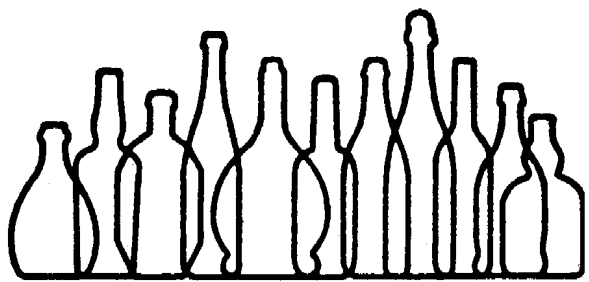
Budgeted modernizations totaling \$8.7 million include elevators at \$1.2 million in a schedule that awaits approval by the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) but is slated to start this month and run through June of 2007, \$5 million for window replacement from September ’07 through April ’08, \$2 million to renovate kitchens and bathrooms in 40% of the building’s apartments from July ’08 to June ’09, and \$500,000 for work on lobbies that will begin after other construction is complete, probably in February ’09 and running to June ’09.

Eastwood is the Island’s largest building complex, with 1,003 apartments. “WIRE” housing refers to the Island’s original residential buildings – Westview, Island House, Rivercross, and Eastwood. Both Island House and Westview have Letters of Intent with owners that will lead to resident ownership if a deal can be struck with RIOC and taxing authorities. Rivercross has a committee working on terms for privatization but the committee reports difficulty getting meaningful responses from RIOC’s real-estate consultant, Paul Mas of Jones Lang LaSalle.

6. (The City provides math enrichment for grades 5 and 7.) But she’s as excited about the school building at 645 Main Street as about multiplication tables and proudly points out the gym, the weight room that the PTA helped fund, and the computer labs with new equipment. “Our building is so nice, and the facility lends itself to having all this,” she says, ticking off the after-school and special programs, the music classes and band, the diversity of the student body thanks to the many U.N. families on the Island, and the frequent field trips around the Island itself to learn

about trees, birds, and rocks. (In one classroom, the students have nestled their rocks in beds of cotton, like beloved pets.)

There’s a knock at the door; a staffer looks in worriedly to see if everything’s okay. “Oh, we never close our doors here,” explains Beckman. So she opens it wide, and a gaggle of kids in the ante-room light up when they see their beautiful principal and clamor for her attention. In the old days, a trip to the principal’s office could be an occasion for breaking into a cold sweat, but at PS/IS 217, it’s as much a treat as a Treasure Island ticket.



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Island Cats

Our heartfelt thanks to all who participated or offered help in our very successful Trap-Neuter-Return project, a significant first step in regulating the Island’s feral/stray cat population. We trapped 19 cats, neutering all but two fuzzy six-week-old tabbies, **Rosie and Tulip**, who now need a good Island home. (Contact Island Cats at 212-593-1054 or ripyy@care2.com if you are interested in adopting the babies or adopting-fostering other superior Island cats like **Minnie and Micky**, affectionate, playful sibling kittens with beehive purrs.)

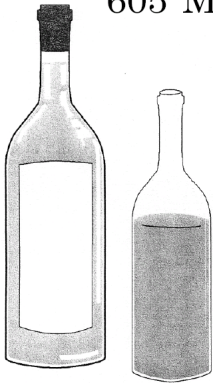
The project could not have happened without the ever-patient Geof Kerr and Scout Troup 59 and Kyoko Abe, Bart Ambrose, Janne Andersen, Nicole Camin, Melinda Caldwell, Lucia Cappello, Rossana Ceruzzi, Thomas Darmon, Jennifer and Jim Flak, Kathie Grimm, Catharine Guiher, Sean Hilden, Deborah Julian, Denise Laroque, Pat Lyons, Marjorie Marcallino, Peter Merner, Jean Monahan, Amy Richmond., Ron Schuppert, Beverly Shutes, Meredith Weiss, Kurt Wittman and RIOC, Public Safety, the NYC Feral Initiative of the Mayor’s Alliance for NYC’s Animals, City Critters and the Urban Cat League.

Island Cats needs styrofoam boxes about 14x14x17 inches for winter shelters. We will pick up.

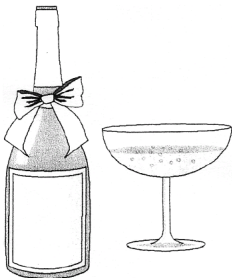


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Rhoda Jacklin

Rhoda Jacklin, who lived on Roosevelt Island for a dozen years or more, died this week. She had served as a member of the Residents Association Common Council and, for a good part of her time on the Island, was active in community affairs.

Her son, Corey, remembered her Thursday in a eulogy, describing her as a “quintessential New Yorker – born and raised here... she loved the City of New York. It was a mutually beneficial relationship. She gave the City her grace, style, wisdom, and dedication – most recntly as a docent at the New-York Historical Society and other museums – and New York reflected it all back to her. She thrived here. It kept her young at heart and provided the energy that an 80-year-old needs to survive independently.”

Corey Jacklin described his mother as “a bohemian of her generation. The things that defined her as a person were spiritual in nature and transcended the bounds of her everyday tangible life.”

He shared a family story: “When my sister and I were young, my mother decided to go back to college to earn a degree in sociology as this was very important to her. She went to night school at Hofstra for years, all the while supporting her family working full time. One day, my Grandmother asked my father, ‘So, Jack, what does Momma take up in school?’ to which my father said, ‘I don’t know, she takes up space.’ And my Grandmother quickly replied, ‘You mean she’s going to the moon?’”

Rhoda Jacklin died Monday, November 13. She had retired from Arthur Anderson, where she was an office manager. Her sister, Gloria Schiffman, of San Diego, survives her, as do Corey and his wife, Donna, as well as his sister, Michele Jacklin of Glastonbury, Connecticut, and her husband, James Estrada. Rhoda had four grandchildren: Emily and Evan Estrada, and Kaitlyn and Zachary Jacklin (in photo below). She is interred at Mt. Judah Cemetery in Queens.



Street Lighting Shows a Good Gain This Week

The Island’s street lighting has improved slightly since the outage rate reported two weeks ago, and considerably over the 41 percent outage recorded four weeks ago. (RIOC disputed the 41 percent figure, claiming that 7 percent of the lights, at most, were out. In response, *The WIRE* published a full catalog of Island street lights on *Website NYC10044*. The current chart, with some minor corrections, is available on line at nyc10044.com with this issue of *The WIRE*.) The proportion of street lights out at night now stands at 23.1 percent, based on a re-survey done this week, Monday through Wednesday, and informal observations last weekend.

The most noticeable improvement occurred between 40 River Road and the fire station. The most serious stretch of chronically lights out lies between the subway station and Meditation Lawn (just south of Rivercross). One pair of tall lights on the west side of the service road were observed last week to be cycling on and off slowly, as though the electric-eye control of each was responding to the presence or absence of light from the other.

One run of six lights in that same heavy-traffic area between the subway station and Meditation Lawn works sometimes but not at other times. This past Saturday and Monday, all were on except one at the south end of Meditation Lawn. But on Sunday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights, all were dark when checked around 9:00 p.m. Reasons for these inconsistencies are unknown.

SPORTSWIRE

Marathon Results for NYC10044

PLACE	TIME	NAME	SEX	AGE
389	2:50:25	Yamaguchi, Yuichiro	M	34
4905	3:33:38	Kunz, Alexander	M	33
6875	3:43:05	Sato, Narutoku	M	44
16005	4:12:53	Pillarsetty, Nagavarakish	M	30
17245	4:16:58	Ferreras, Julian	M	35
18038	4:19:31	White, Julie	F	39
21567	4:30:25	Liebertz, Christine	F	46
23220	4:36:07	Chard, Jaime	M	37
24650	4:41:01	Gomez-Lopez, Carlos	M	40
29739	5:01:00	Tolan, Daniel	M	41
35551	5:51:46	Cartegni, Luca	M	39
37389	6:54:21	Bdera, Nicholas	M	58
37390	6:54:21	Bdera, Karen	F	45



Marathoners Karen Bdera (left) and Nick Bdera (right) paused in Brooklyn to greet supporters, including (left to right in the middle) Clare Coulter, Beatrice Vlad (who waits on table at Trellis), and Eva Waszkiewicz (who used to work at Trellis). This was Karen's 18th and Nick's 23rd finish in the NYC Marathon. **Running next year?** Arrange for someone to take your picture along the way, and send it to editor@MainStreetWIRE.com.

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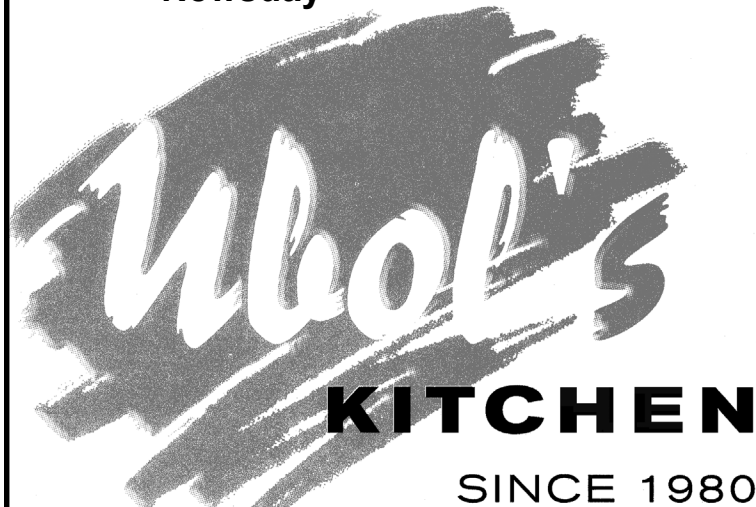
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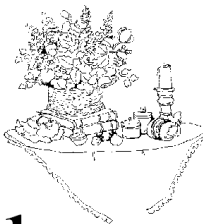
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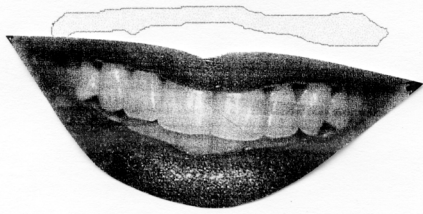
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*PC Magazine, Aug. 2006**

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Do more with FiOS Internet. Listening to podcasts. Updating a MySpace® profile. Streaming clips on YouTube™. With the ultrafast speed of FiOS Internet, it’s easy to do it all. And because our network goes all the way to your home, you can be sure you’re getting 100% fiber-optic power all the time. Get started today with connection speeds up to 20 Mbps for only \$29.95 a month, for the first three months,** when you sign up for a year. But you have to hurry, because this offer ends **12/15/06**. Just call to sign up. Hey, you’d be crazy not to.

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