

Thanksgiving
issue in 2 weeks:
Sat., Nov. 22

The Main Street WIRE™

29th Year as Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



RIOC Board member Michael Shinozaki discussed his reservations about the tramway upgrade with the RIRA Common Council on Wednesday night. On Thursday morning, consultant Michael Delparine and RIOC President Steve Shane (insets) responded to some of Shinozaki's points.

Poma Gets Contract for Tram's Dual-Haul Upgrade

by Dick Lutz

The dual-haul tramway is a go. After a two-week delay to seek more information, the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) voted on Thursday morning to accept a bid from the Poma company of France. But the vote was not unanimous. Dr. Kathie Grimm abstained after expressing concerns about receiving new information only the night before the meeting. Those materials included a letter from the competing bidder, Doppelmayr (who built and runs the Island's current tramway) questioning aspects of the Poma bid. Fay Christian also abstained after arriving late, having missed much of the discussion. Those voting for the contract were Jonathan Kalkin, David Kraut, Charlee Miller, Patrick Stewart, and the state's representative, who chaired the meeting in the absence of Deborah VanAmerongen, com-

missioner of the state Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR). Michael Shinozaki voted against accepting the bid after raising a series of questions that sought greater detail both on Poma's history and on the dual-haul system as Poma has proposed it. His ques- See **Tram**, page 8

Briefly...

- Barring attempts to entice some senators to switch party affiliation, Democrats will control the **State Senate** as a result of the election, giving it a firm grip on both houses of the legislature and the governor's office.
- The Island Chamber of Commerce is again raising funds for **holiday lights** on Main Street, at \$275 per pole. Contributions should be addressed to Julie Palermo, 595 Main St. #1202, NYC10044. Questions? Call Julie at **212-759-2529**.
- Tuesday (November 11) is the last day for discount-price advance orders for **The WIRE's 2009 Roosevelt Island Calendar** (\$20 for the first, \$19 for each additional). There's an order form at <http://nyc10044.com/calorderform.pdf> or call 212-826-9056 for information. After Tuesday, they're \$21 each. Supply is limited, and a December re-order is not likely.

Farance Wins RIRA Presidency, Polivy Is New Vice President

Voters Call for Public Safety Review Panel by 94%; Record Field of Candidates for Common Council

by Dick Lutz

Island House resident Frank Farance captured the presidency of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA) in voting on Tuesday. Ellen Polivy of Rivercross won the vice presidency. And by a 94% margin, Islanders responding to a referendum question said the Public Safety Department should be subject to review by a citizen board. But Tuesday's Residents Association election was virtually an afterthought. About half as many residents (1,457) voted in that election as cast ballots for U.S. president (2,873). Obama may have stirred a new consciousness of politics, however, as 57 candidates ran for seats on the RIRA Common Council. For the first time, Manhattan Park produced more than enough candidates to fill its eight allocated seats on the Council. Only Island House fell short of enough candidates to fill its seats (three), but that was

because Farance won the Presidency. A chart on page 8 lists building-by-building of voting on Island-wide offices and referendum questions. A chart on page 2 tallies votes for RIRA Common Council delegate seats. A majority pulled the *Yes* lever on each of four referendum questions. None scored lower than 76%. But the 1,038 to 70 vote calling for a citizens review body for Public Safety put numbers on Islanders' previously expressed concerns about the Public Safety Department's performance, suggesting that voters see the remodeling of the force by Director Keith Guerra as a work in progress and still a difficult uphill slog. Another referendum vote, asking *Should elevator access be provided to the Queensboro Bridge walkway from Roosevelt Island?*, pulled an 81% approval, very likely reflecting anxiety over transportation as the Island's population grows and, possibly, concerns about evacuation in an emergency. That vote was 904 to 212. Asked whether general landscaping of the FDR memorial at Southpoint Park should precede construction of the tribute "room" at its tip, residents voted yes, 830 to 247, perhaps reflecting a consciousness that the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute has appeared to have trouble raising funds to build the Louis Kahn design. Continuing concern about empty Main Street storefronts drew a 76% positive response to the question *Should a private company lease out Main Street stores?*

House Divided

Two residents of the same apartment in 455 Main Street found, on Tuesday, that they were voting in two separate election districts — one at Goldwater Hospital, the other at PS 217. Somehow — and as yet no explanation has been offered — the Board of Elections divided the building. Its website directed all voters to Goldwater, but many were assigned to PS 217, possibly based on date of registration or length of time in the building (or side of the bed?).

Island Voting

Barack Obama brought out the vote on Roosevelt Island. 2,873 voted in the Presidential race, with 84% (2,418) choosing Obama-Biden. The figures:

President, VP	
Obama-Biden (D) ¹	2,418
McCain-Palin (R) ²	424
Others	31
Representative in Congress	
Maloney (D) ³	2,042
Heim (R)	278
Matos (Lib)	30
State Senator	
Serrano (D) ⁴	1,895
Weiner (R) ⁵	296
Member of State Assembly	
Kellner (D) ⁶	1,909
Viest (R)	277
Totals include: ¹ 80 Working Families, ² 30 Independence and 8 Conservative, ³ 92 Working Families, ⁴ 86 Working Families, ⁵ 21 Conservative, ⁶ 90 Working Families	



The RIRA Common Council's "Class of '08" Not all members were present for the photo. **Seated:** Jim Bates, Matthew Katz (outgoing President; Westview delegate), Frank Farance (incoming President), Ellen Polivy (incoming Vice President), Sherie Helstien (outgoing Secretary; Westview delegate). **Standing (all), left to right:** James Whalen, Erin Feely-Nahem, Helen Chirivas, Lynne Strong-Shinozaki [partially obscured by Chirivas], Ashton Barfield, Ethel Romm, Russell Fields, Ava Dawson [partially obscured by Bates], Joseph Terranella, Peter Digilio, unidentified woman (behind Digilio), Jennifer Barth, William Buckley, Jonathan Kalkin, Nikki Leopold, Isabell Perez-Cruz, Alfred Plastino, Aaron Hamburger, Steve Heller, Janet Zarish, Neal Stueber, Gad Levanon (partially obscured by Stueber), Joyce Mincheff, Rachel Reid Chung, Barbara Allen, Howard Polivy, Ron Schuppert, Margie Smith, Steve Marcus, Charlie Berg, Elizabeth Erickson. Some are elected Common Council delegates; some are alternates. Vote tallies on page 8 identify their buildings.

The Editorial Page



Voting in Races for Seats on RIRA Common Council

Westview (3 seats)		Rivercross (3)	
Matthew Katz	127	Margie Smith	207
Erin Feely-Nahem	112	Steve Marcus	141
Sherie Helstien	91	Ron Schuppert	129
Rebecca Ocampo	74	Howard Polivy	80
		Ellen Polivy	*78
Manhattan Pk 10-40 (8)		Ashton Barfield	62
Isabel Perez-Cruz	121	Ethel Romm	50
Barbara Allen	96	Sharon Nneka Pope	36
Ava Dawson	94		
Lynne Strong-Shinozaki	88	Southtown (6)	
Jonathan Kalkin	82	Rachel Reid Chung	65
Erin Kenny	80	Aaron Hamburger	63
Joseph Terranella	76	Peter Digilio	60
Roman Baranov	68	Gad Levanon	60
Peter Katopes	61	Janet Zarish	60
Prashant Palsokar	57	Alfred Plastino	58
Eastwood 510-580 (7)		Eastwood 546 (2)	
Joyce Mincheff	143	Dolores Green	33
Neal Stueber	122	Anthony Moran	19
Cynthia Ahn	119		
Linda Maynard-Hall	102	Island House (3)	
Russell Fields	97	Nikki Leopold	110
Lorraine Williams	93	Phoebe Flynn	98
Helen Chirivas	93	Frank Farance	** 94
Sophia Marshall	85		
Claudiu Cornetti	79 *	Two River Road (1)	
		Steven Heller	*** 6
Octagon (5)		James Whalen	*** 6
Elizabeth Erickson	86		
Elizabeth Kroll	80	Four River Road (1)	
Charles Berg	73	Jim Bates	44
William Buckley	62		
Jennifer Barth	60	*Polivy will serve as Vice President.	
Joanna Cuevas	57	**Farance will serve as President,	
F. Bozzano-Barnes	35	leaving one Island House delegate	
Aaron Barth	35	seat unfilled.	
		***Tie. Whalen volunteered to serve	
		as alternate.	
		Candidates not elected serve as	
		alternates	

A breakdown of voting in Island-wide races and referendum questions appears on page 8.

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So it’s finally here: my swan song. As I write this, the election results are pouring in from all over the country. After 15 hours at the polls, I’m almost too tired to take it in, much less to revel in the victorious sea change we are experiencing. I’m still RIRA Prez but the results are in, and I congratulate incoming President Frank Farance and Vice President Ellen Polivy and, oh yes, President-Elect Barack Obama.

As I’ve said to many of you, three terms is quite enough, and a volunteer organization like RIRA is not well served by being associated with just one person for so long. RIRA will be stronger and more energetic by virtue of all the new faces at our Common Council table as we meet and deliberate over the next two years. I am enormously gratified by the outpouring of nominations in every building for Common Council seats. Nearly twice as many Islanders ran as ever have in recent memory, resulting in a significant number of contested elections. This is a tremendous vote of confidence in the importance of RIRA in its role of influencing the quality of our lives as we move into an uncertain future. Sherie and I have been elected as district delegates from Westview, where four candidates were vying for three seats, and we will continue to serve our neighbors in this capacity.

I certainly haven’t functioned in a vacuum, and I must thank a host of people for their support. First, my profound thanks to the editor of *The Main Street WIRE*, Dick Lutz, who always gave me my head, never edited my words for content or bowdlerized my remarks, and who consistently caught my gaffes before they could embarrass me. To his able proofreaders, Ashton Barfield and Linda Heimer, blessings upon you for reinforcing the illusion that I have competence in the English language and for controlling my chaotic use of commas. Hats off to my colleagues for their last two years on the RIRA Common Council, with a special salute to my hard-working wife, Council Secretary Sherie Helstien, for eight years of meeting minutes and unceasing volunteer labor for the organization and community, and for doing damn near everything else

The RIRA Column

asked of her.

I offer my respects to the officers and committee chairs who have taken on serious responsibility, especially Government Relations Committee Chair Margie Smith, without whose leadership and advice I could not have been effective. Thanks for covering my back and making me look good. Special thanks must go to the able Maple Tree working group, who devised and executed the RIOC Board election that has transformed the RIOC Board of Directors for the better.

My thanks and respect go to Election Committee Chair Joyce Mincheff, who has seen us through yet another exhausting Election Day and again kept us off the shoals of disaster. Thanks to Vice President and Nominations Committee Chair Gad Levanon, and congratulations on the arrival of his brand-new daughter, Tamar. *Mazel tov!* Thanks to all the volunteers who staffed tables on Election Day (and you know who you are!), and to all the new members of the Common Council Class of 2008, whose two-year adventure in community activism and grass-roots politics has just started.

I started my own adventure when I took a Manhattan Park seat in 1997, and again in 2000 when I first ran for president. I thought we could make a difference, and I’m even more convinced of that simple premise today. And now, it’s time to get to work.

As you know, I’m a sucker for a good quote, and I’ve laid a few on you over the years. I’d like to end with my favorite, from my old boss, Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful and committed citizens can change the world. It’s the only thing that ever has.”

So long.



Matthew Katz, Ex-President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
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Letters

To the Editor:

In the pouring rainstorm of Tuesday, October 28, at a little after 9:00 a.m., bus passengers waiting at the Good Shepherd stop were unfairly bypassed by three consecutive buses. I watched from the deli stop as:

A crowded Octagon Local bus came by but could only embark some deli stop passengers. This bus could not take more passengers and it bypassed the church. The next, which was a quarter-full, was an Octagon Express. Despite appeals for the bus to stop as there was a storm, the bus zoomed by the deli and the church. One rider complained in person at the RIOC office. A discussion ensued as to whether the drivers are in radio communication.

The next bus was a Firehouse Local. It arrived full, but managed to board all passengers at the deli, then bypassed Good Shepherd, where the growing crowd of at least 20 were waving their hands and shouting angrily.

The riders at the “end of the line” – the last stop before the train – had no transportation yesterday, despite pouring rain.

President Shane, how many times is this situation occurring during the week, where the riders at Good Shepherd, because they happen to be at the final stop before the train, have no transportation because there is not enough bus capacity due to buses being diverted to provide Octagon residents with express service?

I call on President Shane/RIOC to re-examine the wisdom of having an Octagon Express bus. It effectively takes a bus out of service for the rest of the community. If we are to be altogether fair, don’t the needs of the hundreds of Manhat-

tan Park & Northtown passengers outweigh the far fewer Octagon passengers? Or shouldn’t transportation be available on an equal basis?

It appears that drivers are not in radio communication. If they had been, they could have better coordinated which bus would transport the passengers at a given stop.

The residents of Manhattan Park and Northtown are continually discriminated against with a bus service that favors Octagon residents. When Manhattan Park was built, there was no Manhattan Park Express bus service put in, and Manhattan Park is certainly much bigger than Octagon. I am mentioning the relative size of Manhattan Park vs. Octagon because it is often the

case that Octagon Express buses zoom by only partially full, or even, as in the instance above, essentially empty.

RIOC bus service needs to be equal for all residents. Let the Octagon developer run his own shuttle down Main Street and finance it himself. Manhattan Park and Northtown residents are disgusted with the inefficiency and lack of coordination of the red bus, which is mainly due to pulling service in the form of an Express Bus for Octagon residents, a bus which often zooms down Main Street empty! Thank you.

Helen M. Chirivas

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of local interest to the community, and to/from officials. Requests for *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.*

Recommended method of submission: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com or submit on a CD left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. If you e-mail, 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; allow extra time for typesetting. Clearly handwritten letters will be considered, if brief. We are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. All letters subject to acceptance and editing for length and clarity. Recommended maximum length, 350 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

To the Editor:

I’m writing this letter to thank all the residents of the Eastwood buildings who came out to show support by voting for me to represent Eastwood.

I hope we have the same strong support in the future as we do right now. With greater numbers, we can get more things done.

Neal J. Stueber

To the Editor:

What a stunning victory for Barack Obama and for all of us who supported him! For me, it is also a return to the promises that were articulated by John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., too many years ago.

I have great hopes that our country will follow a path of greater ideals in the future. Thanks for all your work and votes that have bought about this change.

Mary Camper-Titsingh

Letters deadline for Nov. 22 issue: Wednesday, Nov. 19
After deadline, letters considered on a space-available basis.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

New York Junior Tennis League winter program starts **today** (Sat Nov 8), running every Saturday through March (except 11/29, 12/27, 1/3), 6-9am, Roosevelt Island Racquet Club (just south of tram). Ages 7-18; graduates of PeeWee programs may attend at age 6. Free.

Open Swim Hours, 6am-9pm daily, for all ages, Sportspark. Adults \$5, children \$3, seniors & infants free.

CPR and Defibrillator training, today (Sat Nov 8), 9am-5pm, PS 217 game room, sponsored by RISAR. \$20 for residents, \$45 for non-residents. Wear comfortable clothes. Information **212-752-4003**.

— The Coming Week & Next Weekend —

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon Nov 10, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

Capicu Poetry & Cultural Showcase fundraiser for Orphans International Dominican Republic. **Thu Nov 12**. Details at oiww.org/events.

Roy Eaton Plays Chopin, Joplin, and Gershwin, Sun Nov 16, 2:30pm, Good Shepherd Community Center, sponsored by The Church of the Good Shepherd Sunday Concert Series. Free; donation to Food Pantry suggested. Information: www.goodshepherdchapel.net.

— Future Weeks —

Project Runway Alumni Rundraiser for Orphans International Haiti, **Wed Nov 19**, 6:30-9pm, Ultra NYC (near Times Square). Details at oiww.org/events.

Book Discussion — Cat on a Hot Tin Roof by Tennessee Williams, **Thu Nov 20**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

The Main Street WIRE — Next issue, **Sat Nov 22**. (To receive e-mail bulletins between issues, send an *AddMe* message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Advertising Deadlines:** Ads in the paper, **Thu Nov 13**, decision date on circulars/inserts for *The Bag*, **Tue Nov 18**;

they are due **Thu Nov 20**. **Additional issues in 2008:** Dec 6, 20; **2009 schedule:** Jan 17, Feb 7, 21; Mar 7, 21; Apr 4, 18; May 2, 16; June 13, 27; July 4, 25; Aug 29, Sep 12, 26; Oct 10, 24; Nov 7, 21; Dec 12. **2010:** First issue Jan 17; thereafter, every two weeks. **News phone,**

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.

212-826-9055; urgent matters, **917-617-0449**. **Advertising**, display and classified: **917-587-3278**.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon Nov 24, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

Lola's Rags Fashion Benefit for Orphans International Haiti, **Sat Nov 29**, 7:30pm, Crash Mansion at 199 Bowery (at Spring St.), reviving the Roaring '20s. \$10 donation. Raffle, snacks, goodie bags.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Dec 3**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

RIOC Board Meeting, Thu Dec 4, 4:30pm, Good Shepherd Community Center. Town-hall meeting, at end of formal session, for resident comments and questions.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, Thu Dec 4, Blackwell Plaza.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon Dec 8, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

Book Discussion — The Castle by Franz Kafka, **Thu Dec 18**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon Dec 22, 8pm. Visitors welcome. Information: **212-751-9577**.

— 2009 —

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Jan 7**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Book Discussion — Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoevsky, **Thu Jan 15**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Feb 4**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Book Discussion — The March by E.L. Doctorow, **Thu Feb 19**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Mar 4**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Book Discussion — The Tortilla Curtain by T.C. Boyle, **Thu Mar 19**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed Apr 1**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Book Discussion — The Road by Cormac McCarthy, **Thu Apr 16**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed May 6**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Book Discussion — Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama, **Thu May 21**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Residents Association Common Council meeting, **Wed June 3**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Community Center (lower level); meetings are open to all, and begin with an opportunity for residents to address the Council.

Book Discussion — In Cold Blood by Truman Capote, **Thu June 18**, 6:30pm, New York Public Library Roosevelt Island branch. Books available at the branch here.

Wow! I can't believe the number of residents who volunteered to be RIRA Common Council members — 57 of them! We can thank the following for our good fortune: Matt Katz and Steve Marcus, who have been wonderful RIRA Presidents; a growing Island population; and good work from the RIRA Class of 2006 that has made this an attractive forum for Island participation.

Some quick items:

• For my RIRA column, I like Steve Shane's style of short points. I occasionally get long-winded, and hopefully I will be able to stop myself. :-)

• I'd like to get the RIRA committees formed quickly, and work started right away — hey, we have only 24 months to the end of this term.

• I'm going to run the RIRA meetings like business meetings: we'll use PowerPoint and a projector.

• I'd like RIRA to sponsor frequent Town Hall meetings. For example, on the Wednesday nights before a RIOC meeting, RIRA will hold a Town Hall meeting

The RIRA Column

November 5, 2008

1. **Board of Directors:** Special Meeting Thursday (November 6) at 9:30 a.m. Agenda is the tabled motion from October 23 meeting to take final action on the tram overhaul proposal. Presumably, result will be reported in this edition of *The WIRE*.

2. **Southpoint:** Removal of the overgrowth in the northern portion is under way. As to projects:

(A) **Renwick Ruin:** Work continues, with a completion date projected for early spring '09. The funding agreement with NYC Parks is concluded.

(B) **Green Rooms/Wild Gardens:** The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is completing the environmental analysis to permit RIOC to comply with state environmental law requirements. A brief presentation of the status of the Southpoint Park plan and program was made at the October Board meeting to acquaint Board members with the plan as it has evolved.

(C) **FDR Memorial:** The Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) has again met with RIOC staff to discuss the drafts of Conditional Designation and Funding Agreements, as approved by the Board. FERI and TPL are in discussions as to matters of common interest in utility layout, soil utilization, etc.

3. **Tram:** The Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) Funding Agreement is signed and delivered. Assuming Board approval in the November 6 meeting, contract execution is to follow and the overhaul process begun, with closure, anticipated in June 2009, to last 5.5-6 months, with reopening by December 1, 2009. Significant contingency and potential funding for station improvements on the order of \$3 million should be left. Our outside consultants have thoroughly vetted the proposals and are satisfied with the engineering solutions. We have reviewed the financial qualifications and contacted those listed as prior references. After selection, various cabin alternatives will be published so that the community can be involved.

4. **October:** Southtown (Riverwalk) promoted KidFest on Saturdays during October. Fun for youngsters and parents, and brought a lot of off-Islanders to look at Riverwalk. Fall for Arts was promoted by Gallery RIVAA and was very successful, as well. Halloween festivities went off without a hitch and the parade and party were enjoyed by all the goblins and ghosts.

5. **Projects under way** include the bus transportation yard, Sportspark (bulging brick on north wall has been taken down as a hazard, and is indicative of major capital repairs that may be required), the comfort station at Lighthouse Park has arrived and is being

The RIOC Column

and invite the RIOC Board of Directors to answer Q&A from residents — I'm certain that RIOC Board members will be happy to share their thoughts and thinking with the residents.

• I'd like RIRA to get more involved with the building committees (e.g., learning more about Eastwood's submetering issues) and with Island organizations (e.g., working with PS/IS 217 and the PTA).

• Finally, we need to do some more fundraising and social events. I'd like to rotate the venues among the main building areas: Southtown, Northtown, Manhattan Park, Octagon.



Frank Farance, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
e-mail: rira-president@rira-council.com

installed (much excitement getting it delivered over the bridge), bids for resurfacing and relighting Octagon Field, asbestos abatement on the roof of 504 Main now complete and the roofing work can begin, AVAC elbow replacement, and others in the pipeline. Trying to get much work done before winter.

6. **Budget:** RIOC, like all state agencies, is acutely aware of the looming gap in the state budget of \$1.8 billion for 2008-09 and \$8-10 billion for 2009-10, after the cuts already announced by the Governor. We are trying to expedite our capital projects to take advantage of an apparent softening of the construction market and to do what we, albeit a small fry, can do to encourage economic activity. We have begun the budgeting process for next fiscal year, and hope to have it before the Board by February so that it can be adopted before March 30.

7. **Public Purpose Fund:** As part of the budgeting cycle, those entities that expect to apply for public purpose funding should access the RIOC web site and begin preparing their applications for 2009-10. If we receive the applications, review for completeness, and forward to RIRA by the end of January 2009, the RIRA recommendations ought to be back in time to be reviewed and acted upon by the Board at the March 2009 meeting.

8. **New Red Bus:** Scheduled for delivery December 2009.

9. **Public Safety** is to be commended for a substantial narcotics bust over this last weekend in a hospital parking lot, apprehending an apparent dealer with a substantial amount of illegal substance and a large amount of cash. Good going.

10. **RIRA:** Finally, let me thank Matt Katz and the other outgoing officers of RIRA for their efforts and cooperation in accomplishing a great deal for the residents of Roosevelt Island. Dedication to mission is mostly underappreciated, but especially for volunteers in the civic arena, a critical strength. I think we have come a long way together, and our relationship, while not always in agreement, was always civil. The amount of information exchange and the results are testament to what can be accomplished. I hope the new RIRA officers will emulate this successful relationship, even without the guitar.



Steve Shane, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
e-mail: SSHane@RIOC.com

— Senior Center —

Monday

9:30, **Hawaiian Hula**
10:30, **English as 2nd Language**
11:00, **Tai Chi**
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
6:00, **Yoga**

Tuesday

9:30, **Get Stronger Bones**
10:30, **Blood Pressure**
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**
10:30, **Spanish Class**
7:00, **Pokeno (RISA)**

Thursday

9:30, **Get Stronger Bones**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Special Events

Flu Shots, Fri Nov 14, 9:30-11:30am, first come, first served
Atlantic City trip, Tue Nov 18
Annual Dinner, Sat Nov 22, 7pm
Yonkers Casino, Tue Nov 25, 11am
Thanksgiving, Thu Nov 27, closed

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

SHABBAT CANDLE LIGHTING

- Friday, November 7 at 4:27 pm
- Friday, November 14 at 4:20 pm
- Friday, November 21 at 4:15 pm

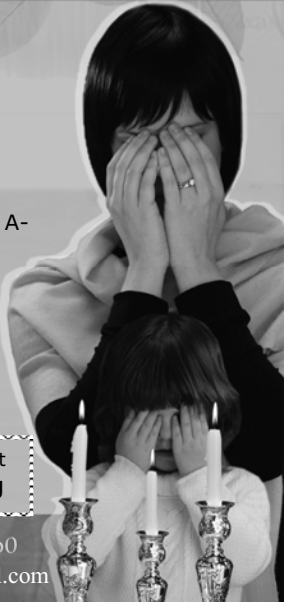
Blessing: Boruch A-toh Ado-noi E-lo-hei-nu Me-lech Ho-olom A-sheer Ki-de-sha-nu Be-mitz-vo-sov Ve-tzi-vo-nu Le-had-lik Ner Shel Sha-bos Ko-desh.

Translation: Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of the holy Shabbat.

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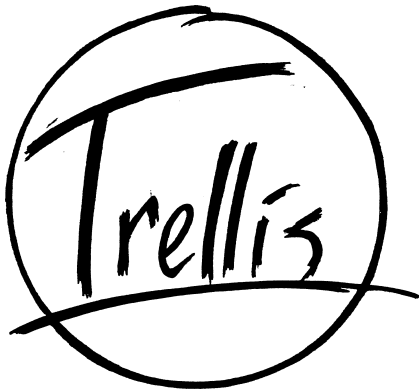
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Eaton Playing Concert Next Weekend on Newly Donated Piano

Concert pianist Roy Eaton, a Rivercross resident, will play a special concert Sunday, November 16, at Good Shepherd Community Center.

And he'll play it on a special piano.

The concert is one in a series by the Protestant Church of the Good Shepherd, produced by Marianne Labriola, to raise funds for the church's food voucher program.

The piano in question is a Mason & Hamlin grand, a gift to Roosevelt Island by Irene Chesman, who was Roy Eaton's teacher in the 1930s, preparing him for a Carnegie Hall debut in June 1937. She was also an inspiration to other black musicians, including the concert pianist and organist Melvin Hodge.

After immigrating to the United States from Port Royal, Jamaica, as a teenager, Irene Chesman displayed musical talent that was de-

veloped by several teachers at the Institute of Musical Art, predecessor of the Juilliard School. She dedicated her life to sharing her knowledge and love of classical music with children in Harlem, where she lived for over 70 years. Even after the onset of glaucoma in 1940, causing blindness in 1970, she continued to inspire and advise young black musicians. Finally, last year, a debilitating stroke led to a hospital stay.

When she vacated her apartment in July, her cousin, Venus Harris, agreed to donate her piano to the Good Shepherd Community Center, at Roy's request.

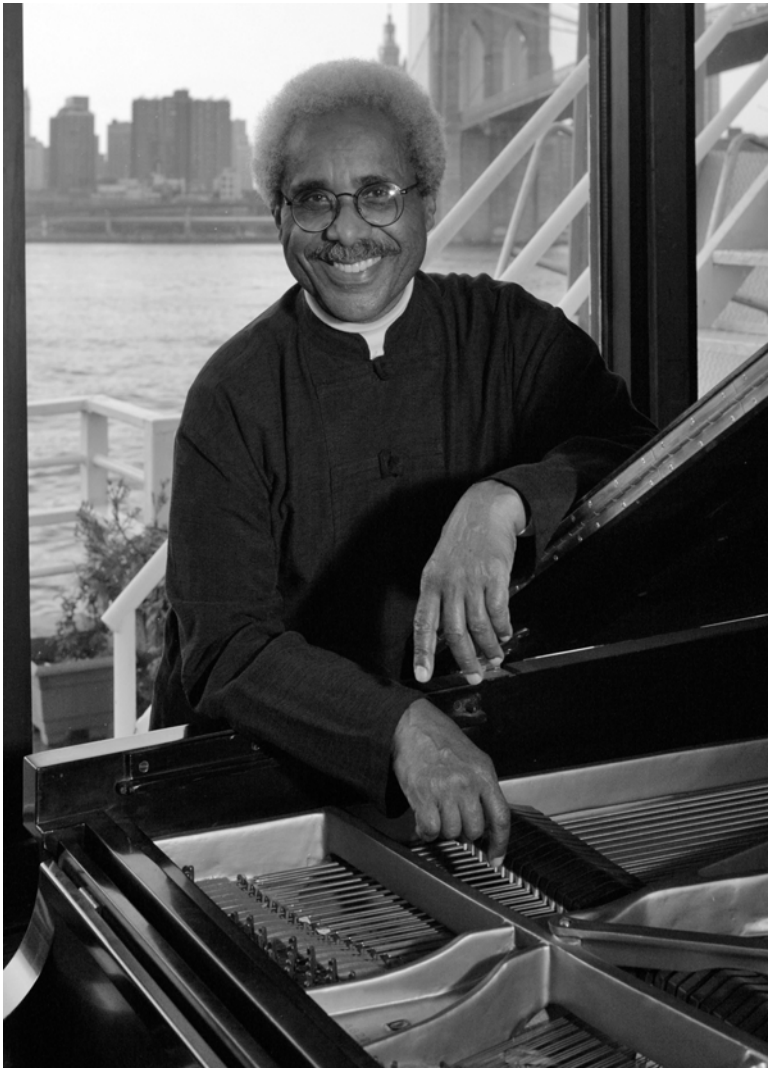
Irene Chesman died last Friday, having passed age 100.

Eaton often performs the music of Chopin, Joplin, and Gershwin, as he will in the November 16 concert. The program will include the newly discovered seven preludes by Gershwin, as well as music of

Joplin, Chopin, and William Grant Still.

A longtime performer, he played a debut concert in 1950 with the Chicago Symphony, performing Chopin's Concerto in F minor, later returning to perform Beethoven's Concerto No. 4. After two years in the U.S. Army, he worked for 30 years in advertising, with Young & Rubicam, Benton & Bowles, and his own company. He returned to Carnegie Hall in 2002 with the New York Pops, led by Skitch Henderson.

Today, Eaton works to restore Scott Joplin's works to the classical domain while teaching at the Manhattan School of Music and performing in concerts around the world. His current recordings are *Joplin: Piano Rags* (Sony Records), *The Complete Preludes of Chopin, Gershwin, and Still* (Summit Records), and *Keyboard Classics for Children* (also Summit).



Resnick in Broadway Show



Main Street Theatre graduate Jed Resnick will debut on Broadway Tuesday night. Jed, who lives in Rivercross with his mother, Terri Dancik, is the son of Island physician Dr. Jack Resnick. He's been touring with the national company of *Avenue Q*, and now will join the Broadway company. He's a recent graduate of Brown University. Tony Award-winning *Avenue Q*, by Robert Lopez, Jeff Mars, and Jeff Whitty, is often called "*Sesame Street* for adults." It features the puppet and human residents of "the only New York City address that you can afford when you're fresh out of college, out of a job, or out of luck." Jed acted at Roosevelt Island's Main Street Theatre under Nancy Howe and Worth Howe.



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Tram from page 1

tions to Michael Deiparine of Parametrix, RIOC's consulting firm for the project, drew a challenge from RIOC President Steve Shane, who saw them as questioning Parametrix's integrity and professional qualifications. Shinozaki responded that he was seeking information on Parametrix involvement in other projects where news reports have been critical.

At Wednesday night's meeting of the Common Council of the Residents Association (RIRA), Shinozaki had explained one of his concerns in some depth. The current tramway uses a dynamic system of wheels and suspended weights to keep the system's track ropes at the right tension regardless of expansion in summer heat or contraction in winter cold, and without regard to the minor earthquake shaking of the New York City area. The new system, as bid by Poma, is expected to use fixed anchoring without the dynamic elements.

Shinozaki told the RIRA Common Council that he is concerned that fixed anchoring requires a much greater tension in order to keep the tram cabins' paths within

an easement granted when the original system was built. That, in turn, requires a heavier cable. He said that raises questions about tower strength but, more importantly, about how the system will handle wind-loading, heating, cooling, and other variables.

On Thursday, Shane responded to this concern by saying that RIOC's request for proposals (RFP) and Poma's resulting bid specify a performance standard — that the system must track within the "grandfathered" easement, with the lower edge of a cabin never dipping below a specific distance from Second Avenue, for example. There is also a concern about a building being constructed adjacent to the path of the cabin using the north track; Shane said that factor, as well, is considered in the RFP and bid.

Shinozaki told the RIRA Council that he is concerned that the owners of the new building will create political pressure to do away with the tram, since it might lower the value of apartments at the level where the cabin passes. He is concerned that if a glitch develops in the tram's construction or operation and the limits of the pathway easement are exceeded, that could become an excuse for shutting down the tram permanently.

Parametrix consultants at Thursday morning's meeting made two key points in responding to Shinozaki:

- Because the specification in RIOC's RFP is for performance, not listed in minute detail, changes can be made as necessary to meet the performance requirements.
- The contract is a design-build contract, meaning that Poma will have responsibility both for creating the design on paper and for building it to the performance specification.

Shane, responding to some of Shinozaki's points, said that the contract — the details of which are yet to be finalized by RIOC staff — will be a fixed-price contract, with the contractor responsible for completing the work on schedule, working within the pathway easement,

and delivering performance that should match or exceed that of the current tramway. Shane added that he considers it inappropriate for the RIOC Board to "micromanage" the tramway upgrade or the process of getting it done.

Shane's strongest point, however, has always been that a dual-haul system will allow a higher standard of availability of tramway transportation because the two cabins will operate independently. With such a system, one cabin can almost always be in operation, even if the other cabin is idled for service or simply to save money on labor during slack hours.

Another issue in Thursday morning's meeting had to do with the wide-track nature of the proposed system. While two track ropes for each cabin (there are four in total) are close together in the present system, they will be farther apart in the proposed system. During windy conditions, this will result in less sway and, says Poma, a smoother ride. But Poma's competition, Doppelmayr, said in a critical letter that winds over the East River could create a "lever arm" condition on the track ropes, resulting in greater wear and stress. Michael Deiparine of Parametrix said a horizontal sway hinge could be added to the specification if engineering studies indicate there is a concern about sideways stresses.

RIOC Board member David Kraut agreed with Shane's position during Thursday morning's meeting, saying that non-expert RIOC Board members should trust RIOC's consultants, and should trust RIOC staff to protect the community with a solid contract.

Shutdown for the upgrade is now anticipated for June 2009, with the service outage lasting from 5.5 months to 7 months, with financial penalties for exceeding promised limits on downtime.

Previous issues of *The WIRE* have included architectural renderings and drawings of the proposed system. They are available on line at nyc10044.com (consult the archive).

The Breakdown: How the Buildings Voted on Island-Wide Questions and Offices

	Q1 FDR		Q2 PSD		Q3 QBr		Q4 Stores		President		Vice President	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Buckley	Farance	Berg	Polivy
Eastwood 546	168	58	216	18	193	45	156	77	24	20	9	30
Eastwood 510-580									107	118	82	130
Island House	106	24	127	6	110	23	97	32	47	94	69	73
Westview	111	28	137	6	113	31	104	39	48	104	65	80
Manhattan Park	132	40	163	14	155	22	141	32	54	81	48	90
2 RR									5	7	4	5
4 RR									14	16	11	17
Southtown	53	18	70	3	55	17	64	8	27	42	30	39
Rivercross	164	51	210	14	169	56	166	54	57	193	104	154
Octagon	96	28	115	9	109	18	107	17	65	50	73	41
TOTALS	830	247	1038	70	904	212	835	259	448	725	495	659
	Q1 FDR		Q2 PSD		Q3 QBr		Q4 Stores		Buckley	Farance	Berg	Polivy

Voting in races for Common Council seats appears on page 2.

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The Island On the Web

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rooseveltislander.blogspot.com

Roosevelt Islander – FDR Site Control a Violation? – tinyurl.com/57prv4
Roosevelt Island 360 – RI Granite in Bklyn Bridge Park – tinyurl.com/5hs6oj
NY Post – F Train 5th slowest subway line – tinyurl.com/5san8p
Hayley in NY – Vote Boat Passes Roosevelt Island – tinyurl.com/6g9g5f
Green Energy Video – Assembling Tidal Turbine – tinyurl.com/5t25yp
To Boldly Go – Recent Visit to Renwick Ruins – tinyurl.com/5vnf5k
NY Times – NYC's Many Main Streets – tinyurl.com/5pq74w
NY Observer – East Side Funder for FDR Memorial – tinyurl.com/5m9spa
Frame – Southpoint Skywheel Concept – tinyurl.com/65xmw2
Handstands Across America – Lighthouse Park – tinyurl.com/5eggsk
The Fryers Club – Halloween Festivities – tinyurl.com/6e8ujm
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The Marathon: 17 R.I. Finishers



David Labiner (above) ran his 16th New York City Marathon last weekend. (In all, he's done 19.) Neal Herman (right) completed the course, too. A Brooklyn resident, he's the son of Mark and Gloria Herman, who live in Rivercross. Finishers from zip 10044 are:

Overall	Time	Bib	Name	Sex	Age
6832	3:30:23	25184	Ganee, Arnaud	M	28
11094	3:49:56	23062	Leopold, Nils	M	40
13314	3:59:00	23518	Pilopp, Steffen	M	30
16783	4:33:45	16627	Furth, Christian	M	31
558	2:53:53	434	Piana-Agostinetti, Stefan	M	37
12457	3:55:44	22157	Ferretti, Elisabetta	F	36
6946	3:47:22	8348	Mesquita, Pedro	M	33
6434	3:42:24	16123	Nichol, Donna	F	29
1967	3:13:32	4137	Perl, Nicholas	M	28
11973	3:56:08	21562	McDonough, Donald	M	34
12389	3:58:14	25131	Hubner, Ralf	M	38
14658	4:25:00	8508	Labiner, David	M	47
20962	4:32:48	28422	Vojvodich, Luka	M	43
26932	4:58:58	29241	Vojvodich, Christina	F	44
27728	4:44:10	39095	Ginty, Barbara	F	24
27971	4:45:46	40426	Zezelj, Bojana	F	44
33950	5:18:15	41003	Aponte, Melida	F	41

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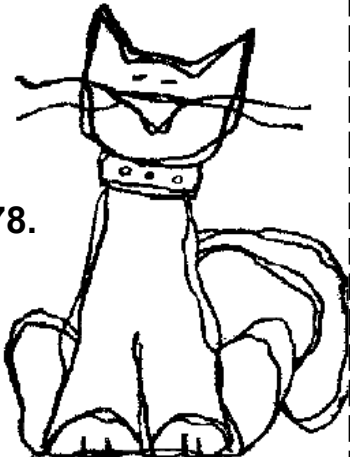
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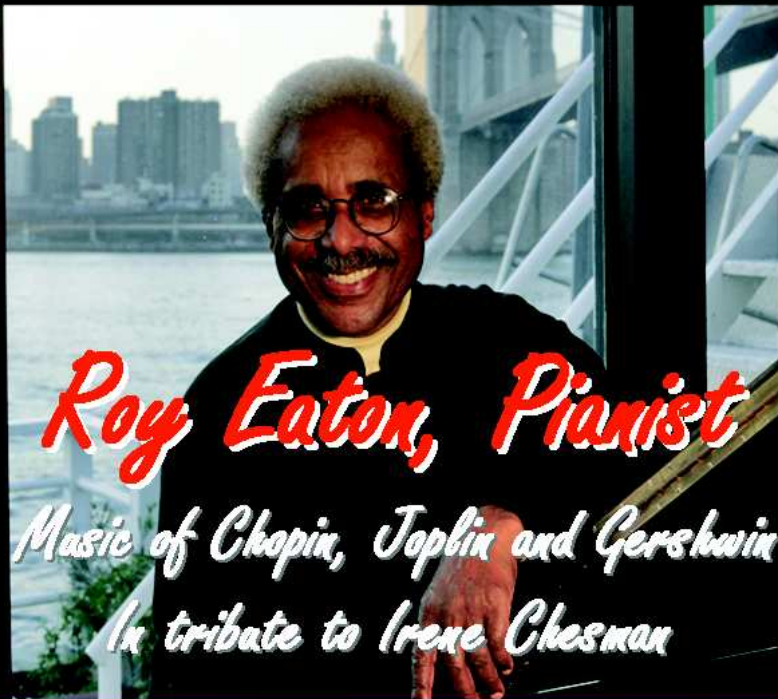
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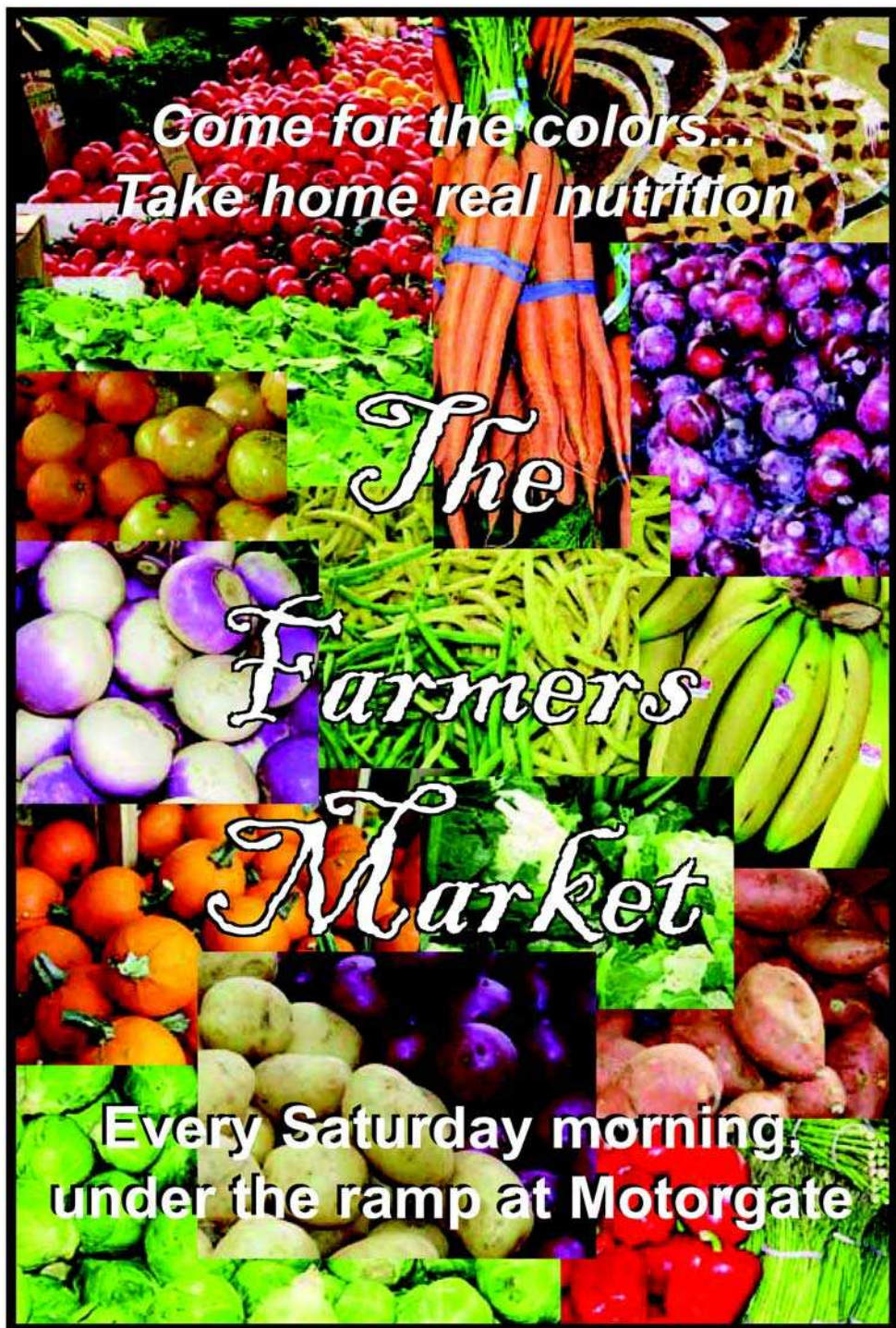
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