

Retail

Four New Shops Signed For Main Street Retail

Child School Gets 504 Main Space

Sometime in the next three to six months, Roosevelt Island will get a bakery, an organic food market, a wine store, and a sandwich shop, according to a press release from Hudson-Related, the partnership now managing retail spaces on Main Street under a contract from RIOC.

The Child School will get the second floor at 504 Main Street, with the first floor still reserved for a New York Public Library branch.

Trellis’s lease will be renewed. The Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association will start paying rent for Gallery RIVAA.

The press release from Hudson-Related describes the developments this way:

Hudson-Related Retail LLC, a joint venture between real-estate development firms The Hudson Companies and Related Companies, today announced new retail leases, architectural and streetscape improvements, and lease renewals that will revitalize the Main Street retail corridor and bring new amenities to Roosevelt Island. Retail demand has outpaced supply in recent years as the Island has experienced population growth in newly constructed

residential buildings and with anticipation of the new Cornell campus.

David Kramer, a principal with The Hudson Companies, said, “We are excited to announce the inaugural set of new leases and continue to bring additional amenities to Roosevelt Island and revitalize Main Street. These new retail tenants will bring

much-anticipated and desirable services to the local community of 14,000 residents which, until now, had very few dining options on Main Street. Residents will now have even greater options to shop, dine and relax without leaving the Island and we look forward to sharing additional tenant news in the near future.”

Retail leasing activity includes new tenants and renewals, including:

- *Island Spirits, a new wine and liquor store, will open at 605 Main St. The Island has been without a wine store for several years.*
- *Wholesome Direct, a gourmet and organic natural food market at 530 Main St.*
- *Europen Bakery Cafe at 503 Main St. will offer fresh gourmet*

See Retail, page 4

Southtown #7 Gets Green Light

Hudson-Related is not only developing the Main Street retail corridor – planning has started for the 7th Southtown building, to be on the east side of Main Street.

Briefly...

The RIOC Board Operations Committee voted this week to replace the roof of the **Good Shepherd Center** with real slate in a move to preserve the landmark’s historic qualities.

As the Island anticipates the arrival of the Cornell campus in mid-decade, and as Main Street’s older buildings contemplate changes to heating methods more economical than electricity, the Island needs a comprehensive study of future needs for **natural gas**, Sanjiv Tandon of Rivercross told the Operations Committee. Added high-pressure service is to be requested from Con Ed; present low-pressure service will remain in place.

The Operations Committee was also told that **Island-wide wi-fi** is “coming along.” No final date for full availability was mentioned.



Time Capsule

Progress on Four Freedoms Park as Maloney Delivers \$500,000 U.S. Funds

by David Stone

Last week, on a partly overcast, breezy afternoon in an undeveloped portion of Four Freedoms Park, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney delivered a symbolic contribution from the United States Congress to William J. vanden Heuvel, Board of Directors and Chair for Four Freedoms Park. “I am proud to have helped lead the successful effort to secure federal funds to support the creation of this extraordinary amenity,” Maloney said.

They also buried a time capsule. Maloney has represented Roosevelt Island since 1993, and recently led a successful campaign to save the local post office from an announced closing. After the ceremony, she invited *The WIRE* to join her with a half-dozen others for an eye-opening visit to restricted areas being developed at the southern tip of the Island.

Joining Maloney and Ambassador William vanden Heuvel at the ceremony were City Councilmember Jessica Lappin, Four Freedoms Park CEO Sally Minard, Four Freedoms Park Executive Director Gina Pollara, and Erik Bottcher, representing Governor Andrew Cuomo.

A large replica \$500,000 check was presented at the ceremony. The timing was significant because extensive landscaping and tree-planting, reinventing the area where residents once watched Macy’s fireworks fill the night sky, has launched the final phases of park development.

As a dark gray cloud threatened, Maloney took the podium to say, “The FDR Monument in Four Freedoms Park will be the only memorial located in the City where the last president from New York and his wife, Eleanor, made their home for years. And it’s absolutely fitting

that it will be located on the Island that proudly bears his name.

“The Four Freedoms Park will be a beautiful and welcoming public open space honoring the historic legacy of a great president whose inspirational leadership helped guide America’s greatest generation through the catastrophic Great Depression and the cataclysmic events of World War II. And because of its historic nature, I think it is entirely appropriate that we are burying a time capsule to mark this special occasion.”

The time capsule, a 60-pound stainless steel box, contains materials specially treated for long life, including Norman Rockwell’s Four Freedoms depictions, the original Four Freedoms speech, Franklin D. Roosevelt’s draft card, a United Nations charter, a United Nations flag, and a photograph of President Roosevelt and his family.

Accepting the check, Ambassador vanden Heuvel said, “We are so pleased to be able to complete the landscaping of FDR Four Freedoms Park with the money secured from Congress by Representative Maloney.”

Next, he joined Maloney and Lappin – who helped spearhead a successful effort to get \$5 million from the City for the park – as they crouched in rough soil to watch the time capsule being secured behind the cornerstone in a wall near what will become the park’s formal entrance.

As the crowd dispersed, Maloney gathered a small group that climbed up a slope of loose gravel and shattered bricks and walked south through the active construction zone. Fresh trees line the sides of the walkway, and more were

See **FDR Park**, page 10



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (red jacket), City Councilmember Jessica Lappin (kneeling), and Sally Minard (gray jacket) of the FDR Park Project watched last week as workers sealed a time capsule at Four Freedoms Park. The park is expected to open in October. There are additional park photos on page 6.

Just nine days remain for ordering *The WIRE’s I Tram NY* tote bag. Three 50-unit production runs have sold out and another will be ordered to fill orders received by April 30. There’s an order form on page 12.



Letters

Editor’s note: Because the following letter was distributed widely, *The WIRE* publishes it below without corrections, unedited, as received. An editorial response appears at right.

To the editor,

I am writing in response to various individuals who have objected to a letter sent out from the Child School soliciting donations for the development of a performing arts center 504 Main. As some of your readers may know, 504 is building which has been never been tenanted since its construction in the 1970s . Unfortunately the letter erroneously referred to an amphitheater at 504 Main. The building will instead contain a small auditorium which will double as a theatre for our drama performances. Its seating capacity will be approximately 150. The space will also contain 3 classrooms that will focus on music ,dance and art. This new facility will be available to our community after school hours, the only cost will be for security (IF NECESSARY). Our construction plan includes sound proofing which should eliminate any disruption for the planned library on the first floor.

These individuals, have used the above letter as a pretext to question my ethics and raise the issue of conflicts of interest as a result of my serving on the RIOC board. As far as conflict of interest s and the Child School is concerned ,I do not

as a matter of policy raise or propose any projects that will be solely beneficial to The Child School. A good example is the request made by the rowing group to build a temporary 80 foot floating dock under the Koch Bridge on RI . Yes, it will be accessible to the students of The Child School as well to all the interested residents that live on the Island. Yes, I also serve on the rowing groups not for profit board and that can be interrupted as a conflict which is why I have stood aside as the rowing group presented its proposal independently and in compliance with RIOCs stated policies and procedures. This project, along with 504 main, will benefit our community and in particular the children living on this island yet both projects are being used as a basis for various individuals to personally and wrongly attack my participation on the RIOC board.

My hope is that the vast majority of the residents on this island can see benefits of just these two projects and separate them from the real objectives of this small but very vocal group of individuals who refuse to accept my presence on the RIOC board as a result of my assignment by the Governor.

Sal Ferrera

To the Editor:

The Silicon City/Island/Whatever committee that Jonathan Kalkin, Jeff Escobar, and Susan Marcus are championing is a poorly designed organization for representing the Island’s interests. As Ms. Marcus (chair of the RIRA subcommittee under the RIRA Planning Committee, which I chair) points out, RIRA will have the same say in this organization as the nail salon. (Why is that good?) With the recent changes from Silicon Island to Silicon City, Mr. Kalkin and Mr. Escobar are aiming big, but they’ve lost the ability for Roosevelt Island to get its say. When the needs of 12,000 residents of Roosevelt Island get folded into an organizaztion that incorporates 150,000 people of Queens, the Island is demoted to a tiny voice. A main problem with this effort is that key questions on governance – now a year later – have still not been answered by Mr. Escobar or Mr. Kalkin. There is no record of a RIRA committee approving this a year ago, and the RIRA Common Council has not debated this, yet RIRA President Matt Katz gives the impression that this has been endorsed by RIRA. Ms. Marcus doesn’t allow opposing points of view to be presented in meetings, and she gives three days’ notice for approving a set of by-laws (no documents in advance) and electing directors (candidates not revealed). Island residents who have run RIRA and RIOC elections are involved, yet they don’t apply their experience. There is no open process for announcing these important procedural meetings, there aren’t open elections for candidates, and so on. Largely, the opposite of transparency, openness, and fairness apply. On top of this, it is unclear why Cornell-Technion would sign such a

See **Letters**, page 4

The Editorial Page

An Affront to Ethics & Democracy

Sal Ferrera *still* doesn’t get it. (See letter, left.)

The “small but very vocal group of individuals” that opposes his presence on the RIOC Board consists of the **92% of voting Islanders** who cast ballots in 1999 to demand a RIOC Board of Directors consisting of **residents elected by residents**. Or the **80% who voted in 2000** to make the same demand for democratic governance here. Or the **95% who voted in 2006** to reaffirm that preference.

True, not *all* of those voters are constantly “vocal.” They shouldn’t have to be. **They have voted.**

Ferrera’s offense *is not* that he wants to do good things for The Child School and the Island. His offense *is* to Island democracy. He committed this offense by arranging, with his political benefactor, State Senator Marty Golden of Brooklyn, for the removal of Jonathan Kalkin, a resident, from the RIOC Board, and having himself appointed as an **unelected non-resident** replacement.

(Perhaps it is coincidental, but this quick change occurred shortly after Ferrera told Kalkin that he wanted the second floor of 504 Main Street for The Child School. Kalkin, who chaired the RIOC Board’s Real Estate Advisory Committee, told Ferrera *there is a defined official procedure* for acquiring such space. Within days, Kalkin was taken off the Board and Ferrera was given his seat.)

Kalkin is a resident who was nominated, by ballot, by Island residents.

The fact that Ferrera is both a non-resident and unelected is why, in June of 2011, all five elected members of the nine-member RIOC Board wrote to the governor requesting that the “installation of Mr. Ferrera in the Board seat of Mr. Kalkin be postponed until such time as expiring appointments can be resolved through the process of public referendum.”

Ferrera also has serious conflicts of interest. Because The Child School rents considerable space in RIOC-controlled properties, his conflict was immediate upon his being appointed to the Board that controls those properties. The governor was apparently prepared to ignore that conflict, just as he ignored – by failing to consult or even inform – Roosevelt Island’s elected representatives in the State Legislature when he went along with the Brooklyn senator’s request that Kalkin be removed and replaced with Ferrera.

Further, since his appointment, Ferrera has created these additional conflicts:

- RIOC Board members, as a matter of ethics and to avoid even the appearance of conflict, must refrain from soliciting donations from organizations that do business with RIOC. On Ferrera’s watch, The Child School has recently done just that, asking Island organizations for contributions. Only after the conflict was made public did he label the letter as an error, claiming he didn’t authorize it.
- Board members are not supposed to propose or recommend vendors in which they have an interest. But Ferrera did. He serves on the Board of New York Rowing. Without disclosing that fact, he brought New York Rowing to RIOC as a potential vendor, renter, or beneficiary of property controlled by RIOC. Even after that conflict was exposed, he voiced a commendation of the group to RIOC Board members who may play a role in deciding on the disposition of that property.

Even then, his belated acknowledgement of his membership on the group’s board of directors fell short when he failed to disclose that the New York Rowing board member making a presentation to the RIOC Real Estate Advisory Committee also serves on Ferrera’s board at The Child School. The appearance? They’re trading favors – Ferrera doing so with State property.

Ferrera will also now use State funds (New York State supports the school) to rent the second floor at 504 Main Street. The Child School can afford this because it pays unrealistically low rent for its existing quarters. (Under founder Maari da Sousa, The Child School rehabilitated former “mini-school” space in a deal with RIOC.) The added space at 504 – and the “amphitheater” within it – was the facility for which Ferrera’s school was soliciting funds from Islanders and Island groups.

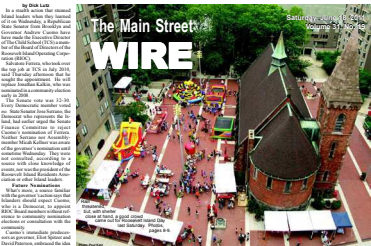
• Ferrera wants an equestrian facility for the students of his school. Sitting on the RIOC Board while asking the RIOC Board to make such land available is shot through with conflict. Such transactions should be conducted at arm’s length, without such influence. He then created another conflict of interest by offering a job (which would ultimately involve the equestrian facility) to the daughter of Kathie Grimm, a fellow RIOC Board member, whose vote on that matter will be tainted, at least in appearance.

Ferrera will respond that Grimm can recuse herself from that vote. But recusals change the voting proportions required for a Board majority, so even that course of action amounts to a tampering with the RIOC Board’s independence.

Most Roosevelt Islanders support the mission of The Child School, even though few of its students reside here. Many support the good that Ferrera wants to do, but it is tainted by his presence on the Board and his clumsy efforts to influence fellow Board members. It’s his tactics that are a cause for concern, and success using them should *not* be over the dead body of our fledgling democracy.

Ferrera needs to step down.

Cuomo Names Child School Boss to RIOC Board, Ignoring New Tradition of Community Nominations by Ballot



Gangs Session Thursday
The Island Public Safety Committee will present a report on the state of the island's safety and security to the Board of Directors on Thursday, April 26, 2012. The report will cover the results of the 2011-2012 safety survey, which was conducted by the Public Safety Committee and the Island Police Department. The survey found that the island's safety and security is generally good, but there are some areas that need improvement. The Public Safety Committee will discuss these findings with the Board and make recommendations for how to improve the island's safety and security.

Relief Kalkin Sees End in Sight For Mercantile Quagmire
Jonathan Kalkin, the former RIOC Board member who was removed from the board last year, is expected to return to the island soon. Kalkin has been working on a plan to resolve the mercantile quagmire that has been plaguing the island since he was removed from the board. The plan involves the creation of a new mercantile board, which would be responsible for managing the island's mercantile properties. Kalkin believes that this plan will resolve the quagmire and allow the island to move forward.

What are the odds that the island will be able to resolve the mercantile quagmire?
The odds are good, but it will depend on the cooperation of the various parties involved. Kalkin believes that the island has a good chance of resolving the quagmire, but he acknowledges that there are some challenges that need to be overcome. He believes that the island's residents and the various parties involved will work together to resolve the quagmire and move forward.

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Published by **The Main Street WIRE™**
©2012 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News **212-826-9056**
Urgent news **917-617-0449**
Advertising **917-587-3278** or
212-751-8214
Circulation **212-935-7534**
e-mail **MainStreetWIRE@usa.net**
Website NYC10044 – nyc10044.com

Editor & Publisher – Dick Lutz
Copy Editor – Ashton Barfield
Chief Proofreader – Linda Heimer
Proofreader – Vicki Feinmel

Reporters – Jim Baehler, Andrew Gordon, David Stone
Photographers – Maria Casotti, Paul Katz
Aerial Photography – David Quinones / SkyCamUSA.com
Advertising Sales – Georganna Galateau, Ellen Levy
Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Matthew Katz, Teri Sheridan
Circulation Assistants – Jim Bates, Brandon Cruz
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students of Legacy High School; Hassan Wazani and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Cherry Blossom Walk, Sat Apr 21, 11am, sponsored by the Historical Society (\$10 donation suggested). Meet at the Visitor Kiosk in Tramway Plaza (on the Island).

Cherry Blossom Festival, Sat Apr 21, 1-3pm, dock near subway station. **Demonstration and Workshop in Origami and Shodo** (Japanese calligraphy) by Toshiko Groner as part of the Cherry Blossom Festival, **Sat Apr 21**, 1-3pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 charge.

All-City Junior Tennis Camp Open House, Sat Apr 21, 4-6pm, Roosevelt Island Racquet Club. Information **212-935-4049** or klatif@irc.com. Also **Sat May 19**. (Ad, page 8.)

Opening Reception for *Coleoptera*, by Matej Dlabal, **Sat Apr 21**, 5-7pm, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm, **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm. Information: matejdlabal@gmail.com or **917-951-3608**.



VERNISSAGE X
VERNISSAGE X

Vernissage II, the 11th-anniversary members' group exhibition at Gallery RIVAA, closes **Sun Apr 22**. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm, **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm.

Open Auditions for Camp Sing, Sun Apr 22, 12noon, Main Street Theatre. Camp Sing session will be held on the Island Jul 9-14. Information online at goo.gl/31cqu. (Ad, page 7.)

Good Shepherd Sunday Concerts presents **William Lewis – From Beethoven to Berlin to Billy Joel**, piano and vocals, **Sun Apr 22**, 2:30pm, Good Shepherd Center. Free; donations support food program. (Ad, page 4.)

— Coming Week & Next Weekend —

Roosevelt Island Business Networking Group meets, **Tue Apr 24**, 7:30pm. For location information, thomas_wood@natfin.net.

Fit Mothers six-week program starts at Main Street Theatre, **Wed Apr 25**. Physician approval required. Information at **212-371-4449**. (Ad, page 7.)

Opening Reception for Paintings by Valeriu Boborelu, Sat Apr 28, 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA. **Continues through June 3**. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm, **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm.

Islander Anita Michael stars in **Anita Michael – A Hairdresser Looks at Her Roots**, **Sun Apr 29**, 4pm, Laurie Beechman Theatre at the West Bank Cafe, 407 W. 42nd St. (at 9th Av.). \$15 cover, \$15 minimum. Reservations **212-695-6909**. (Also **Thu May 17**.)

— Continuing —

Zumba, Sat, 10-11am, Sportspark.

Wheelchair Basketball, Sat, 10am-1pm, Sportspark.

Swimming at Sportspark, **Sat-Sun** 12-3pm, **Mon-Fri** 6-10am, **Mon Wed Thu Fri** 7:30-10:30pm. **Adults** (18-up) **Sat-Sun**, 4-7pm, **Tue** 7:30-10:30pm. **Adults** \$5, ages 4-17 \$3, free for seniors 60+ and infants 3 and under. Schedule of classes and activities at nyc10044.com/z/0j.

Open-Rec Basketball, Sat, 2-5pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.

Baby Story Time, stories for ages 0-18 months, **Mon**, 10:30am, Library. Registration required; first come, first served.

Lunch at the Senior Center, Mon-Fri, noon, \$1.50. Healthy meals. Monthly menus outside the social worker's office, 546 Main St.

RIOC's Community Office Hours, Mon, 3-5pm, 591 Main St.

Beacon Cardio/Fitness/Dance, Mon, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

Island Boot Camp, Mon, 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

Toastmasters, 2nd and 4th **Mon**, 7:30pm. Info: **212-751-9577**.

Living Library After-School Program,

Senior Center listings
appear on page 4

Tue Wed Thu, 3-6pm, PS/IS 217 Beacon. Open to all. Information: **347-724-5529**.

10 & Under Tennis, Tue & Thu, 4-5pm or 5-6pm, Sportspark. Information: **212-935-4049** ext 4 or KLatif@irc.com.

Ping Pong: Open Play, Tue & Fri, 6-9pm, Sportspark. **Class, Wed**, 6-9pm, Sportspark. All ages; free.

Sci-Fi Discussion Group, first **Tue** of each month, 6:30pm, Library.

Beacon Core/Stretching/Yoga, Tue, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

Toddler Story Time (ages 18-36 months), **Wed**, 11am, Library. Registration required.

Constituent Service Hours for State Senator Jose Serrano and/or staff, first **Wed** of each month, 4-7pm, RIOC offices, 591 Main St.

Beacon Dance, Wed, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

Knitting & Crochet Group, Thu, 11:30am, Library. Adults.

Island Appointment Hours for Assemblymember Micah Kellner and/or staff, second **Thu** of each month, 3-7pm, RIOC offices, 591 Main St. For appointment call Assemblymember's office at **212-860-4906** or RIOC at **212-832-4540**.

Anime Club for ages 13-18, **Thu**, 4pm, Library.

Robots for Kids ages 6-13, **Thu**, 6:30-8pm, Youth Program, 506 Main St., 2nd fl. Information: **917-751-2900**.

Argentine Tango Class, Thu, 6:30-7:30pm, Sportspark. \$3 per class. More info at **917-767-6714**.

Beacon Cardio/Fitness/Dance, Thu, 7pm, PS/IS 217, for high school students and adults.

Island Body Sculpt, Thu, 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

Zumba, Thu, 8:30-9:30pm, Sportspark.

Reading Aloud, Fri, 3:30pm, Library. Ages 3-5, 5-12. Families.

Referred Basketball League, Fri, at Sportspark. To register, call **212-832-4540**, ext 321 or email OMaragh@rioc.com.

Extended Sportspark hours for Island youth 16-25, **Fri-Sat**, 9pm-midnight.

— Future Weeks —

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed** See **ComingUp**, page 8

While I'm told that it is still April outside my window, with buds turning into leaves, it is 86°F as I write this, suggesting August instead. But of course, global warming doesn't exist! I want to thank RIRA Vice President Ellen Polivy for writing this column in the last issue of *The WIRE*. She chairs and serves on several RIRA committees as well as on Community Board 8, and offered a different perspective on our many issues and initiatives.

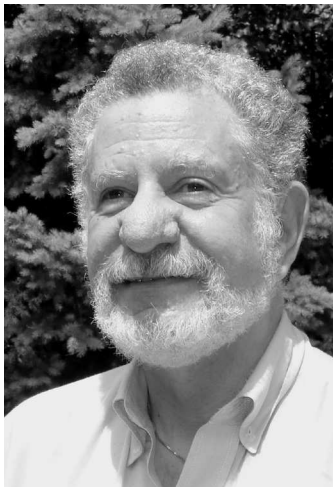
Cornell Town Meeting

Did you attend the Town Meeting with our new Cornell neighbors-to-be and our elected representatives, as well as the City administrators responsible for choosing "the home-town boys" instead of Stanford University? The Manhattan Park community center was jammed with Island residents, many of whom had really good questions for those at the dais. My job was to convey, via podium microphone, the written questions to our guests and to the audience, and to attempt to present as wide a range of questions as possible. Cornell's President David Skorton made it clear that he was willing to stay until midnight to answer all your questions, but unfortunately, the evening ended with some still to be asked.

Several were about the role Israel's Technion will play in this massive project – regrettably, not presented before we ran out of time. I confess, I know little about the division of labor and responsibility between these technology behemoths, but I'm sure that, as plans coalesce, we will learn much more. Keep in mind that, at the time of the Town Meeting, Cornell was only 90 days into its mandate to develop a graduate engineering center, and that the first two buildings will not come on line until 2017. These are early days, and even the architectural renderings from Skidmore, Owings & Merrill that have been shared with you through the media are only early guesses.

I asked the first question, which was, *Will you work with the coalition, now called the Silicon City Coalition?* This community benefit association, comprised of RIRA and other Island organizations, as well as similar groups from western Queens and the Upper East Side, will work together to present a unified voice as we establish the relationship between this campus, the technology start-ups that are likely to result, and the stakeholders who live here. President Skorton offered a resounding "yes," noting that Cornell intends to work with any and all organizations and individuals who want to be a part of this ambitious project. His team made it clear that the Cornell/Technion campus would be an open campus, to include Islanders in the life of this academic community. I had noted that Roosevelt Island, a planned community, was founded on the concept of innovation, and that this exercise in large-scale innovative thinking suits us to a tee. These are interesting times, neighbors, so hold onto your hats!

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
email: MatthewKatz@verizon.net

Without a dissenting vote. Our conclusions went to the RIOC Board of Directors, who met on April 19, for their Authorization of Expenditure. While you are reading this post-meeting, I am writing it prior to that vote, but I have every expectation that our allocation decisions met with a favorable response from the Board.

Sal Ferrera

There is a letter printed in this newspaper that I was cc'd on last week. Dr. Sal Ferrera, executive director of the Child School/Legacy High School, is responding to allegations of misconduct regarding his school's lease for the second floor at 504 Main Street, where the first floor has been promised for a new branch of the New York Public Library. I don't intend to comment on this.

Dr. Ferrera has been of great benefit to this community and is likely to continue so. My problem is that I've worked for the past five years to remove non-residents from the RIOC Board of Directors, to be replaced by residents, chosen by the community, for appointment by the governor. Last spring, seven of the nine members were Island residents, six of them by community plebiscite. In a backroom deal, finessing the Island's State legislators, Sal was appointed to the Board, setting back years of effort. The ironic thing is that he could accomplish everything he wants for the school without a Board appointment, by virtue of the merits of the plans, and without the taint of conflict of interest that besmirches, and will continue to besmirch, everything he does as a Board member.

See **RIRA Column**, page 10

The WIRE publishes The RIOC Column and The RIRA Column as a service to RIOC, RIRA, and the community, and does not control or censor either.

Greetings, Roosevelt Islanders. I have a few updates and announcements about projects that will continue to improve life on the Island, so I'll get right to it...

Main Street Redevelopment

Plans for redevelopment of the Main Street retail corridor are moving forward. Last summer, RIOC signed a 30-year lease with Hudson-Related Retail LLC to improve the vibrancy of and lure new business to the 100,000 square feet of retail space on Main Street. Now, Hudson-Related is preparing to move into leases with retailers that will provide the Island with an expanded array of goods and services. Among the new tenants will be organic market Wholesome Direct, a Subway sandwich store, and a wine store. Additionally, the Gristedes super-market will be remodeled.



Leslie Torres, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
email: Leslie.Torres@rioc.ny.gov

We partnered with Hudson-Related for this project because of their excellent track record, including the wonderful work they have done developing the buildings and commercial space in Southtown. Now, with their plans for a retail makeover on Main Street, the Island will have a beautiful retail corridor that offers quality services to the entire community.

SeeClickFix

Earlier this week, we announced our innovative partnership with SeeClickFix to allow Roosevelt Island residents to report non-emergency issues and request Island services through its online and mobile platform. Launched last year, the place-based reporting platform allows residents to document neighborhood concerns and improvements alike, ranging from potholes and graffiti to litter and broken streetlights. During the soft launch phase, which began in July 2011, 70 requests for service and other issues were reported to RIOC via SeeClickFix.

We are leveraging this comprehensive platform to increase efficiency when responding to service requests and to more efficiently improve the Island's infrastructure. SeeClickFix helps us empower the citizens we serve and encourage them to actively engage with each other, their neighborhoods, and us.

With the online and mobile reporting platform, residents can report quality-of-life concerns through service request categories via the RIOC website, custom mobile applications (iPhone, Android, Blackberry), and SeeClickFix.com. When submitting issues via mobile app, for example, residents can provide locational, descriptive, and photographic information as they see the issue in real time. Once the resident submits an issue, RI311, and anyone "watching" the area, will receive an alert. RI311 can then acknowledge the service request, route it to the proper department, and update the request – and

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The RIOC Column

Good Shepherd Sunday Concerts

www.goodshepherdchapel.net

The Reverend Lewis C. Johnson, Vicar

William Lewis

Piano and Vocals



From

Beethoven

To Berlin

To Billy Joel

Free Admission

Sunday, April 22, 2012

at 2:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd Chapel/Community Center, 543 Main Street, Roosevelt Island

All Donations Support the Food Program.

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The Church of the Good Shepherd Sunday Concert Series is made possible in part with public funds from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

The Church of the Good Shepherd Sunday Concert Series is made possible in part with public funds from the Fund for Creative Communities supported by New York State Council on the Arts and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council.

Senior Center

Monday

9:45 Zumba

11:00 Arabic

11:00 Tai Chi (not 4/23)

5:30 Yoga

Tuesday

10:20 Shoppers' Bus

10:30 Building Strength (not 4/24)

10:45 Pool Lesson

11:00 Blood Pressure

1:00 Paint & Sculpt

7:30 Games

Wednesday

9:30 Yoga Stretch (not 4/25)

10:20 Shoppers' Bus

10:30 Computers

10:45 Spanish (not 4/25)

1:30 Scrabble

Thursday

10:30 Zumba

10:45 Ping Pong

11:30 Arts & Crafts

12:30 Movie

Friday

9:00 Building Strength (not 4/27)

10:30 ESL

1:00 Korean Games

7:00 Games (RISA)

Special Events

Atlantic City Trip, Sat Apr 28, 9:30am.

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

Last chance.
See page 12.

Retail, from page 1

foods, beverages and baked goods.

• Subway Sandwich at 513 Main St. will offer sandwiches for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

• The Child School is opening a 7,000 square foot fine arts center at the upper floor of 504 Main St, which will be complementary space to the School's other existing facilities on Roosevelt Island and will include art, music, drama and dance studios.

Hudson and Related also looks forward to two longstanding tenants renewing their leases:

• Trellis Diner, a Roosevelt Island community institution, will have a 10-year lease and is planning architectural and general improvements to the store.

• Gallery RIVAA, at 527 Main St., will continue serving the community with arts events and gallery shows.

Additional transactions are also in the works for the next retail phase of leasing:

• Hudson-Related and the New York Public Library have been pursuing capital funding necessary to create a new, state-of-the-art library branch on the ground floor of 504 Main Street.

• The leasing team has been receiving offers for additional stores such as ice cream/candy, additional restaurants, a florist, and green desk office leasing.

• Hudson-Related hopes to attract a pet store operator to the Island as well as a frozen yogurt store.

The press release goes on to quote Assemblymember Micah Kellner, City Councilmember Jessica Lappin, and RIOC President Leslie Torres, all making upbeat comments for the announcement. After those comments, it continues:

Hudson-Related has received commitments from Gristedes to commence architectural and in-store improvements to the Roosevelt Island store, which are expected to be completed by October, 2012.

John Catsimatidis, CEO of Gristedes, added, "We're excited about Hudson-Related's efforts to revitalize Main Street, and in that spirit, we're about to undertake a major renovation of our store, which has

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Letters, from page 2

contract with this organization. The new campus will need more Red Bus service (RIOC), and gas (Con Ed), and Q103/104 bus lines extended (MTA), and might want to build a high school (Department of Education), and so on. None of those entities would want such a coalition as a contractual middle-man, nor would Cornell-Technion. Better venues for raising community concerns would be: RIRA, CB8, and our politicians, whose job it is to sort out the priorities among constituents.

Mr. Kalkin, Mr. Escobar, Ms. Marcus, and Silicon Whatever need to explain themselves better to the Island.

Frank Farance

To the Editor:

Motorgate is by far the most profitable monopoly on Roosevelt Island. We cautiously park our cars here, even though danger lurks in almost every spot. If the pigeons' poo doesn't get us, we might unknowingly park under one of the more drippy spots, which will leave a permanent white stain on our car's finish if not washed off quickly. Even if you skillfully navigate past these problems, there is still the unavoidable excessive level of dust that seems to be coming from the crumbling structure itself.

In addition, have you noticed that some of the best parking spots are taken up by dusty old deadbeats with a lock on one of their wheels? Why can't Motorgate move these cars to a more remote location, and free up spots closer to the elevators?

Why can't Motorgate install bird spikes where pigeons nest and perch? And since Motorgate does make so much money from us, wouldn't it be nice if they did not act like a monopoly, and showed some customer appreciation, by offering us all a free carwash once a month? No? OK, how about a group discount once a year?

Neal Weissman

To the Editor:

Thanks for your much-needed editorial about the currently byzantine approach to scheduling activities in the Good Shepherd Center. I have lived on Roosevelt Island for 30 years, and cannot remember a time when such bizarre obstacles have been in place restricting the community from using its own community resource.

I don't know for a fact why these restrictions were put in place. But I have my well-founded suspicions about who the culprit is.

I facilitated the acquisition of the Mason and Hamlin grand piano now used for all the wonderful concerts scheduled at the center. But when I was preparing my performance last 11/11/11, a Public Safety officer came to usher me out the minute my scheduled time expired. Nothing was scheduled in the building after me, and I requested just a few minutes more to practice. He refused, claiming he was just following orders. Whose orders? I hope that the RIOC representatives that we elected will look into this situation and take action to restore the community center to the community.

Roy Eaton

To The Editor:

Thank you for your March 24 editorial explaining why Roosevelt Island's Good Shepherd community center is not "open to all."

I thought you might be interested to know that among those excluded from the Good Shepherd Center when Catholic children are present in the building are activities pursued by the Protestant parish, a/k/a The Good Shepherd Church, such as mid-week study groups. We have been fortunate to have received the good graces of the Senior Center's Dolores Green, who has found an open room there for us to use on Wednesday evenings.

Thank you, Senior Center, and special thanks to Dolores Green.

Mary Lou Risley

Letters deadline for May 5 issue: **Tuesday, May 1, 5:00 p.m.**
Earlier submission recommended and appreciated. *Thanks.*

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters of local interest to the community, and to/from officials. Requests for a Name Withheld signature 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. Submit letters by email to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net or on a disk left at the desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to The WIRE. If you email, expect a confirming response and, if you receive none, resend and call 212-826-9056 to alert us. 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 are 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.

been serving the Island for more than 30 years. We're looking forward to bringing more organic foods, fruits and vegetables to the Island at everyday prices."

Hudson-Related is planning design improvements to the storefronts along Main Street, which include new lighting, signage, way-finding elements, and materials to freshen the look of the Main Street corridor, which has not seen any major renovations or improvements in nearly 40 years.

The transformation of Main Street continues the retail enhancements begun by Hudson

and Related several years ago with the creation of the Riverwalk community on Roosevelt Island, which includes six residential buildings. Retail amenities at Riverwalk include the Duane Reade, Roosevelt Island Day Nursery at Riverwalk, the Riverwalk Bar and Grill and an adjacent bagel store and deli, Nonno's Focacceria, Fuji East, Swan Nails, Prestige Cleaning and Valet and Starbucks.

Hudson-Related's on-Island contact is Andrew Jackson, 917-428-0460 or ajackson@hudsoninc.com.



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Large view looks north toward the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge from “the room” at the southern end of Four Freedoms Park. In the inset, workers prepare infrastructure around trees planted recently.

(Story, page 1.)

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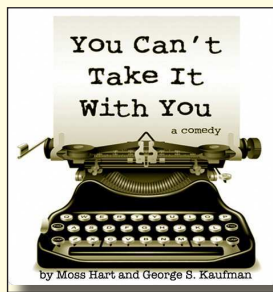
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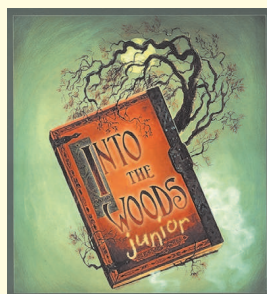
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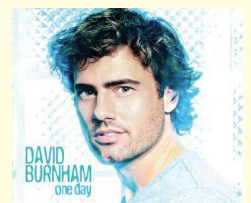
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ComingUp, from page 3

May 2, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

Main Street Teen Theatre presents *You Can't Take It With You*, **Fri May 4-Sun May 6**. Information **212-371-4449**. (Ad, page 7.)

The Main Street WIRE – next issue **Sat May 5**. Advertising deadlines:

There is no charge to list Island events in *ComingUp*. Email information to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net or leave it at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*.

Display ads, **Wed Apr 25**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue**

May 1; 5,000 copies due **Thu May 3**. Additional 2012 issues: May 19; Jun 2, 16, 30; Jul 28; Aug 25; Sep 8, 22; Oct 6, 20; Nov 3, 17; Dec 15.

The WIRE

2013: Jan 12, 26; Feb 9, 23; Mar 9, 23; Apr 6, 20; May 4, 18; Jun 1, 15, 29; July issue to be announced; Aug 31; Sep 14, 28; Oct 12, 26; Nov 8, 22; Dec 14.

News phone, 212-826-9056; urgent matters, **917-617-0449**. Email press releases or feature-story suggestions to MainStreetWIRE@usa.net. Advertising (display & classified): **917-587-3278**.

Bladder Cancer Walk, **Sat May 5**, 9am registrstation, 10am walk. Gather outside *Riverwalk Bar & Grill* in the Riverwalk complex. Information: **917-575-8057** or currand@mskcc.org.

Icla da Silva Foundation 5K Run/Walk, **Sat May 12**, 9am, Firefighters Field. Register at nycruns.com/ri5k; information at **646-290-6028** or Krista@icla.org.

Islander Roy Eaton plays *Piano in Bryant Park*, daily **May 14-18**, 12:30-2:30pm, 42nd St. behind New York Public Library.

Book Discussion, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* by Michael Chabon, **Thu May 17**, 6:30pm, Library.

Islander Anita Michael stars in *Anita Michael – A Hairdresser Looks at Her Roots*, **Thu May 17**, 7pm, Laurie Beechman Theatre at the West Bank Cafe, 407 W. 42nd St. (at 9th Av.).

Main Street Children's Theatre presents

All Shook Up, **Fri-Mon May 18-21**. Information **212-371-4449**. (Ad, page 7.)

All-City Junior Tennis Camp Open House, **Sat May 19**, 4-6pm, Roosevelt Island Racquet Club. Information **212-935-4049** or klatif@rirc.com. (Ad, this page.)

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu May 24**, 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Rd. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Conversation with RIOC Board members, following RIOC Board meeting, **Thu May 24**, 8pm.

Main Street Teen Theatre presents *Into the Woods, Jr.*, **Fri-Sun Jun 1-3**. Information **212-371-4449**. (Ad, page 7.)

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Jun 6**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

Roosevelt Island Day, **Sat Jun 9**, all day, various Island locations.

RIRA Blood Drive, **Sat Jun 9**, Senior Center, 546 Main St.

Free Mammogram Screening, **Sat Jun 9**, 1:30-5pm, plaza at 591 Main St.

Book Discussion, *My Father's Secret War* by Lucinda Franks, **Thu Jun 21**, 6:30pm, Library.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Jun 28**, 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Rd. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Aug 2**, 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Rd. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Sep 5**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

RIOC Board of Directors meeting, **Thu Sep 20**, 5:30, Manhattan Park Theater Club, 8 River Rd. Public comment period, starting at 5:30, precedes formal meeting.

Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council meets, **Wed Oct 3**, 8pm, Good Shepherd Center.



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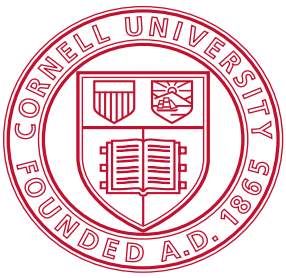
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Thank you for joining us at Cornell's first Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 5th, to learn about our vision for CornellNYC Tech. We are very excited to be working with you as we look forward to opening our new campus on Roosevelt Island in 2017.

We extend a special appreciation to Roosevelt Island's elected officials for participating in our program: Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, City Councilwoman Jessica Lappin and State Assemblymember Micah Kellner. Their leadership and support for the Roosevelt Island community never wavered throughout the selection process. In particular, we thank Matthew Katz, President of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association, for serving as a moderator at the event.

We are dedicated to ensuring that this project is a win-win-win: for Roosevelt Island; for the region's economy; and for Cornell and our academic partner, The Technion. And we remain committed to engaging with Roosevelt Island residents and all those whose lives this project will touch.

Last week's meeting was the first step in what we hope will be an ongoing conversation with you, our new neighbors.

We understand that, due to time limitations, we were not able to hear all the comments or answer every question. There are several ways for you to send us your comments. First, you may email us at <CornellNYCInput@cornell.edu>. Second, we will be hosting a series of open houses and meetings on Roosevelt Island. These will be informal events in which the leadership of the CornellNYC Tech Campus will be available to respond to your questions and concerns and get your feedback. We will be announcing these dates shortly.

We look forward to working with you to make Roosevelt Island both a great place to live and work as well as to educate tomorrow's leaders.

Sincerely,

David J. Skorton, President, Cornell University

Daniel P. Huttenlocher, Vice Provost and Dean, CornellNYC Tech

Cathy Dove, Vice President, CornellNYC Tech

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Translation: Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His
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