

# Meeting With RIRA’s Public Safety Committee, McManus Describes A New Day – Community Policing

by Dick Lutz

Jack McManus spent some time Monday night with the Public Safety Committee (PSC) of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA), fully aware that it was the group, headed by longtime resident Erin Feely-Nahem, that brought a recent end to the five-year tenure of Keith Guerra as Director of the Public



Safety Department (PSD). Not that McManus, now interim head of PSD, hadn’t already made the acquaintance of Feely-Nahem and other committee members. He’s now approaching the start of his fourth month in the post, though still technically the employee of the consulting firm that found him for RIOC President Charlene Indelicato.

In the session, McManus fielded questions comfortably. “I grew up not far from here in Sunnyside, Queens,” he said by way of a personal introduction. Later, he spoke of being fast on his feet as a kid, “which is why I probably never got arrested,” a humanizing laugh line that produced knowing smiles around the room. Just over a dozen residents, not all formal members of PSC, attended.

“I was a teacher for a while,” he said, “and then I started taking Civil Service tests, and I wound up getting hired by the NYPD, where I spent 27 years.” After retirement, “I was the first post-9/11 Director of Security for the World Trade Center – I worked for the Port Authority for about a year and a half. I had a similar position at the new TimeWarner Center, so I have some experience with construction security.

“I firmly believe that if we don’t have good communication, then we’re not going to get anywhere,” he said. “In the three months that I’ve been here, that’s what I’ve been trying to do – just open up the lines of communication. I recognize that the community has heard about certain things. At the same time, I’m

trying to bring morale up in Public Safety, which was at a pretty low point when I came in. “My expectation is that the officers and the supervisors treat the community with absolute respect,” McManus said flatly. “I was the oldest of four. We were color-blind. I can honestly say that I never heard a racist word out of either one of my parents. I try to present that model, and that respect model, to the officers.” He spoke of “playing ball” with “all kinds of kids,” and noted in passing that he’s coaching an Island soccer team (standings on page 14).

“If I get a civilian complaint about somebody being disrespectful, I handle it. I’m trying to handle the civilian complaints that predated me that weren’t adjudicated, so I’ve been looking at those. My goal is to gather as much information as I can... and handle it as expeditiously as possible, because the longer it lingers, it has a detrimental effect on the individual who made the complaint, and if there’s going to be a discipline that’s going to be exacted on an officer, it’s only fair that he get that as soon as possible.”

Much of what McManus said zeroed in on things that the PSC group, and the community, have been waiting to hear. “Right now, I’m trying to redefine the focus of Public Safety. There’s a unique opportunity here, because we don’t have a lot of crime, and we can

See **McManus**, page 4

# Parents of Toddlers Give a Thumbs-Down To New Playground

by Briana Warsing

A week ago Thursday, RIOC held opening-day ceremonies for the Island’s newest playground. Parents of young children were anticipating a replacement for the popular tot lot, which is being closed to make way for construction of Southtown building #7.

But, many now complain, that is not what was built. “We tried to have input,” explains Parents’ Network Coordinator Eva Bosbach, “but we weren’t consulted. We inserted ourselves, despite RIOC’s advice to the contrary, quite late in the process, when the major decisions, including the age range, were already made. It is impossible to know if Hudson/Related would still have built a mixed-age playground if parents had been in the loop earlier. But we were never asked.”

The Island has several playgrounds for kids 5-12 years old. One, near the basketball courts, is visible from the new playground. But with demolition of the tot lot,

the Island loses its only playground designed for children in the “tot” age range, under five years.

One mother, who gave her name only as Giulia, told *The WIRE*, “It was poor decision-making to replace the only 2-5-year playground – the most popular one – with another 5-12 structure that is just like the one a few feet away, and all the others on the Island.” She adds, “The two stepping activities targeted for 6-23-month-olds in the new lot are pathetic entertainment for young ones used to slides and age-appropriate climbing, and having just one toddler swing must be a joke! Where am I supposed to take my child to play now?”

Nursing was common at the tot lot, but probably not welcome where 12-year-olds play. And since children above the “crawlers, cruisers, and toddlers” age range were not attracted to the tot lot, the younger children faced no threats from larger, faster-moving older children.

Parent Sonal Chatia told *The WIRE*, “It is a beautiful playground, but I am not sure why they would make the age 5-12 – no thinking there, to have older kids with younger ones. Unfortunately, this is not a functional playground. It is a pity! They took away such a wonderful playground for something a tad bit dangerous.”

“It seems oddly redundant to have a playground for the same age group in sight,” echoes Kerry See **Playground**, page 12



# Rivercross Plan Advances

Rivercross residents will vote on the building’s privatization offering plan in early December, after clearance last week by the office of the New York State Attorney General.

In a notice to shareholders, the Rivercross board of directors said that completion of the move out of the State’s Mitchell-Lama affordable-housing program should occur by April 1. The plan will allow owners of Rivercross apartments to sell them at market prices, giving up to the cooperative a 45% transfer fee on the portion of the selling price that exceeds their original Mitchell-Lama purchase price. Under the plan, when owners give or bequeath apartments to adult offspring, parents, or spouses, this transfer fee will be deferred until the recipient sells at some future time.

A legally mandated meeting of shareholders is scheduled for Wednesday, October 23. The board’s memo states that voting will take place on December 3 and 4. At least two-thirds of apartments must vote yes for the plan to be implemented.

Estimates provided for preparation of the privatization plan suggest that the largest apartments in the building will sell for over one million dollars. For all sizes, the estimates (in thousands) are:

| Apartment Size       | Units | Range (000)              |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Studio               | 19    | \$430 - \$530            |
| One-bedroom          | 102   | \$600 - \$730            |
| Two-bedroom          | 133   | \$820 - \$1,025          |
| Three-bedroom and up | 111   | \$1,025 - \$1,350 and up |

The Editorial Page

Spinning

There are times when, to a resident, it can seem that things on Roosevelt Island are spinning out of control. But, upon reflection, you realize that residents have never really had control here, living in a situation that skips the usual local level of government and puts just about everything in the hands of the State, which succeeds in ignoring us even after promising not to. (See editorial, September 14 *WIRE*, available on line at [tinyurl.com/wire3401](http://tinyurl.com/wire3401).)

There are those who have some control, though – members of the RIOC Board of Directors – but then you have to wonder if they really *have* control, or, if they do, whether they are exercising it – or exercising it wisely.

*Somehow*, as Briana Warsing reports (page 1), we seem to have lost Roosevelt Island’s only toddler-friendly playground.

*Somehow*, we seem to be holding merchants responsible for law enforcement on the street outside their establishments (letters on page 6).

*Somehow*, we seem to have taken critical operational space away from the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance – and to have fumbled repairs that a capable organization would have fixed within weeks, if not days.

*Somehow*, we seem to be unable to finish up repairs at Light-house Park, having spent the summer presenting visitors with a fence instead of the scenic view that draws people there.

*Somehow*, we managed to get through a full summer without access to the pier near the subway – and, consequently, without any chance of food service there as in a recent summer – because storm damage still hasn’t been repaired.

Responsibility for all these things falls in the category of Island management, and while recognizing that we’ve been through a difficult period and a change of top management – and have lost some valuable administrators at RIOC – patience grows limited as the list of not-yet-dones gets longer, even when logical reasons are presented on a case-by-case basis.

As always, residents – volunteering their time and talents – will see us through. The real longevity (aside from David Kraut’s seeming permanence on the RIOC Board) is with those who have come to stay, and to invest their energies. They’re here as managements come and go, as problems go unsolved past the limit of patience, and, eventually, their efforts nudge the helm to correct the course of community affairs.

Even so, there’s sometimes that feeling – isn’t there? – that things are spinning out of control.

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Krystyn Donnelley and students of Legacy High School;  
and students from the PS/IS 217 Beacon Program

Fall has officially arrived, and as we all settle into the rhythms of work and school, there are many projects and new developments taking place in our Island community. Excitement for the newly opened playground at Blackwell Park helped make the opening a great success, and enthusiasm is building for Bike New York’s new classes at Sportspark, as well as the upcoming Fall for Arts Festival.

Tram Station Elevator

A few weeks ago, we received complaints that the elevator had been out of service at the Manhattan Tram Station. We’re pleased to report that maintenance has been performed, and the elevator has been up and running without an issue since then. In addition, a new gate was installed at the entrance to the elevator last Tuesday, September 24, for safety purposes. The gate will be closed from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. nightly to prevent possible damage.



**Charlene Indelicato**, President  
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation  
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Motorgate Update

Renovations are proceeding quickly at Motorgate. Currently, work is taking place in section 4B North, and will be moving on to section 5B North within the coming week. We remind you to use caution while driving through the garage, to be aware of traffic diversions, and to follow directional signage. Sign up for advisories at [rioc.ny.gov](http://rioc.ny.gov) or look for information posted at Motorgate for updates.

504 Main Street

Down the road at 504 Main Street, work is continuing at a good pace. The space is being completely renovated, cleaned, and prepared to be turned over to the New York Public Library in spring 2014. The Roosevelt Island Public Library will be moving to the new location, which has twice the space, next year.

New Children’s Playground

Thursday, September 19, marked the grand opening of the new children’s playground at Blackwell Park. Fay Christian of the RIOC Board of Directors presided at the event, with RIRA President Ellen Polivy also speaking to the crowd before proceeding to the ribbon-cutting. Sara Willard of Hudson Companies, Fay Christian, RIOC Board member Howard Polivy, Ellen Polivy, and Louis Schwartz of Monadnock Construction cut the ribbon before the excited crowd of children rushed onto the playground to have fun. Many thanks go out to everyone who helped make possible this wonderful new addition to Roosevelt Island’s

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

Roosevelt Islanders are Hugging

Something wonderful is happening on our Island. A hugging project has been started by friends of Benjamin Imbrogno, who passed away this summer. He was only 21. Lynne Shinozaki writes, “In memory of Ben, we are collecting Ben-hugs. Ben was a young man who was always generous with his hugs, something we all loved about him.” For his memorial on Saturday, October 5 [*ComingUp*, page 3], we are asking everyone to honor this young man, whose life ended too soon. Please start *hugging*. Count the hugs and let Lynne know the number by October 4. You can contact her through the [RIRAonline.com](http://RIRAonline.com) website. Click on the RIRA button and then click on Council. You will see the list of all Council members. You can then send a note to Lynne with your hug count.

I wasn’t lucky enough to know Ben, but I wish I had. I was moved to ask people about him. Friends and family described him as a loving and generous young man who really cared about people. His happy greetings made friends and strangers feel important and acknowledged – a young man who made a difference to everyone around him.

So, Roosevelt Islanders, start hugging today. We are hoping that hugging becomes a habit.

Another Loss to the Island.

Steve Chironis, RIOC’s Chief Financial Officer, resigned last month. His departure is a big loss to the residents. Steve helped us in so many ways. He went beyond his job description and became a part of the community, helping with youth, art, and sports, and supporting RIRA functions. Since he was here six

recreational space. Photos from the event are available on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/RIOCny](http://www.facebook.com/RIOCny).

Bike Classes Commence

Starting today, Bike New York will begin offering free classes and workshops at the basketball court east of Sportspark (250 Main Street) during the weekends for kids and adults. Two classes of Learn to Ride for adults will take place on September 28, followed by a Learn to Ride class for kids on Saturday, October 5, and another Learn to Ride for kids on Sunday, October 13. Bicycles can be provided for adults, teens, and pre-teens age 10 and up; bring your own bike to the Learn to Ride class for kids.

Bike New York’s schedule for Learn to Ride classes for adults is available at [tinyurl.com/Bike-NYadults](http://tinyurl.com/Bike-NYadults), and the schedule for kids’ classes is available at [tinyurl.com/BikeNYkids](http://tinyurl.com/BikeNYkids).

We hope that you’ll come out and take advantage of this fantastic community resource.

Fall For Arts Festival

Save the date! The Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, in partnership with Gallery RIVAA, is proud to present the eighth annual Fall for Arts Festival. The Festival will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 5, at Southpoint Park and on the lawn south of Rivercross. The Island’s much-loved tradition includes face painting, stiltwalkers, live outdoor mural painting, food, music, and free interactive art workshops for all ages! Mark your calendars and come on out to the Festival for a lively day with the community.

PSD & Youth Program

The partnership between the Public Safety Department and the Roosevelt Island Youth Program has continued with great success. The team meets weekly for soccer practice and to play matches coached by Officer Jonathan Martinez and Interim PSD Director Jack McManus. We have played two games so far and, judging by the smiles on the kids’ faces, everyone had a good time. Public Safety will continue to be a part of the team through the playoffs in November. We wish good luck to them as well as to all the local soccer teams throughout the season.

Idling Prohibited

RIOC and PSD remind drivers that idling is illegal and very harmful to our environment. The NYC Administrative Code states that “No person shall cause or permit the engine of a motor vehicle, other than a legally authorized emergency motor vehicle, to idle for longer than three minutes...” with an exception: The time limit is one minute if the vehicle is adjacent to a school. PSD will be issuing citations to drivers found to be in violation of the law, so please turn off your engine while you’re on the side of the road, and help us reduce pollution on Roosevelt Island.

The RIRA Column

years, he had the institutional memory that none of the present leadership has. He knew what was tried, what worked, and what didn’t. He will be missed.

Public Advocate Runoff

October 1 is the runoff for Public Advocate between Letitia James and Daniel Squadron. The turnout is expected to be sparse. Each and every vote really counts! If you are a Democrat, do Roosevelt Island a favor and vote. Elected officials pay attention to the locations that get out the votes. The people who vote are considered the base and treated very respectfully.

RIRA’s Government Relations Committee has tried unsuccessfully to get the two candidates to have a debate on Roosevelt Island. Apparently, Roosevelt Island is considered small. Can you imagine that? We need to change that perception. We may be small, but we vote.

On August 27, RIRA held a Candidates Night in which we asked candidates a set of questions that were intended to help each candidate understand and consider answers to our unique challenges. I have sent the questions to Letitia James’s and Daniel Squadron’s campaigns, asking for a written response. I will post the responses on the [RIRAonline.com](http://RIRAonline.com) website.



**Ellen Polivy**, President  
Roosevelt Island Residents Association  
[RIRApresident@gmail.com](mailto:RIRApresident@gmail.com)

See RIRA Column, page 14

# COMING UP

regular updates at [nyc10044.com](http://nyc10044.com)  
submit events to [ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com](mailto:ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com)

## — This Weekend —

**No Manhattan-bound Subway service, Fri Sep 27** 11:15pm to **Mon Sep 30** 5am.

**Bike New York Adult Learn-to-Ride Class, Sat Sep 28** 10am-12noon or 1-3pm, basketball court east of Sportspark. Limited to 15 students. Additional classes to be scheduled. Schedule and sign-up at [tinyurl.com/bnyRI0928](http://tinyurl.com/bnyRI0928).

**Islanders Ghila Krajzman and Olya Turcihin** present *Distant Encounters* photography exhibit **Sat Sep 28** 5-7pm, in the Dumbo art fair, 100 Jay Street, Suite 30E, Brooklyn.



## — The Next Two Weeks —

**Healthy & Pretty by Design** workshop, **Mon Sep 30** 8-9:30pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Info: **917-251-2583** or [lici@brasilian.com](mailto:lici@brasilian.com).

**Primary Election Run-Off for Public Advocate, Tue Oct 1** 6am-9pm. Info: **212-487-5300** or [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us).

**Icla da Silva Foundation Hope Gala, Wed Oct 2** 6:30pm reception, 7:30pm dinner-dance. Tickets: [icla.org](http://icla.org) or call **646-290-6028**.

**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Oct 2** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

**No Manhattan-bound Subway service, Fri Oct 4** 11:15pm to **Mon Oct 7** 5am.

**Bike New York Learn to Ride for Kids, Sat Oct 5** 10am-12noon, basketball court east of Sportspark. Info at [tinyurl.com/bikeNY](http://tinyurl.com/bikeNY).

**Memorial Concert for Benjamin Michael Imbrogno, Sat Oct 5**, 11am-4pm, Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Music, spoken word, poetry; refreshments following. (See *RIRA Column*, page 2.)

**Eighth Annual Fall for Arts, Sat Oct 5** 11am-4pm, Southpoint Park, Rivercross lawn, Gallery RIVAA (527 Main St.).

**First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Oct 6** 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 donation; refreshments. (Ad, page 15.)

**Film at the Library: *Olympus Has Fallen*, Tue Oct 8** 6pm. Free.

**Last day to register for Nov 5 general election, Fri Oct 11.** Info: **212-487-5300** or [www.vote.nyc.ny.us](http://www.vote.nyc.ny.us).

**Open House New York, Sat-Sun Oct 12-13**, including Island locations. **The Main Street WIRE**—next issue **Sat Oct 12**. **Advertising deadlines:**

Display ads, **Wed Oct 2**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Oct 8**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Oct 10**.

**Future issues:** Oct 26; Nov 9, 23; Dec 14. **2014:**

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

StreetWIRE@usa.net. **Advertising** (display & classified): **917-587-3278**.

**Bike New York Learn to Ride for Kids, Sat Oct 13** 10am-12noon, basketball court east of Sportspark. Info at [tinyurl.com/bikeNY](http://tinyurl.com/bikeNY).

## — Continuing —

**Southpoint Park** open **daily** 6am-10pm.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park** open **Wed-Mon** 9am-7pm (closed **Tue**). Closes at 5pm starting **Oct 2**. (Ad, page 8.)

**Six RIVAA Artists** show, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St., through **Wed Oct 16** 10am-8pm **daily**. Works of Valeriu Boborelu, Rachel Garrick, Toshiko Kitano Groner, Mircea Nicolescu, Dan Nistor, Georgette Sinclair. **Zumba, Sat** 10-11am, **Thu** 8:30-9:30pm, Sportspark.

**Mystical Island**, members' show at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Through **Sun Oct 27**. Gallery hours **Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm. (Ad, page 5.)

**Art Classes** taught by members of the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association (RIVAA), **Sat** 11am-2pm, Sportspark. Free.

**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 disabled, seniors 60+, and infants 3 and under.

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

**Art for Kids** with Connie Tanner, last **Sun** of the month, 10-11:30am, Gallery RIVAA. \$10 suggested donation; materials supplied. No reservation required.

**Mommy and Me** swim classes, **Sun** 10:30am, 11am, 11:30am, Sportspark. Arrive early to sign up for each class. Last day of current session, **Sun Sep 1**.

**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, 546 Main St. \$1.50. Menus outside the social worker's office.

**Adult Water Aerobics, Mon** 12-1pm, Sportspark.

**Adult Learn-to-Swim, Mon** 1-3pm, Sportspark.

**SHSAT Math Prep, Mon & Wed** 3-4pm, PS/IS 217. Free.

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

**Junior Tennis** at the Roosevelt Island Racquet Club. Classes after school and Sat. Info: **212-935-0250**. (Ad, page 7.)

**Dance/Zumba/Cardio, Mon & Wed** 6:30-7:30pm, PS/IS 217.

**Zumba, Mon** 6:30-7:30pm & 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

**Master Swim, Mon & Fri** 7:30-8:30pm, Sportspark.

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

**Adult Basketball, Mon-Thu** 8-10pm, PS/IS 217.

**SHSAT ELA Prep, Tue & Thu** 3-4pm, PS/IS 217. Free.

**Games** (kids 5-12), **Tue** 4pm, Library.

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

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

See **ComingUp**, page 11

## To the Editor:

I was shocked to learn of the demise of the Boy Scouts (*The WIRE*, September 14). I was even more shocked to learn of the conditions they have been meeting under (no heat or electricity). My grown son and many of his friends were in the troop. They went on trips, sold trees, and were a part of the scouts for many years.

Mr. Kerr dedicated so much of his time and made an impact on so many young lives. I am *disgusted* that RIOC treated him and all the scouts so poorly. What will they do now? Why is it, with all of these vacant spaces on Main Street, that no one could have the decency to section off a tiny area for their use. I will be contacting RIOC to express my feelings as well, but want to thank Mr. Kerr for all that he has done for so many.

Whitney Allen

## To the Editor:

I read with sorrow the story of the demise of the Island's Boy Scout Troop (*The WIRE*, September 14), led by Geof Kerr for many years. Its in the community social structure was highly valued, and it took the participating youths into a civic involvement that gave permanence to the code of scouting for each. The misguided policy of turning over all spaces to the master leaseholder has resulted, inevitably, in the loss of community control and function, as it may not be commercially the highest and best use.

With so much underutilized space, how could an alternative not be found?

How sad and counterproductive to the ideals of a planned urban community.

Steve Shane

The writer served as president of RIOC from April 2007 to June 2010.

## To the Editor:

I would like to contribute several comments in the hope that RIOC and other authorities may consider them and respond accordingly.

• As a resident and parent, I am on constant lookout for the delivery guys riding bikes and electric cycles on our sidewalks. The frequency of reckless bike traffic on the sidewalk, especially in Southtown, is troubling. It appears that Public Safety does not see that as a problem, and it will most likely continue until an

See **Letters**, page 10

## To the Editor:

A few years ago, this sign was posted at the end of the turnaround from Motorgate to the Roosevelt Island Bridge. I contacted the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and explained how ridiculous this sign was. I also mentioned that if I breezed through while the bridge was about to open, I should never be given a ticket because I never flash. A few weeks later, they got the message that I wasn't playing and removed that sign.

One would think that, after they got done laughing, they would have retired the sign. Well, it seems that they haven't done that. Recently, as I was returning to the Island at 10:45 a.m., I got caught behind a few cars coming onto the Island from Queens, and when I looked up, it appears that the sign has re-emerged, so I snapped this photo. For those who do not remember the context, I'm also enclosing a graphic reminder.

I do hope that someone at RIOC will contact DOT and make it clear that the residents of Roosevelt Island deserve better than this!

Raye Schwartz



## To the Editor,

I love living on Roosevelt Island, having moved here from Boston six years ago. I love dogs, too. But my love for both was tempered on Sunday, September 15, at 8:20 a.m.

I was taking my morning power walk around the Island and had progressed to the east channel promenade, just north of Firefighters Field. An unleashed dog charged and attacked me. This charge was from the crouched position, which is particularly dangerous. He was growling and barking when he jumped up, and was about to bite me. I then yelled, which, shockingly, caused him not to bite. To put this in further perspective, this was a Boxer breed of about 35 pounds, so it was not a small dog.

As I retreated, I yelled at the owner, demanding that she put her dog on a leash. I yelled this a number of times; she refused to do so. I did not use vulgar language, although it was a temptation!

I went to Public Safety to report this incident. They immediately dispatched an officer on patrol. I don't know if they found the woman and dog.

So, I must warn fellow residents to take special care when walking on the east channel promenade. The Boxer is white with large brown spots. Its owner is a tall, skinny, middle-aged Caucasian woman with dark hair (pulled back in a ponytail at the time). I would venture to guess that she and Kujo live in one of the Riverwalk buildings.

As an important aside... I was telling several of my Manhattan Park neighbors what had happened; interestingly, one had been attacked by an unleashed dog in Southpoint Park recently. It was a medium-size brown dog accompanied by a man on a bike.

Another Manhattan Park neighbor was in a confrontation with a man about his unleashed dog at the Saturday Farmer's Market. She and the man actually had a physical fight!

I used to read letters to *The WIRE* and think, *Why can't people stop writing stupid letters about unleashed dogs?* Now I understand, and thought it vital that I warn my neighbors to beware!

I'll let someone else write the letter about picking up after their dogs.

Hal Worsham

## To the Editor:

I am a member of the New York Road Runners Club. I compete in the various races that NYRR holds in our fair City. This organization presents the NYC Marathon, as well as the borough half-marathons. In order to prepare for these races, as well as to stay in good cardio health, I run around our beautiful Island every other day, usually clocking 4-6 miles.

But here are a few issues or problems that I have "run" into. I have had to sidestep dog excrement on too many occasions. There are owners who obviously have no regard for their neighbors. They do not pick up after their animals. I've also noticed that they allow them to go on the lawns of like Manhattan Park and Riverwalk where no dogs are allowed. Do they realize that people play on these lawns and even sunbathe there? I wonder if these inconsiderate individuals would like to step in or lie in some other dog-owner's pet crap. *Clean it up!*

Another problem I have faced is that of unleashed dogs! I have been attacked on a few occasions by a brown bull-dog mix owned by one of the seniors on the Island. This man has repeatedly let his dog roam freely, without a leash, not only on the promenade, but in Southpoint Park, where the signs clearly read *All dogs must be on a leash!* I have had a number of encounters with this same owner, and have told him to leash his mutt or I would report him to Public Safety! He has disregarded anything that I have said. I think he may feel that he is entitled!

I am an animal lover, but owners of pets need to be responsible! The law was made for all, no exceptions! Pick up after your animal, and keep it on a leash!

Perhaps at another time I will complain about running on the east side of the Island, especially under the 59th Street Bridge, and being nearly run over by bicyclists that use that very narrow strip. But enough for now.

Bill Weiss

## To the Editor:

The new playground is a beautiful area. I don't want to seem ungrateful, but, as the mother of a soon-to-be toddler, I'm so sad to see the old tot lot go. I know that several other parents of toddlers feel the same. The new play structure is rated for children 5-12, and is definitely way too big for 2-3-year-olds. The only equipment for the little ones is a low "toddle swing" and some balance boards, but these are not physically separated from the big-kids area, so are being used by big kids who crowd out the little ones. Also, we are down to only one bucket swing, which is sad. There was often a wait at the old tot lot for the two bucket swings there. The yellow plastic swing is a mystery to me: Is it for disabled children? In any case, it doesn't seem to hold much attraction for kids compared to the bucket swing. I know it's not much of a priority, but it's a shame that there are so many playgrounds for kids 5+ on the Island, yet we have lost the only one for kids 1-4 that was open all day. Can I hope that the old tot lot equipment will reappear somewhere else on the Island?

Avery Hoppa

Letters deadline for  
October 12 issue:  
**Tue., October 8, 5pm**

## 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 used. Submit to [MainStreetWIRE@usa.net](mailto:MainStreetWIRE@usa.net) as text in the body of the email, or as text on a disk left at the lobby desk at 531 Main St., 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 the front desk at 531 Main Street (allow extra time); 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, in the judgment of the editors, merits the required space.



Last week, art-class students at The Child School / Legacy High School celebrated International Peace Day by creating this peace symbol.

**McManus**, from page 1

do more. Some of the things that I like that I’ve seen are the opportunity for somebody to get an escort if needed.” In the audience, a question was mumbled, and McManus responded. “They’ve been directed to do that, so please call if it’s needed,” he said, emphasizing the escort option as exemplary of the kind of service that he feels can be provided here. “If there ever was an opportunity for community policing, it’s right here,” he said later, adding, “And it shouldn’t be an effort for us to do that.”

“I saw some really nasty things happen to people [while with NYPD]. You go home, it’s difficult to fall asleep right away because you have things running through your head. But here, there’s a unique opportunity, because of the fact that we have very little crime, to go home with a smile on your face because you’ve been able to help somebody. That’s the focus here, as far as I’m concerned – to help the community, and to protect the community.”

McManus was not directly critical of his predecessor, but he gently distanced himself from Guerra. “There were potentially certain ingrained ideas that were put forward to the rank and file, if you will, so some of those changes don’t take place overnight, but part of what I’ve done is...” McManus interrupted himself with another thought. “You know, we don’t have a lot of opportunities for advancement here, as of right now. But my direction to the officers and supervisors is [that] any advancement that we’re able to do for you is not going to be based on numbers – arrests, summonses, things of that nature. Quite frankly, that’s the

way it was done in the past, so you had people promoted to detective [rank] merely based on summons activity, arrest activity, and I guess my experience in policing [is that] if you put that kind of atmosphere in front of officers and supervisors, invariably there are going to be arrests that are questionable.

“Interestingly, there was a sense of relief among the officers. I don’t really think that they saw the prudence of a zero-tolerance atmosphere here on the Island. I said that, from what I could see, from the younger people here on the Island... I try to talk to them, and there’s quite a generation gap, which I sometimes don’t like to admit, but I don’t see them doing pretty much anything that I didn’t do... I didn’t commit crimes, but I was a kid...”

McManus went on to say that there’s an exception. He can’t relate to the way that some young kids speak to adults, especially women, “but I’m not here to enforce that. I’ll make my little contribution to correct it, just by talking to them the right way.” Here, McManus cocked his head slightly, as if to say, *It is what it is with these kids today.*

He returned to the subject of dialog with people in the community. “Without the opportunity for communication, none of that can happen. No one who’s ever wanted to come into the office has been refused. And, generally, I try to accommodate people as much and as quickly as I can.

McManus mentioned some needs that he’s



identified in the community – helping young people prepare a résumé, learn to drive, get a job – and he said he’s had meetings about that. Then he turned to some needs that he’s identified within his department, discussing each briefly:

- Training – “from the top on down... CPR: courtesy, professionalism, and respect.”
- Reacting to an audit of Public Safety that is not yet final – “A lot of it was spot-on” [in a draft he reviewed].
- Removing the tint from windows of Public Safety vehicles to make officers more accessible – “If ever there was an opportunity to keep the community at bay, it would be by keepng the windows tinted.”
- Community involvement – the soccer coaching (his involves 9-10-year-olds). (See *SportsWIRE*, page 14.)
- Drugs – The 114th Precinct has been responsive, McManus said. “A lot of that is going to be with the help of the NYPD... We do get complaints of reefer in the hallways.”
- Evacuation planning – “An evacuation plan can and should be made public.”
- Staffing changes – “There is a union, and we have to accommodate that.”
- Gang activity – Nothing serious here, though a “Latin Kings” meeting was held here one Sunday.
- Noise complaints – “One of the hardest things to address with young people.”
- Officers’ physical condition – “There are no weight restrictions in the contract.”
- Officer discipline – “They’re entitled to due process... In terms of discipline, I’m limited... I do recognize that there are still some painful issues...”



Public Safety Committee Chair Erin Feely-Nahem as she chatted with PSD Chief Jack McManus before Monday’s meeting.

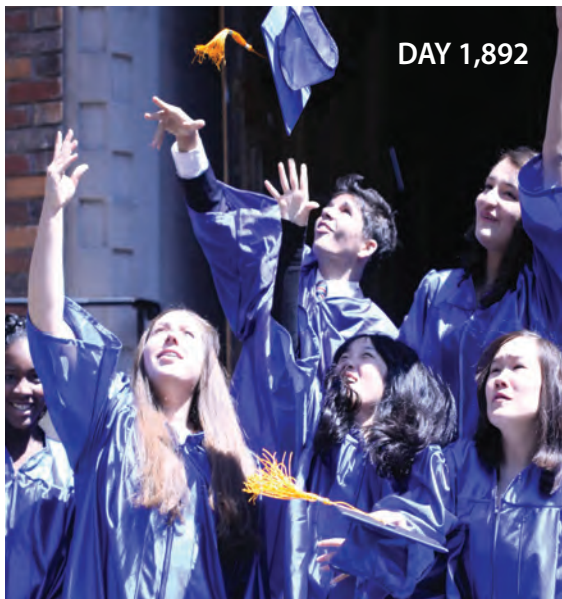


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# Deli Ordered to Restrict Late Hours After PSD Complaint; An Island Lawyer and an Activist Try Riding to the Rescue

### Background

M&D Deli was ordered by Lisa Management, in a letter dated September 16, to reduce its late-night hours, effective Tuesday, September 24. Lisa Management’s letter to the M&D proprietor came in response to an August 16 letter from Interim Public Safety Director Jack McManus to David Kramer of Hudson/Related, the developer that is RIOC’s sub-lessee of Main Street retail storefronts.

Farance’s email, sent this week, refers to a legal action by M&D Deli employees, who were swept up in an arrest by Public Safety Department officers that took place in the deli on December 9, 2012.

The letters here are reproduced as received, unedited, with these exceptions: In Farance's email, for space considerations, abbreviations have been introduced into the reproduced list of complaints. Those abbreviations are in brackets in the first listing. (In that list, times are shown as four digits; all are a.m.) Where bold and italic type appear in Farance's email, they have been added for purposes of clarity. For the same reason, a spelling correction has been made in Groner's letter.

August 16, 2013

**Good Afternoon Mr. Kramer,**

I am Jack McManus, the Director of Public Safety for Roosevelt Island. I am writing to you today regarding the M&D delicatessen, located at 579 Main St, Roosevelt Island. For at least a year, M&D has been closing between 1:00 A.M. and 2:00 A.M. I have been informed that they formerly closed at 10:00 P.M.

I have been in my present position for approximately two months. During that time I have been inundated with noise complaints from residents attributing the noise to the area in front of M&D. I have personally observed the crowd of younger people who gather in front of there nightly from around 9:00 P.M. on and have heard the noise which presumably results in complaints.

On July 4th, 2013 at approximately 11:45 P.M., a shooting occurred in the street directly in front of the deli. There were at least 150 youths who were hanging out that night. I understand that there is a general belief on the island that these qualify of life issues such as unreasonable noise, and littering in front of M&D, began to really fester after the deli began to remain open until 1:00 A.M. or 2:00 A.M.

It would be to the benefit of the community if the deli were to revert to the 10 o’clock closing time. I would appreciate any assistance in this matter.

Thank you,  
**John B. McManus**  
Director/Chief  
Department of Public Safety

Mr. Jorge L. Jorge  
Director of Leasing and Sales  
Lisa Management, Inc.

**Dear Mr. Jorge,**

I represent M&D Deli. I write regarding your correspondence, dated August 16, 2013, which you forwarded to M&D Deli, along with a copy of a letter prepared by Mr. John McManus, Director of the Roosevelt Island Department of Public Safety. The correspondence contains information about a “noise problem” on Roosevelt Island, on a public sidewalk in front of M&D Deli. Your correspondence attributes the responsibility for this problem to M&D Deli and states that if M&D Deli does not close their store at 10pm each evening, you will consider it a default in the lease agreement between M&D Deli and Hudson Related, LLC., under a lease provision, setting forth, in substance, a private nuisance theory.

As you know, in order for a landlord to prevail against a tenant in a private nuisance claim, it must be demonstrated that (1) an interference has been substantial in nature, (2) intentional in nature, (3) unreasonable in character, (4) with a persons property right to use and enjoy land, (5) caused by another’s conduct in acting or failure to act. Mathaias Berenger

September 16, 2013

Dahesh Khalil  
M&D Deli  
579 Main Street  
Roosevelt Island  
Re: Noise Complaints

**Dear Mr. Khalil:**

Enclosed with this letter you will find a letter from the Chief of Public Safety on Roosevelt Island that is dated August 16, 2013 which states that there have been noise complaints against you.

It is believed that your store being opened until 1 A.M. is encouraging people to gather in the store’s vicinity and create disruptive noise. Permitting noise that disturbs tenants and other occupants of the building and neighboring buildings is in direct violation of paragraph 6 of the commercial rules of your lease.

Paragraph 6 of the Commercial Rules to the original Lease Dated June 1. 1996:

“No tenant shall make, or permit to be made, any unseemly or disturbing noises or disturb or interfere with other tenants or occupants of the building or neighboring buildings or premises...”

Effective September 24, 2013, you will be required to close your store from 10 P.M. to 5 A.M. This letter is not intended as a Notice of Default on your rental agreement. Should you fail [to] close your store during the time outlined, we will be forced to send you a Notice of Default and will pursue all legal remedies available to ensure that such disturbances do not occur.

We appreciate your attention to this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 212-353-2166.

Best Regards,  
**Jorge L. Jorge**  
Director of Leasing & Sales  
Lisa Management, Inc.

v. 261 West LLC, 93 A.D.3d 175, 940 N.Y.S.2d 4 (1st Dept. 2012).

Also see Broxmeyer v. United Capital Corp., 79 A.D.3d 780, 914 N.Y.S.2d 181 (2d Dept. 2010) {noise created by the operation of HVAC units} and 61 W. 62 Owners Corp. v. CGM EMP, LLC, 77 A.D.3d 330, 906 N.Y.S.2d 549 (1st Dept. 2010) {noise occurring late every night}.

In the 61 W. 62 Owners Corp. case, the commercial tenant operated a roof top bar, served drinks and played loud music and the tenants successfully argued that the defendant’s conduct was intentional in nature and was caused by the defendant’s conduct. In the case of M&D Deli the facts are inapposite.

First of all, in this case, not only has M&D Deli not acted “intentionally” but there is absolutely no nexus between the alleged noise and M&D Deli, except for the happenstance that pedestrians happen to congregate on a public sidewalk in front of a retail establishment that happens to be M&D

**To Don Lewis, RIOC Mr. Lewis—**

I am appalled with PSD Director Jack McManus’ letter to force the closing of M&D Deli. Mr. McManus’ letter is factually incorrect and misleading. What seems obvious is that, because of the ongoing PSD Abuse, RIOC is retaliating against M&D Deli in light of:

- (1) the M&D Deli Videos well-documented the kind of PSD Abuse and fabrication of testimony by PSD officers;
- (2) although the M&D Deli staff were helping PSD facilitate an arrest by keeping bystanders out of the arrest, PSD then turned around an[d] abusively arrested the M&D Deli staff, including beating one of the workers with a baton (who was not resisting his erroneous arrest).
- (3) these Deli Videos have captured the attention of the community, the media, and the authorities because they so clearly describe the kinds of PSD Abuse residents and merchants have had to suffer from PSD.

The following is a rebuttal to several points in Mr. McManus’ August 16, 2013 letter:

**McManus:** *For at least a year, M&D has been closing between 1:00 A.M. and 2:00 A.M. I have been informed that they formerly closed at 10:00 P.M.*

About a year ago, Hudson-Related took over the retail master and H-R encouraged merchants to be more responsive to community needs, one of those needs was to have later hours. Several merchants have responded.

**McManus:** *I have been in my present position for approximately two months. During that time I have been inundated with noise complaints from residents attributing the noise to the area in front of M&D.*

What Mr. McManus does not reveal is virtually all of the complaints are at times when M&D is already closed. Here are the Noise Complaints from the PSD blotter for over a year, since July 31, 2012:

09/21/13 - 0556 [5:56 a.m.] - F/O 579 Main St - Noise Complaint [NC] - PSD responded [PSDr] - Condition corrected [CC].  
09/17/13 - 0600 - 579 Main St - NC - Condition unfounded.  
9/8/13 - 0522 - 579 Main St - NC - CC.  
9/7/13 - 0454 - 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
9/7/13 - 0625 - F/O 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
9/4/13 - 0600 - F/O 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
9/4/13 - 0615 - F/O 579 Main St - NC - PSD & NYPD responded - CC.  
9/1/13 - 0610 - 579 Main St - NC - CC by PSD.  
8/30/13 - 0210 - 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
8/26/13 - 0426 - 579 Main St - NC - CC  
0250 - 8/23/13 - f/o 579 Main St - NC - CC  
8/22/13 - 0610 - 579 Main St. - NC - PSDr - CC  
8/20/13 - 0545 - 579/580 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
08/13/13 - 0640 - 579 Main St. - NC - PSDr. CC.  
08/06/13 - 0620 - F/O 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
8/3/13 - 0412 - 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
8/2/13 - 0418 - 579 Main St. - NC - CC  
07/31/13 - 0630 - 579 Main St. - NC - PSD on scene. CC.  
07/24/13 - 0635 - 579 Main St. - NC - CC.  
07/19/13 - 0155 - 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
7/12/13 - 0000 - 579 Main St. - NC - Negative findings  
7/6/13 - 0150 - 579 Main St - NC - CC  
06/20/13 - 0405 - f/o 579 Main St - NC - PSDr - CC.  
4/12/13 - 0045 - 579 Main St - NC - CC

Of the 352 Noise Complaints on Roosevelt Island since July 31, 2012, only 24 are associated with 579 Main Street, and of which 22 were founded. These complaints certainly involve noise **outside** of M&D Deli while the store is **closed** (4:30 AM to 6:30 AM).

Also, these complaints all seem to revolve around the past three months, presumably timed in response to M&D’s staffers litigation against RIOC for PSD’s abuse. Really, 23 complaints in the past three months, but only one complaint in the year prior? And with the exception of the April 12 and June 20 complaints, all of the complaints while the store was closed?

Furthermore, there was a hold-up at Gristede’s (with guns), and there is constant noise from 2-4 River Road (across from Gristedes), but RIOC is not pressuring Gristedes to close. In

Deli. There are tens of thousands similar scenarios throughout the five boroughs of New York City. Certainly, M&D is responsible for noises that emanate from their store; however they are in no way responsible for noises which occur on the street.

Second, M&D Deli in no way either causes people to congregate or has any duty (or indeed right to act to alleviate the alleged “noise problem”). A disturbance of the peace in a community is the responsibility of law enforcement. Roosevelt Island has a Public Safety Department, which is presumably capable of keeping the peace. Public Safety may post an officer at the location between the hours of 10pm and 1am. Public Safety has the authority to issue summonses for violations of laws and ordinances which violate the rights of other citizens and/or offend the public peace. Ultimately, unreasonable noise and disorderly behavior, if it exists, is

the responsibility of law enforcement and not private business owners. Furthermore, there is absolutely nothing inherent in the business of M&D Deli, which would cause its customers to be loud and/or disorderly, as was the case with the roof top bar in 61 w. 62 Owners Corp.

Assuming, arguendo, that M&D Deli were to close at 10pm, as you suggest, and the group of pedestrians decides to move to in front of the Chinese Restaurant – would you then demand that the Chinese restaurant cease doing business at 10pm? Then the pedestrians move to in front of [Gristedes]? Would you then require [Gristedes] to shut its doors at 10pm? Who will compensate M&D Deli for lost revenue? Why should the Gourmet Deli and [Gristedes] be allowed to operate past 10pm and restriction be placed upon M&D Deli?

You have the right to bring a private nuisance claim, if you wish.

RIOC’s forcing M&D to close, but not take the same actions against other merchants in response to crime/noise, RIOC is putting M&D at a competitive disadvantage.

**McManus**> *I understand that there is a general belief on the Island that these quality of life issues such as unreasonable noise, and littering in front of M&D, began to really fester after the deli began to remain open until 1:00 A.M. or 2:00 A.M.*

The real problem with the noise and such is PSD’s inability to address it properly: us residents have witnessed many times PSD officers standing on the 575 steps, while doing nothing about a racket 10 feet away outside the M&D Deli – an ongoing complaint that PSD does little to address problems. Ditto for the noise/youth outside of 580 Main or 2-4 River Road.

The July 4 party started at Lighthouse Park (a mile away), PSD handled it poorly. After the break-up, the crowds moved south towards the subway and tram. There was a shooting, which happened to be in front of M&D Deli. There were also other problems elsewhere on the Island that night, such as neighbors reporting large, undispersed crowds on the East Promenade. But the problem was RIOC/PSD’s allowing such a party to happen at Lighthouse Park, and PSD handled it poorly and ineffectively.

The same kind of noisy event happened the evening of August 10 at Al Lewis Park (across from 2-4 River Road), and the same noisy exit happened again, but this time the noise was in front of Trellis (which was closed), and by the 580 Main (Eastwood) Driveway.

These kinds of noise problems happen in regular areas on the Island, but the solution isn’t to close the merchants (Gristede’s, M&D, Trellis) or the residential buildings (2-4 River Road, 510 Main, 580 Main), the solution is for PSD to do a better job patrolling (or get assistance from NYPD). NYPD has had no problem clearing out noise problems. Recently, I’ve seen better work from PSD on clearing out noise, and I’ve complemented their better efforts.

In summary, (1) Mr. McManus’ determination is arbitrary and capricious, (2) Mr. McManus’ complaints are baseless (the M&D Deli was closed at the time of the complaints), (3) the complaints seem to be timed in retaliation to RIOC litigation (because of the lack of history of prior complaints during the past year), (4) the noise problems are caused

by PSD’s poor patrolling efforts.

I request that (1) RIOC withdraw its request for shorter hours for M&D Deli

because it puts the merchant at a competitive disadvantage, (2) with RIOC’s involvement in changing a merchant’s sublease provisions via the master retail lease arrangement, RIOC should equally get involved in making recommendations to H-R when it suits the community’s interest, not just when it suits RIOC’s litigation interests, (3) the RIOC Board reprimand its attorneys for intimidation of witnesses (I will file a separate complaint with the NYS Bar Association), (4) Mr. McManus review the Deli Videos and PSD officers’ fabrication of testimony such that Mr. McManus can get a better understanding of the history and the community’s perspective on PSD (an E-mail I sent him on June 19 at 1:16 PM titled “Cliff Notes on community view, Jones incident facts, PSD fabrication of testimony, RIOC Board inaction”).

RIOC Board Member Mike Shinozaki said that the Deli Videos would not stand in the way of M&D Deli getting a new lease. But even with the lease, RIOC can still intimidate merchants. This practice should stop immediately.

**Frank Farance**

However, I am of the opinion that your claim would not survive a motion for summary judgment, at which time M&D Deli would be entitled to court costs and attorneys fees as the prevailing party in the litigation.

Notwithstanding the above, and notwithstanding the fact that M&D Deli has no duty and undertakes no duty to intervene in this “law enforcement” matter, M&D Deli has spoken to the various youngsters about dispersing from in front of the store in the evening and asked them to be mindful of their neighbors needs. This has seemed to work. Furthermore, M&D Deli suggests tasteful signage posted prominently but discretely in their store window, to the effect that pedestrians should be mindful of their neighbors needs to get their rest in the evenings and try to keep noise to a minimum.

Very truly yours,  
**Philip Groner**

**Editor’s note:** On Wednesday, PSD Chief McManus called *The WIRE* stating that times listed in Farance’s letter are wrong. He was invited to write a countering letter to appear here, but he declined to do so.

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## Seeing the Future

We're in almost-patient waiting mode for final clearances to execute the design that you saw on page 1 of the August 31 issue of *The WIRE*. These things take time, especially when final decisions involve New York State, RIOC, a building owner, and RIOC's master lessor, all of whom have a say before we can move forward. We're on standby at the moment, awaiting a green light. Then – in the future we foresee, you'll have a new Trellis!

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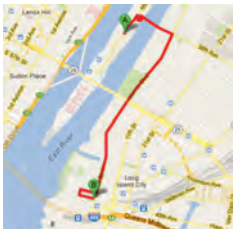
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Letters, from page 3

accident happens. The electric cycles are extremely dangerous since they are quiet, driven fast, driven against traffic, and not lighted at night.

• I believe that Public Safety officers would be more effective if they mingled with residents instead of endlessly driving glass-tinted SUVs or Segways. I also noted that Public Safety has an impressive bike collection, but I have seen only one officer actually using one. Using bicycles would allow them to “see” the Island and be more approachable by residents.

• It is the third year since the MTA started construction work at the ventilation tower across from the subway entrance (and our window), and the work is not finished yet. For three years, we have been looking at the wire fence, metal containers, and debris, and wondering how long it will take to finish that project. Even the renovation of the school took less time to complete, not to mention a 40-story skyscraper across the river, built in half that time.

• The stairs outside 575 Main Street reduce the width of the sidewalk near the deli to less than 4 feet. This is way less than allowed by the building code; it is a bottleneck for pedestrian traffic, and it represents a tripping hazard.

• Lately, boarding a subway during the rush hours has become a challenge. The construction of three new buildings is just about to start. Even without the influx of Cornell students, the subway capacity is already reached. The waiting line at the Tram is getting longer, as well. In my opinion, having pedestrian access to the Queensboro Bridge would significantly relieve the morning pressure. I know personally a number of people willing to walk rather than use public transportation. There is a belief that having access to the bridge is impossible due to its landmark status. Impossible is only something that you did not try. The Landmarks Preservation Commission permits modification of the existing condition based on past history. There were stairs in the past, and there should be no reason not to have them again. However, I agree that climbing up 130 feet is not an easy task. I believe that a well-substantiated traffic study with the inclusion of an elevator should be seriously considered by RIOC. Having pedestrian access to the bridge also provides an

To the Editor:

I read the September 14 issue of *The WIRE* with a heavy heart. So many issues are confronting this community in which I have lived for 33 years. We are in danger of totally losing the vision that made this Island the caring, sharing, compassionate, serving community that I moved into. It is being rapidly transformed into a greedy, *what's in it for me?*, selfish haven for the same narrow one percent of the upper echelon of our City's demographics that have taken over Manhattan.

This was designed as a middle-, high-, and low-income, handicapped, elderly, multi-national, multi-racial, multi-ethnic community. We were shielded from the naked operation of market forces by being administered and managed by the State and not the City. Mitchell-Lama housing initiatives, modest rental fees for Island businesses, and compassionate enforcement of Island-wide regulations kept the vision alive.

Now, primarily caused by the give-away engineered by our “elected” RIOC board to real-estate profiteers like Hudson/Related, Roosevelt Landings, and the firing of a truly dedicated RIOC president, Steve Shane:

- The Boy Scouts are being disbanded
- Eastwood (now Roosevelt Landings) is no longer “affordable,” and vacant apartments are being rented at market rates.
- The building designed to house the Senior Center and as a residence for senior citizens is now administered as part of the “market-rate mix,” with little opportunity for new senior residency.

• Apartments in Island House are being warehoused to facilitate that building's leaving the Mitchell-Lama program. Even the apartment for which the Catholic congregation on the Island has been regularly paying rent is withheld from use by the new priest.

• No provision has been made to make apartments in former Eastwood buildings available for rental by disabled residents of Goldwater and Coler who are ready for more independent living and wish to stay on the Island.

• The ballyhooed “revitalization” of our Main Street stores has resulted only in the eviction of the Boy Scouts, the threatened eviction of our long-term hardware store owners, the threatened escalation of rents to all currently rented spaces, destruction of the innovative architectural design of covered spaces in front of Eastwood, an uncertain future for RIVAA, and some cheesy billboards of food.

Why? Greed, *greed*, **greed**!

Giving Hudson/Related carte-blanche to milk the Island for profit was the worst solution possible to the store-rental challenge. Steve Shane had a solution that would have preserved our community's character. Unfortunately, the RIOC Board was convinced by a member (now living in a new Hudson/Related apartment) to make the Island a profit center for H/R. What good is “self-rule” when it is being used to “self destruct?” I don't have all the answers to all of our current challenges. But that's why I joined the campaign for Island self-rule. I implore RIOC to do a better job protecting the Roosevelt Island vision.

The apartment reviews on this link give you a better idea of what has been happening: [tinyurl.com/Ew-dRlreviews](http://tinyurl.com/Ew-dRlreviews).

Roy Eaton

evacuation route in case of a subway outage, or storm that incapacitates both the Tram and subway.

• The Lighthouse has been closed since Sandy as a result of damaged bridges. I suggest that RIOC fill the area with soil and rocks instead. If necessary, they can a culvert pipe for drainage. That appears to be a less expensive and permanent solution.

• There are running events on the Island on an almost weekly basis. What is lacking is an appropriate toilet facility. On Saturdays, I see Starbucks clogged with runners waiting to use the restroom, and runners also relieve themselves by the MTA vent tower. As much as we all appreciate Starbucks facilities, the sponsors of events should be required to arrange for portable toilets, or a permanent toilet should be provided at the subway station.

• There are periods between 11:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and from midnight to 6:00 a.m. when relatively few people use the subway. However, the escalators (and annoying voice recordings) run continuously. In addition to the cost of wear and tear, the energy to power all eight escalators must be huge. That makes no sense, especially considering MTA's constant bids to raise fares. The installation of simple motion sensors would be amortized in no time, and would save a lot of wasted energy.

• Since Cornell has been chosen to develop the area south of the bridge, news reports label it “Silicon Island.” It would be interesting if we could become the first wi-fi-covered Island. What would be the way to convey that idea to Cornell, work with them, and make that true?

• As a resident for over 16 years, I shopped in Gristedes only when I had no other option. However, I am giving them credit for the latest improvements, and I hope they will maintain the current state. I still see residents returning home after work hauling Trader Joe's or Whole Foods bags. I believe that we should support our community and shop more locally. An improved shopping experience at Gristedes and at the new food market will certainly give new quality to the Island's life.

Goran Jovanovic

To the Editor:

Roosevelt Landings management (in league with the owners) has installed, in many cases under threats of eviction and manifold legal actions, non-working, hopelessly complicated thermostats, and trashed good, efficient, effective heaters that took most of us 35 years to obtain.

Before September 20, I had two perfectly functioning heaters that I could easily control. Now I have modes and menus galore and no heat.

I'm cold at night and angry all the time. I'd move if I could, if I were younger and the times less corporate-driven.

Sharon Stern

To the Editor:

Upon my first read of the 14 September 2013 edition of *The Main Street WIRE*, the phrase “promises made are promises not often kept” came to mind after noting offshoots of the word “promise” five times in the editorial. So, I set the paper aside and read it again seven days later, having the same impression about promises. We sometimes make promises with genuine intentions but, unfortunately, often simply as a transition to another subject or as part of a departing statement to appease the audience.

To cite a few examples of promises, I return to *The WIRE*. The then-upcoming ribbon-cutting for the new tot lot in Blackwell Park was mentioned. The new location was cited subsequently as perfect and the playground as beautiful. I agree that the playground is indeed lovely. The children in attendance at the ribbon-cutting were genuinely enthusiastic and ecstatic as they ran quickly through the gate to explore the yellow and blue of the new play area and equipment.

However, the citing of the location as perfect and the best on the Island causes me concern. As I faced north, I felt a breeze against my back. I turned southeast and felt that breeze and then directly south with the same rush of wind. I stared at the green fence at the site of the upcoming Hudson/Related Building 7. I thought of the pending razing of Goldwater and the future long-term build-out of the new Cornell campus. I thought of the concerns that we pointed out during the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition's campaign to spotlight, among other things, the environmental impacts that are before us given the vast array of construction activity.

Yes, the playground is beautiful and will be great in the long term, but in the interim, I question whether it is the best location for the kids, the babies, during that vast amount of construction and attendant environmental impacts, much of which the wind and rainfall could deliver directly to the innocents.

We will see if promises made during the various reviews of the projects will be kept. While no space remains to elaborate promises made to Geof Kerr and the Boy Scouts, let me not be “Godot” and keep a promise made to David B. by giving him a call.

Dave Evans

To David Kramer, Hudson/Related:

I am in favor of all actions that make our beloved Main Street as attractive as it should be, and applaud many of the improvements that have already been made. There is a beehive of exterior renovations. Removing benches and Plexiglass barriers on the east side, and planter dividers in front of 595 and 625. I always liked those planters. Oh, well, I guess it's someone's idea of improving aesthetics. Exterior painting everywhere. It recalls one of my favorite lines from *My Fair Lady*, which I alter slightly to state “straightening up façades is all they ever do. Why don't they straighten up the mess that's inside?”

The stationery store has Valentine and Christmas decorations in their dusty window displays. Somehow, I don't think they're getting a jump on the season. Whenever you enter the deli, the first thing you see is a filthy floor. The floor needs replacing, but that's no excuse for not sweeping or washing more frequently. Straight ahead is a frozen food case with what I assume is a large vent at the bottom. That vent has been hanging askew for a very long time, and is filthy. Forget the desultory service. Although I never venture deeper into the place, I'm reasonably sure I would see many more offensive conditions if I did. Why would anyone want to shop there? They are no longer the only game in town. Are they in the same situation that Trellis was? No renovations without a new lease? I can think of no other explanation for their wanton disregard for appearances and sanitation.

What are the sought-after visitors to think? That Roosevelt Island merchants have no incentive or desire to make their businesses attractive? Is this the signal we wish to send to the sought-after new vendors? That once they sign the lease, they have no obligation to maintain the cleanliness and appearance of their establishments?

Mary Cavanaugh

David Kramer responds:

All great points, Mary. We've been trying to raise standards one step at a time, and we've been very clear with both the deli and stationery store about our expectations. As leases are renewed, we've been able to have more of an impact.

A reminder –

*The Main Street WIRE* does not publish letters submitted anonymously. While a *Name Withheld* signature is allowable if requested and justified, we must know who the writer is and how to reach him or her. And, as always, we prefer signed letters, which indicate that the writer has convictions worth the time of the reader and the space in the publication.

To the Editor:

Riding a bicycle is the ultimate expression of freedom, it's good for the environment, and it's a great way of getting around. I applaud New York City for embracing the Citi-Bike program.

Roosevelt Island, on the other hand, has a problem with regular bikes. In Manhattan or Brooklyn or just about anywhere else, a person can lock his bike to a pole, but that's not the case on Roosevelt Island. Even though there are no warning signs, you are not allowed to lock your bike to a pole for even five minutes. This, I have learned, is RIOC's policy, which Public Safety will enforce even if the reason is not clear.

I have had my bike chain clipped by Public Safety, doing damage by shortening the chain. I would like to see a change to RIOC's policy so that my bike would be safe from Public Safety.

Neal Weissman

To the Editor:

It seems to be an article of faith on Roosevelt Island that, someday, residents should and could control the Island. This is unrealistic, undesirable, and illegal. No other community in NYC has this power; all community boards are advisory. Power is vested in persons and organizations created by the State, which has authority in our federal system. Cities like New York are creations of the State. RIOC is, as its name indicates, an operating authority created because the State carries out functions directly within NYC. I have seen it stated that RI is “a colony of NYS.” This is ridiculous, and offensive to people who have suffered under foreign rule from Ireland to Zimbabwe.

Name Withheld

**ComingUp**, from page 3  
**Adult Yoga, Tue** 7-8pm, PS/IS 217.  
**114th Precinct Community Meeting, 4th Tue**, 7pm, Riccardo’s By the Bridge, 2101 24th Av., Astoria.  
**Senior Water Aerobics, Wed & Fri** 9-10am.  
**Toddler Story Time** (ages 18-36 months), **Wed** 11am, Library. Registration required.  
**Story Time, Wed** 4pm for ages 2-6, **Wed** 5pm for ages 6-10, Main Street Sweets, 559 Main St.  
**Teen Game Night, Wed** 6pm, Main Street Sweets, 559 Main St.  
**Constituent Service Hours for State Senator Jose Serrano** and/or staff first **Wed** of each month 5-8pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St. Information: **212-828-5829**.  
**Island Kids Baby Group, Thu** 10:00-11:00am, for parents with babies 0-14 months, 536 Main St. Info: IslandKidsRI@gmail.com.  
**Knitting & Crocheting Circle, Thu** 11:30am, Library. Adults.  
**Argentine Tango Class, Thu** 6:30-7:30pm, Sportspark. \$3 per class. Info: **917-767-6714**.  
**Beacon Yoga at PS/IS 217, Thu** 7:30-8:30pm. Free.  
**Zumba, Thu** 8:30-9:30pm, Sportspark.  
**Music with James** (4 months-4 years), **Fri** 10-11am. For information on time changes and location, contact MusicWithJames@aol.com.  
**Read Aloud, Fri** 3:30pm, Library. Ages 3-6. Families.  
**Extended Sportspark hours** for Islanders 16-25, **Fri-Sat** 9pm-midnight.

— **Future Weeks** —  
**Candidate Meet & Greet: Ben Kallos** (City Council), **Tue Oct 15** 7-9pm, Riverwalk Bar and Grill. Donation optional. (See *RIRA Column* continuation, page 14.)  
**Book Discussion: Caleb’s Crossing** by Geraldine Brooks, **Thu Oct 17** 6:30pm, Library.  
**RI Women’s Health Organization** meets, **Wed Oct 23** 6:30pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor. Topic to be announced.  
**Film at the Library: Mama**, **Tue Oct 29** 6pm. Free.  
**Opening Reception for Ten Narratives**, an exhibition exploring the art of visual storytelling, mounted by Azoth Gallery, **Sat Nov 2** 6-9pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St. Through Sun Nov 24 Gallery hours **Tue & Thu** 1-5pm, **Wed & Fri** 6-9pm, **Sat & Sun** 11am-5pm.  
**First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Nov 3** 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 donation; refreshments.  
**General Election, Tue Nov 5**. Info: **212-487-5300**.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Nov 6** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**RIOC Board Meeting, Thu Nov 7** 5:30pm, 8 River Rd., Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Register to comment in public portion at start of meeting by calling **212-832-4540**.  
**Roosevelt Island Committee of Community Board 8** meeting, **Thu Nov 14** 6:30, location to be announced. Presentation of Cornell’s design for its enterprise co-location buildin, plus its open-space plan..  
**RI Women’s Health Organization** meets, **Wed Nov 20** 6:30pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor. Topic to be announced.  
**Book Discussion: Tap Dancing to Work** by Warren Buffet, **Thu Nov 21** 6:30pm, Library.  
**First Sunday Jazz Salon, Sun Dec 1** 5-7pm, Gallery RIVAA. \$5 donation; refreshments.  
**RI Seniors Association trip** to Foxwoods Casino and Newport, RI, **Tue-Thu Dec 3-5**.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Dec 4** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**RIOC Board Meeting, Thu Dec 12** 5:30pm, Manhattan Park Community Center, 8 River Rd. Register to comment in public portion at start of meeting by calling **212-832-4540**.  
**RI Women’s Health Organization** meets, **Wed Dec 18** 6:30pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor. Topic to be announced.  
**Book Discussion: The Language of Flowers** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh, **Thu Dec 19** 6:30pm, Library.

— **2014** —  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Jan 8** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Book Discussion, The Passage of Power** by Robert A. Caro, **Thu Jan 16** 6:30-8pm, Library.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Feb 5** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Book Discussion, The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down** by Anne Fadiman, **Thu Feb 20** 6:30-8pm, Library.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Mar 5** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Book Discussion, And the Mountains Echoed** by Khaled Hosseini, **Thu Mar 20** 6:30-8pm, Library.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Apr 2** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Book Discussion, The Silver Linings Playbook** by Matthew Quick, **Thu Apr 17** 6:30-8pm, Library.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed May 7** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Book Discussion, Proof of Heaven** by Eben Alexander, **Thu May 15** 6:30-8pm, Library.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Jun 4** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Book Discussion, Mom & Me & Mom** by Maya Angelou, **Thu June 19** 6:30-8pm, Library.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Sep 3** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Oct 1** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.  
**Roosevelt Island Residents Association Common Council** meets, **Wed Nov 5** 8pm, Good Shepherd Center. Public session at beginning for brief resident/guest comments/announcements.

Long-term future event listings are intended, in part, to help Island organizations avoid conflicts.  
List your group’s events well in advance by sending information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com.  
**Who has this responsibility in your organization?**



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**Playground**, from page 1  
Clyne.

Annemarie Van Roessel adds, “I am very sorry that there is no longer a real playground for kids under five, who need it far, far more than school-age kids do. I just don’t understand what the designers were thinking, when there is already a playground nearby for older kids. My 15-month-old daughter has almost nothing to play on with this new design, while she loved the tot lot.”

“Weren’t we supposed to get a replacement for the toddler playground?” asks Susy Del Campo Perea. “Why did we get another big-kid playground? We already have five of those on the Island. The tot lot was the only playground with toddler slides and steps. Replace is the most important word. *Replace!* We needed a *replacement*, a substitution of one *toddler* structure for another.”

**Planning**

In fact, that is what Islanders were told to expect.

In a meeting between RIOC and Hudson/Related on March 12 of this year, Hudson/Related’s Sara Willard sought permission from RIOC to move the existing tot lot to the Blackwell lawn. The record shows



that, during the meeting, she consistently referred to the new playground as *the tot lot* and the cohort of kids she intends to serve as *younger kids*, and *the younger crowd*.

But she also mentioned Hudson/Related’s plan to serve multiple ages. The RIOC Board members asked about the efficacy of mixing the ages, and whether it wouldn’t be best to leave well enough alone and simply move the tot lot and leave the age cohort as 0-5. In the end, they decided to proceed.

In a recent email, Willard clarified, “Our goal all along was to allow a full arc of ages, six months to 8-9 years, to play in the same playground.” [*The WIRE* was scheduled to speak further with Willard on Tuesday, but she bowed



out, saying that RIOC had told her not to speak with *The WIRE*, and that a joint statement would be prepared. RIOC President Charlene Indelicato later said that RIOC had not discussed the matter with Willard.]

In the new play area, there is now only one baby swing. A recent *WIRE* survey article on playgrounds (*Mixed Reviews for Island Playgrounds*, April 20, available online at [tinyurl.com/3315WIRE](http://tinyurl.com/3315WIRE)) quoted several mothers asking for more swings, and discussed the need for more play space for the Island’s youngest children.

Beverly, the mother of nine-month-old Zachary, voiced her wishes in a chat with *The WIRE*. “I’m hoping the powers that be will consider adding one or two more toddler swings,” she said. “There are many babies here, and the new playground has actually reduced the number of swings available to them.” Agreeing, Manhattan Park mother Jax Schott asks, “Why not more swings? It was one of the biggest complaints from the old tot lot.”

In confirmation, Eva Bosbach said, “The concerns about the age group and the number of baby swings are not new, and we were in touch with Hudson/Related about this. Unfortunately, at the beginning of the project, one of the RIOC directors advised Hudson/Related against talking to the parents, because it ‘will drag the process.’ Well, it might have, but it might also have led to a solution that would have served the actual users of the playground – families, many of which are Hudson/Related tenants – much better.”

Bosbach continued, “The members of the Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network (currently 250 families; email [eva.bosbach@amu.cz](mailto:eva.bosbach@amu.cz) to join) ultimately did get involved, and we forwarded our suggestions to Hudson/Related’s Sara Willard, who was very responsive to our wishes to the extent that she could be, that far along in the process. All of the major planning [on] programming and age group was already complete.”

Some parents are now raising the question of whether there is no longer a safe place for their children to play. “The only safe place for young toddlers to play has been demolished,” one complained, describing her two-year-old as “active and sturdy,” but adding, “In the first couple of days at the new playground, he has been kicked, pushed, and scratched by the older kids more times than I can count.”

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recognizes this problem. Its guidelines say that, for playgrounds to safely serve multiple ages, the layout and landscape should show the distinct areas, separated by a buffer zone like an area with shrubs, benches, or even a fence, to reduce injury from older children running through areas among younger children, who are slower and have slower reaction times.

Jax Schott agrees. “The problem is the age range. My four-and-a-half-year-old was pushed and pressured by older kids and was really upset. There are enough playgrounds for older kids. They shouldn’t take away the only one for toddlers and preschoolers.”

“Even the dog run has completely separate areas for little dogs and big dogs,” says Beverly.

Fiorella Polo chimes in, “This multi-age playground simply does not work for toddlers. Parents whose kids used the old tot lot know what happened each time two unsupervised older children entered the structure. They prevented the younger kids from playing.”

The CPSC handbook on public playground safety divides children into three age groups – 6-23 months, 2-5 years, and 5-12 years – and advises that their activities be kept separate. In the case of the new playground, the only large apparatus offers activities for multiple ages, so it is difficult to ensure that children stay with their age-appropriate activities. Meanwhile, every other Island playground is designated for one specific age range, as was the tot lot.

“Roosevelt Island no longer has a tot lot,” sums up Angel Phillip, nanny to two-year-old Nicolas Richards.

**Construction Quality**

There’s also a quality issue. By 6:00 p.m. on opening day, there were reports that the door



**Photo group next page:**  
Falling apart or being disassembled? Either way, it didn’t take long for the new equipment to start along a failure path.



separating the swings from the rest of the playground had broken. “Not even 24 hours open to the public, and the playground is falling down to pieces,” said Del Campo Perea.

Jason Babinsky, who works in construction and is the father of three-year old Benicio, commented, “They should have used a cement polymer for the setting systems. The gates are falling apart, and all of the posts and gates move. The fastening systems weren’t done right. This is what I do. I’m horrified. This is what you get when you have unskilled labor. Certain things

weren’t done right. They should not demolish the tot lot until they do the right thing here,” he said, also noting that threaded rods, part of a support system in the older-ages part of the playground, are falling out.

Fiorella Polo explained the efforts made to prevent this outcome. “Some of us tried to flag these issues with Hudson/Related before construction was finalized. In response, we received an explanation of the benefits of integration, and the technical specs of ‘fit all ages’ equipment. Since I am not a playground designer, I was hoping I’d be proven wrong. After all, many of us are Related customers who moved to this Island in the hope of a child-friendly environment. It makes sense for Related to worry about the real needs of its customers.”

“I guess the real point is, what can we do now?” wonders Polo. Her suggestions are ask RIOC to limit access of the playground to children five and under, to ask Hudson/Related to make modifications to the playground, or to peacefully occupy the old tot lot and ask Hudson/Related to reuse the old infrastructure by moving it to another space that they control.

“I think it would actually serve both Related and Roosevelt Island parents to find a solution that makes toddlers and their parents happy.

“So, I am hopeful,” Polo concludes.



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# CHRISTMAS in OCTOBER ?

**The Choir of the  
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is looking for volunteers  
(all voices) for its  
37th Annual  
Christmas Candlelight Song Service  
to be held this year on  
Sunday, December 15.**

**Rehearsals start Sunday, October 13 at 11:30 am  
Lower auditorium of the Good Shepherd Center**

**Martin Garratt  
Music Director  
Church of the Good Shepherd**

**Contact: [gwynnef@aol.com](mailto:gwynnef@aol.com) or [tirman52@gmail.com](mailto:tirman52@gmail.com)**

# SPORTSWIRE

## SOCCER

Registration exceeded our expectations this fall. We have over 300 players placed, up to 18 per team, in the following categories:

- 4 teams in the Kinder Kickers, ages 5 and 6
- 6 teams in the Minors, ages 7 and 8
- 4 teams in the Juniors, ages 9 and 10
- 4 teams in the Seniors, ages 11-13

This year, we’ve taken extra time to make sure that the teams are equal in strength, both by numbers and on the field. To achieve this, we conducted a series of evaluations for over 250 children between the ages 7 and 13. These drills were similar to the ones done in the

Olympics, where participants are graded for specific things that they have to do (such as kicking on the goal’s lower-left or upper-right corners, dribbling using both feet, accurate passing, etc.). The numbers were tallied, and an average was achieved from 1 to 4. Then players were placed in groups according to their skill levels, and the coaches blindly chose within each of the groups. Once the coaches finished their blind picks, all teams were equal – at least by numbers.

This was followed by two scrimmage games for all teams and their divisions. Players were added to teams that were not as strong in field experience. After all this work, I believe that we have equal teams in all divisions. This was evident in the first two games on the past two Saturdays. Most of the scores were equal. The only time that they were off was when players were missing from games.

Games are scheduled on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

We’ve hired professionally trained referees for the Juniors and Seniors levels, and I’m happy to announce that they are all Island residents in their early twenties and have done a tremendous job. They enjoy teaching the kids as they referee the games.

The coaches are all volunteers and have been fantastic with the kids. We will periodically send them and the parents training videos and material to help them train the players. Parents are encouraged to train with their children and to watch national and international games with them, as well as to attend the games on Saturdays.

We will post the standings as the games progress. Here’s how it works, following international soccer standards, with point accumulations based on the following: Winning a game gives a team three points. A tied game gives each team one point. Losing a game – no points. At the end of the season (after game day 9 on November 9), we will tally up the points. If two or more teams are equal in points, we will add goals scored throughout the season (up to five per game) to differentiate. The semi-finals will determine who goes into the finals, where the top team will play against the second, and the third against the fourth.

–Adib Mansour



## RIRA Column, from page 2

### Questions to candidates

*Questions on Affordable Housing* – The new Roosevelt Island residential developments are all luxury rentals or condos. Even the “affordable housing” components of these buildings are made up of apartments only for hospital personnel at Weill Cornell and Memorial Sloan Kettering, and not available to the general public. Within a few years, Roosevelt Island’s earliest buildings will all have left the Mitchell-Lama program. What will the candidates do to preserve affordable housing on Roosevelt Island?

Roosevelt Island was designed to be wheelchair-accessible. One former Mitchell-Lama building, Roosevelt Landings, has a floor of accessible apartments enabling quadriplegic residents to live in the community. Former Goldwater patients have lived in these apartments for years on portable respirators, hospital gurneys, and electric wheelchairs. A community doctor and nurse visit them as needed. This concept became a national model for mainstreaming handicapped people back into the community. In this now privatized building, rents are in the process of increasing to market level when existing tenants leave. The result is that new disabled tenants will no longer be able to afford to live in that building, and will have fewer options for living on Roosevelt Island. What can we do to bring in subsidies so that disabled people can continue to live in our community? Today, when the national

focus is on community treatment of disabled people, it would be an embarrassment for Roosevelt Island, once a model for mainstreaming, to regress.

*Questions on Cornell* – The Cornell campus is going to have a significant impact on the Island, both during construction and once classes begin. Here are some questions that we need answered:

How will you make sure that Cornell will act as a good neighbor, protecting the needs of existing Island residents and giving back to the local community? One of the hot-button issues for the community is barging construction materials. Will you make sure that your staff is aware of this issue so that you can work with our community?

How will you help enforce the agreements that are in the lease that Cornell NYC Tech has negotiated with New York City?

Cornell will be using Roosevelt Island resources but has yet to agree to pay any money to help with their share of the costs of running the Island. What ideas do you have for ensuring that either Cornell pays or New York City returns to the Island enough resources from the PILOTs of the co-located businesses to pay for their share of the maintenance?

*Questions on Transportation* – Roosevelt Islanders want ferry service. We feel strongly that a stop on the East River Ferry will be good for our community, and tourists – who are increasingly discovering the Tram – will love it. Will you support this needed service?

# unClassifieds

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unClassified deadline for October 12 issue: Tuesday, October 8  
unClassified deadline for October 26 issue: Tuesday, October 22

Please see *ComingUp*, page 3, for other advertising deadlines

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**AGI’S DOGS** – Dog walking, play groups, solo walks. Mon-Fri 11am-4pm. Established 2010 on Roosevelt Island. References available. **212-866-0532**. AgisDogs@yahoo.com. thru 1/27/14

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### Ben Kallos Meet & Greet

Ben Kallos, candidate for City Council for Jessica Lappin’s seat, will be doing a Meet & Greet (donation optional) on Tuesday, October 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Riverwalk Bar and Grill. Come meet him and tell him what is important to you. I am sending him the same set of questions. No doubt he will answer them in writing or in person as he did during our Candidates Night. If you missed Ben then, now is your chance to hear his ideas.

### Next RIRA Meeting

At our September Common Council meeting we heard three presentations about use of land in the City and on the Island.

Island Shakespeare would like to renovate a pier to bring their creative theater productions to Roosevelt Island.

The Korean Association presented a very compelling gazebo design for Southpoint Park with a view of the United Nations.

The United Nations Development Corporation made a presentation on an office building that they would like to build next to the United Nations Secretariat building. It requires purchase of a section of a City park but, if the deal is approved, it will result in, among other things, completion of a section of the greenway along the East River.

To achieve major change in the City takes deals, major cooperation of lots of groups, and the inconvenience of many individuals. Sometime in the near or distant future, we will have a Second Avenue Subway, a beautiful greenway along the river, and a ferry stop on Roosevelt Island – all good things to look forward to!

Please join us on October 2.

**COLLEGE STUDENT** computer savvy, for Personal Assistant work for busy professional woman. Part-time, flexible hours Friday-Sunday. Must be RI resident. Contact Health\_fitness@outlook.com.

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5:00 **Yoga**  
*Tuesday*  
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**  
10:30 **Building Strength**  
11:00 **Blood Pressure**  
1:00 **Paint & Sculpt**  
*Wednesday*  
9:30 **Yoga Stretch**  
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**  
10:30 **Salsa**  
10:45 **Spanish**  
12:00 **Bridge**  
1:30 **Scrabble**  
*Thursday*  
10:30 **Zumba**  
10:45 **Ping Pong**  
12:30 **Movie**  
1:00-2:30 **Theatre tickets** at discount prices; see Rema or Annie  
*Friday*  
9:00 **Building Strength**  
10:30 **Computers**  
10:30 **ESL**  
10:30 **Tai Chi**  
1:00 **Korean Games**  
2:00 **Art with John**  
2:00 **Pokeno with Dolores**  
7:00 **Games (RISA)**

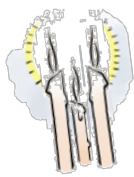
### Special Events

**Atlantic City** Taj Mahal Casino, Sat Oct 5; see Pilar or Bubú.  
**Senior Day**, Sun Oct 13; 2-5pm, free.  
**Holiday Special**: Foxwoods Casino & Newport, Rhode Island; see Dolores.

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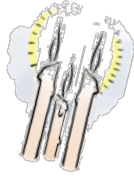
B"H



Friday, September 27 at 6:28 pm

Friday, October 4 at 6:16 pm

Friday, October 11 at 6:05 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 uni-  
verse, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and  
commanded us to kindle the light of the holy Shabbat.

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