

Art and perfect weather were irresistible lures to Southpoint Park for last weekend's Fall for Arts Festival.

Saturday,
October 12, 2013
34:03

Photo: Maria Casotti

The Main Street **WIRE**

Barbara Clark, in Her “Cruise Director” Role at Octagon, Creates Community While Steering Through Hurricanes

by Briana Warsing

During one of the biweekly happy hours that Octagon General Manager Barbara Clark organizes for the building, a resident remarked to her, “Living at The Octagon is like living on a cruise ship.”

But what happens when a cruise ship sails into the storm of the century? Ms. Clark and The Octagon’s residents found out on October 29, 2012, when Superstorm Sandy overwhelmed New York and brought devastation.

At 10:00 p.m., Clark looked out her office window and watched Coler Hospital go dark. “I heard a pop, and two seconds later, the hospital’s generator kicked on,” she reminisces, sitting behind her gleaming mahogany office desk, overlooking the East River and Coler.

Five minutes later, Coler went dark again, this time taking The Octagon with it. Clark explains, “Unbeknownst to us, our power supply was connected to the hospital. We never knew.”

She hadn’t expected much of a storm, yet she was still at work, hours past the office’s 5:00 p.m. closing time, with her bags packed – just in case. “I stayed overnight for [Hurricane] Irene because it was the first event like that, and I was ready to hunker down and stay for the duration.”

Luckily, Irene didn’t cause much damage.

Sandy was a different story.

Six Days

Clark remembers explaining to Con Ed that, despite what their list said, her building was dark. To get the power back on, she contacted Assemblymember Micah Kellner’s office to “push” Con Ed. “Con Ed was showing that we were live, but we weren’t. They didn’t have us on their list.” Of the confusion, Clark says, “There were a lot of people in more dire straits than we were.”

Part of the reason that Octagon

residents were not in dire straits was because of Clark herself. All 16 Octagon staff members remained on duty for the following six days, and, “We bought hundreds of bags of ice a day from Trade Fair, Gristedes, wherever we could get it.”

During those six days, “We bought bagels, donuts, and coffee every day. We went to Best Buy and purchased a bunch of charging stations, and had ironing boards and irons set up in the basement where there was power,” Clark explains of the building’s efforts to maintain a sense of normalcy in what turned out to be the largest Atlantic hurricane on record, as well as the deadliest and most destructive of 2012.

Clark says, “We prepared for the worst, and experienced the worst. But we survived because everyone worked together. Without the support of the residents, maintenance, and staff, we would not have done as well as we did. Residents

brought food to staff. They even brought me tea because I had the flu.” She said, “No one was coming here – no taxis or buses – but I had my car [she drives to work], so I drove people to the subway or to Long Island City. The residents were so appreciative.”

“We even had our Halloween Party. We just changed the hours. It’s normally from 6-8 p.m., but we did it from 3-5 because of the light. It was good for the kids because they were out of school.”

“Finally, Con Ed came, and it took them an hour and a half and we were back up. We couldn’t come up until we were disconnected from Coler.”

The Job

To extend that resident’s metaphor, Clark’s job as general manager is like that of both the captain and the social director of a cruise ship. She is directly responsible for ensuring that the building’s staff successfully and safely carries out

its functions. She is also in charge of hospitality for residents, and at that she is no slouch.

“I want to pamper the residents,” she says, and, to that end, during their happy hours, free manicures and massages are offered. These happy hours also give Clark the opportunity to get to know the residents and to mingle with them in a social setting. She knows that many residents are vegetarians, so she makes sure there are always vegetarian offerings.

“There are over 1,000 people in this building, and we’re a community here. Our residents are the meat and guts of this building,” she says. As she walks around, she greets everyone, residents and staff, and remarks to a resident entering the building with a shopping bag. See **Clark**, page 6

Survey

What’s Available Here in Child Care?

by Briana Warsing

Roosevelt Island parents have many choices when it comes to child care.

The **Roosevelt Island Day Nursery** (RIDN), has been around the longest. It provides services for infants up through five years, including a Universal Pre-K program.

RIDN has a location in Southtown and one in Manhattan Park. The site that you get depends on your child’s age.

Southtown resident and parent Mara Sfiligoy has her younger son, Andres, enrolled there. She has also used Bright Horizons at The Octagon. She likes that RIDN has a school schedule, meaning that all children arrive at the same time, 8:00 a.m. This also means that RIDN is closed for holidays and two weeks in the summer. She acknowledges that parents who work full time or have unorthodox work schedules might have to find back-up childcare on workdays when school is not in session.

Sfiligoy appreciates the history of the school, and says “one of Andres’ teachers has been there for 17 years and another for eight years. Instead of trying to talk louder than the kids, the teachers know how to control them.”

Island House Privatization Vote Is Likely Late in 2014

Island House is at least a year away from completion of privatization, says the attorney for the tenants association, Stuart Saft of Holland & Knight.

In a letter dated this week, Saft relayed the information that, as a result of a small flood of mail from tenants, the State Attorney General’s office expects to take a full six months to review the proposed plan. That will result in a “deficiency letter” requiring revisions and additional information. There will follow exchanges ultimately leading to the formal “black book” proposal no earlier than spring 2014, meaning that the “earliest possible date a closing could occur is probably the last quarter of 2014,” as Saft calculates the time periods required.

In his letter, Saft informed tenants that:

- Apartment swapping will be allowed under a lottery system, but not until after the proposed plan becomes the formal “black book” final plan.

- The existing waiting list is null, as the building is no longer under the State’s Mitchell-Lama affordable-housing program.

Saft reminds tenants to continue raising questions, by mail and email, with Erica Buckley, who is the Assistant Attorney General assigned to review the proposed offering plan, but also reminds them that “New York law does not require that an Offering Plan be fair or reasonable,” meaning that the Attorney General’s office will not deal with questions of fairness or reasonableness – only questions concerning “a full disclosure of all material facts.”

Saft recounts an incident by way of warning the residents that he is unable to respond to individual comments or special requests: “In fact,” he writes in his October 8 letter, “one resident mailed and emailed several copies of a letter, and then showed up in my office with another copy of the same letter, expecting that she would be able to get past reception, no doubt, in an attempt to obtain a ‘better’

deal than other tenants. However, notwithstanding anything you might hear to the contrary, there are no better deals; by law, every tenant must be offered the same deal... The AG has very specific rules against special deals, which are called ‘discriminatory inducements.’”

The Island House plan provides for tenants to buy their apartments at \$198 per square foot, but then to “flip” (sell) them immediately for as much as double, giving up half their profit. That “flip tax” percentage declines over time. The plan also allows selling prices to increase over time.

Rivercross

Privatization plans at both Island House and Rivercross have provisions for tenants to stay on as renters.

Rivercross has received Attorney General approval, and will have a residents’ meeting on October 23 as a required formal step leading up to a vote early in December.

That building’s board of directors has informed residents in a building-wide memo that it anticipates withdrawal from Mitchell-Lama on April 1, 2014 – assuming that two-thirds of the apartments accept the plan in the December voting.

Rivercross shareholders already own their apartments (the building is a cooperative), and they will be allowed to sell at market prices, giving up (to the cooperative corporation) 45% of their profit over original Mitchell-Lama prices.

Briefly...

- Concerns over loss of a **toddler-exclusive playground** reported in the September 28 *WIRE* have resulted in an exchange of letters. See page 6.

- And the controversy over **M&D Deli hours**, also reported last issue, is not settled. There are communications on that, as well, on page 4.

- A new **music series** starts next weekend at Gallery RIVAA. There’s a story on page 4.

Cornell Adds a Degree Program



Flanked by City officials, Dean Dan Huttenlocher of Cornell Tech announced a new degree program last week. It’s described in Cathy Dove’s *Cornell Column*, page 2.

The Editorial Page

Halloween Isn’t the Only Thing That’s Scary

The last Saturday in October is now just two weeks away. If you’re new on Roosevelt Island and have a child in the family, we have to hope that someone has told you about this community’s great Halloween Parade tradition. (There are ads on page 9 to prompt your participation – and in the day-before warm-up at PS/IS 217.) It’s an absolute kick for a child of any age – that rare chance to get outside your dress-for-success boundaries and say “Boo!” and really mean it.

And, although the words in these editorials have often encouraged Islanders to *Embrace Change* because we hardly have a choice, there are things out there that can be scary. When it comes to food, clothing, and – what was the other thing? – oh, yes, **shelter**, anything that gnaws at your feeling of security can be, well, *scary*.

Shareholders in Rivercross and tenants in Island House face that prospect now – change that could be for the better, but change that carries threats, as well. It’s no help that red herrings and black books that approach two inches and four pounds of legal mumbo-jumbo begin with a section called *Special Risks*, and caution their readers (and even those who can’t bear to go beyond riffling through the pages) to consult competent legal advisors. And when you do, you get words of the kind that Stuart Saft issued to his Island House clients this week: *New York law requires that a[n] Offering Plan must contain a full disclosure of all material facts; New York law does not require that an Offering Plan be fair or reasonable.*

Uh-oh. So, Island House and Rivercross residents face a change that involves a basic human need – *shelter* – and that comes with consequences good for some and hard for others to accept, plus a significant number of uncertainties.

But there’s something even more scary: Westview will inevitably follow Eastwood, Rivercross, and Island House out of the affordable-housing category, and then the great Mitchell-Lama experiment in reasonably-priced shelter will be over here. That’s scary enough, but you can add to that the fact that the New York State Legislature and State administration seem to be doing little, if anything, to replace the affordable-housing stock that’s disappearing a few hundred apartments at a time.

Now, *that* is scary. But there’s no way that you can dress up for Halloween as a scary change in housing, so you’ll just have to watch it as it unfolds here, and maybe do your best to hope that it as, at worst, a *temporarily* scary movie.

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

In this column, I am focusing on the theme of building our community. I focus on two people, recently departed, who made a difference here, and on the wonderful fairs and performances and celebrations that bring our neighbors together. All these gatherings create an active, engaged community.

In last month’s column, I wrote that Roosevelt Islanders started hugging to celebrate the memory of a young Island resident, Ben Imbrogno, who died at the way-too-young age of 21. At his memorial this past Saturday, strikingly similar speeches were given by each person who remembered Ben. Each gave their version of how it felt to get a hug from him and to feel truly accepted for themselves. Ben gave love and elicited love from everyone he knew.

The apt quote on his memorial program was from Henry David Thoreau. “The greatest compliment that was ever paid me was when someone asked me what I thought and attended to my answer.”

The mother of one of Ben’s friends remembered when her son met Ben. He was the new kid in school. Ben immediately embraced him in a big hug, a greeting and friendship. He knew every day would start with one of Ben’s hugs.

What stood out for me was that, despite his struggles with learning difficulties in an achievement-oriented world, Ben was able to focus on the gift that he did have, which was his ability to be really present, to listen and to respond as a warm human being.

That gift came from a young man who was unable to achieve what most young people feel is an important thing in life: success in school. His lasting gift to all who knew him is that he changed the way they view what is important. Perhaps it was his struggles that gave him the precocious insight that school or

The RIRA Column

financial success is not what matters. Perhaps it was the unconditional love of his parents that gave him the self-esteem to keep putting himself out for people. Regardless of the reasons, the lesson he taught us is that how we treat each other is the key to success.

The number of hugs given in honor of Ben Imbrogno were 1,546. Keep it up! I would like to see the Ben hugs become the traditional count at each RIRA event. If you are willing to play along, I will be happy to report on the number of hugs that were given in the next two weeks, and in any column thereafter where I get a cumulative count. We need to make our world a kinder and gentler place.

In Memoriam

The Roosevelt Island Community Coalition is saddened by the passing of Adek Apfelbaum, our construction advisor. He was a powerful help in dealing with Cornell and advising us on what we should be asking for. We will miss his kind and gentle manner, and his steely will in fighting for the protection of his community. His son Randy, also a construction-cost engineer, has generously offered to continue his father’s legacy of advice to the community.

We already miss Adek. We are deeply grateful to his son for continuing his work.

How wonderful it is to be on Roosevelt Island, where people see the need, have the expertise, and step up.
See **RIRA Column**, page 12



Ellen Polivy, President
Roosevelt Island Residents Association
RIRApresident@gmail.com

Last week, Cornell Tech made a big announcement that I want to share with all of you, because it sheds more light on how we’re approaching several of the most exciting aspects of our academic program: the partnership between Cornell and Technion, our focus on the industries that make New York tick, and the campus’ intensive collaboration with companies large and small.

The announcement was the launch of the first degree program to be offered by the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Technion-Cornell Innovation Institute (JTCII) at Cornell Tech. This degree program will join the master of engineering in computer science that began in January 2013, and the MBA that was announced earlier this year and that will launch in fall 2014.

Beginning in fall 2014, the JTCII – a key component of Cornell Tech – will offer a master of science degree in Information Systems, with a specialization in Connective Media. Graduates of this dual degree program will receive a degree from Cornell University and from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. We are now accepting applications for a first class of students. There are a lot of exciting aspects of this program,

The Cornell Column

starting with the collaboration between Cornell and Technion.

The JTCII brings the best of Cornell and Technion, offering the unique opportunity to earn degrees from two world-class research universities. The JTCII is organized around hubs focused on New York City’s leading industries, starting with Connective Media, Healthier Life, and the Built Environment. JTCII students enroll in a two-year program that allows for not only top technical education, but also for full immersion in real-world projects in collaboration with industry. By focusing in one topic area, students benefit from in-depth exposure to leading subject-matter experts, in addition to top technical faculty.

It was only natural that the first hub program to launch



Cathy Dove, Vice President
Cornell NYC Tech
cathy.dove@cornell.edu

With the huge success of the Fall for Arts Festival last weekend, Roosevelt Island is looking forward to its next big event – the annual Halloween Parade on Main Street. As the community and its activities adjust to the changing weather, RIOC is continuing to make improvements to the streets, Motorgate Garage, and other parts of the Island in preparation for the upcoming year.

Halloween Parade
Halloween is coming up, and the 2013 Roosevelt Island Halloween Parade is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. Sponsored by Urban American with support from RIOC, the annual parade begins at Blackwell Park and travels down Main Street, culminating in a community celebration at Capobianco Field. In the event of inclement weather, the festivities will be moved to PS/IS 217. Every year, hundreds of Roosevelt Island families come out to watch and take part in this Island tradition, showcasing their ghoulish and creative costumes, playing games, and enjoying the holiday in a safe and fun way. We hope that you come join in the festivities.

Construction Updates
Commuters should note that the RIOC Red Bus and

The RIOC Column

the Q102 bus stops at 40 River Road have been moved back to their original location due to completion of construction in the area.

Updates to the Motorgate Garage are proceeding according to schedule. The installation of new lighting fixtures and parking surface upgrades in Section 5B has been completed, and work has begun on section 5D. We would like to extend our thanks for your patience and cooperation during this necessary construction. RIOC and Central Parking are also looking into a combination of solutions to address the issue of pigeons nesting inside the garage.

The helix ramp was inspected between Wednesday, October 2, and Thursday, October 10. The structure was examined, core samples were taken, and the



Charlene Indelicato, President
Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
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See **RIOC Column**, page 12

COMING UP

regular updates at nyc10044.com
submit events to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com

— This Weekend —

No Direct Subway Service from Manhattan to Roosevelt Island, **Fri Oct 11** 9:45pm to **Mon Oct 14** 5am. Tram service will be more frequent than normal.

Six RIVAA Artists show, Octagon Gallery, 888 Main St. Works of Valeriu Boborelu, Rachel Garrick, Toshiko Kitano Groner, Mircea Nicolescu, Dan Nistor, Georgette Sinclair. Daily 10am-8pm. Closes **Wed Oct 16**.

Open House New York, Sat-Sun Oct 12-13, FDR Four Freedoms Park (tour, **Sat** 11am) and the kiosk in Tram Plaza on the Island (**Sat-Sun** 11am-5pm).

Bike New York Learn to Ride for Kids, Sun Oct 13 10am-12noon, basketball court east of Sportspark. Info at tinyurl.com/bikeNY.

Islander Gerald Starlight's Music Under the Sky, Sun Oct 13 7pm, online at WJFFradio.org *Gift of Peace*. Info: amc.net/geraldstarlight.



— The Next Two Weeks —

Candidate Meet & Greet: Ben Kallos (City Council), **Tue Oct 15** 7-9pm, Riverwalk Bar and Grill. Donation optional.

Book Discussion: Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks, **Thu Oct 17** 6:30pm, Library.

New Voices / New Sounds series starts, **Fri Oct 18** 7pm, Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main St., featuring Katie Seiler with Evan Allen piano and Michael Sachs guitar, and Allegra Levy with Andrew Baird guitar and Frank Ojeda bass. \$5 donation at the door. (Ad, page 11.)

Opening Reception for Tune-Tone Art featuring **Islander Bonnie Goodman**, **Sat Oct 19** 3-6pm, New Century Artists Gallery, 530 W 25th St #406, Chelsea, NYC 10010. Exhibition runs to **Sun Oct 27**. Info: **212-367-7072**.

RI Women's Health Organization meets, **Wed Oct 23** 6:30pm, 546 Main St., 12th floor. Topic to be announced.

Free Flu Shots, Thu Oct 24 10am-1pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St., by appointment only. Call Assemblymember Micah Kellner's office at **212-860-4906**.

PS/IS 217 PTA Halloween Fundraiser, Fri Oct 25 3-5:30pm, schoolyard. \$12/child in advance at pta217.com; \$15 at the door. (Ad, page 9.)

The Main Street WIRE— next issue **Sat Oct 26**. **Advertising deadlines:** Display ads, **Wed Oct 16**; decision date for circulars/inserts, **Tue Oct 22**; 5,500 copies due **Thu Oct 24**. **Future issues:** Nov 9, 23; Dec 14. **2014:** Jan 11, 25; Feb 8, 22; Mar 8, 22; Apr 5, 26; May 10, 24; Jun 7, 21; Jul date to be determined; Aug 30; Sep 13, 27; Oct 11, 25; Nov 8, 22; Dec 13. **News phone, 212-826-9056**; *urgent* matters, **917-617-0449**. Email press releases or feature-story suggestions to Main-

StreetWIRE@usa.net. **Advertising** (display & classified): **917-587-3278**. **Halloween Parade, Sat Oct 26**, 12noon, Blackwell House, sponsored by RIOC, the Roosevelt Island Youth Program, and UrbanAmerican. Rain location: PS/IS 217. (Ad, page 9.)

— Continuing —

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

Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Park open **Wed-Mon** 9am-5pm (closed **Tue**).

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.

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 Sun** **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.

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 5.)

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

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

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. Free.

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

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

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.

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 See **ComingUp**, page 10

To the Editor:

In answer to "Name Withheld" (*The WIRE*, *Letters*, September 28), in which the writer stated that resident control of the Island would be "unrealistic, undesirable, and illegal," we differ in that we have every right to exercise what citizens in every other U.S. town enjoy: To be heard and to have a say in what befalls us. And that is exactly what, early on, we were promised! Way back in '76, the spirit of freedom was very much alive here; we were treated with friendly respect, our voices heard by the only entity then and now in complete control of Roosevelt Island: the then Urban Development Corporation (UDC), now grandiosely titled the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC). The ardor of that outfit's members cooled considerably when RIRA, with the City's sanction, quelled their early scheme of building a hotel and conference center (or the like) on Goldwater land. We had literally saved that hospital. From then on, we were treated like spoiled-brat stepchildren, not knowing what was best for us. And then, much later, the climate between us really hit the freezing mark with The Great Shane Shemozzle!

We on the 1976-78 Common Council were told many times by UDC that when (1) Starrett had built his three buildings (there turned out to be five), (2) Southtown had built its three Manhattan Park buildings (that number has been far exceeded and is still growing); and (3) when the recommended optimum population cap of 16,000 had been reached (exceeded by how many thousands?), Roosevelt Island residents would be given home rule! — UDC's exact words oft repeated to our upturned, rapturously happy, anticipatory faces. We lived on that promise. And here we are: Fading hopefuls, repeatedly rebuffed, still State stepchildren. Think it's time to recognize ESDC's sovereignty? But instead of bearding our lion in his downtown Manhattan den, we seem to prefer the relatively rarefied atmosphere of Albany, destined always to deal ineffectively with lackeys of the Governor. On advice of the ESDC, the Governor has quite obviously iced us, and for sure will not go against what is one of the State's most powerful authorities. So why not send a delegation of diplomatically savvy residents downtown to make friends with, or at least start a dialog with, the one exclusive entity that will rule us until handover day in 2068? The one that might miraculously bend to some of our desires? Or are we too terrified to do so?

Getting back to "Name Withheld" (and we can certainly understand that request), RIOC is assuredly not, as that writer wrote, "an authority," but merely concerned with day-to-day Island operations, answering to its boss, Housing Development and Community Renewal, in turn controlled by that big muckety-muck State Authority — our old friend ESDC. And the writer's flat statement that, "Cities like New York are creations of the State" would have been met with much surprise by my direct ancestors, the Brevoort bunch, who around 1640 helped colonize a well-harbored but wild island they named New Amsterdam!

So, "Name Withheld," before writing words empty and most assuredly not etched in granite, check your facts, and check again!

Barbara Potts

Letters

To the Editor:

It has become more and more apparent that *Fall for Arts* is less and less a reflection of Island artists, performers, and merchants. This is just the latest insult in an Island institution that no longer celebrates us.

Matthew Katz

The writer is a former president of RIRA.

To the Editor:

Residents of Roosevelt Island know that Hurricane Sandy dealt a devastating blow to the northern end of the Island. Among other damage, it severely undermined the landfill that connects the tip of the Island to what used to be a separate lighthouse island, collapsing the "seam" and leaving a watery depression. I assume that the area is dangerous, since a fence was erected to keep people out.

Safety alert! That fence is a joke. I am well up in years, and even I could climb over to the other side — three different ways, in fact: by scaling the main cyclone fence; by climbing the fence's wing, conveniently shaped like a ladder, that protrudes over the western sea wall; or by simply standing on the sea wall, leaning out while holding on to the fence, and swinging one leg over to the other side. If I can do it, every kid on the Island can do it, and to some kids it's undoubtedly an irresistible invitation.

Surely Island management can arrange for a more effective barrier, or — novel concept — it can arrange for the damage to be repaired.

Bobbie Slonevsky

To the Editor:

After I saw the blurb in the August 31 *WIRE* about the possible closing of Sportspark, I became concerned. I swim there every day, and I know a lot of people who would be affected by this. I tried to get information from the Sportspark operators, but the only thing they were able to say is that a solution is being discussed by RIOC. I have started a petition (both paper and online) asking RIOC to come up with a solution to keep Sportspark open. Almost all of the people I have spoken to have heard nothing about the possible closure. I find the lack of public information from RIOC extremely troubling, and strongly urge RIOC to come up with a solution to keep Sportspark open, and to inform concerned Island residents.

The following is the petition that is currently circulating. Here is the link if readers would like to add their electronic signatures: <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-sportspark/>.

Roberta Kleiman

Note: At press time, 246 Islanders had signed Kleiman's petition.

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 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*. (No PDFs.) 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.

To the Editor:

There was an article in the September 14 issue of *The WIRE* that I believe needs clarification — the one about finding space for the Boy Scouts. The article called the Boy Scouts "a casualty of RIOC turning over the leasing of street-level spaces to Hudson/Related." Some readers were left with the impression that the Boy Scouts have to disband because there's no meeting space on the Island for them as a result of the Master Lease agreement. This is not true.

The Scouts occupy storefront space that is more appropriate for a retail store. When the Master Lease agreement was signed, the Boy Scouts were told that, at the

point when Hudson/Related was ready to show the space to viable renters, the Scouts would have to relocate. Until that time they could stay where they were. When Hudson/Related notified them that they'd have to move, RIOC absolutely could have found space elsewhere for them. They never came to us. There is no reason for the troop to disband for lack of space.

On September 16, I sent an email to the Scout leader asking him to contact me so we could find space. On September 23, he replied that he was out of town and would get back to me. As of today October 8, I haven't heard back. The article led people to believe that there's no space on the Island where the troop can meet. It's unfortunate that the author didn't do a little more research so the article could have been more balanced and accurate.

Margie Smith

Editor's note: The letter writer is a member of the RIOC Board. The report in question, a profile of Geof Kerr, was not "about finding space for the Boy Scouts." Rather, it quoted Kerr citing his being angrily accosted by a real-estate agent as a decisive last straw as he contemplated retirement from his longtime role as scoutmaster. No further research was necessary, as he could be taken at his word on his personal motive. But, in a follow-up conversation, Kerr did express frustration at treatment of the scouts over the years, and that RIOC and the RIOC Board were not on top of the situation.

To The Editor:

As a RIRA Common Council representative from Island House, I am reporting the very sad state of affairs in RIRA. We are half-way through our RIRA term, and the meetings have been the most dysfunctional in my 17-year recollection. Our monthly meetings start at 8:00 p.m., there is a 15-minute public session, and then we get to business (president's report, committee reports) concluding around 10:00 p.m. Our September meeting was the worst ever: roll call started at 10:00 p.m. At our October meeting, in reaction to a year's worth of poor meetings, we spent much time trying to change procedures, e.g., taking away our right to speak and debate. The procedural change failed (another waste of time), yet we were still prohibited from discussing committee reports.

For the decades' history of RIRA, the main purpose of our monthly meetings is information-sharing:

See **Letters**, page 12

Letters deadline for
October 26 issue:
Tue., October 22, 5pm

E-Book Focuses on Dark Period in Island History

These days, Welfare Island is a verdant, residential retreat that was renamed Roosevelt Island in 1973. But a new e-book tells a darker story of the early 20th century, when the Island was notorious as the location of the “worst and most unmanageable prison in the world.”

The grotesquely misnamed Welfare Island was known to most New Yorkers as the City’s most wretched hell-hole, the setting for some of the darkest episodes in the City’s history since the mid-19th century.

When City officials organized a raid on the prison in 1934, they had no idea what they were about to stumble upon – emaciated and scarred inmates, rife with self-mutilation, drug withdrawal, and addiction – all crammed into stinking cells kept in appalling conditions.

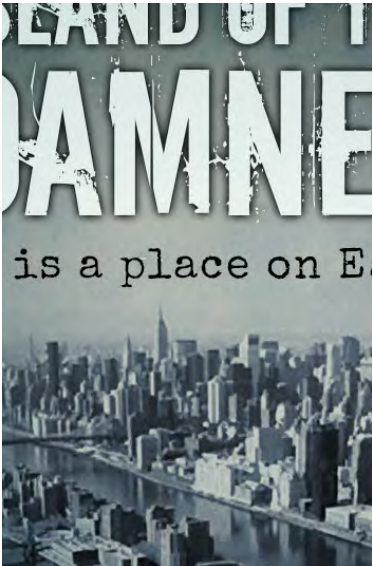
While shipping them off to hospitals and alternative prisons, the officers discovered a large-scale drug-trafficking operation run by notorious mobster inmates and facilitated by prison staff.



As they delved deeper into the workings of the prison, it soon became apparent that the scale of the corruption was beyond what they could have anticipated. The whole of New York was contaminated.

But who was controlling this widespread ring of crime and corruption? And what dirty secrets were being hidden?

Island of the Damned by Alix Kirsta tells the true story of New York’s most brutal prison in a mix of social, political, and criminal history – characterized by its publisher as “essential reading for anyone who wants to understand New York’s past.” It’s available only as an e-book, from a digital publisher in the



United Kingdom, Endeavor Press. It’s available on Amazon.com.

Kirsta is a non-fiction author and journalist. Her books include *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, *Stress Survival*, and *Deadlier Than The Male*, called “the first comprehensive account of criminality and aggression in women.”



Islander Gerald Starlight has produced a new recording of shakuhachi flute music, *Yellow Leaves*, that evokes autumn as a season of change. It’s a CD/single running 4:06, available online at amc.net/geraldstarlight. There, you can listen to the mp3 version without charge.

The CD is also available at Gallery RIVAA, 527 Main Street. Starlight’s music will be featured on the *Gift of Peace* program transmitted by WJFFradio.org, Sunday night, October 13, at 7:00 (see *ComingUp*, page 3).



Singers to Kick Off a New Series at Gallery

Singers Allegra Levy (left) and Katie Seiler (right), each backed by a duo, will be featured next Friday night at 7:00 when Gallery RIVAA launches a new series of musical entertainments. Levy and some of the musicians are Island residents.

Levy, 23, is a graduate of the New England Conservatory in Boston, where she studied under jazz luminaries. She composes, and is becoming a fixture in the New York jazz scene. She’s been compared to Sarah Vaughn. Her website is allegralevy.com.

Katie Seiler (katieseiler.com) is also a graduate of the New England Conservatory. She teaches jazz/contemporary voice at Brookline Music School and Page Music School, and performs at various venues in the New England area.

Donation will be five dollars at the door for the New Voices / New Sounds series, which will return in November and December. (Ad, page 11.)



McManus Clarifies a Point on PSD’s Incident Reports on Noise Outside M&D Deli; a Deli Neighbor Asks Farance to Butt Out

Editor’s note: Interim Public Safety Director Jack McManus provided this letter, partially in response to a list of noise complaints published in the September 28 *WIRE* as part of a group of letters dealing with a Hudson/Related demand, requested by McManus, that M&D Deli close at 10:00 p.m. rather than continuing its extended hours (to 2:00 a.m.).

A little over three months ago, I accepted the position of Interim Director of Public Safety for Roosevelt Island. That being said, I wanted to take this opportunity to update the Roosevelt Island Community on where I feel we are at, and where I feel we should be heading. In my opinion, there are many elements to be considered when effecting change in an organization. In public service, it is important that a manager maintain open lines of communication with those that are affected or influenced by change. I have made myself available to the Roosevelt Island community, and have attempted to be open, honest, and direct, whether in private discussion, at an open meeting, or a chance encounter on the street, realizing that I must also take steps to make effective changes based upon my managerial experience and the community’s input.

Recently, an issue arose which caused some confusion. On a daily basis, the Public Safety Department issues a short recap of the incidents reported to Public Safety over the prior 24 hours. Those incidents were listed with a time stamp, which should have indicated the time that the incident occurred but instead, indicated the time the report was prepared. I apologize for any confusion created by this administrative issue, and would like to state that it was corrected the same day.

As we move forward, I have a lot of work in front of me. A few of the larger undertakings include a comprehensive training initiative for all Public Safety Department Personnel which will include, Public Safety-Community Interaction, Continuum of force, De-escalation Techniques, Alternatives to Force, to name a few. Additionally, we are presently examining the use of body cameras to ensure that officers and the public will be well protected. We are working with the new RIOC Information Technology Director and her staff on issues like creating a new Records Management System, Computerization of Incident Reports and, designing a Public Safety Department Command Center for the monitoring of Closed Circuit TV equipment, especially when considering the additional safety cameras being installed on the Island, which includes a large installation at Motorgate. Additionally, I am working with my staff on a youth forum, where I will meet with the younger people of Roosevelt Island, get to know each other a bit, and hopefully begin a constructive dialogue between us. I am particularly excited about this initiative.

This list of projects is not all-inclusive, but is meant to give a short overview of some of the projects that we are currently working on. The support of the Roosevelt Island community is critical to any eventual success we might enjoy on these projects. I will continue to do my part in keeping the lines of communication open with the Roosevelt Island community by listening when you speak and addressing your concerns. Additionally, I pledge my full support and the full support of the men and women of the Public Safety Department, whose daily efforts I wholeheartedly appreciate, in keeping the residents, visitors and workers of the Roosevelt Island community safe. Thank you for your continued support.

Jack McManus
Director of Public Safety

To the Editor:

The irrepressible, narcissistic Frank Farance once again refuses to put his brain in gear before opening his mouth!

Early in 2012, the deli was given permission by Leslie Torres, the RIOC President at the time, to extend its hours. Is there any logical reason other than greed to keep such hours? Unfortunately, I live only three floors above this around-the-clock store (closed 2:00 a.m.-5:00 a.m.). The room in which I sleep faces Main Street. The obstreperous teenagers (usually five to seven) gather at the store for their small purchases of munchies from 10:00 p.m. on to 1:00 a.m. or 2:00 a.m. and even later. They are out even on school nights. Of course, their irresponsibly loud, cursing voices keep me from sleeping. This did not happen when the store closed earlier.

I call Public Safety (PSD) almost nightly. Officers respond, but when they leave, the teenagers start again.

Mr. Farance has not lost hours of sleep and consequently diminished his health. What has propelled him to inject himself dishonestly into a situation that in no way affects his life?

This is a residential community, not transient areas in Manhattan where food stores are open throughout the night. That comparison is

totally dishonest. Our Island is residential, not commercial.

Mr. Farance possesses more gall than character. What is his motivation in defending greed? In attacking Mr. McManus as an “arbitrary and capricious person,” he is exposing *himself*. This describes Mr. Farance, not Mr. McManus, who has been very kind, thoughtful, and patient. The Island is fortunate to have him as PSD chief. He is well liked and respected by his staff. His appointment will be an asset to Roosevelt Island. If Farance had been experiencing my loss of sleep and diminished health, he would not be able to work and keep a job. Think about your causes before you expose the fool that you are! Farance owes Mr. McManus an apology. Farance has a driving penchant to involve and attack others.

And why does Philip Groner so vociferously defend the owners of M&D Deli? He has not been sleep-deprived; he couldn’t practice law were that the case. I sadly conclude that his defense may be due to the generous fee he has received from the owners.

I shall continue to fight to have sensible hours as it was before Leslie Torres created this havoc, which has caused me the loss of countless hours of sleep.

Name Withheld

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Dissatisfaction with Blackwell Playground Prompts Letter from Hudson/Related and RIOC, and Requests from Parents’ Network

Editor’s note: Sara Willard of Hudson/Related failed to keep a telephone-call appointment to answer *WIRE* questions for an article (September 28 *WIRE*) about the new playground at Blackwell Park. Instead, Hudson/Related and RIOC submitted the following Q&A after that edition went to press. The questions are not *The WIRE*’s; they were devised by Hudson/Related and/or RIOC. This eliminated follow-up questions – for example, about equipment easily disassembled by children, as shown in photographs in the issue, or the safety of mixing 10-to-12-year-olds with toddlers. *The WIRE* publishes this public-relations material (essentially unchanged except for minor corrections of grammar and punctuation for reasons of readability) for community information, and readers are invited to respond if they feel appropriate questions were thereby avoided or inadequately answered.

To the Editor:

Since the new playground at Blackwell Park opened last week, we have received a number of questions from the Island’s parents and community leaders. We thought it would be fruitful to address these questions and concerns:

What was the primary goal of the new playground?

As a joint public/private effort, it was our responsibility to the Roosevelt Island community to build a safe, quality environment that would serve the broadest audience.

How was the playground designed, by what process and with what feedback? How were safety concerns addressed in the overall design?

First, it began with the location. This beautiful spot on the Island was part of the 2001 Southtown Masterplan. There was a lot of thought put into incorporating the playground into the existing park fabric; it’s surrounded by mature trees for shade, close to the sprinklers and public outdoor recreation areas. The new location of the playground is a truly special place in Blackwell Park. The shady area provides a respite for the children while addressing one of the biggest concerns – lack of shade – about the old tot lot; however, the trees (and their root structure) defined the physical perimeter of the playground.

Once the perimeter was determined, it was necessary to provide adequate “fall zones” that define the radius of each apparatus. Most play structures require a minimum 6 feet of clear safety zone all around. You cannot install fixed objects, including barriers, in those prescribed fall zones. Given the site constraints and following these safety requirements, the new site did not allow us to provide separate apparatuses for each age group or to create barriers between age groups. We incorporated the largest play structure we could fit on the site and programmed a range of play devices for multiple ages while still meeting the safety zone requirements.

The playground review and planning process took place from March through May of 2013 by RIOC and the Southtown developers. We discussed the “lessons learned” from the existing tot lot and reviewed the plans, equipment, [and] type of play surface (no wood chips, please!), and addressed concerns including equipment material, adding more benches, and adding a fence to the swing area. The result of these discussions, a final playground design, was approved for construction starting mid-June. Construction began shortly thereafter and the playground opened this past week.

Is this playground only for older kids and/or duplicative with the playground at the other end of Blackwell Park?

No. This playground was designed so that a wide range of our RI children can use it, including children as young as six months old and toddlers. The intent of the design was to be inclusive, not exclusive. We tried to incorporate as much diversity and choice [as possible] within the site, not for a singular age cohort, because of the following key reasons:

- Reach the largest numbers of families.
- Avoid children “aging out” of the playground, as the toddler years are for only 18 months; the new playground would allow a child to find interest in the playground for a longer period of their childhood.

Is it unsafe for a toddler to play near, say, a six-year-old on a mixed-age playground?

No. Many City parks have mixed-age play equipment and without physical separation of age cohort. Kids of different ages can concurrently and safely play at the various levels and on the different apparatus.

It is also important to note that children need to be attended by their caregivers at all times. We have installed soft play surfaces throughout the entire park, provided physical separation from the swings, and selected modern, safe, and durable play equipment that does not splinter (wood) or reflect extraordinary heat (metal). However, these things do not negate an adult’s responsibility to watch and monitor the safety of their children.

What play equipment is specifically for a younger child?

Single apparatuses specifically selected for toddlers are grouped in the southeast corner of the park, with the intention to separate them, as much as possible within the limits of the given space. The tots’ Toddler Rocker and the (2) Straus climbers are designed for toddlers at ages 6-23 months old. The two-seat Spring Rider is designed for 2-5 years.

On the larger apparatus, there are a number of elements that are appropriate and designed for children age 2-5 years; two out of the three slides – the tube and the zip slides, the sloped funnel climber, the stepped platform, the nature panel, drum and steering wheel – are all designed for ages 2-5 years.

On the swings, there are two out of four seats specifically for children aged 2-5 years old: the tot Swing Seat and the Zero-G Swing Seat.

Stroller parking: Inside or outside?

Again, the physical perimeter of the playground was defined by the site. The playground can accommodate a number of strollers but they do take up space intended for the children. We would like to implement stroller parking outside of the playground gates.

Will there be signage added to the park?

Yes. Signage will be installed that will outline the hours of the park and other important rules such as no children without adults, no adults without children, the age range of the playground, stroller parking location and a reminder to caregivers to watch children at [all] times.

We appreciate the feedback that we have received thus far. Any issue or concern that is brought to our attention will be closely monitored and addressed accordingly. We hope that the playground is a positive addition to the Roosevelt Island community and that children will continue to enjoy their new play space!

The Southtown Development Team and RIOC

To RIOC and Hudson/Related:

We would like to thank both RIOC and Hudson/Related for the new Blackwell Park Playground and for addressing some of the parents’ concerns that came up after its opening. Please see below for a list of suggestions for improvements collected among the members of the Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network (currently 265 families). We sent this list to both organizations on September 26 and heard back from them just before the letters deadline for this edition of *The WIRE* – we are adding Sara W. Willard’s and Erica Spencer-EL’s comments to the respective points below.

1. Please add more baby swings and/or convert at least one of the other swings to baby swings. We have swings for older children very close by in the playground next to the basketball court. Despite our request for more baby swings during the process, their number has been reduced. There is now exactly one baby swing for the whole Island population of 12,000 (estimated), with hundreds of babies.

• Hudson/Related: “[I]f RIOC is OK, [we can] either change to a strap harness for the accessible swing (maintaining its purpose and function) or change out a low swing for another toddler swing.”

Please do both!

2. Please put a “Please keep this door closed at all times” sign on the main gate, as many children and adults are leaving the gate wide open at the moment.

• Hudson/Related: “[We] will add language to the sign in progress or a separate sign about closing the gate.”

• RIOC: “[One of the] priorities that will be addressed in the upcoming weeks: The installation of playground signage which will indicate rules, hours, and age limits.”

3. Please change the generic label “5-12 years” on the main structure to a custom label “5-9 years,” and add a “2-5 years” label, so that the structure is labeled for both age groups according to the age groups originally intended by RIOC and Hudson/Related. Sara W. Willard from Hudson/Related stated previously that the intended target group is “6 months to 8/9 years old” and that “in addition there are several other features that are appropriate for the ages of 2-5 years on the large play equipment.” Matching the labels to the present equipment and intended age groups would also give the parents the possibility to refer to the signs in cases of older children using the playground and posing a safety risk to younger ones.

• Hudson/Related: “I will absolutely look into the labels. They have stock ones (ours is stock), but I will talk about a custom one, given that they were able to program in younger ages. We have a highly customized play apparatus so hopefully we can get a customized label.”

• RIOC: see [RIOC response to] number 2.

4. Please add a natural barrier like a bench or shrubs to separate the lower equipment for babies and toddlers from the main structure. The Public Safety

Commission recommends, “For playgrounds intended to serve children of all ages, the layout of pathways and the landscaping of the playground should show the distinct areas for the different age groups. The areas should be separated at least by a buffer zone, which could be an area with shrubs or benches. This separation and buffer zone will reduce the chance of injury from older, more active children running through areas filled with younger children with generally slower movement and reaction times.” (Section 2.2.2 Age Separation, CPSC Public Playground Safety Handbook, <http://www.cpsc.gov/PageFiles/122149/325.pdf>).

• Hudson/Related: “As for barriers, we cannot do it safely within fall zones, which is where logically you would place them between equipment on this site. So I think for that question the answer is no. The narrative you mention [above] contemplates a much larger playground where you have the space to create separate equipment nodes, their respective fall zones, and barriers between each zone. We have a compact site and worked the separation the best we could while still respecting the fall zones.”

At least, please create a visual barrier which will not conflict with the fall zones like a black stripe on the floor surface.

5. Please confirm that Hudson/Related paid both for the construction of the old tot lot and for the construction of the new playground entirely, and clarify if tax or community dollars were allocated.

• RIOC: “The construction of the old Tot Lot and the new playground at Blackwell Park were both privately funded.”

6. Please install an emergency call box close by. (We asked for such a call box at a meeting with RIOC’s Erica Spencer-EL on August 15.)

• RIOC: “[One of the] priorities that will be addressed in the upcoming weeks [is also] the installation of an emergency call box within the vicinity of the playground.”

7. Please consider public bathrooms as part of the renovated Blackwell Park, as the closest ones right now are at the RI Tram station (ditto, August 15 meeting).

• [no response]

8. Please inform us about plans with the old tot lot structure and possibly let us use it for the younger children somewhere on the Island, perhaps in one of the courtyards of the Hudson/Related buildings.

• RIOC: “The old Tot Lot is in the process of being disassembled and will be transported to a location on the Island where it can be securely stored. Although we do not have any immediate plans for it, we have received several suggestions from the community which include relocating the lot to another area on the Island. We will discuss these ideas with our board and keep the community posted.”

Thank you very much for all your efforts!

Eva Bosbach

Roosevelt Island Parents’ Network

Clark, from page 1

cart, “Did you walk all the way to Costco? You look great.”

Location, Location...

Clark had never visited Roosevelt Island before her 2006 interview. She was immediately struck. “The Island is away from everything else. It’s quaint and not affected by noise or the hustle and bustle of Manhattan proper. Other than nightlife, everything is right here. It even smells different, with all of the trees and greenery.” Although Clark is talking about Roosevelt Island as a whole, it’s clear that her comments could as easily apply to The Octagon as compared to the rest of the Island.

When Clark points to the spot where she spent most of that six-day period without electricity, it’s a comfortable couch in a muted color in the tastefully decorated alcove space in the lobby. “I stayed down in the lobby where residents could see me and I could give them updates,” Clark explains.

Like the lobby, all the other common areas of the building are cool, refreshing, and comfortable. Nowhere do you see the bright primary colors of the WIRE buildings (Westview, Island House, Rivercross, and Eastwood, now renamed Roosevelt Landings).

The geographical distance

between The Octagon and the rest of the Island’s residential buildings is one reason that The Octagon is its own community.

The Role

Clark’s position at the helm of Roosevelt Island’s northernmost building is another. Indeed, many residents have been there since the beginning. Roosevelt Island Residents Association Vice President Jeffrey Escobar is one of them. He calls the Octagon a “reprieve.” He and wife Elizabeth Erickson arrived in 2006, when the north wing wasn’t yet open. He says, “Barbara does a good job of accommodating families and taking care of them.”

Jeff says that The Octagon’s demographics are changing, and he sees Clark’s approach is changing along with them. He gives an example: Nannies are now exempt from the two-guests-per-month pool policy, and can take resident children to the pool as often as desired. Escobar concludes, “Barbara makes sure there is a sense of community.”

The Octagon is closer to Light-house Park than to Blackwell Park. Octagon Children do not have to worry about whether the new playground suits their needs. They have their own playgrounds, one for the under-five group and another for ages 5 to 12. They also have their own daycare, Bright Horizons at

The Octagon, and an exclusive offering of Islander Owen Johnson’s *Music Together*, which other Island kids take in the basement of Good Shepherd.

They have their own pool, too. Its May opening is celebrated with a petting zoo, cotton candy machine, and bouncy house. Octagonians have their own RIVAA outpost (a lobby gallery), as well as their own café and valet. Although the community gardens are a short walk from The Octagon, Clark is proud to share that residents have their own gardens sanctioned by RIOC, and the kale, squash, collard greens, and carrots are growing wonderfully this year.

The Storm

This sense of community enabled the Octagon residents to thrive during the Superstorm.

“Riverwalk Café sent us ice and food. They didn’t call; they just sent it. That was so great. I can’t forget that,” Clark says, acknowledging that The Octagon survived the storm by relying on the community they built, but acknowledging the help provided by their neighbors to the south.

Now that Con Ed has disconnected The Octagon from Coler’s power supply, all that is currently shared with the hospital is a bus stop and a great view.

Eighth Annual *Fall for Arts Festival* Makes Use of Southpoint Park

Photography by Maria Casotti and Linda Heimer

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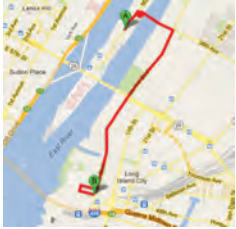
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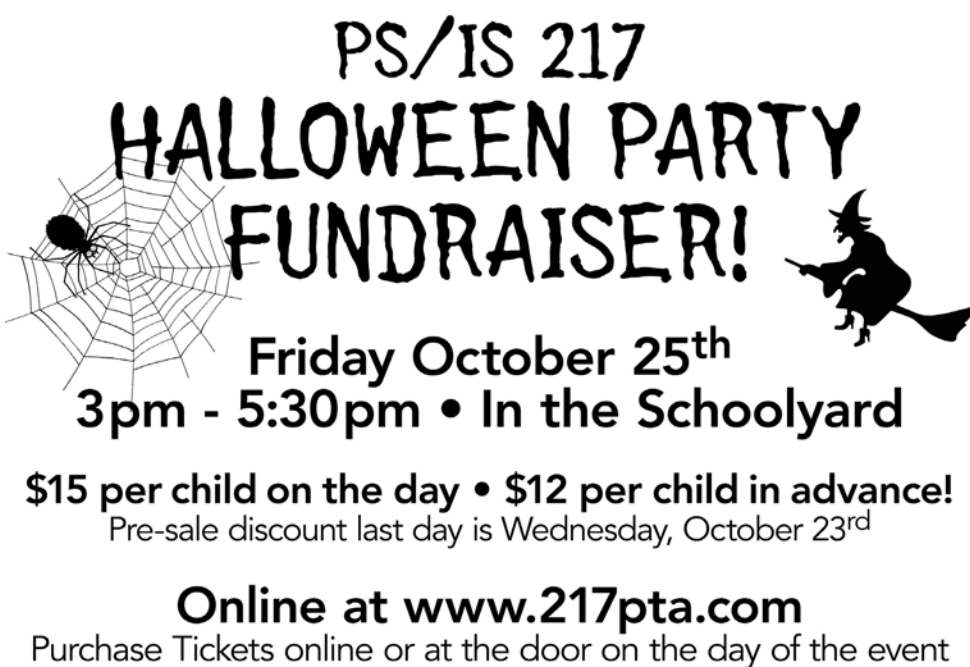
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Letters start on page 3

To the Editor:

Where to begin? The September 28 *WIRE* was replete with letters from concerned Islanders, to whom much credit is due, and I wanted to add my two cents:

That our Boy Scout troop should succumb after 36 years of serving this community, 27 years under the guidance of Geof Kerr, and at a point when we can boast the largest population in our history – and growing! – is a tragedy. Certainly, Geof has far exceeded the usual tenure for a scoutmaster and is entitled to call it a day. But that is not the reason for the troop’s demise. They’ve been kicked out of their crappy, un-ventilated, un-electrified headquarters with no windows in Westview by a landlord who seems to think he can rent that pathetic space out for a profit. This at a time when the second floor at 504 Main Street continues to go unrented and unused. Can none of our brain trust at Hudson/Related or at RIOC come up with a solution?

The thoughtless dog owners on our Island who don’t clean up after their pets are proliferating and this must stop. This is a police matter in the rest of the City, but I don’t hear much about ticketing here. If dogs are to be welcomed here, after many years when they weren’t, then dog runs and assiduous patrolling must be brought to bear. Our parks and laws have been a haven for adults and children alike, and must be preserved.

To the writer who was counting Public Safety’s bikes, I too observed them several years ago. I asked RIOC Board members why PSD needed 10 of them, with no response to that query. Why don’t you come to a RIOC Board meeting and publicly address your concern there? These bikes appeared during former Director Keith Guerra’s term, along with the two expensive Segways and numerous shiny new SUVs. You will never see more than two PSD officers out on bikes at one time, when they use them at all. Several of them could use the exercise, and they should be out riding around the Island patrolling, while also watching our neighbors and their doggie doo-doo manners.

The nature of Blackwell Park has been under discussion for years, with several generations of RIOC presidents, a landscape architect, UrbanAmerican, and experts in child-care who came here specifically to discuss appropriate equipment. RIRA convened an ad hoc committee of park users to work with Rosina Abramson at RIOC to address the inevitable tot lot move from the site of Southtown Building #7. But that work has now been ignored, and to the detriment of the age group that we hoped to serve. RIOC has fallen back into many of its tone-deaf ways. We read that “one of the RIOC directors advised Hudson/Related against talking to the parents.” Whose boneheaded idea was that? If you don’t talk to end-users, you are destined to make mistakes. And so, here we are.

An aside: I didn’t work my butt off on the PR for all four of our RIOC Board nominee

elections, getting residents to come out and vote for our Board members, to then have them forget that the point was *first* to *serve this community, not the State!* If they make a decision or do something that the State (read: governor) doesn’t like, let the governor make his move. We’ve known all along that these folks are seated at his pleasure, and it’s time that we find out just who this Board is serving. Given the comment above, I guess one of them has missed this point and thinks s/he serves the State, after all. What a waste of our time, energy, and effort. Board members may have a fiduciary responsibility to the State, but they have a moral responsibility to listen to and work with the community (and, as said above, end-users) that chose them, by the democratic electoral process that we devised helping to put them in their seats. That statement was more than disappointing and infuriating, it was heartbreaking to read. Shame on that Board member.

I must take exception to some points in my friend Roy Eaton’s letter. Steve Shane was not a friend to the Westviewers trying to exit from Mitchell-Lama while preserving affordability for the residents; he quashed a pretty good plan that would have put us on the road to saving our apartments. Further, while the negotiations with Hudson/Related have sometimes been contentious, the efforts of an elected resident RIOC Board member paved the way for the Sweet Shop, the Subway store, the new food market, and pending merchants, while years of inertia at RIOC threatened to destroy our Northtown commercial center. While a case can be made that Hudson/Related’s prime motivation is profit, in fact, it was the abysmal Public Authorities Accountability Act, and RIOC’s slavish interpretation of this law designed to rein in Public Authorities, that caused our shopping calamity. Also, I am concerned that the rejuvenation of empty Main Street stores has been stalled by the unreasonable rents being asked of new merchants. However, I still think that the marketplace will determine which stores prosper and which stores fail, culling the street of merchants who provide substandard service.

I wish “Name Withheld” had the courage of his/her convictions when addressing our undemocratic system of governance. Having worked for 16 years to bring a modicum of “home rule,” or at least some community participation, in administering our Island and planning our future, I can speak with some authority as to our status as “a colony of New York State,” although, really, we are a colony of whoever is governor. The governor, and only the governor, chooses the RIOC president and all the Board members, and they act in lieu of local government. “Name Withheld” is right; community boards are advisory. But the City Council is not, as far as Roosevelt Island is concerned, and while we have a councilmember representing District 5, that person and that legislative branch of City government do not make the rules for Roosevelt Island that they are charged with for the rest of the City. And that’s the problem.

I’ve gone on at some length, so I’ll stop.
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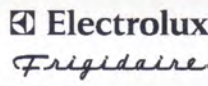
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The **WIRE**



page 13

RIOC Column, from page 2

information gathered is being evaluated in preparation for resurfacing that will take place in 2014. The resurfacing will help prepare the road for the passage of construction vehicles when Cornell begins construction at the southern end of the Island. The crosswalk at the base of the helix has been re-stripped for better visibility, and plans are in place to re-stripe the rest of the crosswalks on Main Street in the coming months.

Repairs recently took place at the dog run near Southtown – gates were repaired and lowered to prevent small dogs from escaping through the gap.

Fall for Arts Festival

Last Saturday’s Fall for Arts Festival was a great success – thousands of parents and kids came out to enjoy the art, music, and warm weather together. Activities ranged from pumpkin decorating to henna tattooing, candy sculptures, and more! Many thanks go out to the hugely talented artists who painted the murals, including many fantastic local artists and renowned Taiwanese artist Tang-Wei Hsu, a muralist whose work has been exhibited from Taipei to the streets of NYC and who painted on behalf of the Jim Luce Foundation. Even if you were unable to make it out to the celebration, you can take a look at the murals outdoors, which are now visible at Southpoint Park and the lawn south of Rivercross. Photos of the murals and a listing of the artists who participated are available on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RIOCNY

Bike Classes

Bike New York’s class last Saturday was also a big hit – kids had a great time learning to ride safely at the outdoor basketball court located on the east side of the Sportspark facility (250 Main Street). The next Learn to Ride – Kids class takes place tomorrow, Sunday, October 13, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Children should bring a bike and a helmet! Bike New York’s classes are a free, fun, safe way to learn to ride a bike before hitting the streets. Sign up for tomorrow’s class online at: <http://www.bikenewyork.org/learn/kids/learn-to-ride-kids/>

Park Schedules

Daylight hours are getting shorter, and the FDR Four Freedoms Park is switching over to its winter schedule: The park will now be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Wednesday through Monday (closed Tuesday). Southpoint Park will remain open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., seven days a week.

Contacting RIOC

Looking to contact us? RIOC’s Facebook page now offers a contact form for you to submit questions, comments, or concerns. You can also visit our page for event photos, announcements, news, and more at facebook.com/RIOCNY. As always, you may also send an email to information@rioc.ny.gov, or you may call the office at **212-832-4540**.

Letters, from page 3

the public sharing with us (in the public session), and we building representatives sharing among ourselves in reports, progress, etc.. from each of our committees. The monthly meetings are our main governance event where we make decisions. This is all dysfunctional now.

The solution is not more rules, but following the rules we already have: the RIRA Constitution and By-Laws, and Roberts Rules. The most important and visible function of the RIRA President is to conduct those meetings properly and efficiently. With four years prior as RIRA Vice President, and years as a CB8 representative, one would have expected Ellen Polivy to be prepared for this role. Unfortunately, she has done a terribly poor job as RIRA President. About a half dozen of us with deep experience have tried to coach her, but with little success. Her reactions are thin-skinned, emotion-laden, and avoid the topics of substance – e.g., suggestions/feedback from Common Council members that she frames as “character assassination.”

Sure, a new leader might need some help, but rather than embrace the organization’s culture and procedure, she sees this essentially as “Ellen’s meeting,” not a meeting of equals in an atmosphere of fairness (we’re treated equally), openness (everyone has a right to speak), and transparency (information should be revealed, not hidden).

Rather than learn the basics of running a meeting by Roberts Rules, a year later, she still is unable to competently take a vote. Some suggest getting rid of Roberts Rules, which devolves into chaos. Our October meeting saw, for the first time, a Public Safety Officer guarding our meeting; presumably, Ms. Polivy (as permit-holder for the space) was ready to eject anyone she thought was unruly.

These problems have had significant negative effect upon our community. Just to highlight a few, at the September meeting, thanks to

Ms. Polivy’s poor actions, our community lost the Island Shakespeare (IS) organization, which has decided to move off the Island. IS was looking for a more permanent home for their temporary productions, but rather than Ms. Polivy moving this topic to (say) the RIRA Planning Committee (as RIRA Presidents Matt Katz, Steve Marcus, and I have done the decade prior), she allowed a free-for-all discussion, including members of the public, to gang up on IS, with Ms. Polivy saying, aloud, “I’m worried that you’ll burn down Motorgate.” (The outdoor steps area between Motorgate and the bridge was a possible site.) Her comments were inflammatory and they furthered this pile-on mentality.

What should have happened was that IS would present their ideas to the Planning Committee, there would be some concerns/suggestions about their prior use/permits, the issues would have been vetted and resolved with related organizations and appropriate RIOC staff, and then the Planning Committee would come to the RIRA Common Council with a package of information, options, and recommendations – all presented in a civil manner. Ms. Polivy is resists that approach. Departing, the head of IS described meeting with words like “blindsided pummeling,” “extreme exaggerations,” and “invective lies.” Ms. Polivy, your concern about Island Shakespeare’s burning down Motorgate is now moot, but the Island has lost an important organization.

Another example was the UN Development Committee presenting an expansion project for the UN area (visible from the southern tip of the Island). Because one presenter happened to be Peter Krokondelas (who consults on a variety of projects, including the Cornell effort), RIRA members who are also in Ms. Polivy’s other organization, the Roosevelt Island Community Coalition, focused on Mr. Krokondelas’ involvement and

RIRA Column, from page 2

It is an even greater gift when their children see the need and continue that help.

Fall For Arts

The Fall for Arts Festival, sponsored by RIOC, was a wonderful day in Southpoint Park. The activities were scattered around the lawn and the paths, showing off the best parts of the park. I loved walking around watching the children and parents participate in the many art activities.

The activities at the park were mostly geared to children, but many could be enjoyed by all. Tables were set up by local community groups and artists to allow participants to experience different art forms. I stood on line at the candy sculpture and watched two artists create the Chinese art form, making crispy, delicate, delicious dragons on a stick out of dripped molten sugar. It was both beautiful and fascinating watching an artist create whimsical characters out of such a simple substance. RIVAA gave a pastel class in its gallery, and other artists created the large murals that we will see beautifying the lawn on the south side of Rivercross, and perhaps eventually being moved to Motorgate for a permanent display.

Sense of Community

RIOC, to its credit, brings the community together in the many annual fairs and programs that it sponsors. We have movies in the park in summer, Fall for Arts in autumn. RIOC joins Urban America in sponsoring Roosevelt Island Day and the Halloween parade and festival. The Christmas tree lighting festival happens when the snow might be falling. Other groups jump in and sponsor other annual events that draw crowds. The Menorah lighting event is sponsored by Roosevelt Island Chabad, with jelly donuts and cider for all. RIRA has begun sponsoring an annual Easter Egg Hunt and Cherry Blossom Festival.

Moving on to the regularly scheduled events that are open to all, RIRA has a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Community Center. RIOC has a monthly meeting and monthly committee meetings.

For women only, there is a monthly women’s movie group. Women watch a film that focuses on a theme about a women’s issue. Afterward, there is a discussion ably facilitated by a psychotherapist. The Roosevelt Island Women’s Health Organization has monthly meetings that bring women together to discuss how to improve their physical well-being. Healthy food is served at both events. These two groups give women a chance to interact and get to know one another.

The first Sunday of each month, there is a fabulous jazz ensemble at Gallery RIVAA with dancing and food. The Main Street Theater & Dance Alliance provides quality entertainment. The R&R concert series brings us quality music in memory of Rosemarie and Robin Russell, who used to run the music school and bring musicians to Roosevelt Island to entertain. RIRA is planning an entertainment series that showcases local singers, dancers, and actors.

If I left out a regularly scheduled event, please email me. I will make sure to add it to my next column.

Last but not least, *The WIRE*, *Website NYC10044.com*, the blog, and the kiosks are important communication outlets on the Island. Without each of them, the ability to reach out to the community would be severely limited. Our RIRA website, RIRAonline.com, is becoming a tool as well, with our committee meetings and events being posted.

The biggest way to feel a sense of community is to get involved in volunteering to create any of these wonderful events. Many people produce every activity. One of them could be you. Please choose something and get involved. The activities are in *The WIRE* in the *ComingUp* listings, or you can email me or contact us at RIRAonline.com and ask how to get involved in a particular organization. We will put you in touch with the right person.

Korean Pavilion

Southpoint Park has lots of lovely nooks and crannies and is a fun place to amble, but it’s **lacking several things, including a covered structure**. The Korean Association has generously offered to gift the park a beautiful pavilion in the shape of pavilions in use all over Korea. Such traditional structures have been shown to be sturdy and maintenance-free structures that withstand the elements. They provide covered seating areas and open space for relaxing and socializing. At our last RIRA meeting, the Common Council agreed to support the concept of a pavilion in Southpoint Park. It is now up to the RIOC Real Estate Advisory Committee and the engineers to evaluate the form and structure of the Korean design, and determine whether it is a structure that could be placed somewhere in the park. They will also determine whether and where there is a place for it in the park.

they could not seem to think past Cornell. Complaints about Cornell (“Why can’t you give the community \$70 million?”) were lobbed at the UN people, who looked truly perplexed that some RIRA councilors could not think clearly and keep separate the Cornell project on *the Island* versus the UN project in *Manhattan*. Again, Ms. Polivy should have delegated this to the Planning Committee. Council time would have not been wasted on free-for-all discussion.

Another example is the Korean Pavilion (a large, 500-sq-ft gazebo) to be built in Southpoint Park (video at <http://bit.ly/1fgFNiD>). Even after the September RIRA meeting, and myself (as Planning Committee Chair) arranging for the Korean Association to address a variety of important community concerns (e.g., *where might this large structure be placed?*, and *what about other community organizations that would request their own structures in Southpoint Park?*), Ms. Polivy was

gaveling through her own proposal in RIRA to approve this organization’s request without the normal RIRA review. In our October meeting, motions were made to prohibit the rights of members to express their points of view during this debate.

As a last example, RIRA representatives to RICC [Roosevelt Island Community Coalition] were to be elected at the beginning of our term in November 2012, but Ms. Polivy delayed their election until after the main City-planning activities were over with Cornell. Now, a year later and without notice, Ms. Polivy gives us a half-dozen nominees for these RIRA representatives to RICC: the nominees’ names are embedded in her president’s report, and there was no open call for volunteers or nominees, just Ms. Polivy’s selections. She needed immediate approval for her selections and, again, they were gaveled through.

For whatever reason, Ms. Polivy

Cornell, from page 2

here in the media capital of the world would be Connective Media. As Mayor Bloomberg and industry leaders said at the launch event last week, New York will only maintain this distinction if our media companies can transform themselves for a digital age and adapt to the new and exciting ways that people are consuming media, from publishing, advertising, news and information, and entertainment.

This novel program addresses the huge need for more tech talent in the media-related businesses that play such an important role in New York City. The Connective Media degree combines technical, social science, and media industry expertise in a broad interdisciplinary two-year program, with an immersive semester-long industry project and extensive engagement with digital media companies in New York City. The program will train a new generation of talent to develop technologies, applications, and experiences that take advantage of the constant access to, and sharing of, online information in the digital and mobile world. Graduates of the program will be equipped to help lead the digital transformation of the City’s and the nation’s media industries.

The Connective Media launch also illustrated our commitment to working hand-in-hand with industry. We were proud to announce that a number of leading media companies – both longstanding and newly started – will be collaborating with us on this program. The list includes Hearst, Medium, Facebook, Betaworks, Tumblr, WordPress, and *The New York Times*.

We are proud to be working with all of them in educating a new generation of tech professionals in this space. The collaborating companies will provide input and guidance this year to refine the curriculum for this new degree. When the program launches next fall, companies in the Connective Media space will provide real-world projects, mentorship, and industry know-how for students.

I’m also excited to report that we recently hired the first full-time faculty member in the Connective Media hub, Mor Naaman. Professor Naaman is a perfect fit for what Cornell Tech is all about – he is an academic but also an entrepreneur. His startup, Seen (<http://seen.co>), helps make sense of the real-time web by summarizing and organizing social media content. In his first year at Cornell Tech, Professor Naaman will split time evenly between teaching and working on growing his startup. (Mor is also a former professional basketball player who I expect to be in high demand for pickup games on Roosevelt Island in coming years).

In this column, I focused on the latest news about our academic programs, but I will be back in the next issue with updates on the construction of the campus. I hope everyone is enjoying the start of autumn.

is unable to lead the Common Council in a fair and competent manner. Her resistance to improvement has resulted in its ongoing dysfunction in countless ways. RIRA members (that’s all Island residents, not just the Common Council representatives), you have a stake in this, you need to advocate to your building representatives that you want this fixed right away. We can’t have another year of dysfunctional meetings, of community organizations abandoning the Island, and ill-conceived resolutions.

Frank Farance
Island House

Child Care, from page 1
very happy.”

Many parents mention the scholarships and sibling discounts that RIDN offers.

Bright Horizons is a leading provider of early education and preschools, employer-sponsored childcare, back-up care, educational advisory services and other work/life solutions. The Island has two locations.

Octagon: Michelle Picard is the director for Bright Horizons at The Octagon. She explains that the Octagon center serves children from 6 weeks to five years. Tuition varies based on programming. A parent who wished to remain anonymous said, “Bright Horizon’s fees for the full-time infant program are \$2,554 per month,” adding, “I recall that the RIDN fees are about the same.” She adds that the older the child, the less expensive the fee.

The center is open from 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Families can choose a five-day, three-day (Monday-Wednesday-Friday), or two-day program (Tuesday-Thursday), with further choice among three tiers of hours during those days. Backup child-care is also offered at a daily or hourly rate, subject to availability. This facility is open year-round; it closes only on major holidays.

There are classrooms for each age group – infants, toddlers, older toddlers – and each follows an age-appropriate daily schedule. The center provides three snacks per day, and the families provide lunch.

The center is licensed through the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and teachers meet and exceed all NYC licensing requirements for the appropriate classrooms, according to Picard.

MSKCC Bright Horizons at 475 Main Street: Director Emily Gohn-Barhill says, “Families are eligible for our center only if they are employed by Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) and in MSKCC housing on Roosevelt Island, and we aren’t open to the general public.” In keeping with their affiliation, “We keep the same calendar as MSKCC and only closed 5 days a year: New Year’s Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.”

Danielle Goldblatt has her son enrolled there part-time. She says, “You can send your child starting at age six weeks.” But she adds that, currently, “There is a wait list to get your child into the daycare. Part-time is offered, but it’s just harder to get.” Gohn-Barhill confirms there is currently a 12-month wait list.

Regarding pricing, Goldblatt explains, “Prices are different depending on the position held at MSKCC. For example, as a registered nurse, I pay more than a research fellow, but you get a 10% discount once you have more than one child there, and siblings do get priority for a spot in the center. As the kids move to the older classes, the monthly fee decreases.”

The center provides two snacks a day, with fresh fruit and/or vegetables daily and as much local and organic food as possible. Families provide lunches and an evening snack for children who spend an extended day there, explains Gohn-Barhill.

Of their teachers, Gohn-Barhill raves, “In addition to being accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and licensed by the City Bureau of Child Care, our teacher qualifications meet or exceed the requirements of both entities. We also have an extensive internal training program, and the staff participates in weekly and monthly staff development.”

“We are very happy there,” Goldblatt says.

“And most importantly, Gabe loves it.”

Crèche du Monde Kids, Inc. (CDM) is run by Shauna Howard, who grew up on Roosevelt Island. In fact, she and Telisha, one of the caregivers at the center, grew up here together and started a baby-sitters club as kids. They opened a center here, after establishing their first one on the Upper West Side, to “go back to the Island, and go back to our roots,” as Telisha put it.

They offer something different from both RIDN and Bright Horizons. It is home-based care in a ground-floor apartment at 10 River Road. According to Telisha, because they have capacity for only 12 kids, the transition from being at home to being in daycare is a lot easier.

They are now offering a Preschool Prep program, running five days a week from 8:45 a.m. to noon, for which they’re charging \$6,500 for the full year. Otherwise, they offer up to 50 hours per week of care, which costs \$1,625 per month. Siblings get a 15% discount.

Sofia Lizon à l’Allemand sends her 14-month-old son, Markus. L’Allemand says there are currently six children there, with ages ranging from six months through two years. She likes the fact that, unlike RIDN and Bright Horizons, CDM is flexible regarding time. “At CDM, I can choose my own schedule,” she says.

Nancy Ibrahim sends her son Adam. She says, “I like the fact that they have an open-door policy. I can call anytime and walk in anytime, and I always feel welcome.”

CDM has a small garden with a slide and a swing, and children often play outside.

The Baby-Sitting Coop is a group of Roosevelt Island parents who are available to provide babysitting for other parents.

This is more useful as back-up care, but one of the five founding parents, Skye Topala, says that, “Occasionally, parents have used the website to find ongoing care,” adding, “Ongoing care is not the main purpose of the site.”

They recommend a fee of \$10/hour for any sitting, with an extra two dollars per hour for each additional child. To arrange access to the website, parents can email familysitcoop@gmail.com.

Island Kids Alternative to Pre-School Co-op meets twice weekly and lasts for two hours, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. It costs \$30 per session for members, and \$40 per session for non-members. This is not offered on a drop-in basis. It is also not meant as childcare, but more as an introduction, for toddlers, to the concept of separation. Parents take turns assisting the class.

In addition, Island Kids is now offering after-school for kindergartners. Children age out of Bright Horizons, RIDN, and CDM once they are in kindergarten, but they are not eligible for the Beacon Program’s after-school activities until first grade. The Island Kids program will take kids from school dismissal at 2:45 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5,500 per year, or \$600 on a monthly basis.

Most other Island Kids programs are for parent and child together.

The Process

Finding childcare for young children can be intimidating, time-consuming, and expensive. Parents often end up using a patchwork of different resources to meet their requirements. Island parents are fortunate in that there are many different types of care available here to meet various scheduling and financial needs.



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unClassified deadline for October 26 issue: Tuesday, October 22

unClassified deadline for November 9 issue: Tuesday, November 5

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

FOR RENT – Riverwalk Place 3/2, 1374sf. Spectacularview of Manhat-tan 3 ways N,W,S. High flr. \$4,999 **866-995-8789**.

CHESS INSTRUCTOR – Island resi-dent, 10 years experience. Children & adults, beginners & intermediate. Free consultation. Moderate rates: 2-hour lesson \$30. **212-750-9087** thru 8/3/13

PIANO CLASSES with Irene “PuRRple Tiger.” Group lessons. Work scholar-ships. Upcoming troupe auditions & performances. **917-655-0028**.

MAIN STREET THEATRE & DANCE ALLIANCE – Ongoing registration for dance and theatre classes. **212-371-4449**. Unique or period clothing & furniture gladly accepted.

EXPERIENCED CAT SITTER – **212-751-8214**. Island resident. Will also check mail, etc.

GRAND PIANO with MIDI & silent headphones practice switch. Like new. \$6,000. Call Dick at **212-826-9056**. DL

NOTARY PUBLIC – 212-935-7534.

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LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST / Certified Reflexologist – Island resident Diana Brill. Gift certificates available. **212-759-9042**.

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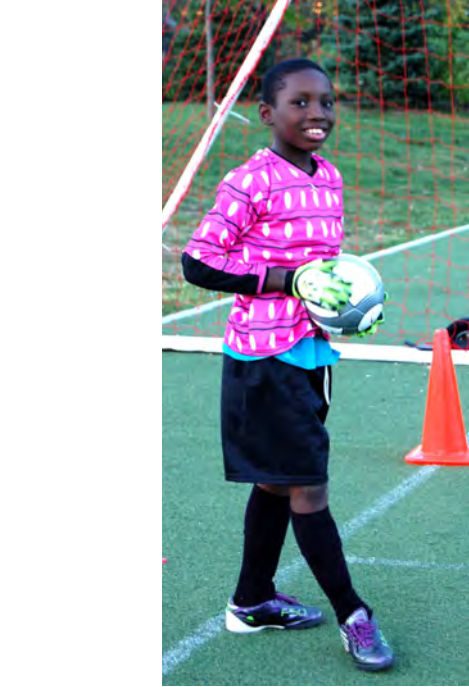
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10:00 **Zumba**
11:00 **Computers**
5:00 **Yoga**
Tuesday
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Building Strength**
11:00 **Blood Pressure**
1:00 **Paint & Sculpt**
Wednesday
9:30 **Yoga Stretch**
10:20 **Shoppers’ Bus**
10:30 **Salsa**
10:45 **Spanish**
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
Flea Market, Sat Oct 12, 9am-4pm, Good Shepherd Plaza
Senior Day, Sun Oct 13; 2-6pm, free.
Holiday Special: Foxwoods Casino & Newport, Rhode Island; see Dolores.
Flu shots, Thu Oct 24, 10am-1pm, Senior Center, 546 Main St. Call **212-860-4906** for appointment.

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SPORTSWIRE



SOCCER

Minors:			
Coach	Points	Rank	Goals
James Highsmith	6	2nd	4
James Brown	6	2nd	10
Marc Block	5	3rd	2
Dan Sadlier	5	3rd	4
Tony Leon	8	1st	8
John Evans	3	4th	7

The Minors teams have improved dramatically as the players learn their formations and the importance of each position for the team and the games. The coaches are doing a great job in the training sessions. The drills include short-distance passing, and shooting on the goal, and I’ll be working with them on goalie skills. Two teams are tied at second place and two are tied at third. The teams’ improvement is evident in the game scores from last weekend:

James Highsmith (Blue) 1 vs. John Evans (Brown) 0
Marc Block (Yellow) 1 vs. Tony Leon (Orange) 1
James Brown (Red) 1 vs. Dan Sadlier (Black) 2

Juniors:			
Coach	Points	Rank	Goals
Patrick Reidy	3	3rd	10
Johan Marfey	6	2nd	14
Jack McManus	9	1st	15
Jessey Krieg	6	2nd	12

The Juniors games are a thrill to watch. The teams are equal in strength and skills. Most of last Saturday’s games were held in the midfield, where each team is holding onto possession. The goals have mostly been dribbling skills combined with smart passes. Noteworthy is the teamwork between Rajan and Tenzin on Jack McManus’ Red team. The Blue team has been training hard with coach Johan – several days a week – and has gotten two straight wins. Tia Young has become a strong defender on coach Patrick Reidy’s Yellow team. And finally, the teamwork among the trio of Muad Kurer, Galen Bennie, and the new addition, Antun Obou, is exciting to watch. Last weekend’s scores were as follows:

Johan Marfey (Blue) 3 vs. Jesse Krieg (Black) 2
Patrick Reidy (Yellow) 1 vs. Jack McManus (Red) 3

Seniors:			
Coach	Points	Rank	Goals
Cesar & Marianna	3	3rd	13
Daniel Folla	6	2nd	11
Frantz Enama	9	1st	14
Boris Lissassi	6	2nd	17

The Seniors games are so exciting, it beats watching a professional game on TV. Teamwork with precise and speedy passes culminated in beautiful goals – some from long-distance, accurate, hard-to-reach kicks, and others through quick passes and smart short-distance kicks. Noteworthy are the two powerful goalies – Daniel Wolczuk (from Frantz Enama’s Orange team) and Desmond Bent (from Daniel Folla’s Purple team). Another noteworthy player is Luis Tejada (on Cesar’s Blue team), who started the season by being frustrated but quickly learned to be a leader and a team player. Also on the Blue team are the new additions of Jaden Perry and Georgia Bobo; please help us welcome them to our league. On Daniel Folla’s team, Youssef Afif, Donald Smith, Richard Conde, and Ahmed El Shakshouki have played impeccably as team players. On Frantz Enama’s Orange team, Taj Young and Xavier Leon have stepped up their relentless pursuit to apprehend the ball throughout the game. Last but not least is Namkhy Y. Tobgyel, on Boris Lissassi’s Yellow team; he has proven to be a sophisticated and skilled player with fantastic moves, accurate passes in tight situations, and powerful kicks. Also on the Yellow team is Jaden Luna, who has shown a lot of improvement and has become an integral part of her team. Last weekend’s scores were as follows:

Frantz Enama (Orange) 5 vs. Boris Lissassi (Yellow) 4
Cesar & Marianna (Blue) 2 vs. Daniel Folla (Purple) 3

–Adib Monsour

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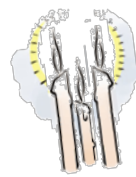
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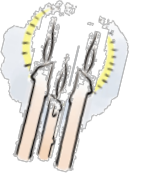
B"H



Friday, October 11 at 6:05 pm

Friday, October 18 at 5:54 pm

Friday, October 25 at 5:44 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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