

Next scheduled issue:
Saturday, Jan. 25, 2003

The Main Street WIRE™

Roosevelt Island's Community Newspaper

News updates on **Website NYC10044** www.nyc10044.com

But Only 25 Residents May Get Priority In Low-Rent Octagon Units Underground Parking Still an Issue

by Dick Lutz

Roosevelt Islanders may get an exclusive lottery crack at 25 "affordable" apartments if the Octagon project is built.

But the RIOC Board tabled the Octagon matter at its December meeting. Board Chair Marybeth Labate explained that members had just received the transcript of the December 12 hearing on proposed changes to the Island's General Development Plan (GDP) required to accommodate the development. Had the Board acted, it would have been voting on a "negative declaration" of environmental impact. It may also have voted on seeking City approval for changes in the GDP.

RIOC Board member John Mannix, who also serves on the Board of the State Housing Finance Agency, told Board members at their December 19 meeting that, of the 100 "affordable" apartments, half may be reserved for residents of the Community Board 8 area. Of those 50, half may be reserved for Roosevelt Island residents.

"It is a true lottery system," Mannix said, explaining that in the 80/20 split under which 80% of the apartments will rent at market rate and 20% will be "affordable," there is a "community preference" exception. "In this case there is a framework in place, which we [RIOC] would need to push forward, to enable half of these 100 affordable apartments to be set aside for Community Board 8 [area residents]. Within CB8, for Roosevelt Island, we would be able to have a separate lottery, for half of the half, [or] 25 apartments. There would be a CB8 lottery for the other 25, and a wider lottery for the other 50." (The "segregation" would be only a set-aside for lottery purposes, and would not relate to the location of the affordable apartments in the complex.)

Roosevelt Island residents whose income meets the requirements to apply for affordable apartments would be the only ones allowed to enter the Roosevelt Island lottery, but they could also enter the CB8 lottery for those 25 apart-



Bonnie Sherk appeared before the Residents Association Common Council Wednesday night to present her concept of *A Living Library*.

"Living Library" Envisioned for Island

Bonnie Sherk has an idea for Roosevelt Island. It's called *A Living Library*, and she's been meeting with the heads of Island organizations to bring them – and their ideas – into its creation here.

It's a planning project at this stage, funded with \$50,000 from the Ford Foundation, but eventually the idea is to transform spaces on the Island into *A Living Library*. Sherk's papers, passed out to RIRA Common Council representatives Wednesday night, describe this concept as one which "creates site and culturally-sensitive community learning environments and transforms public places to incorporate the resources of the area: human, ecological, economic, historic, technological, and aesthetic." Each site (and there's one in San Francisco already) is "to be linked using state-of-the-art communications technologies, eventually forming a global network of diversity and commonalities and helping to promote world peace and social justice."

The website for Sherk's non-profit organization, Life Frames, Inc., says, "A Living Library develops themed, content-rich landscapes with integrated community programs, multidisciplinary project-based learning, and state-of-the-art communications technologies. A Living Library is created by all sectors of the community, particularly students, and cultivates the 'Human

Garden' by its emphasis on diversity, commonalities, participation, and inclusivity from the peoples of the world. A Living Library provides a practical and enchanting way to bring us all together and celebrate life." The website address is www.alivinglibrary.org.

In another description, Sherk's materials say, "A Living Library transforms sunken meadows and brownfields, urban sprawl and desolation, public parks and plazas, concrete and asphalt schoolyards, civic centers or undeveloped wastelands into vibrant and relevant multicultural community learning environments." It makes them, she says, "highly visible public magnets" which, in turn, are a "systemic framework and vehicle for environmental and educational transformation."

Just what might be done on Roosevelt Island remains to be seen, and created, Sherk says, by the community itself. She's currently back in San Francisco, but expects to return here at the end of February to continue work on the planning phase, which her timeline says will stretch to January, 2004. The next task is to set up a steering committee and work toward a map of possible Roosevelt Island sites and assess the various alternatives. By next January, the project should be producing an action plan and funding plan for Phase 2 – actual development of *A Living Library*.

Electric Buses to Return to Island's Red-Bus Route

by Mary Camper-Titsingh

In a kind of *Back to the Future* scenario, Roosevelt Island may once again get electric buses.

At its December meeting, the RIOC Board approved a plan for new buses put together by RIOC Vice President Robert Antonek with the help of New York State and electric-industry groups promoting low-pollution transportation systems. Those groups will fund the difference between the cost of conventional buses and the electrics, which cost more.

When first developed for residential apartments in the 1970's, the Island tried the electric-bus technology available then, but it was a bust. Historical Society President Judy Berdy recalls, "That form of transportation frequently resulted in stalled buses due to battery failure. And the buses were too small



Roosevelt Island Historical Society In the late '70s, companies boasted of their involvement in the Island's electric transportation pioneering.

ments, and the wider lottery for 50 more. According to Mannix, the wider lottery will be open to "people from all over the world."

The Octagon plan currently before the RIOC Board provides for 147 studio apartments, 182 one-bedroom units, 79 two-bedrooms, and 91 three-bedrooms, for a total of 500 apartments (one would go to the super). Presumably, about 20% of each size category would be set aside for the affordable category.

According to the Environmental Assessment Form prepared by consultants to Becker and Becker, the Octagon Apartments developer, rents in the new development, with the maximum income qualifying, would be:

	Affordable (100 units)		Market-Rate (400)
	Rent	Max Income	Rent
Studios	517	20,680	1,723
1-bdrm	554	22,160	2,178
2-bdrm	665	26,600	3,088
3-bdrm	768	30,720	4,225

See **Octagon**, page 6

PTA Robbed

The PTA was robbed New Year's Eve.

Following its New Year's Eve dance at Manhattan Park Theater Club, during clean-up, admission receipts that were left in a shopping cart near the door were taken during a brief period of inattention. The theft was noticed when, upon returning to the area, Rose McCarthy noticed that her coat had been moved from the cart.

McCarthy and PTA President Erin Feely-Nahem say the loss is about \$1,375 in funds intended to support PTA activities on behalf of PS/IS 217, including a 7th-grade trip. Feely-Nahem says, however, that other funds are available for those purposes.

The PTA had requested that a Public Safety Officer be present but, at the time of the robbery, all on duty were committed to other tasks.

Southtown Progress

The Southward extension of Main Street was well along this week, and the restoration of the turnaround appeared nearly ready to happen, though obscured by snow. Meanwhile, by Thursday workers had made progress on restoring the sidewalk broken up during recent infrastructure work.



The Editorial Page

Let's Act Now to Save Lives in the Future

We were all deeply saddened by Chris Byrne's sudden and unexpected death.

I do not know the details of what happened after his collapse at the basketball court, since I have heard several stories. I do not know if there was immediate CPR performed or not, but we do know that CPR can be lifesaving if it is instituted within three to five minutes of a cardiac arrest. Also, if the individual has incurred ventricular fibrillation, the prompt use of a defibrillator can also be lifesaving. This is why portable defibrillators are now seen more frequently in businesses, and trained lay people use them on individuals with cardiac arrest.

Chris Byrne's tragic death has resulted in discussions about emergency medical services on Roosevelt Island. When an individual collapses and has a cardiac arrest, emergency services must be brought immediately to where that person is located within three to five minutes. It is unrealistic to expect EMS or even our local hospitals to provide services within that time frame. Therefore I make the following suggestions:

- As many people as possible on Roosevelt Island should be trained in basic life support, including the teens at the Youth Center. An American Red Cross certified course should be held on the Island every six to twelve months on an ongoing basis.

- The Island needs a core group of dedicated and well-trained individuals who provide emergency medical services at all times. This could be the responsibility of Public Safety, the responsibility of a volunteer rescue squad (commonly seen in less populated areas), or a combination of both.

- A portable defibrillator should be purchased and kept at a central location, such as at Public Safety.
- Consideration should be given to the purchase of our own ambulance.

I have suggested to RIRA that a small committee be appointed to explore the improvement of emergency medical services on Roosevelt Island. The committee might explore the emergency services that other small communities have created.

Katherine Teets Grimm, MD

Dr. Grimm will appear Sunday (January 12) as the speaker for *Our Lives: Roosevelt Islanders Reminisce*, at Gallery RIVAA (see *Coming Up*, page 3).

Interested in pursuing this matter?

On Wednesday night, the RIRA Common Council referred it to its Island Services Committee. All Island residents are eligible to serve on that and other RIRA committees.

If you wish to volunteer your time or expertise, call RIRA Vice President Steve Marcus at (212) 486-5733, or contact him by e-mail: stevemarcus@hotmail.com.

Letters

To the Editor:

In recent months I have noticed an influx of cars that are now allowed to park under the ramp to the bridge. Why is this? Behind the little church, there are up to ten cars. We have two RVs that are now hooked up under the ramp. Who are these people?

As a parent I am concerned for many reasons. Children play back there all day on weekends. What if something were to happen to them?

We as a community need to be informed of these things. I called Public Safety and asked. The reply was, "None of your business. Who are you, anyway? You are not my boss, I don't have to give you that information. You don't pay my salary!" Someone should tell them who pays their salaries and that they are here to work for this community.

As residents we are hassled when parked out front unloading our cars. I have to pay for my car!

We have an ongoing dilemma with builders who are trying to put yet another parking garage over by Octagon. Motorgate has plenty of parking that's not used. These cars that are parked illegally would generate revenue for the Island if they were made to park in Motorgate. I think everyone should park and ride the bus to their destination.

I enclose photos of the cars parked under the ramp.

Lisandra Torres

Editor's note: The RVs are the property of Verdant Power, the company experimenting with generation of electricity by use of East River currents; as yet, *The WIRE* has no information on the financial arrangements, if any, for use of parking space under the arrival deck.



To Manhattan Park Residents:

If your lease was renewed in the past half-year without a reduced rental rate, this letter is intended for you.

The rent of free-market apartments in Manhattan has been going down steeply over the past year. The same is true for Manhattan Park, which advertised a "two months free rent" deal on one- and two-bedroom apartments for several months (i.e., May-July) in *The New York Times*.

The ads suggest that if we vacate our apartments, Manhattan Park would lease them to the new tenants at a reduction of 17% from what we have paid. On the other hand, if we renew, I believe Manhattan Park should treat us equally to the new tenants and reduce the rent we pay by at least 17%.

Since the landlord is only profiting by keeping the existing tenants, I believe it is customary to offer to these tenants an "insiders" rate, lower than the free-market value. Accordingly, the "lease renewal form" contains two options: An "insider" rent rate lower than the advertised rate and offered provided the tenant signs within three weeks, and an "outsider" rate, the advertised rate offered to new tenants if the tenant hesitates and signs after the three-week period.

The rent rate offered to existing tenants in the "lease renewal form" was not reduced to the advertised rate. Instead, it was increased in both categories. Based on my experience, I believe both the "insider" and "outsider" rents offered to existing tenants for identical apartments were higher by several hundred dollars than that offered to prospective new tenants. In short, the landlord is taking advantage of the reluctance of existing tenants to pack, unpack, and pay moving expenses, and is thereby extracting from existing tenants a rent higher than the advertised rate.

The landlord is relying on the fact that each individual tenant is unlikely to take legal action. Legal fees would exceed the refunded rent. But if we unite, individual legal costs will be lower.

The "lease renewal form" I received from the Director of Leasing notified me of an increase of the rent by \$110 ("insider" rate) or by \$400 ("outsider" rate) above the current rate. A quick survey showed that the rent offered to new tenants for an apartment identical to mine was lower by \$300 or \$500 from either rate offered to me. It was also lower for apartments better than mine. For example, the rent of new tenants for an apartment in my building that is identical to mine in size but better-situated on a higher floor, and with a Manhattan view (mine is a courtyard), was lower by \$155 than the rent offered to me for an inferior apartment.

When I asked to pay the same rate as the new tenants, the Director of Leasing wrote: "If you would like to move to something less expensive, I will be happy to show you. Your unit is priced at higher rent because you are tree-top level and your placement is more desirable." But my apartment is five flights below tree-top level.

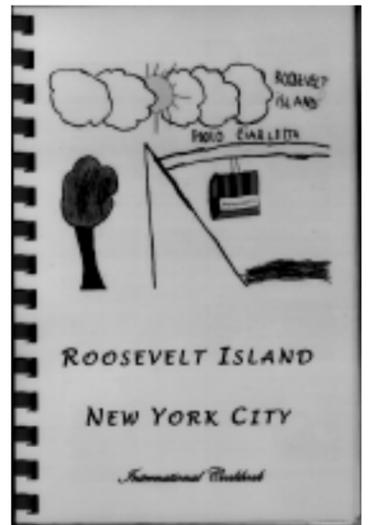
There are several lawful venues available to us to persuade the landlord to reduce our rent retroactively to the current free-market value. If you would like to join forces for the purpose of keeping the extra rent in your pocket, please call/leave a message at (917) 929-6054.

A Tenant in Manhattan Park

Letters deadline for January 25 issue: January 20

Letters received after deadline will be considered on a space-available basis.

PTA-RIRA Cookbook Fund-Raiser



It's Ready! The PTA and the Legal Action Fund Committee of the Residents Association have teamed up to produce a Roosevelt Island Cookbook, available for \$15. The book's art is by PS/IS 217 students, and the international recipes were submitted by Islanders. Copies are available Saturday at the Farmer's Market and from PTA and RIRA contacts, including:

- Sherie Helstien – 935-7534
- Erin Feely-Nahem – 339-0016
- Rose McCarthy – 588-0388
- Sandra Morabito – 223-1975

Corrections

An editorial on page 2 of the November 23 issue of *The WIRE*, repeated by reference in the December 14 issue, said that "the Island House ground lease seems to call for day care space in Island House." That was incorrect. There is no such provision in the Island House ground lease. The incorrect inference was based on a letter written by RIOC attorney Kenneth Leitner saying, "...RIOC's position... is that Island House is required to dedicate space to day nursery providers."

At last month's RIOC Board meeting, Public Safety Chief James Fry corrected the record on a December 7 incident reported in the December 14 *WIRE* under the headline *Hostage Situation, But No Hostage*. While the report quoted an NYPD source saying a drug bust had gone bad at 4 River Road (information confirmed by a second police source), Fry reported that no drug bust had been involved (revised information also confirmed by a police source). Fry also told the RIOC Board that Public Safety, not NYPD, made the collar on the individual, who was suspected in three or more Island hold-ups.

Back issues of *The WIRE* are on the website: www.nyc10044.com

Letters Policy

The WIRE welcomes letters to the Editor, to the community, and to/from officials. Publication on a *Name Withheld* basis will be considered, but the writer's name, address, and phone number must be provided for verification and for our records; anonymous letters are not considered for publication.

Preferred methods of submission: By e-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (ASCII text preferred, or use any wordprocessing software, but no MSWord files with macros), or PC-standard 3.5" floppy disk left at 531 Main Street addressed to *The WIRE*. **Alternatives:** Typed, double-spaced copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to (212) 755-2540 (verify receipt by calling [212] 826-9055). Clearly handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we cannot take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance, and to editing for length and clarity.** Recommend maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

Questions? Call (212) 826-9055.



Published by **The Main Street WIRE**
©2003 Unisource2000™ Inc.
531 Main St. #413, NYC10044

News (212) 826-9055
Urgent news 1-917-617-0449
Advertising (212) 751-8214
Circulation (212) 935-7534
Fax (212) 755-2540
e-mail Editor@MainStreetWIRE.com
in association with **Website**
NYC10044 www.nyc10044.com

- Managing Editor – Dick Lutz
- Reporters – Mary Camper-Titsingh, Linda Humphrey, Anusha Shrivastava
- Ombudsman – Armand Schwab – 838-3184
- Chief Proofreader – Kay Thompson
- Proofreaders – Linda Heimer, Frances Salten
- Photographer – Vicki Feinmel
- Advertising Sales Manager – Ellen Levy
- Circulation Managers – Sherie Helstien, Teri Sheridan, Joyce Speziale
- Circulation Assistant – Dexter Benjamin
- Typist – Nadya Borisova
- Website NYC10044 facilities – Frank Farance
- Website NYC10044 contributors – Anna Palm, Karine Wong
- Founding Publisher – Jack Resnick
- Editor Emeritus – Jim Bosner

Judi Arond, David Bauer, Steve Bessenof, Virginia Boykin, Melanie Castine, Lynn Chambers, Mark Chambers, Malcolm Cohen, Susan Cohen, Pearl Cooper, Shirley Cruz, Harold Davis, Joan Davis, Valerie Davis, Robin Day, Jenny Olivera DelMastro, Morty Dinerstein, Rebecca Dougherty, Juanita Elliott, Zoraida Fonseca, Teresa Hasing, Roberta Hershey, Lauren Hindman, Elaine Kane, Ken Kaplan, Peter Kaplan, Mickey Karpeles-Bauer, Matthew Katz, Seth Kaufman, Mike Kolba, Boyana Kovacevic, Dan Kovacevic, Bridget Lowy, Mercedes Lugo, Hazel Lynch, Roger Makombo, Armando Manalo, Robert Manalo, Beatrice Marcus, Clarissa McCraley, Dorene McQueen, Terry Moses, Claudia Narine, Clinton Narine, Sandra Narine, Kathie Niederhoffer, Nancy Olivera, Joan Pape, Gabrielle Parnes, Gladys Rasheed, Irene Rivera, Ron Schuppert, Bernie Schwartz, Beryl Seaforth, Marilyn Sherman, Haley Shinozaki, Michael Shinozaki, George Spelvin, Joseph Strong, Lynn Strong-Shinozaki, Pearl Thomas, David Tsireskin, Elena Vrinceanu, Rece Walford, Michael Walker, Maggie Warner, Liza Williams, Robin Williams, Nina Winteringham, Rose Woods

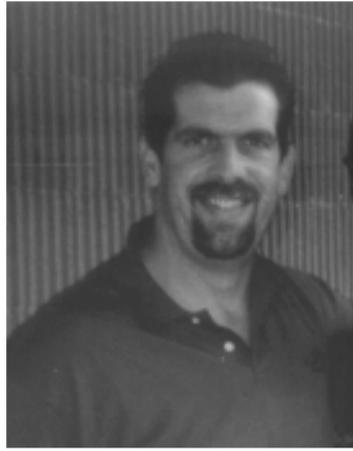
Lynne Abraham



A member of the RIOC staff in the early 1990's, Lynne Abraham, died December 12 after a 12-year fight against breast cancer. She was 60.

During the RIOC administrations of Rosina Abramson and Jean Lerman, she was involved in publicizing Island-wide events and pro-

Chris Byrne



Chris Byrne, a longtime employee of the Roosevelt Island Housing Management Corporation died New Year's Eve Day, December 31, of a massive heart attack, suffered while playing basketball on the Island. He was 42.

He had started with RIHMC in June of 1987, as a handyman, gradually receiving promotions to Superintendent of Eastwood.

He leaves his wife, Ann, and five children: Jill, 20; Patrick, 19; Kelly, 14; Samantha, 6; and Daniel, 5. Also surviving are his mother, Pat Byrne; and two sisters, Maurine and Caline.

moting the Island in the media.

Abraham was active in Friends of Roosevelt Island, an off-Island group. She located anonymous funding for the restoration of the Lighthouse at the north end of the Island, which was completed in the closing months of 1999.

Abraham had served in communications and public relations positions for City Council President Carol Bellamy, for Planned Parenthood of America, and as press secretary during Bella Abzug's cam-

paign for the U.S. Senate. In 1990, she helped establish the Race for the Cure, a 5km women's walk and run in Central Park. She later served on the board of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. In that role, she appeared before Congressional committees and at medical conferences around the country to speak about breast cancer. She received the Komen Foundation's Outstanding Volunteer Lifetime Award in 2000.

Happy New Year, everyone. I'm practicing writing and vocalizing "two thousand and tha-ree," and hope to have it down pat by July. Sherie and I spent Christmas in southern California visiting relatives. We attempted to make civilized conversation that didn't include any reference to Roosevelt Island. We failed miserably.

Something exciting is percolating through the organizations and leadership circles of the Island. Bonnie Sherk is president of Life Frames, Inc., a non-profit organization that works with communities to "create site and culturally-sensitive community learning environments and transform public places to incorporate the resources of the area: human, ecological, economic, historic, technological, and aesthetic." She has been meeting with leaders of the senior association (RISA), the visual arts association (RIVAA), the historical society (RIHS), the disabled association (RIDA), and RIOC (as well as me), under the auspices of Principal Sherry Gregory of PS/IS 217, to create a "Living Library and Think Park." On Wednesday evening, the RIRA Common Council was offered an opportunity to participate in the Phase I planning stage. What this means, and what concrete forms it will translate to, will depend on what a steering committee of Islanders, working under a Ford Foundation grant awarded to Life Frames, Inc., make it. Ms. Sherk presented a San Francisco project as a template in which underutilized concrete- and asphalt-covered land surrounding several schools was transformed into gardens. The Roosevelt Island Living Library will reflect and incorporate the needs and aspirations of Island students, parents and teachers, artists and interest groups, seniors and the disabled, RIOC, RIRA, housing managers, and tenants. A multimedia digital archive will be developed that will link to other Living Library projects in San Francisco and Michoacan, Mexico, the site of another undertaking. The Ford Foundation grant will cover Phase I, in which a conceptual master plan is to be developed over a year's time. At the end of the year, the steering committee will help develop Phase 2, a future action and funding plan.

I've had the opportunity to see a professionally-produced video as well as considerable written material on the completed San Francisco project and other planned undertakings. There is an opportunity to enhance our community along guidelines that we, ourselves, set. Where this endeavor will go and how it will end up remain to be seen. In the meantime, Island groups and individuals are coalescing around Ms. Sherk's leadership and expertise as an artist, landscape architect, and community planner. As this steering group takes shape, and as ideas start to evolve, I will keep you informed. Stay tuned.

When I wrote my last column, the RIOC hearings on

the Octagon Apartments project had yet to take place. You read about those hearings in the December 14 issue of *The WIRE*. About a hundred people showed up and were almost unanimous in their condemnation of the project for a variety of reasons: aesthetic, environmental, legal, philosophical, political. Speaker Gifford Miller, Assemblymember Pete Grannis, and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney offered statements that were read into the record, as did the RIRA Common Council. They, too, were unanimously opposed to the project for similar reasons and because it contravenes the requirements of the Roosevelt Island Open Spaces bill, signed into law last September. One hundred people do not represent a majority of Islanders, but they do represent a consensus of those who took the time to express an opinion at the hearings.

The Common Council, through its Planning and Development Committee, will continue to monitor the progress of the Becker & Becker Associates plan for the Octagon through the RIOC Board of Directors approval process. We are on record as opposing piecemeal amendment of our General Development Plan; this is a de facto dismantling of Roosevelt Island as a planned community. We've seen the Octagon apartment wings grow from six to thirteen stories, a virtual bait-and-switch over the years the project has been on the table. We've seen subsidized housing added to the mix, but only for the poorest of families and certainly not as an addition to our middle-class, affordable housing stock. We've even read of the potential inclusion of a floor of medical research facilities, buried in the lengthy environmental assessment report but never discussed at any of the Town Meetings convened to present the latest plans for the apartment complex. As much as I value saving the Octagon landmark from extinction, I no longer think that this project, or any residential project, is a reasonable price to pay. Let's bring back Octagon Park as it was originally envisioned including the Urban Ecological Center called for in the GDP.

And finally: The RIOC Board should be the new Board composed of a majority of Island residents, as called for in the statute that became law last September. However, that Board has yet to be appointed, and a majority of the current Board of Directors still travel here once a month to determine our futures. Four months is more than enough time to implement this law. Mayor Bloomberg can recommend two Board members but, ultimately, all the members are gubernatorial appointees. Roosevelt Island seems to be last on everyone's agenda. Call, write, e-mail the Governor and the Mayor and demand that the law be carried out expeditiously. Let's take charge of our own destiny.

The RIRA Column



Matthew Katz
Residents Association President
e-mail: matthewkatz@rcn.com

There is no charge to list Island events here. E-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com or leave copy at the lobby desk at 531 Main Street, addressed to *The WIRE*. Provide a telephone number for possible follow-up.

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Dance and Fitness Class Registration at the Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance, today, **Sat., Jan. 11**, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Information: (212) 371-4449.

Dance Audition for spring Dance Project, Main Street Theatre, today, **Sat., Jan. 11**, 1:00 p.m. Information: (212) 371-4449.

Our Lives – Roosevelt Islanders Reminisce: Katherine Teets Grimm, Roosevelt Island pediatrician, Gallery RIVAA, **Sun., Jan. 12**, 5:00 p.m.



Dr. K. T. Grimm

— The Coming Week —

Jazz Concert featuring Roosevelt Island's Tex Allen, benefit for Eviction Intervention Services, at Lexington United Methodist Church (red doors) at 150 East 62nd Street; \$15 (\$10 for seniors, students); **Mon., Jan. 13**, 8:00 p.m. Tickets and information – (212) 308-2210. Series tickets also available.



Tex Allen

Toastmasters public speaking group. Visitors welcome. Information: 759-0396. **Mon., Jan. 13**, 8:00 p.m.

Picture Book Hour for children 2-5, **Wed., Jan. 15** and every Wednesday, Library, 11:00 a.m.

Book Discussion – White Noise by Don DeLillo, Library. **Thur., Jan. 16**, 6:30 p.m. Pre-registration no longer required; book available at the Library.

Community Board 8 meeting, **Wed., Jan. 15**, 7:00 p.m., Memorial Sloan Kettering, 430 East 67th Street.

Picture Book Hour for children 6-12, **Fri., Jan. 17** and every Friday, Library, 11:00 a.m.

— Future Events —

The Main Street WIRE – next scheduled issue, **Sat., Jan. 25**. **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, **Fri., Jan. 17**; decision on stuffers for *The Bag*, **Mon., Jan. 20**; bag materials due **Thur., Jan. 23**. **Future issues:** February 8, 22; March 8, 22; April 12, 26; May 17, 31; June 14, 28; July 26; August 23; September 6, 20; October 11, 25; November 8, 22 (Thanksgiving issue); December 13 (holiday issue). **Phone/fax** for news, 826-9055/755-2540; phone/fax for display and classified advertising placement and information, 751-8214/755-2540. To list your organization's Island events here, e-mail information to ComingUp@MainStreetWIRE.com, or leave it, addressed to *The WIRE*, at the desk at 531 Main Street; provide a telephone number for follow-up.

Roosevelt Island Past and Present lecture, presented by Judy Berdy, president of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society, Library, **Thur., Jan. 30**, 7:00 p.m.

St. Bart's Players production of Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward, Angel* with Roosevelt Island's Veronica Shea, **Thur., Jan. 30** through February 9, 8:00 p.m., plus weekend matinees and dinner theater Feb. 6, Park Avenue at 50th Street. Tickets from \$17. For reservations, call (212) 378-0248.

Memorial Service for Gloria Chapin, **Sun., Feb. 2**, 2:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Wed., Feb. 5**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.

Toastmasters public speaking group. Visitors welcome. Information: 759-0396. **Mon., Feb. 10**, 8:00.

Toastmasters public speaking group. Visitors welcome. Information: 759-0396. **Mon., Feb. 24**, 8:00.

RIRA Common Council meeting, **Wed., Mar. 5**, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Open to the public; public comments invited near start of meeting.



Veronica Shea

Senior Center

Monday
10:30, **Blood Pressure Screen** (except Jan. 20)
12:30, **"Oldies" Movies**
1:00, **Tai Chi**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Beginners)

Tuesday
2:00, **Computer Class**
7:30, **Games (RISA)**
6:30, **Yoga Class**

Wednesday
9:15, **Stay Well**
10:00, **English as a Second Language**
7:00, **Pokeno (RISA)** (except Jan. 15)

Thursday
10:00, **Tai Chi**
10:30, **Creative Arts**
12:30, **Movie**
7:00, **Dance Class** (Advanced)

Friday
9:00, **Citizenship**
9:30, **Yoga Stretch** (new time)

10:00, **English as a Second Language**
1:00, **Bridge Class**
7:00, **Games (RISA)**
Saturday
7:30, **Bingo (RISA)** (except Jan. 11)

Special Events
Sat., Jan. 11, 6:00, **Three Kings Day Celebration**
Mon., Jan. 13, 10:00, **Nutrition Lecture**
Mon., Jan. 13, 11-12:30, **MetroCard Bus**
Tue., Jan. 14, 7:00, **RISA General Meeting**
Wed., Jan. 15, **Atlantic City Trip**
Mon., Jan. 20, 6:00, **Martin Luther King Dinner**. Office closed.
Wed., Jan. 29, 11:00, **Natural Remedies Lecture**
Tuesdays, beginning **Feb. 11**, 9:00-1:00, **Free Tax Preparation** help

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

NATIONAL FULL SERVICE BEAUTY SALON INC.
 HAIR, NAIL & SKIN CARE
 Ladies, Gentlemen & Children
SENIOR SPECIAL - Tuesday & Wednesday
 Wash, Cut & Blow Dry - Complimentary Eyebrows
 Manicure & Pedicure - Complimentary Eyebrows
PERM - HIGHLIGHTS - RELAXER 10% DISCOUNT
523 MAIN STREET, ROOSEVELT ISLAND
(212) 688-0055

Hours:
 Tuesday thru Saturday: 9-7
 Friday: 10-7 Sunday: 10-5



JOLSONS WINES & LIQUORS

22-24 31st STREET
 ASTORIA, NY 11105
Telephone 1-718-728-2020
 Fax 718-956-8910
 (Last stop on the "N" train)

FINE IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC WINES FOR ALL OCCASIONS

VISIT OUR TEMPERATURE-CONTROLLED FINE WINE CELLAR

- We specialize in**
- Holiday Gift Baskets
 - Corporate Gifts
 - Weddings and Bridal Showers Catered
 - Private Parties Catered
 - Bartending Services

GIFT WRAPPING AVAILABLE

DELIVERY TO ROOSEVELT ISLAND AVAILABLE
 ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
 CONTACT US ON THE INTERNET - jolsonwines@yahoo.com
 or WINEDETECTIVE@HOTMAIL.COM

Katherine Teets Grimm, M.D.

Board Certified Pediatrician and Pediatric Allergist
 501 Main Street • Roosevelt Island • 753-5505

Have a happy and healthy school year

Office Hours

Monday & Thursday • 9 a.m. - 12 noon
 Tuesday • 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
 Wednesday & Friday • 1:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Coverage provided at all times, when office is closed, by Dr. Grimm or by her group, Uptown Pediatrics.
We provide comprehensive health care to children and adolescents.
 Dr. Grimm is also qualified to evaluate and treat allergy and asthma in adults.

Looking For a Gentle, Caring, Dental Family? Here We Are on Roosevelt Island

Our philosophy: Our office offers adults and children a Quality Dental Service with compassion, thoroughness, and respect for their time at a moderate dental cost. Services include Bonding, Veneers, ZOOM! In-Office Bleaching, Implants.

Some of the Dental Plans we accept toward payment:
 MetLife, Cigna, Aetna, Prudential, USHealthCare, Guardian, First Fortis, etc.



Don't forget to sign up at work for out-of-network dentists
 Daytime Hours: Mon., Fri. 9-6; Tue., Wed. 12-5; Thur. 3-7
 Evening Hours: Tue., Wed. 6-9

Lawrence Itskowitch, DDS, PC
Treating residents 24 years
 501 Main Street • (212) 752-8722

Roosevelt Island Day Nursery



Introduction to Preschool for 2 and 3 year olds

A Class for Parents and Children Together

30 classes: February 4 - May 22
 Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Register at 4 River Road

For information and fee call 593-0750

BRACES AREN'T FOREVER, SMILES ARE!

We offer free orthodontic consultations to children and adults who are residents of Roosevelt Island. Please call for an appointment.

Dr. Gerald Sweder and staff
 Serving Island residents for over 20 years

200 West 57th Street
 212 757-2285

Expert Tailor on Premises

571 Main St.
758-1778



FAST, EFFICIENT, RELIABLE, COURTEOUS

Roosevelt Island Cleaners

New State of the Art Dry Cleaning Machine To Serve You Better
 Your Neighborhood Cleaners

We Deliver

Free deliveries on orders \$15-up

Announcing...

Saturday Hours

That's right. **We've been listening** to what the Roosevelt Island community has to say about its needs in financial services, so we're adding Saturday morning hours while keeping the rest of our schedule intact. Now, the **Better Way to Bank** isn't a bank at all. It's your neighborhood Credit Union.

Montauk Hours

Monday-Wednesday & Friday
 Full services 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
 Doors open until 4:00 for drop-offs

Thursday
 Full services 12:00 noon-7:00 p.m.
 Doors open until 7:30

Saturday
 Full services 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon
 ATM 24/7 • NYCE affiliate

Free checking • Competitive interest on savings accounts
Daily interest on checking with balances over \$500

Montauk Credit Union

MCU – Your Financial Neighbor

559 Main Street • Phone (212) 643-3900 Fax (212) 588-1123
ALL MEMBER ACCOUNTS INSURED UP TO \$100,000 BY THE NCUA



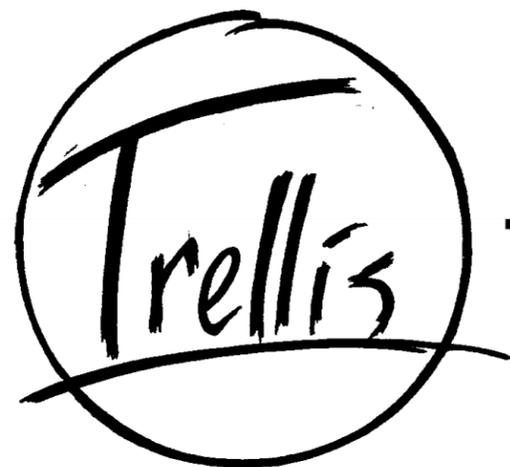
THE CABRINI THRIFT SHOP

It's New and Improved
Even More Clothing and Merchandise

Remember The Half-Price Sale Days

Monday, Jan. 13
Thursday, Jan. 23

Store Hours;
Monday-Saturday 12 Noon-7:30 PM
and until 9:00 PM on Thursday Evening



New Beginnings...

It's the season for looking ahead, anticipating what the new year will bring, resolving to make the best of what life has to offer. That's our resolution at Trellis – to provide you with the service you deserve as a Roosevelt Islander, and the service your guests have a right to expect.

**Come on in!
See you at Trellis...**

752-1517

*At the heart of the community,
next to the historic Chapel of the Good Shepherd*

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

FEEL THE JAZZ

Experience the sounds of **TEX ALLEN**
Monday, January 13, 2003 at 8:00 PM
150 East 62nd Street

Between Lexington and Third Avenues
Tickets \$15/seniors & students \$10
Info & Tickets: 212-308-2210 x214
Proceeds to benefit Eviction Intervention Services



Sales & Service
Est. 1961

CHRIS TV Repair Service Center

License #730671
Credit Cards Accepted

TV-VCR-STEREO-CD-PROJECTION TV-CAMCORDERS and more...

Free Estimates in Shop.
Free Pickup & Delivery with Repair
In-Home Service
All Work Guaranteed

718-392-7444

Mon.-Fri. 9-7
Sat. 9-6
21-16 36th Av.
LIC, NY 11106

Octagon from page 1

Parking

In the RIOC Board meeting, resident Board member David Kraut asked for more information on the plan to make underground parking part of the Octagon development. "I have not yet heard a satisfactory explanation of why parking needs to be built in that area at all," Kraut said. "The argument seems to be that we have to build parking there because RIOC has no plans to extend Motorgate. There seems to be an indication that if RIOC extended Motorgate in the area where Motorgate was designed to be extended, we wouldn't need parking up there. So it sounds like all of this argument is being caused by an internal RIOC decision, and I wonder if there's a chance to revisit this issue without significantly slowing things down... The need [to expand Motorgate to accommodate both Octagon and Southtown development] wouldn't even be apparent for a couple of years." Kraut said he doesn't understand why "we're insisting that this garage be built."

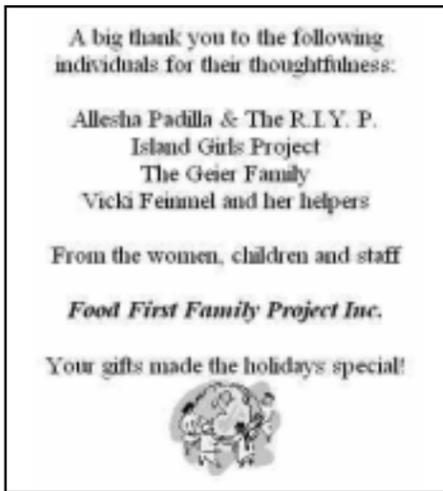
Board member John Mannix said he suspects that there are marketing issues related to the proposed development. He said he could think of only one 80/20 development approved in recent years without parking. In response, Kraut pointed out that Motorgate is close enough to qualify as parking for the development.

Bruce Becker, President of Becker and Becker, told *The WIRE* Wednesday that his firm is taking "a second look" at the parking question, but said a key question is, "Can we get the thing financed without the parking? There's a serious question about that." Further, Becker said, "Our ability to do the affordable units is based on our ability to have strong market-rate rents, and that component would be threatened by having parking less attractive." Becker pointed out that, unlike the buildings of Northtown Phase I (Westview, Island House, Rivercross, Eastwood), the Octagon Apartments will be far from the subway station and Tram station, making them more marketable with parking.

Becker said that his firm's early assessment that project funding from the sources currently involved could not be used to expand Motorgate is now being evaluated again. He said that, so far, however, the early assumption has been confirmed.

Hurdles

The Octagon matter still faces a challenge from City Council Speaker Gifford Miller, who insists that the Council, not the Mayor, must approve any changes in the GDP.



In addition, Assemblymember Pete Grannis has challenged the plan on grounds that the Open Spaces law signed by Governor George Pataki in September allows only open-space use of the land surrounding the Octagon landmark.

Becker said he would like to discuss the legislative consideration with Grannis's office, but has not yet had an opportunity to do so. He said, however, that his reading of the legislation gives him a "comfortable feeling" about the viability of the project under the law. He quoted Wall and Associates, the project environmental consultants, as saying "the language of the [law] does not limit the development to the footprint of the landmark itself."

The law says there may be no further development other than for park purposes in the open-space areas identified in the GDP "unless such development or construction includes the reconstruction, restoration, rehabilitation or preservation of the historic landmarks... and furthers the use of the areas surrounding the landmarks as open-space areas." The Wall report says, "The proposed action would not convert current open space to residential use, because the area to be developed for residential use is not now usable, accessible public open space but rather an unimproved area that is fenced to prevent public access." The Wall report assesses the law as giving an exception "for a project that includes rehabilitation of the landmark."

In the end, the viability of the Wall evaluation versus the Grannis contention may hinge on the fact that the law reads "furthers the use of areas surrounding the landmarks as open space areas" rather than "furthers the use of *open-space* areas surrounding the landmarks as open space areas."

by Seth Kaufman
SPORTSWIRE

Flag Football The Chargers in the Senior Division (15-17) and the Saints in the Junior Division (12-14), the first-place teams during the regular season, continued their success in the playoffs and captured the Youth Program's 2002 Flag Football championships on Saturday, December 21.

In the Senior Division championship game, the Chargers completed an undefeated season as they bested the Chiefs by the score of 41-12. The Chiefs took an early 6-0 lead in that game on a 70-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Terry Moses to Jonathan Hart. However, the Chargers responded on their next possession as quarterback Seth Kaufman completed a 25-yard pass to Jason Fell to tie the score. After trading defensive stops, the Chargers moved ahead 12-6 as Jason Fell scored on a 45-yard run from scrimmage. Jason Fell completed a sensational first half as he scored again on a running play with just under two minutes left in the half, and the Chargers opened a 19-6 lead at the half. The Chargers started the second half with another scoring drive, with Shirome Dixon taking a swing pass out of the backfield for a 50-yard gain and then scoring the touchdown on a 25-yard run from scrimmage. The Chiefs responded with their own scoring drive, as Eric Miranda had a 40-yard completion for a first down and Eric Hagan caught the touchdown pass to bring the score to 26-12. The Chiefs' defense held the Chargers on the next series, but just when it looked as though the Chiefs were ready to make their move, Fode Bah tackled the Chiefs' running back in the end zone for a safety. The Chargers got the ball following the safety and scored again, as Seth Kaufman completed passes to Shirome Dixon and then Fode Bah for the touchdown. Karam Hider completed the scoring by running back an interception for the final Charger touchdown. Congratulations to all of the members of the championship Charger team - Fode Bah, Shirome Dixon, Rahim Drame, Jason Fell, Karam Hider, Seth Kaufman, and Rafael Noorani - and their coach, Steve Kaufman.

In the Junior Division championship game, the Saints came from behind to defeat the Falcons by a 59-39 score. In the opening quarter, the Falcons came out like gangbusters and it looked as though they were going to run away with the game. The Falcons broke on top 18-0, as Jimmy Elias scored one touchdown and Adrian Gordon scored two touchdowns. However, the Saints' defense took over the game at that point, and a safety and interceptions by Remy Armenakis and Noel Polanco led to two touchdowns, closing the deficit to 18-16 at the half. In the second half, the Saints' defense continued to dominate the game, and interceptions by Ricardo Bonano, Remy Armenakis and Noel Polanco all led to touchdowns, as the Saints opened a 59-18 lead. The Falcons rallied, with Steven Morabito, Joshua Hart, and David Dinkins scoring touchdowns, but there was not enough time to close the gap. While the Saints won the championship game, only a week earlier, in the playoff semifinals, it looked as though they were going to be eliminated. Playing the Buccaneers, the Saints trailed 31-24 and had the ball at midfield with time for only one play. They surprised the Buccaneers by calling a running play instead of a pass, and Enoki Yauvoli, behind some good blocking, scored as time ran out. The Saints then went for the 2-point conversion and the win, and Derrick Davis completed a pass to Emilio Estevez to secure the victory. Remy Armenakis scored four touchdowns for the Saints in that game, and Alpha Bah had three touchdowns for the Buccaneers. Congratulations to all of the members of the championship Saints team - Dax Armenakis, Remy Armenakis, Ricardo Bonano, Derrick Davis, Sanger Devine, Emilio Estevez, Noel Polanco, Eyosyas Tadesse, and Enoki Yauvoli - and their coach, Jim Armenakis.

Basketball The Youth Program's winter basketball programs will begin January 18. Registration forms should be turned in to the Youth Program at 506 Main Street by January 17, and participants should come to the PS/IS 217 gym on Saturday, January 18, at the following times: Ages 6-7 - 11:15 a.m.; ages 8-10 - 1:00 p.m.; and ages 11-13 - 3:00 p.m.

The Main Street WIRE

presents a limited edition of two Roosevelt Island postcards

Cards are in rich color on heavy stock, 4.25x6 inches



Legends on message side identify photos as The Tramway, Roosevelt Island, New York City; and Lighthouse Park, Roosevelt Island, New York City

proceeds benefit The Main Street WIRE

This limited edition set of color postcards is currently available only through *The Main Street WIRE*. (Proceeds benefit *The WIRE*.)

Sold only in sets: \$8 per set of 20 cards (10 of each), or \$7.50/set for 2 sets or more.

To order, complete form and mail with check or money order payable to *The WIRE*. Send to:

The Main Street WIRE
531 Main Street #413
Roosevelt Island, NYC NY 10044.

(Orders, addressed to *The WIRE*, may also be dropped off at the doorstation at Rivercross, 531 Main Street.)

Questions? Call (212) 826-9055, but sorry, no telephone or credit card orders.

No shipping charge on Roosevelt Island; for buildings with concierge or doorman, your order will be delivered or ready for pick-up within three days after we receive it. For pick-up orders, **provide a phone number** with an answering machine and/or e-mail address, and we'll notify you when your order is ready for pick-up.

Off-Island shipping:
One set, \$2; two sets, \$3; free for three sets or more.

How many sets? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 _____

\$8 for one set, \$7.50 per set for two sets or more.
No shipping charge to Roosevelt Island addresses.

Check or money order enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address & apt: _____

City/ST/zip: _____

Phones - Day: _____ Evening/weekend: _____

E-mail address: _____

Classified

50¢/word • 751-8214

Deadline for Jan. 25 issue: Jan. 20

P/T KITCHEN HELPER (Title V) needed for Senior Center. Age 55+ need apply. Benefits. 9-12:30. For further information call Annie, (212) **980-1888**.

FUN AND ENERGETIC ASSISTANT wanted for children's class, 3 afternoons a week. Call Karen, (212) **317-0216**.

ELDER LAW – Wills & Trusts, Medicaid Planning, Nursing Home Matters, Estate Planning, and Living Wills. Steven M. Ratner, Esq., 420 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY. (212) **754-9117**.

VIDEO EDITING – Have equipment to edit vacation/travel videos. Your home movies will look professional! Bob, (212) **829-7238**.

AMERICAN APPLIANCE SERVICE – Installations and Repairs on refrigeration, central air, A/Cs, washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves. Insured, licensed, both commercial and residential. \$16.00 off on repairs. **1-718-352-4600, 1-516-352-4600**.

TOO BUSY TO COOK? Great personal chef – Attended New York Cooking School. All cuisines, will cater to both your taste and dietary needs. **1-917-346-5283**.

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

COMPUTER – Help/upgrade/repair on Island. Website: www.10044.com. Call **1-917-916-5306**.

DAISY DOODLE – Magic Shows, Dance Parties, Disney, Toddlers, Princess, Pirate, Barbie, Harry Potter, balloons, facepainting, crafts, holiday shows. (212) **501-4828**.

EXPERT PIANO REPAIRS & TUNING – Prompt service. (212) **935-7510**. Beeper **1-917-483-1020**.

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

YOUR FRIENDLY AVON REPRESENTATIVE – Dolores Green. (212) **223-4077**.

CAT-SITTER – VACATION IN PEACE – Will feed and play with your cat, water your plants, pick up your mail, etc. (212) **751-8214**.

GREAT CARS, Great Prices, Great Financing! All makes & models. Call Lyle at **1-646-523-9033**.

EXPERIENCED PAINTER/CONTRACTOR – Excellent Island references. Free estimate. (212) **751-8214**.

NOTARY PUBLIC – (212) **935-7534**.

ROOSEVELT ISLAND POSTCARDS – Color Views of Tram and Lighthouse Park; sets of 20 (10 each) for \$8, or two sets, \$15. Check payable to *The WIRE* to 531 Main Street with your address, phone, e-mail address (if available). Questions: (212) **826-9055**. Sorry, no phone or credit card orders.

The Farmers Market

the highest quality every Saturday at Motorgate

Since 1989



WENGERD FARM

Watson, Pa.

Your health is all-important, and there's nothing like farm-fresh fruits and vegetables from Pennsylvania to keep you the picture of good health. See you at Motorgate Saturday morning.

As always, Thank you for shopping with us every Saturday.

Hybrids from page 1

"Much of the route can be all-electric, with the engine off," Chezar told the RIOC Board. "Such electric buses help reduce air pollution from nitrogen oxide and hydrocarbon emissions," says Chezar, "especially since they don't have to idle during waiting periods." He explained the hybrid technology this way: "A hybrid electric transit bus is a combination of an engine and an electric motor. Generally, when you have an engine in a car or bus... it's a very inefficient system. In hybrid technology, you have a much smaller engine. It operates at a constant speed on its power curve where it is most efficient, cleanest, and quietest. You hook it up in series to an electric motor and batteries, which take care of acceleration and deceleration and braking. The result is a much more energy-efficient, much quieter bus system." He added that use of small electric motors for heating and air conditioning systems eliminate the inefficient and more complex belt drives required in conventional vehicles.

The demonstration program will be funded by a \$200,000 grant from NYPA and \$1.1 million in New York Bond Act funds. The contractor for the buses will be the not-for-profit Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), an industry group based in Palo Alto, California. An EPRI representative told the RIOC Board that pollution from the new buses will be as much as 70% lower than from conventional diesel-powered buses, probably surpassing the standards set for 2007. He also said that RIOC's operation and maintenance costs are likely to be lower, because electric systems require far less maintenance.

The plan gives Roosevelt Island a jump on complying with an executive order issued by Governor George Pataki, requiring that by 2010 all new vehicles acquired by State entities must be clean-fueled. The buses will comply with Island requirements for access by the disabled.

VACATION in PEACE

We will feed and lovingly care for your cat while you are away. We will make sure your pet is safe and happy in his or her own home. Will also help with mail, plants, etc. Excellent references. Call us at 751-8214.

Jack Resnick, M.D.

Board-Certified
Specialist in Adult Medicine
(Internal Medicine)

Health Plans Accepted
32-BJ
Aetna/USHealthcare
Empire Blue Cross
CIGNA
HIP
Oxford

832-2310

Medicare
Now accepting
Oxford Medicare

501 Main Street
Roosevelt Island, N.Y. 10044

Give your apartment a lift HOME SHOPPING SERVICE

Consultations Available – Use What You Have

Furniture
Upholstery, Slipcovers
Wallpaper & Fabric
Carpet & Area Rugs
All Window Treatments
Floor & Terrace Tiles
Lighting
Carpentry
Kitchen Renovation
Paint & Faux Finishes
All Accessories
Closet Design



Ellen Levy
Interior Decorator
531 Main Street
751-8214
No job too small

Gristede's full page