

Next issue:
Sat., Apr. 17

The Main Street **WIRE**

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Roosevelt Island's Independent Community Newspaper



Hollywood on Main Street Production of *Dark Water* brought an extra dose of rain to Main Street on Wednesday, as a crew shot scenes for the story of a woman going through a difficult divorce, who has sought inexpensive housing for herself and her daughter on Roosevelt Island, but has gotten more than she bargained for. Other films shot on the Island will be featured in two weeks at the Roosevelt Island Film Festival (see ComingUp, page 3).

Island Gets Film Festival — And Filmmakers, Too

If you're on the Island two weeks from now, you'll have a chance to see Roosevelt Island in a number of films, as the Historical Society brings RIFF — the Roosevelt Island Film Festival — to Manhattan Park Theater Club. It's a fund-raiser for the Society, but also an opportunity to see how the Island has been used in films ranging from a clip the Edison Company shot from the east channel while the Queensboro Bridge was under construction, to *Spider-Man*, in which the evil Green Goblin created general havoc and, among other misdeeds, destroyed the Island-side Tramway station.

The festival is set for the week-

end of April 17-18, in three sessions. Full-length feature films include *Blackwell's Island*, with John Garfield and Victor Jory (prison corruption exposé), from 1939; *Night Hawks*, with Sylvester Stallone and Billy Dee Williams (heavy Tram involvement), 1981; *Dead End*, with Humphrey Bogart, Sylvia Sydney, Joel McCrea, and Claire Trevor, 1936; and *Spider-Man* (heavy Tram mayhem), 2002.

Among short films in the festival, *The Garden* features Islander Al Lewis as a Holocaust survivor who relives terrors of his past and interacts with fellow gardeners on Roosevelt Island. *Roosevelt Is-*

See **Films**, page 6

New RIOC Budget: \$13.8 Million

The RIOC Board of Directors Thursday morning approved a \$13.6 million budget for fiscal 2004-05 that reflects actual day-to-day operating expenses of nearly \$12 million. The difference encompasses \$1 million for new buses, an expenditure which will occur only if it is offset by comparable revenue, and a \$300,000 expense related to the development of the Octagon Apartments which, if it occurs, will also be offset by revenue.

Capital improvement expenditures in the budget amount to \$900,000, called "major Island improvements," which will be deferred if the funds, expected from developers, do not become available.

During discussion of the budget and the balance of the meeting, these additional items of information came out:

- The Board did not act on the Youth Center's need for space, though the matter was discussed in its executive session that followed the public meeting, according to a source in a position to know. The Youth Program, headed by Charles De Fino, has been seeking the former Lilies Christian School space at 502 Main Street. De Fino is concerned about losing the funds if space that can be renovated cannot be secured. After the

See **RIOC**, page 6

Red Bus Back on a Schedule

"Somehow we heard rumors to the effect that people were not happy with the bus route." That was RIOC President Herb Berman, speaking sardonically Thursday morning about e-mails he received about RIOC's 107 days of experimentation with the Red Bus route. The e-mails had ranged from mild anger through sneering descriptions of the collective brainpower at 591 Main Street.

Board Chair Mary Beth Labate interjected, taking up the spirit of the moment, "I want to thank everyone for their kind e-mails."

Berman continued his President's report: "It certainly started my morning interestingly, reading the e-mails, but I think that the process is such that everybody is to be commended in that there was participation..."

Labate: "Without bloodshed."

Berman agreed: "Without bloodshed. It was an example of how people can have an impact upon the outcome."

He went on to point out that the Red Bus is back to its old schedule and route, with an added stop near Blackwell House to serve Southtown residents.

RIOC implemented the return to scheduled operations, with buses waiting for Tram arrivals, last Monday.

State Budget Overdue Again

Grannis Says RI Hospitals Would Lose \$26 Million in Pataki Budget

Coler-Goldwater would lose some \$26 million in funding if Governor George Pataki's budget were to become law, according to a memo Assemblymember Pete Grannis has sent to Speaker Sheldon Silver and others in the Assembly.

It is unlikely the Assembly would pass Pataki's budget as is. But there is some danger of bargaining that could reduce the hospitals' budget allocation. Grannis, in writing to Assembly leadership, is trying to forestall that possibility.

"I am writing to reiterate my grave concerns with the portions of Governor Pataki's proposed Executive Budget for fiscal year 2004-05," Grannis wrote in a March memorandum. "It appears that the single biggest hit would be on the NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation's renowned Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility on Roosevelt Island."

Grannis points out that Coler-Goldwater is the largest long-term care facility in the State, serving nearly 2,000 patients. "A cut [of \$26 million] would cripple its ability to carry out its mission of caring for the City's most medically needy individuals."

"To label this unacceptable," Grannis writes, "would be a major understatement of my position... At the very least, Coler-Goldwater should be carved out of this proposal."

Grannis adds that the combined impact of Pataki's budget proposals, which include cuts in one-stop enrollment (called "facilitated enrollers") in the State's Family Health Plus program, would, according to the Healthcare Association of New York State, result in cuts as high as \$30 million in Grannis's 65th Assembly District.

Other facilities affected by the Pataki proposals (among them a "sick tax" on nursing homes and other facilities) would include Memorial Sloan Kettering (\$5.4 million), New York-Presbyterian (\$11.3 million), and Lenox Hill Hospital (\$2.7 million).

Writing of a Pataki plan to eliminate coverage for dental and vision services under Family Health Care Plus, Grannis says, "This is truly a dumb and ill-thought-out proposal, and [it] should be rejected out of hand."

Briefly...

The Tramway will be closed Monday, April 12, from 10 to 3, for movie work.

Vandalism in Motorgate became a problem in March, with about 30 incidents recorded in the Public Safety Blotter (published by *The WIRE* on Website NYC10044 at nyc10044.com) on March 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 18-20. The problem is the subject of two letters in this issue, and a comment in Herb Berman's *RIOC Column* on page 3.

Ravenswood II, the power-plant addition that's been in construction across the East Channel, is now on the grid in test phase. It will be in full operation within a few weeks as the first power plant to be endorsed by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

One of Our Chapel Windows Is Missing — and in Good Hands

by Dick Lutz

Ray Clagnan *knows* the Rose Window. For some months, he and his partner, Tom Garcia, and their crew have carried on a close relationship with it. They've studied it, worked with its parts, and have seen it in finer detail than anybody who's ever glanced up at it in its normal home at the west end of the Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

At Gil Studio in the DUMBO section of Brooklyn, they've rebuilt the window. It's the final part of a \$350,000 restoration project on the Chapel, funded in chunks over a six-year period by the New York State Assembly, courtesy of Assemblymember Pete Grannis, who represents the Island. The Rose Window had been threatened by a decades-old attempt at restoration that wasn't holding up with time. So, back in July, scaffolding was erected both inside and outside the Chapel, and the window was removed, replaced with plexiglass cut to fit.

"We photograph it in transmitted and reflected light," says Clagnan, describing a process his shop carries out with all the leaded-glass windows it handles.

"We put it flat on a table, and a paper rubbing is made." The rubbing shows the location of all the "came" (pronounced like the past tense of come), which is the lead that holds the stained-glass puzzle together. With the rubbing completed to serve as a kind of map, "the panels are put into a tank — in hot water with a mild soap detergent. Most of the time, we use Orvis, a horse shampoo, because it won't hurt the glass."

Describing the process, Clagnan displays a genuine enthusiasm for the work he picked up from his father, and he looks the part. With mustache and a slight graying at his temples, looking over the top of half-glasses, he wouldn't be out of place at the turn of the century.

"Then we disassemble each panel of the window in the tank — we don't want to kick up the dust from the lead. We save some of the lead for reference. The glass is placed on the working rubbings, telling us where everything goes. Then we reassemble the panel.

"If the glass is completely broken, we replace it with the best match available. If there's just one break,

See **Rose Window**, page 8



At Gil Studio in Brooklyn, Ray Clagnan holds up a restored "kite," or panel, from the Chapel of the Good Shepherd's Rose Window.

Fresh Start?

Herb Berman has been on the job as RIOC President for 234 days now. At times, it must seem like 234 weeks to him.

Roosevelt Island doesn't take a charitable attitude toward mistakes that affect quality of life. Residents – and *The WIRE*, too – are quick to employ harsh language when we sense that somebody has failed to think through what he's done. We figuratively throw up our arms in a surrender to a feeling of futility and frustration when we detect that RIOC, lacking any meaningful institutional memory, has blundered off on some misguided mission when we know that asking – *just asking* the folks who've been around for a while – could easily save everybody a lot of inconvenience.

Such was the case with the Red Bus business. We counted 107 days before it was over – close to half of Berman's time here. The fact that the weather gave us some of the worst days on recent record made it seem like a never-ending trial by cold and wet. We sympathized with those less able to cope with a loss of basic transportation, and that made it seem all the colder, all the wetter.

For the record, no voices were heard suggesting that Berman and RIOC were deliberately getting it wrong or trying to make it worse. Attitudes ranged from a head-shaking certainty that RIOC would always get the important stuff wrong to a thin patience that, sooner or later, the gang at 591 Main Street would finally see their errors.

The WIRE remains convinced that a RIOC Board composed of residents, elected by residents, hiring professional community management, is the most sensible path to the future for Roosevelt Island.

But in the meantime – probably a *long* meantime...

In the meantime, the Red Bus matter is behind us. To be sure, it won't be readily forgotten. But we can hope that Herb Berman and his administration have learned the lessons it offered: Understand that every resident here has a proprietary feeling about the Island. Understand that residents must be consulted. Listen to the Residents Association. Be prepared to act quickly when something doesn't work out. Most of all, *think* like a resident in all the decisions you make.

Now, we have to let Herb Berman get past the Red Bus matter, as well. With its lessons learned, he must move on. *A fresh start.*

There's really no choice. RIOC will screw up again, to be sure. When it happens, residents (and *The WIRE*) will jump up and down and harsh language will again be heard in the land.

But along the way, there is much good that can be done here, and we have no doubt Herb Berman intends to do it in the greatest measure he can manage. We have to let him, and his staff, move forward. They know, now, that we are watching, and that our stake in the decisions made in the operation of this Island is far greater than theirs. We live here.

So let's try a square-one fresh start, watchful but not resentful, appropriately concerned but not excessively suspicious.

Until residents elect residents to hire and guide professional management to run Roosevelt Island, Berman's our pro. He'll take the room he needs to run, and we can help by giving him the benefit of all the doubts we've accumulated, over the years, about RIOC.

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Letters

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

I am writing you about the alarming increase in crime occurring at the Motorgate garage. I am an Island resident and a monthly parking customer. Last December, my right front and right rear tires were vandalized, which I reported to the Public Safety Department. The tires were slashed and therefore rendered unusable, for which I incurred a couple of hundred dollars. Sometime during the second week of this month, my rear tire was again vandalized. Luckily, the flat tire was fixed, but the tire shop extracted a three-inch nail which, according to the repairman, seemed suspicious and intentional.

I have checked the Public Safety Blotter of *The WIRE* dated March 20, and was overwhelmed by the number of incidents which occurred at Motorgate: a total of 12 criminal mischief and 8 petty larceny. And in all instances, the Police and Motorgate manager were informed but the perpetrator/s to date remain at large.

I would like to believe that part of Motorgate management's responsibility is to provide a secure and safe facility to its customers, and that part of the taxes I pay the City should guarantee me some form of protection and safety by the Police Department.

What is being done? It seems more frequent patrols are not preventing recurrence of the crime. Motorgate has video cameras in place. Can these be strategically located to try and catch the criminal/s in the act? Are we waiting for more incidents to sharply rise at an alarming rate before something is done? Or perhaps, garage customers ought to band together and file a class-action suit against Motorgate management for negligence.

José Limjap

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

I am a Rivercross resident who currently garages two cars at Motorgate. On March 25, my wife discovered that her car, a Honda Civic hybrid, had been vandalized. The vandals had walked up her hood and jumped on the roof. Today I went to Motorgate, the RIOC offices, and Public Safety to find out what is being done to end this scourge. Motorgate told me that it's Public Safety's responsibility; a very nice man at your office told me to see Mr. Fry or Rene Bryan, and a sergeant at Public Safety told me the problem is being addressed but, because of cutbacks, they really don't have enough staff to handle the problem. So this is what I can look forward to? I pay a lot of money to park my vehicles and I think I should be able to expect that they will be safe. From what the man at Motorgate told me, at least ten cars have had their tires slashed in the last two weeks. Please, if this problem can't be solved, tell us so we can make other arrangements for our cars.

Name Withheld

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

As a person who has seen 60-plus years of life, I am grateful to those programs that helped me in my days of being a young person. I lived a half mile from Roosevelt Island in Astoria and, to this day, I can still remember playing in Rainey park and looking across the river and thinking, *What a great place for kids to play.* Of course, I was looking at the Island before the bridge. I am a better person due to the likes of the Long Island City

See Letters, page 6

Between publication of the last *WIRE* (March 20) and RIOC's announcement of the reversion of the Red Bus to its pre-December route and schedule, we received about 40 letters critical of RIOC's attempts to reconfigure the service. Because those letters applied to a pre-March 29 condition, they are not published here but, to maintain the record, are published with this issue of *The WIRE* on Website NYC10044 at nyc10044.com/wire/2414/lettbus2414.html.

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

Thank you! Much appreciated.

Raye Schwartz

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

Thank you for reversing the previous change of service. From my observation, that change resulted in considerable inconvenience during the winter months for the elderly, disabled, ill, and parents of young children. It is difficult to understand what logic, if there was any, for the now-suspended schedule. This appears to be another example of the lack of communication and consultation with the community. In the end, a change of governors in Albany seems to be the only hope for establishing a democratic environment on Roosevelt Island.

John Miller

Dear Mr. Berman:

I have a two-year-old daughter and, when I take the Red Bus, my daughter sits in her stroller. The recent inception of the "fold-your-stroller policy" has added unnecessary hardship to my life. I have herniated disks in my lower back and cannot carry my daughter. Taking her out of the stroller, folding the stroller, and lifting baby, stroller, and shopping bags onto and off the bus lead to pain in my lower back that lasts for days. The Red Buses have more room than the white City buses, and can accommodate strollers better. The convenience of the Red Bus service was an important factor in our decision to move to Roosevelt Island. Please continue to let strollers be on the Red Buses.

Corinna Kell

To Speaker Miller and staff:

Please accept my sincerest thanks for listening to my complaint about the lack of a tram MetroCard for my son, Daniel Ruiz, who attends PS 77 (Lower Lab). I recently received notification from Mr. Heslin at the Department of Transportation, as well as from your office, regarding the agreement to supply MetroCards to children who live on Roosevelt Island and who take a yellow public-school bus to attend school. This means a lot to my family and you can bet we will remember this when it comes time to vote for you in any capacity. Everyone we speak with on Roosevelt Island will hear our words of praise for you and your staff. Thank you!

Leslie Rapchik

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

Thank you for listening to and heeding all the many negative comments you have received in the past weeks about the erratic change of the Red Bus route and schedule. I congratulate you for taking positive action to correct this mistaken notion of service. The Southtown residents, for whom the changes supposedly occurred, obviously found better access to Tram and subway on their own, and we Northtowners can now once again set our watches to Red Bus time! I for one am a happy camper!

Teri Sheridan

To RIOC President Herb Berman:

You did the right thing. I had not met one single person happy about the change.

Jerome Coullare

To the Community:

We all know about the shortcomings of the Red Bus route and schedule. I would like to call attention to another transportation issue. The good news is that this issue can be completely resolved by the good people of Roosevelt Island without *any* assistance from RIOC. Here it is:

I have noticed that people exiting the F train are using very poor etiquette regarding the elevator that goes to street level. There is a perpetual stampede into the elevator which ends when about 5 people too many stuff themselves in before the doors close. Over and over I see people who need the elevator most be shoved aside by the overzealous and able-bodied.

Common sense tells me that the disabled, elderly, parents with strollers, and those carrying heavy packages should be accommodated *first*. They should *not* be forced to wait for the next. To those able-bodied and responsible I pose a question:

Are you so lazy and ill-mannered that you cannot stand on a *moving* escalator?

Jef Wilson

To ConEd and RIOC:

I am corresponding with you in reference to the street lights (lamp posts that are down) issue on Roosevelt Island. I have lived here 25 years and there's never been as many outages. At night the area by the Lighthouse is pitch black; maybe it's all the digging that has occurred recently, but frankly that's not a very good excuse for the people that live here.

We are a very busy community, teenagers who have busy lives and do come home in these dark streets, seniors who are unable to navigate in the dark, who feel imprisoned in their homes once the sun goes down, folks who run – even visitors from Manhattan and Queens who like to run around the Island. Are you waiting for something horrible to happen in order to fix this grave problem?

I am addressing ConEd because RIOC explained that it's a cable problem ConEd has to repair. The people of Roosevelt Island would love to be able to walk our beautiful streets in the evenings.

Please dispatch a crew to take care of and resolve this issue in a timely manner.

Alexis Villafane

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: E-mail to Letters@MainStreetWIRE.com (E-mail format preferred, or use any wordprocessing software) to put a file on a PC-standard 3.5" floppy disk left at 531 Main Street addressed to *The WIRE*. Alternatives: Typed copy left at 531 Main Street or faxed to 212-755-2540 (call ahead to 212-826-9055). Clearly-handwritten letters will be considered if brief, but we are not able to take telephone dictation of letters. **All letters are subject to acceptance, and to editing for length and clarity.** Recommended maximum length, 300 words; longer letters will be considered if their content merits the required space.

After a great deal of community input, study, and cooperation from the developers and residents of Southtown, the new bus route and schedule were implemented on Monday. I appreciate everybody's input, and am pleased with the support for the new changes. I also want to assure everyone that during the whole process we listened to your

The RIOC Column

input and made every effort to implement the best route for everyone on the Island. I wish that the news was as good for the Tram elevator. As most of you are aware, the elevator was working again last week. Our celebration of this event was, unfortunately, a bit premature. Since that time there have been several short outages. We are working with an elevator company to prevent this from continually happening. Please know that I am fully frustrated by this and am pushing for answers as to why this occurred. I will continue to keep you updated and will push for a real resolution to this ongoing issue.

Still on the subject of Island transportation, we are happy to announce that we are working to replace the current bus fleet with hybrid electric buses. We are partnering with the New York Power Authority and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority to replace our buses within the next two years. The order should be placed within the next several months, and then it takes eighteen months to two years to produce the buses to our specifications. Please be assured that, except for the hybrid availability, any new buses will be substantially similar to the current buses and will be fully accessible.

Motorgate is also receiving our attention. We had several discussions with the current operators of Motorgate about the elevators, general upkeep, and security. We anticipate

having an elevator consultant evaluate the situation to ensure that we have a permanent fix to those elevators as well. We are also looking at other maintenance work to make the facility a more user-friendly place. Finally, we are also taking concrete steps to make sure that all vandalism is halted. Please work with us on that by reporting anything suspicious to Public Safety as soon as you see it.

I am pleased to say that I do have some purely good news to report. On Wednesday, April 21, the City and State offices of emergency management will be holding a public meeting on Roosevelt Island from 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. at PS 217. We thank these agencies for honoring our request for these meetings, and also thank PS 217 for allowing us to use their facilities. We just received confirmation that this meeting will take place, and I will post more details as soon as they become available. I look forward to seeing all of you there.



Herbert E. Berman, President Roosevelt Island Operating Corp. e-mail: HBerman@rioc.com

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Island residents for their good nature during the filming of *Dark Water*. So far it has been a very exciting process, and I look forward to seeing another movie where Roosevelt Island is featured so prominently. I anticipate that we can all see it in the Historical Society's next Roosevelt Island Film Festival!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Passover and a happy Easter. Enjoy this spring season!

night are new concepts, and should be monitored and tested so that, if the "law of unintended consequences" surprises us, the response can be timely.

Again, my thanks for what should be an efficient and trouble-free spring for Island commuters. Best wishes,

Matthew Katz
President, RIRA

As promised, my wife, Sherie Helstien, rode the bus during last Monday morning's rush hour and I monitored the bus schedule from the vantage point of the Gristedes/Motorgate stop during the afternoon off-peak hours. The restored route/schedule appears to be running like a Swiss watch, but I'm counting on you to inform RIOC, RIRA, and *The WIRE* should the system need tweaking. And I'd like to add my personal thanks to all of you who took the time to express your concerns and offer your solutions. You made a difference.

While Sherie was riding the red bus around Roosevelt Island, I was attending the Grand Opening Ceremony for Keyspan's Ravenswood II plant just east of us across the river. You've read in these pages that the new plant will burn natural gas instead of fuel oil and is expected to be 30% more efficient, with significantly lower emissions. The new turbines are already on the grid with the full 250-megawatt output expected within weeks. The Big Apple desperately needs more energy production but it's unfortunate that so much of it comes from several antiquated power plants on the East River. And we've all experienced the shimmering yellow-brown pall that blows in our windows during the summer peak output season. I asked three different Keyspan representatives whether the new facility would reduce or remove the need for the kerosene-burning units that operate next to the Roosevelt Island Bridge but I never got a straight answer. Strange. Also strange: no one from RIOC and none of our local elected politicians chose to attend the opening of the first new power plant in New York in three decades.



Matthew Katz, President Roosevelt Island Residents Assn. e-mail: MatthewKatz@rcn.com

You may have noticed a short squib in the "Briefly..." column on page one of this newspaper's last issue regarding renovation plans for the Roosevelt Island Bridge. This long-delayed project has been put off until 2012 for budgetary reasons. Originally, this undertaking was discussed by the Department of Transportation at an Island Town Meeting back in April 2001. The Coast Guard had given permission to remove the lift capacity of the Bridge in 1998 and we were asked to provide input as to the final appearance of the Bridge. Work was scheduled to begin in 2004 but September 11, 2001 put those plans on hold and made retaining the lift capacity essential to allow East Channel boat traffic. I attended the recent DOT all-agency meeting where

Mov-See **Katz**, page 11

COMING UP

— This Weekend —

Dancers on the Line, Fri. & Sat., 7:30; Sun., 2:00 and 7:00, Main Street Theatre and Dance Alliance. Adults, \$10; seniors, \$8; children, \$5 (mats). Reservations: 212-371-4449.

— The Coming Week —

Residents Association Common Council meeting, Wed., Apr. 7, 8:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Public access near beginning of session.

Island resident Roy Eaton Plays Scott Joplin, a *Jazz Piano at the Y* event, Sat., Apr. 10, 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Avenue; music of Joplin and his generation. Ticket information: 212-415-5500 or at www.92y.org.



— Future Events —

Memorial Mass for Mary Patsy Mance, Mon., Apr. 12, 7:00 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd.

Toastmasters Public Speaking Group, Mon., Apr. 12, 8:00 p.m. Visitors welcome. Information: 212-751-9577 / 212-935-1254.

Book Discussion — *The Pick Up* by Nadine Gordimer, Thur., Apr. 15, 6:30 p.m., Library. Free. Books available at the Library.

The Main Street WIRE — next issue Sat., Apr. 17. (To receive e-mail bulletins in the meantime, send an "Add Me" message to Bulletins@MainStreetWIRE.com.) **Deadlines:** Advertising in the paper, Fri., Apr. 9; decision on fliers for *The Bag*, Tue., Apr. 13; fliers due Thur., Apr. 15. **Future issues:** May 1, 15, 29; June 12; July 3 (Fourth of July issue), 31; Aug. 28; Sept. 11, 25; Oct. 16, 30 (pre-election issue); Nov. 6 (post-election issue), 20 (Thanksgiving issue); Dec. 4, 18 (two December holiday issues), then twice a month starting in January, 2005. (Schedule subject to adjustment.) **Phone/fax** for news, 212-826-9055/755-2540; urgent matters 917-617-0449. **Phone/fax** for display and classified advertising placement and information, 212-751-8214/755-2540. **To list your organization's Island event in this column**, 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 questions; there is no charge.

Apartment Insurance Fair, Sat., Apr. 17, noon, Chapel of the Good Shepherd; sponsored by the Housing Committee of the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA). (See ad, page 5.)

Roosevelt Island Film Festival, sponsored by the Historical Society, Sat., Apr. 17, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Manhattan Park Theater Club. Featured afternoon films include a short Thomas Edison film of Blackwell's Island, *Angela's Island*, *No Dogs Allowed*, and *Night Hawks*. Evening films: Edison (repeat), *No Dogs Allowed*, *The Garden*, and *Blackwell's Island*. Adults, \$10; children, \$6. (Series subscription for all three films: Adult, \$25; children, \$15.) See below for Sunday films. Additional information: 212-688-4836 or www.rihs.us.

Roosevelt Island Film Festival, Sun., Apr. 18, 1:30 p.m. Films: Edison film (see listing above), *The Last Trolley in New York*, *Dead End*, and *Spider-Man*. See listing above for prices and Saturday programs.

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*. Please provide telephone numbers for possible follow-up.



**The sun was warm but the wind was chill,
You know how it is with an April day
When the sun is out and the wind is still,
You're one month on in the middle of May.
But if you so much as dare to speak,
A cloud comes over the sunlit arch,
A wind comes off a frozen peak,
And you're two months back in the middle of March.**
Two Tramps in Mud Time, Robert Frost

March was an eventful month here on Fantasy Island. We suffered this winter with insults to our critical transportation systems, but, as of this writing, they have all been put right.

After years of waiting, March I saw the advent of MetroCard Tram service that finally incorporates Islanders into the fabric of City life. Last week repairs were completed on the Manhattan-side Tram elevator but a series of hiccups have impacted this essential operation. I'm getting reports that these repairs are on-again off-again, but as of last Thursday morning the elevator is out of service yet again. And, *mirabile dictu*, the red buses have

The RIRA Column

been restored to their former route and schedule! I sent the following letter of congratulation to RIOC President, Herb Berman, on March 26:

Dear Herb:

I wanted to congratulate you on two counts: the repaired Manhattan-side Tram elevator and the restored bus route/schedule.

We've endured two lengthy elevator outages within the last eighteen months that have caused hardship among those unable to negotiate the stairs to the Tram platform. Already I've heard expressions of relief from many neighbors and I'm happy to forward them to you. I hope that you've been able to find sources of parts and service that will make future breakdowns short and uneventful.

I was pleased to read your advisories and kiosk postings on the March 29th restoration of red bus service. This winter's attempts to include Southtown residents in the flow of Island commuter traffic were clearly not successful, and I'm grateful (as I'm sure you are) to the more than 60 resident-commuters who took the time through letters and e-mails to share their constructive criticism with both of us. RIRA speaks for the community but, when we are not consulted, sometimes the community is aroused to speak for itself. As you know, my personal participation was limited to a committee that met once on January 12 and a private meeting on January 28. Some riders may have expressed their frustration in negative language but their underlying wisdom, obtained from twenty years of experience, was still valid. RIRA will have volunteers riding the buses on Monday morning to monitor the efficiency of this new plan and I hope RIOC will do so as well. Using just the West Service Road and restoring the tie to the Tram schedule are familiar practices to all of us and should solve most problems. The creation of new bus stop(s) at 506 Main Street and the installation of on-demand Tram service after mid-

Senior Center

- | | |
|--|--|
| Monday
10-11, Latchhook Class
10-11:30, English as 2nd Lang.
10:30, Blood Pressure Screen
12:30, "Oldies" Movies
1:00, Tai Chi
7:00, Dance Class (Beginners) | Thursday
10:00, Tai Chi
10:30, Creative Arts
12:30, Movie
7:00, Dance |
| Tuesday
9-1, Tax Help for Seniors
10:00, Computers
10-11, Dance & Relax
1:00, Bingo
6:00, Yoga Class
7:30, Games (RISA) | Friday
6:00, Dance & Relax
9:30, Yoga Stretch
7:00, Games (RISA) |
| Wednesday
9:15, Stay Well
10:00, Spanish Class
10:30, Shoppers' Bus
12:30, Sculpting
7:00, Pokeno (RISA) | Saturday
7:30, Bingo (RISA) |
- Special Events**
Tue., Apr. 6, 11:15, Stop & Shop
Fri., Apr. 9, closed
Mon., Apr. 12, 11:00, MetroCard Bus
Tue., Apr. 13, 7:00, RISA general meeting
Wed., Apr. 21, Atlantic City trip
Fri., Apr. 30, 12:30, Birthday Party
Sun., May 16, Senior Day (all day)

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Apr. 17-18
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Listing, page 3

Save these dates!

Holy Week 2004

Maundy Thursday, April 8
Parish supper with Holy Communion
7pm, downstairs meeting room

Good Friday, April 9
Good Friday Liturgy
7pm, in the church

Easter Sunday, April 11
Early Morning Service
7:30am, Meditation Steps by the river
First Eucharist of Easter
10am, in the church

*See the notice board outside the church,
543 Main Street, for more details*



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HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

GOOD SHEPHERD CHAPEL

PALM SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY EVENING—APRIL 3 5:00 PM
SUNDAY MORNING—APRIL 4 8:15 AM & 11:15 AM

MONDAY—APRIL 5 (CABRINI CHAPEL) 7:00 PM

MASS FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENEDICTION
CONFESSION (LAST OPPORTUNITY BEFORE EASTER)

WEDNESDAY—APRIL 7 6:00 PM

(STARTING AT GOOD SHEPHERD PLAZA)
STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN
PROCESSION AROUND THE ISLAND

HOLY THURSDAY—APRIL 8 8:00 PM

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
WASHING OF THE FEET

GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 9 3:00 PM

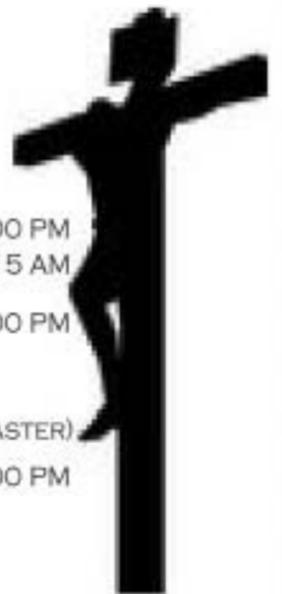
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HOLY SATURDAY—APRIL 10 8:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES—APRIL 11 8:15 AM

11:15 AM



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Letters from page 2

YMCA under Frank Tampone, the Boys Club Of Queens, the Police Athletic League under Mr. Ganz, a great man who helped many a kid and, last but not least, playing for Astoria Projects Basketball under Coach Curtis, an African-American friend. I was the only white kid on the team, but you know it molded me in accepting people of color as equals along with my religious upbringing and a Godly mother who knew right from wrong and loved her children by telling us kids that God loves all people and we need to love everything God loves and have respect for all. I plead with you to go out of your way to see that the youth of our beautiful Island are served with dignity and a great place for them to learn life lessons as I did. If I can be of any help, let me know.

Jim Bates

To the Editor:

I am very impressed with the Roosevelt Island Living Library & Think Park Master Plan developed by Bonnie Ora Sherk and Life Frames, Inc., for Southpoint, which seems as timely as it is prophetic.

The idea of a "United Nations" was based on President Roosevelt's vision of a postwar world and the need for new mechanisms for cooperation and conflict resolution if the world were to avoid another global catastrophe of the World War II variety. The United Nations Charter itself was based on his Four Freedoms. As such, the UN can be considered as an expression of a U.S. value system.

Next year will be the United Nation's 60th anniversary and I can't think of a more fitting tribute to the Roosevelt legacy than the Living Library plans for Roosevelt Island – a "Living Legacy" – especially as the UN works its way through a very difficult transition, where its very future is at stake. I also envision very creative year-long opportunities and festivities for local and global communities that would include New York's Sister Cities and other places in the world, and mark the anniversary of the UN, while simultaneously launching the long-term proposed Living Library transformations of Southpoint.

As I review the Roosevelt Island Living Library & Think Park plans, I can imagine the following:

- A World Headquarters for Global Civil Society, which has been one of the most significant developments since the founding of the organization. It could literally become a kind of "We the Peoples Center"

- Opportunities to link, programmatically and electronically, this Roosevelt Island Living Library with the San Francisco Living Libraries for UN World Environment Day, also in 2005, which is being held in SF, where the UN Charter was signed.

- A World Gathering Place

- A World Stage

- A world-class World Conference Center. The UN is now space-deficient. All its facilities are strained. Besides, its conference facilities are quite dated for this kind of world. We need larger conferee facilities and A Living Library provides an answer.

- Office space for the growing number of non-governmental organizations, many of which lack places to "hang their hats" while in New York

- The World Gardens

- The World Cuisine Center with periodic World Food Festivals

- A World Room which would be accessible to the public and where UN events could be simulcast

- The World Health & Nutrition Agro/Ecology Gardens and Greenhouses

I can envisage also a water-taxi system which would run continuously and which would provide another link to Manhattan.

I encourage the community of Roosevelt Island, and the City and State, to move forward with this exciting and relevant plan.

Dr. Noel J. Brown

President and CEO, Friends of the United Nations
Former Regional Director, United Nations Environment Program

To Firefighter John Connolly:

I read in *The WIRE* about the Firefighters' gift of a carillon and had a few thoughts:

It reminded me of the band music Trellis provides outside on summer weekend evenings. Most of the time I like it, but the summer I was studying for the Bar exam I found it really annoying. Still, the community voted in favor of it, so we have it.

It also reminded me of our four years living in downtown Toronto near St. James Cathedral's bell tower, which rang every 15 minutes on the quarter hour from 6:00 a.m. until midnight. We became obsessed with getting enough sleep during the six hours it wasn't ringing. I lobbied successfully to get the Church to change the bell tower hours to 7:00 a.m. through 11:00 and was better rested as a result.

Bottom line: I like a Carillon in concept, but I think those of us who live right next to the church and who moved here when there was no Carillon should have some say about its schedule. I would welcome a trial period.

Judith Tandon

To the Editor:

I just want to come back to the old issue of ground pork meat at Gristede's.

It looks like it was an "accident" when I was able to purchase that item a while back, after my complaint to *The WIRE*.

Therefore I wish to withdraw my thanks addressed to them.

If you look at the meat section, you always see the ground beef packages on display, but never ground pork.

I still wish to have that, and I believe many Island residents agree with me.

Mircea Nicolescu

To the Community:

A few weeks ago the Roosevelt Island Residents Association had a very successful and fun 50's Sock Hop as a fundraiser. I would like to thank the following for continuing to support the Roosevelt Island Residents Association:

- Representative Carolyn Maloney
- Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation
- Roosevelt Island Housing Management Corporation
- Rivercross Tenants Corporation
- Manhattan Park
- Roosevelt Island Chamber of Commerce
- Gristede's

The evening would not have been successful without the help of these people: Bubu Arya, Charlene Dumé, D.J. Mike, Erin Feely-Naham, Byron Gaspard, Sherie Helstien, Island Girls Project, Matt Katz, Ruth Kolins, Jim Luce, Dick Lutz, Nurit Marcus, Julie Palermo, George Reither, and Margie Smith.

Dolores Green and Vicki Feinmel



Movie Magic Dolly tracks outside the newsstand (left), augmented rain (above), and a water tank added to an Eastwood roof (below) – all part of *Dark Water*. Crew members took refuge from both real and artificial rain on Wednesday (inset below).

Films from page 1

land: Land Without Dogs is a mockumentary whose title suggests its subject.

For prices and a listing of the films, see *ComingUp* on page 3.

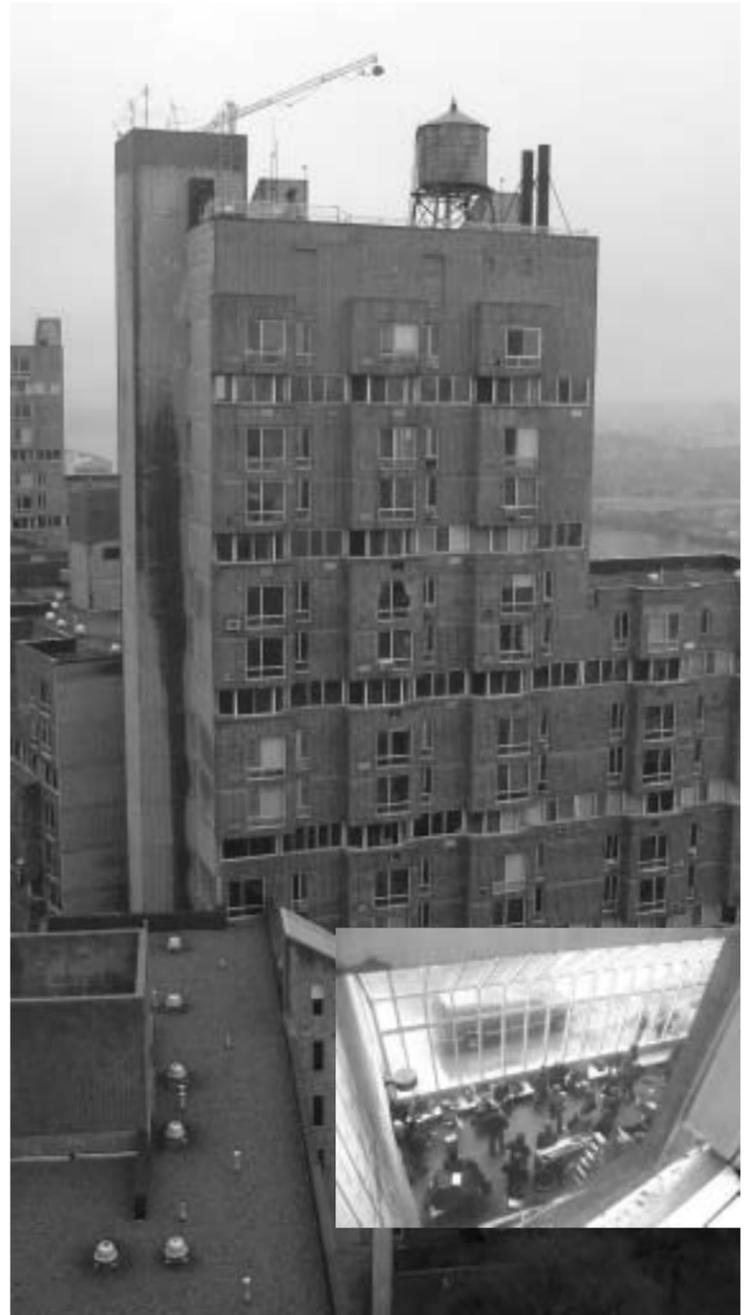
Meanwhile, the Island has been the setting for two more films in production. Sean Penn has been shooting at the south campus of Coler-Goldwater Hospital. A more visible Main Street presence has been the crew working on *Dark Water* (photos, page 1 and this page). Locations include PS/IS 217, Goldwater Hospital, 540 Main Street, and Capri Pizza. Shooting is scheduled for the subway station on Thursday (April 8), and the Tram on Monday, April 12 (service will be suspended from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.). Meanwhile, additional shooting is scheduled at 540 Main



Jennifer Connelly

Street, both inside and outside.

Dark Water is being directed by Walter Salles, who directed *Central Station*, which won an Oscar nomination for best foreign film. It stars Jennifer Connelly (*House of Sand and Fog*) and a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award for *A Beautiful Mind*, John C. Reilly (sang *Mister Cellophane* in *Chicago*, playing Renee Zellweger's husband), Pete Postlethwaite (nominated for *In the Name of the Father*), Tim Roth (*Reservoir Dogs*, *Braveheart*), and Dougray Scott (*Mission Impossible*). Connelly's daughter is played by a six-year-old, Ariel Gade.



RIOC from page 1

meeting, however, a Board member told *The WIRE* that the Board had reached a consensus that something should be done for the Center so that the funding is not lost, or that other, comparable provisions should be made for the Youth Program.

- RIOC President Herb Berman, responding to a question from resident Board member Mark Ponton, said that it is "absolutely not the case" that RIOC management has decided to discontinue maintenance of sections of Z-brick on the Island, and substitute asphalt or blacktop. Board Chair Mary Beth Labate said the five-year capital plan includes funds for the higher cost of maintaining the Z-bricks.

- Certain items of Island infrastructure, in particular the street lighting, will be maintained in the future by the City when and if all elements are converted to the City standard.

- Board member Leo Kayser asked about the impact on the budget of increased Tram revenue resulting from the higher ridership spurred by availability of MetroCard transfers. Berman said that the revenue numbers, which will come from

the MTA based on turnstile activity, are not yet available.

- The Board approved an "override" of some 47 City zoning requirements, such as allowing Southtown building #3 to be built to the property line, ignoring City "breezeway" requirements that do not apply because the plaza over the subway will serve that purpose.

- Discussion indicated that RIOC will retain some control over commercial uses of ground-floor space in Southtown buildings #3 and #4. Berman indicated attention would be paid to the concerns of competition in the Island's microeconomy.

- In his President's report, Berman said RIOC is hiring an elevator expert to develop and implement a permanent solution to the problem of frequent elevator outages and erratic operation at Motorgate.

The budget passed Thursday morning does not include the cost of increases in union wages; all those contracts are pending – for building and grounds, Public Safety staff, and administrative staff. Labate said budget increases for those matters would be considered in future meetings.

Mary Patsy Mance

Mary Patsy Mance died Saturday, March 20, at age 74.

A longtime resident of Roosevelt Island, Patsy (or Pat, as some knew her) regularly spent time with dependent older seniors, accompanying them to movies and other recreational activities.

Born in Bristol, Tennessee, August 17, 1929, she was retired from Bristol Myers Squibb, where she was Manager of Corporate Fleet Service. She died at the Hospice Unit of Cabrini Medical Center after an extended and courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her beloved sister, Dottie Davis, and her niece, Gina Davis, of Atlanta, Georgia.

A memorial mass will be offered for the repose of her soul at St. Frances Cabrini Parish, in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, on Monday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cabrini Medical Center, Hospice Unit, 227 East 19th Street, New York, NY 10003.



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Rose Window from page 1

we'll join the pieces together with copper foil."

Scattered around the spacious, well-lighted studio are a number of workers handling a variety of tasks, tending to windows from a chapel at West Point, the lobby of an apartment building on the upper west side, the Union Theological Seminary, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and private residences.

"After the window is assembled, the joints are all soldered, then you take putty and push it into the channel. That's the weatherproofing process. You do that on both sides. That provides a tight seal between the glass and the lead."

Asked about the continuing use of lead in stained-glass windows, Clagnan says, "The industry would be lost without it. They've tried various things – lead-free solder, for example. But as long as the lead is inert – and we're not kicking up dust when it's new – it's safe. The danger comes when you remove windows, because you're kicking up dust when you remove the putty."

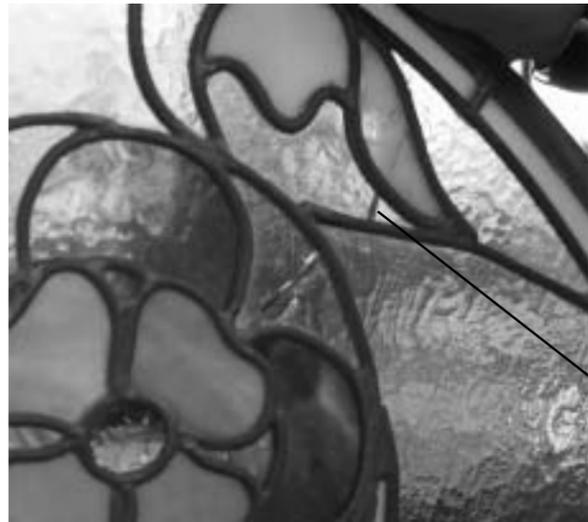
The Rose Window is expected back at the Chapel sometime in the next several weeks – though not in time for Easter, according to Ann-Isabel Friedman, who directs the Sacred Sites Program for the New York Landmarks Conservancy. There's been a delay for fabrication of a new metal frame for the window; it has to accommodate a protective layer of glass.

As a connection with Roosevelt Island's past, along with the Chapel it decorates, the window is also a connection to the past of art. Stained-glass windows go back to the 8th Century, though it wasn't until the 12th Century that it became common as a part of buildings in the form known today. Clagnan says that little about stained-glass windows changed after the year 1200, but tells how American leaded-glass artists introduced a change by "letting the glass do more of the work." Rather than relying on painting on the glass to carry the burden of texture in garments, for example, rippled glass came into fashion. American artists also brought opalescent glass into the creation of stained-glass windows.

There are records, from the 1600s, of stained-glass work being paid for in New Amsterdam (now New York) with beavers. Not this time. The cost of the Rose Window work this time is about \$80,000.



Taking the rubbing



Break repaired with copper foil



Reassembly over the rubbing

Finished kite



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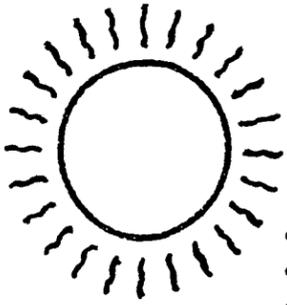
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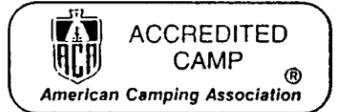
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Katz from page 3

able Bridge Group Director, Balram Chandiramani, announced their intention to put off the reconstruction and maintenance for another eight years. Our bridge is the only connection this Island has to police, fire and emergency vehicles, not to mention our access to buses, trucks, and cars. I'm concerned that we don't have eight more years to ignore the bridge, and I will be using what resources are available to me to make the Roosevelt Island Bridge this year's squeaky wheel. Stay tuned.

I've been to two terrific Island events since I spoke to you last and I want to tell you about them: The Westview Fitness Center in conjunction with The Fitness Company offered a free health fair at the Westview Pool on March 22. Available to all Islanders with a free one-day guest pass, we were offered glucose and diabetes screening, blood pressure and body balance assessment, body stress and posture analysis, refreshments, and a yummy mini-massage. Should Housing Management repeat this offer, don't walk

– run to sign up! Also, I'm glad to report that the pool is wonderful, the gym is acquiring new equipment, and membership is growing. Do your body a favor and come on down.

Last Saturday I visited Gallery RIVAA in the old Bigelow Pharmacy site for the opening reception of Vernissage 3, the Roosevelt Island Visual Art Association's latest show. Arline Jacoby and the artists collective have put together another magnificent offering of paintings and photographs that is not to be missed. You can catch this exhibition Wednesday and Friday evenings and weekend afternoons through May 23. This tiny community has an incredible outpouring of art, theater, music, and dance of a very high quality and we need to let the world know what we have to offer. Two years of discussions with RIOC about signage at the Tram and subway have been without effect, but I hope we can find the wherewithal to stop "hiding our light under a bushel." After all, the talent is already here.

And finally: you will find a full-page ad in

this issue of The WIRE for the RIRA Insurance Fair scheduled for April 17 and 28. This event was born from the ashes of the Eastwood fire some years ago and has found an advocate in RIRA's Housing Committee. Whether you own or rent, you need apartment

insurance. Come to one of our sessions and find out why, what it covers (and doesn't cover), and what it costs. Nobody expects fire, flood, robbery or accident to interrupt our lives but they do happen and we all need to be prepared, so please stop by.



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RIOC Permit Fees for Sports Facilities

Facility	Community-Based*			
	8am-10pm	8am-2pm	2pm-dusk	Dusk-10pm
Octagon Field	\$ 25	\$ 110	\$ 195	\$ 210
Octagon Field with lights	50	110	195	210
Octagon Pony Field	25	80	135	n/a
Capobianco Field	25	45	60	n/a
Blackwell Field (soccer)	25	60	110	n/a
Blackwell Field (football)	25	45	60	n/a
Sportspark Pool	110	175	175	175
Sportspark Gym/Basketball	60	85	85	85

*Community groups interested in a reduction or waiver of fees should contact RIOC.

Octagon Tennis

Season permits*	Islanders	Non-Residents
One person	\$90	\$150
Seniors (62 and over)	55	60
Juniors (16 and under)	40	75
2 Adults (1 household)	160	250
Family (of 3 or more)	200	300

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