

# The Main Street WIRE

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## Next Saturday is Roosevelt Island Day

Photo: David Quinones / SkyCamUSA.com

### Islanders

## An Eye for Shapes Leads To Children's Book Series

by Adrienne Smith

The past few years, Zoran Milich's career has revolved around shapes, colors, letters, and numbers. He has scoured New York City for a letter **J** on the arm of a park bench or a rainbow painted thickly across a garage door. Most recently, he's been studying the Queensboro Bridge from Roosevelt Island, looking for triangles or stars amid the steel beams and racing cars.

Milich, an award-winning photojournalist, is creating children's books.

He has taken photographs for



agencies, newspapers, and magazines in a career that's spanned decades. Born in the former Yugoslavia and raised in Toronto, Milich's six-foot-plus frame has

See **Milich**, page 6

## Shakespeare – Abridged!



Romeo (Ivan Vuckovic) tries to plant one on Juliet (Patrick Fallone), who's having none of it in this weekend's hilarious Main Street Teen Theatre production. (See ComingUp, page 3, and ad, page 9.)

## Briefly...

- **Brian Lawlor**, who became Commissioner of the State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) under Governor David Paterson and, in that capacity, chaired meetings of the RIOC Board of Directors, then was demoted to second-in-command by Governor Andrew Cuomo. has resigned – unhappy, it is said, with his changed status and pay level. Lawlor chaired the RIOC Board when RIOC President Steve Shane was fired, and was instrumental in the installation of current RIOC President Leslie Torres. RIOC Board meetings are now chaired by the new chief of DHCR, Darryl C. Townes, an assembly member moved over to that job by Cuomo. There's more on Lawlor in *The Capitol*, an online report accessible via [nyc10044.com/z/34](http://nyc10044.com/z/34).

- The Island is historic. On pages 12-13 of this issue, you'll discover that the Island was at the beginning of the end for **public executions**.

- RIOC anticipates opening part of **Southpoint Park**, from the Renwick Ruin north, around August 1.

- Jazzmobile, in the past a regular visitor to Roosevelt Island, has a \$1,000 prize for the winner

of its eighth annual **Jazz Vocal Competition**. Auditions are set for Thursday, June 16, 2:00-7:00 p.m., at the Harlem School of the Arts. Details at [jazzmobile.org](http://jazzmobile.org) or at 888-628-5052.



## Octagon Gets State's First Residential Fuel Cell

The Octagon, a LEED Silver (environmentally rated) 500-unit apartment community on Roosevelt Island, has made New York State "green history" by becoming the first residential building in the State to be powered and heated by a fuel cell. The 400-kilowatt unit is from UTC Power.

Adapted from EPonLine.com

The project was supported by \$1.2 million in financial incentives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The fuel cell arrived on the Island this winter and is now operating at full capacity.

"Roosevelt Island is a place where progressive green initiatives are at the forefront of our smart growth plans. We are proud of our Island partners, including Becker + Becker, who are contributing to a greener Island and a cleaner City," said Leslie Torres, President of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC), the New York State Public Benefit Corporation responsible for the development and operation of Roosevelt Island.

The fuel cell, a PureCell System Model 400, is a combined-heat-and-power (CHP) system that converts natural gas to electricity and heat through a combustion-free electrochemical process to provide power and heat to meet the majority of the apartment building's energy demand. The efficiency achieved by the fuel cell is significantly higher than the energy received from the grid, and emissions are negligible. Additionally, the fuel cell's process heat is captured to satisfy the building's space heating and domestic water requirements.

"On-site fuel-cell technology represents the future of electricity generation in this country," said Bruce Becker, president of Becker + Becker, the building's developer and architect. "Traditionally, large-capacity fuel cells are utilized at schools, hospitals, and other energy-intensive facilities, but multifamily residential buildings represent a perfect – heretofore uncultivated – opportunity for fuel-cell technology because of their ability to continually utilize the fuel cell's process heat in the form of hot water and space heating demand." The application of the fuel cell at The Octagon is estimated to reduce the carbon emissions of the site by 790 metric tons annually.

NYSERDA's award-winning CHP demonstration program helps show-

See **Fuel Cell**, page 7

