



View of the West Promenade (Seawall Railing Project - Completed in September 2019)

RIOC NEWS

Community, Identity, Conversations & Innovations

Vol. 6, Issue 1, August 19, 2020

Message From the Acting President & CEO, Shelton J. Haynes

As the Acting President and CEO of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOCC), I am excited about the important projects and initiatives that are in the pipeline. I am also happy to announce that we will be providing regular updates with our new bi-weekly RIOCC newsletter publication, **RIOC News**.

The goal of RIOCC News is to inform the Roosevelt Island community and its stakeholders of ongoing beautification efforts, island infrastructure improvements, and sustainability initiatives. More importantly, we want to highlight our community partnerships and dedicated employees, whose work and contributions may at times go unnoticed. We are committed to excellence and look forward to telling our story. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been catastrophic across the nation; with New York State being greatly impacted. Sadly, RIOCC lost two members of our Public Safety Department due to complications from COVID-19. Detective Wayne Jones and Officer Corey Fischer, who, combined, had over 50 years of service to the R.I. community. Both men were truly dedicated to their job, their colleagues, and were well known and respected within the community. They will be greatly missed.

As we move towards a new sense of normalcy, RIOCC is still reeling from the financial impacts of the pandemic. We continue to be strategic and nimble while having to do more with less, which places a greater emphasis on being efficient. I ask for your patience as we prepare for the challenges ahead; with the understanding that we will communicate any impacts to the Roosevelt Island community regularly.

I would like to commend our staff, who kept the island running during the critical months of the pandemic by continuing Tram and Red Bus operations and keeping the island safe and clean. Our essential staff worked tirelessly throughout this difficult period by providing needed services and support to maintain the high quality of life for the community.

With each new phase of NY Forward, RIOCC has recalibrated operations to adhere to new guidelines and standards, while simultaneously continuing imperative projects that began prior to the pandemic. Roosevelt Island has always been at the forefront of innovative, progressive, and sustainable initiatives. We look forward to improving communication and collaboration between RIOCC, the Roosevelt Island community, and its stakeholders.

We have a special opportunity to do amazing work together and it is an honor to be part of this community. In a collective and collaborative effort, we can continuously improve and sustain the standard of living here on Roosevelt Island.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter!



Capital Projects for 2020-2021 Completion

Blackwell House Interior Restoration

(Grand opening October 2020)
This renovation included a complete interior restoration, with upgrades that both preserved its uniqueness and also the historic features of the home.

R.I. Youth Center Renovation

(Grand opening October 2020)
The project includes modernizing and beautifying the layout and interior design of the facility; including upgrades to the bathrooms to conform to ADA standards, expanding the teaching kitchen, new lighting and doors, replacing windows in the main room which overlooks the courtyard, and addressing other critical systems.

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Alvaro Santamaria

Title: Director of Engineering

Department: Maintenance

RIOC Employee Since: 2019

Areas of Responsibility:

AVAC, Tram, Maintenance, RIOC Building Safety Inspections

Years of Experience: 26

As the Director of Engineering, you are responsible for all areas under RIOC oversight. How do you identify and address concerns that need attention?

“The Maintenance team is responsible for following work orders placed through our Tikkit system. The work orders are executed following standard operating procedures and described in detail with illustration of pictures and actions taken to correct reported issues. When it relates to HVAC or electrical it is also required to put in specific data relevant to the trade (model, serial number of equipment, air flow, discharge air temperature, amperage of heating or cooling loads, point to point checks, etc.). After careful evaluation of the completed assignment, the work order Tikkit is closed and the team member continues on to their next task.”

In the past year of contributing to the RIOC community, what do you enjoy most about overseeing the Maintenance Department?

“Roosevelt Island is very progressive when it comes to leadership, as well as sustainability and maintenance are two concepts that go hand in hand. I am able to amplify sustainable methods and guidelines that help the Corporation establish preventive and predictive maintenance programs. The results are that maintenance costs can be reduced by more than 40% and energy consumption by more than 10%.”

With new innovations every day in science and technology, how is Maintenance keeping RIOC current with the times?

“One way is by applying sustainable methods wherever we can. An example of this is by using more organic and safer cleaning supplies that will promote better air quality. This method is in practice now in our facilities and has been improved due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As the Maintenance team we are pushed to find diverse products that will aid us in excelling at our tasks. Properly maintained equipment also produces less waste and decreases the impact on the environment.”

Maintenance is a known department for many, but most can be misinformed on the responsibilities. What else can we expect from the Maintenance Department on a daily basis?

“Maintenance is tasked with ensuring that all mechanical and electrical systems, RIOC owned building infrastructure, and overall public areas, and electrical maintenance are kept in a reliable manner. Maintenance logs are properly documented for each system. Events like electrical outages, inadequate room temperatures, or unclear road signage can cause major disruptions in a resident’s life. The Maintenance team’s priority is making sure those incidents are resolved efficiently and effectively, to alleviate challenges the residents may face as quickly as possible.”



What’s Happening

We hope you can join us for the Roosevelt Island Youth Center’s End of Summer Showcase:

**Friday, August 28th, 1 - 4pm
Sportspark (250 Main Street)**

The Youth Center has had a fun-filled summer with new and creative programming for participants of all ages.



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, September 26, 2020

GREEN CORNER

Engaged RI Tackles Community Environmental Issues

Engaged Roosevelt Island is an initiative to foster environmental understanding and boost sustainable practices within the community. The initiative's Cornell Cooperative Extension interns - Camilla, Stefan and Yosief - along with community leaders, held a virtual meetup to discuss action items on Monday, July 27th. One of their recommended initiatives includes enacting a Climate Smart Plan. Engaged RI has offered methods for us to mimic the New York State Climate Smart Communities program that helps local governments take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate. The Roosevelt Island plan includes these key points: Build a Climate Driven Community, Decrease Energy Use, Climate-Smart Land Use, Set Goals and Plan for Climate Action, Climate Smart Materials Management, and Enhance Community Resilience to Climate Change.

This plan has already produced a new Engaged RI task force, which held its first meeting on Monday, August 17th. We look forward to moving this and other Engaged RI plans forward. Also, a big thank you to the Cornell interns for their hard work throughout this project. We all wish them luck in their upcoming school year!



DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHT

RIOC's Landscaping & Horticulture Department – Grounds Team

The Grounds Department has been effectively serving our community through a challenging pandemic. They have kept safety and health procedures in mind while keeping Roosevelt Island parks and public spaces adherent to the community's standards. With a staff of eight dedicated employees, Grounds provided support and efficient clean up after Tropical Storm Isaias, and will continue to do so as these needs arise in the future.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Matthew Kibby

Title: Director of Landscaping & Horticulture

Department: Grounds

RIOC Employee Since: 2019

Areas of Responsibility: Grounds, Parks and Fields, Public Spaces, Landscapes

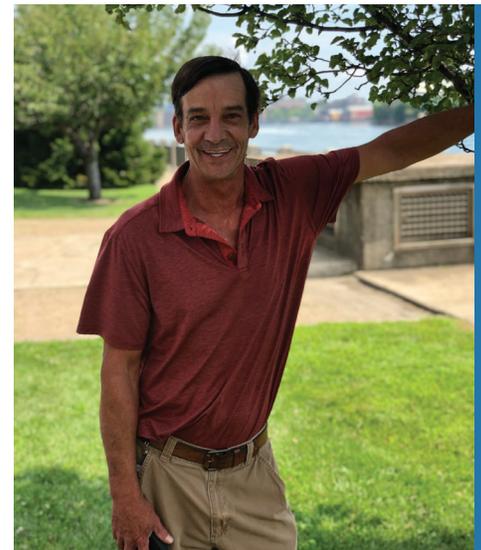
Years of Experience: 33

What are the responsibilities of the Grounds crew?

“One thing the public can expect is for the Grounds team to maintain the aesthetic that Roosevelt Island is known for. We are the department that cleans this island when outside forces impact it negatively. Grounds is responsible for garbage clean up and disposal, any set up needed for outside events in public spaces, debris clean up after inclement weather, and upkeep of fields and landscapes. I would like to go beyond that and make Roosevelt Island synonymous to a scenic garden everyone would like to visit for its natural attributes.”

The Parks on the island are such key identity factors. What are some plans/ ideas you may have to keep our parks as beautiful as they are?

“An important project I am supporting is our plan of restructuring Southpoint Park and the infrastructure of the seawalls. These types of projects are essential for



the longevity of sustainable landscapes. Other ideas I have are to create more botanical gardens on the island and diversify the species of plants, flowers, and trees we have.”

Roosevelt Island has so many features that make it unique. What is something on the island that created a lasting impression on you?

“The history of the island will always stay with me. I have always been interested in the landscape and name changes because my grandfather visited often. When I first started, I took out an old Queensboro Bridge trolley coin my grandfather gave to me. I loved hearing about the old elevator on the bridge going down to the island. It felt like a full circle moment.”

Capital Projects for 2020-2021 Completion

(continued from front cover)

Hope Memorial

(Anticipated completion: November 2020)

The Hope Memorial, developed by the Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (FERI) and the Roosevelt Island Disabled Association (RIDA), will be a memorial depicting a joyous moment when FDR turned to greet a young girl who, like himself, required leg braces to walk. She tucked her crutches under one arm in anticipation of shaking hands with the president in his wheelchair. The sculpture will be placed within an area in Southpoint Park. The same stone at FDR Four Freedoms State Park (FFP) was also specified for an FDR Hope Memorial. This is intended to acknowledge a relationship between the two memorials and imply that the extraordinary accomplishments of FDR, which are celebrated at FFP, must also be seen in the context of the physical challenges FDR faced.

McManus Field Comfort Station

(Anticipated completion: April 2021)

The Octagon Comfort station was constructed over 20 years ago and will undergo structural and programmatic renovations. Additional upgrades will be done to the field's seating, security features, and lighting design.

Manhattan Tram Elevator

(Anticipated completion: April 2021)

Construction of a new ADA compliant elevator at the Manhattan Tram Plaza will provide for better access and reliability for Tramway passengers. The new elevator will have an all glass façade improving the appearance and functionality of the station.

Southpoint Park Shoreline Project

(Anticipated completion: December 2021)

This project is currently underway to address the crumbling east and west seawalls, making them more resilient, protecting the island from future storms. The shoreline will also be enhanced, while combating climate change and protecting the future of the natural habitat.

Motorgate Garage Waterproofing

(Anticipated completion: January 2021)

Included are repairs of spalled and delaminated concrete support beams inside the garage, repair of concrete decks and ceilings (including connecting joints), removal and replacement of existing floor drains, restriping of parking spaces, installation of electric charging stations, installation of new directional signage; also application of a waterproofing system on the parking deck, ramps, walkways, and curbs.

Nellie Bly Monument

(Anticipated completion: April 2021)

The island will soon be home to a new monument, *The Girl Puzzle*, commemorating Nellie Bly, making it one of the few monuments in New York City celebrating women. Bly, considered America's first investigative journalist, famously had herself committed to the Insane Asylum on the formerly named Blackwell's Island. The asylum's central Octagon tower, a restored historical landmark, is now part of The Octagon residential building. She was a trailblazer of many feats, including serving as a WWI correspondent, an inventor, a women's rights advocate, a suffragist, and a humanitarian.



Top: Shelton Haynes at the Youth Center Color Run 2020

Middle: Roosevelt Island Youth Center Field Day 2020

Bottom: Youth Center Garden Programming with iDig2learn



RIOC ADVISORIES

KNOW MORE

BE SAFE

Go to rioc.ny.gov and click on the Sign Up For RIOC Advisories icon to receive community and emergency alerts about transportation, severe weather, special events & community meetings, island facilities & more! Choose your method of alert and stay up to date on local, Roosevelt Island specific information.

591 Main Street, Roosevelt Island, NY 10044

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To use Tikkit visit rioc.tikkit.us/login or go to rioc.ny.gov and click on Report a Problem.

