



Southpoint Park Shoreline Restoration Project.
Expected completion date December 2021.

RIOC NEWS

Community, Identity, Conversations & Innovations

Vol. 6, Issue 3, September 16, 2020

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



The Roosevelt Island Public Safety Department (PSD) provides a valuable service to the community, protecting residents and providing a commitment to community engagement, and safety. Through the years, the department has experienced various challenges, motivating them to adjust and improve, to best align with the needs and values of this community. With a staff of 45, which includes Public Safety Patrol and Peace Officers; led by PSD Director, Kevin Brown, Deputy Director, Anthony Amoroso, and administrative leadership Captain Wanda Coleman and Inspector Estrella Suarez, PSD provides island safety oversight 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

PSD officers go through a rigorous and specialized professional training that includes:

- Constitutional Law
- Ethics and Professionalism
- New York State Criminal Procedure Law
- Defense Tactics and Principles of Control
- Off-Duty and Plain Clothes Encounters
- Active Shooter
- Aerosol Subject Restraint
- Professional Communications
- Preliminary Investigation and Information Development

As we enhance PSD operations with the goal of providing the most proactive community policing and safety approach to crime prevention, all aspects of PSD's processes are being evaluated for efficiency and effectiveness. Processes currently under review include crime reports, tour and post assignments, staff, property management, island residents' interviews, and software system functions. This includes looking in depth at the following:

- Visibility of officers throughout the island and opportunities for community engagement.
- Summarizing and exporting data to drive decision making or investigations.
- Exploring critical island locations and/or trending incidents to proactively mitigate them.
- Working closely with the 114th precinct, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM).
- Reviewing processes for redundancies and non value-added steps.
- Refocusing on the core responsibilities relating to the health and safety.

We would like to thank all of the dedicated men and women from the Public Safety Department for monitoring activities on the island and keeping the community safe. We will continue to update the community on the progress of this work in future issues of **RIOC News**.

Roosevelt Island is known as one of the safest neighborhoods in New York City.

INDEX CRIMES

Type	2019	2020	% Change
Grand Larceny	3	1	-66.67
Gr. Larceny Auto	0	0	+0
Assault	8	2	-75
Burglary	2	1	-50
Robbery	1	0	-100
Rape	0	0	+0
Murder	0	0	+0
TOTAL	14	4	-71.43

MISDEMEANORS

Type	2019	2020	% Change
Agg. Harassment	5	2	-60
Petit Larceny	6	25	+316.67
Criminal Mischief	26	9	-65.38
Mis. Assault	0	0	+0
Other	3	1	-66.67
TOTAL	40	37	-7.5

VIOLATIONS/NON-CRIMES

Type	2019	2020	% Change
Noise	55	97	+76.36
Graffiti	3	6	+100
Trespassing	20	25	+25
Harassment	46	19	-58.7
Disorderly Conduct	24	19	-20.83
Domestic Dispute	32	19	-40.63
Other	27	15	-44.44
TOTAL	207	200	-3.38

"A" PARKING VIOLATIONS	2019	2020	% Change
	2635	1960	-25.62

"B" TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS	2019	2020	% Change
	145	58	-60



Capital Project UPDATES

Southpoint Park Shoreline Restoration Project

The Southpoint Park Project went into construction on July 6th of 2020. The project was deemed essential to address the crumbling east and west seawalls, making them more resilient and protecting the island from any future storms. The shoreline will be enhanced while also taking into consideration the natural wildlife and environment. Construction is proceeding as planned. Due to the nature of this project, LiRo has a full time, dedicated field superintendent on site to guarantee all contractual requirements are met. RIOC also hired a third-party inspector on site to verify the construction is in accordance with rules and regulations set forth in the construction documents and required by state and federal agencies.

Motorgate Garage Project

Ongoing since June 2019, the Motorgate Garage waterproofing/repair work is nearing completion and will be entering its final phase on September 23, 2020. While most of the work seems a bit mundane, it is work that is critical to maintaining the safety and long-term usability of the garage. Although the major priority is to improve the overall drainage of the structure, the most visible improvement for customers will be the new re-stripped parking spaces, electric charging stations, and directional signage. The last phase will take place in the south sections of the garage (4A - 8A) and will necessitate new traffic patterns and parking space adjustments. This will be the last major traffic pattern change for residents and customers during this project. The overall project work is scheduled to be completed in January 2021. We appreciate your patience throughout.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

Catching up with the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance

For 35 years, the Main Street Theatre & Dance Alliance (MST&DA) has strived to nourish creativity by providing high quality music, theatrical, and dance training, as well as performing opportunities, to everyone in our diverse community. MST&DA believes that every person, child or adult, should have the opportunity to participate in the arts, regardless of cultural, socio-economic, ethnic background or age, and to that end offers a variety of scholarships and work-study every year. MST&DA is always looking to engage in important conversations about improving diversification in the arts and is proud to support campaigns such as the anti-racism campaign #WeSeeYou, voicing the need for change in American theatre.

After the PAUSE began in March, MST&DA went online to great success, conducting classes, rehearsals, and uploading remotely edited video productions to their YouTube channel. Understanding the need for personal connection right now, they offered small pop-up classes throughout August, also collaborating with community groups such as Island Kids.

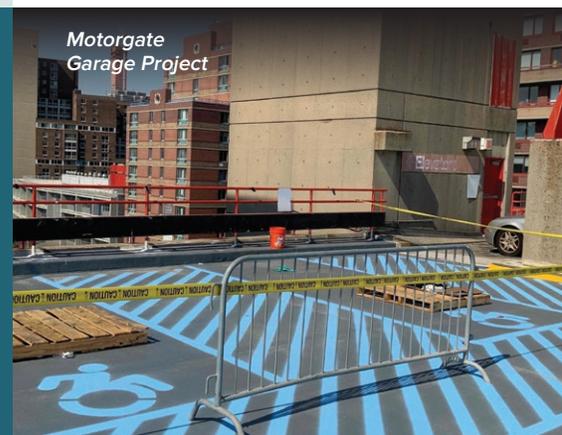
Did you know that Charles Dickens visited Roosevelt Island just before writing “A Christmas Carol?” MST&DA students are rehearsing a brand-new holiday production inspired by the Dickens classic – a reinvention written by member Jonathan Fadner. The Theatre will bring back the ghosts of Roosevelt Island in a show that is current and relevant to today’s issues and our international RI community; while driving home messages of equality, human connection, and compassion. In addition, the Teen Theatre is working towards a performance of Hitchcock’s *The 39 Steps*, a fast-paced whodunit packed with nonstop laughs, zany characters, romance, and an onstage plane crash!

On Sat., Sept. 12th, they began their six-week Fall outdoor class schedule, which includes a variety of dance, capoeira, theatre, and fitness classes for all ages. All programming will be set up outdoors at Blackwell Plaza and the Meditation Lawn, with guidelines in place to follow social distancing and mask/face covering requirements. Check out all they offer at mstda.org.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH



Special Patrol Officer **Leonard Bunbury** has been a member of the Public Safety Department for over 20 years. His reliability and willingness to pitch in for the good of the department, whenever needed, is a trademark of his professional style. Bunbury is well known within the community, always engaging positively with island residents, and adept at independently handling difficult situations. Next time you spot Officer Bunbury, be sure to say hello!



GREEN CORNER

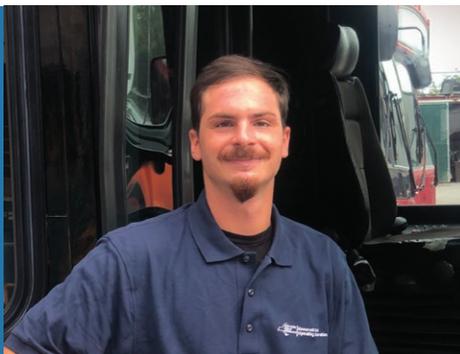
Food Scrap Drop-Off Returns to Roosevelt Island

Roosevelt Island's Saturday Food Scrap Drop-Off (FSDO) Compost Program is Back! Since 2015, partner Big Reuse has helped islanders process nearly 1,000 pounds of food scraps a week, when the program was suddenly cut in March due to the pandemic. The pandemic has dealt us many losses but gained community resolve, and during the absence of this program, islanders pitched in to advocate for its return, find grassroots solutions, and even created the Haki Compost Collective to bond community members who wish to support compost initiatives. **If you're interested in assisting with future collection and outreach, email info@hakicompost.org or fill out the form at tinyurl.com/HakiCompost-Collective. Be sure to follow them on Instagram @hakicompost for updates!**



The goal of the FSDO is to remove food scrap waste from all the Roosevelt Island buildings. When a resident saves their food scraps, essential building workers don't have to haul heavy wet waste by truck or burden our underground AVAC waste system. The community also benefits from annual compost giveaways and year-round access to compost for beautification projects.

New to composting? It's easy – save fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, coffee grounds and even healthy, dried houseplant trimmings. Use an old container, keep it in the freezer or fridge, and drop it off on Saturdays. Remember: no meat, fish, oils, and please remove rubber bands, stickers, and all plastic. So, grab your food scraps and a mask and come down to the green bins next to the Farmer's Market every Saturday, from 9 AM - 2 PM. We welcome partner Big Reuse back and invite you to meet Haki and learn more about keeping the program going and growing. Thank you to all residents and local group members who are participating!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Matthew Trister

Title: Bus Cleaner

Department: Bus Operations

RIOC Employee Since: 2019

Areas of Responsibility: Bus and Bus Garage Cleaning, Bus Mechanical Work and Repairs

Years of Experience: 6

What is your role and responsibilities here at RIOC?

My main job description is cleaner for the buses and garage area. My daily routine consists of making sure all buses are cleaned and sanitized, from the inside to the outside of the bus. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are fueling days for buses. When it comes to details of the garage, ensuring that all tools, equipment, and over all aesthetics of the environment is up to par, safe and

acceptable to work in. During free time, I also engage in small mechanical tasks and repairs, like tire and oil changes. My background is in mechanics and working with family businesses. My experience has allowed me to develop professional skills and the ability to hold space on a personal level with my colleagues because teamwork is integral in how we support and help each other.

What is the importance of the Red Bus to the Roosevelt Island community?

It is the access the bus gives to the residents. We are a non-stop company that runs every day, through holidays and permittable weather. The buses rarely come to a stop. It is also free and such a great resource. The accessibility and the fact that we have catered schedules to specific times of the day, such as increasing buses for the morning, providing shuttle buses, and the evening schedule. Our schedule is key to the consistency we provide to our residents.

Maintenance is important for the longevity of any device, what are some of your maintenance plans or routines for the Red Bus?

To start off, I will come in at 7 AM, and if there is a bus waiting in the lot I will start fueling it on a fuel day, then disinfect the inside of the bus. Making sure the seats and all areas are wiped, cleaned, and then finish by mopping the bus from the back to the front. We take pride in the aesthetics of our buses. It represents to the community that we care for them and we are happy to provide this

service. During our maintenance routine, we do a walk around, and look out for any mechanical problems we might see or other issues that will prevent the bus from performing at high capacity. Even small things like having a reflector or light burned out will significantly affect the performance of the bus and route.

How did your sanitation and cleaning routine change during the pandemic?

My routine changed incredibly, and it got more intense. The frequency of sanitation also increased. If you can do it twice a day, then you should. We are more cautious and preventative because our service is so integrated in the community. There is also the balance of being smart and effective with your cleaning supplies and the areas you are covering; knowing we are in a pandemic and supplies can become scarce. Implementing daily routines has been working out for us very well.

What motivated your commitment to RIOC and the community while being an essential worker?

It brings me satisfaction knowing who I am in the corporation and my role, because I know I am doing my best to be there for a community and corporation that needs it. I have a sense of pride and accomplishment looking after the safety and health of others and maintaining a positive image for the corporation. Making sure our buses and trucks are in top condition and being sent out routinely for repairs is a process I feel honored to be part of because it exemplifies why I am here.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Eddie Perez

Title: Quality Control Administrator

Department: Organizational Efficiency & Special Projects

RIOC Employee Since: 1997

Areas of Responsibility: Inspect RIOC's indoor and outdoor facilities,

fields, parks, Lighthouse Park, Southpoint Park, and east and west seawalls. Bus Garage Assistance

Years of Experience: 23

Describe your role and responsibilities here at RIOC.

My job is to inspect all our fields, including McManus, Capobianco, and Firefighters. I also inspect Lighthouse Park and Southpoint Park for any damage or issues that need to be corrected. Making sure that the buildings we currently operate in are equipped with all the essential supplies and proper PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) that is needed for COVID management. When the Pandemic started, I gained new responsibilities assisting the bus garage employees, giving them the support they need to sanitize and fuel the buses. My CDL licensing has given me the experience to assist with the bus garage. I like to be known as the jack of all trades.

Describe your process when coordinating with other departments.

Communication is important, especially in quality control. There are so many moving parts between departments that require a lot of action simultaneously. It is instrumental that everyone who is part of the process is on the same page. My ability to use interpersonal skills and familiarity, because of my years of service, helps with my process. I go beyond email communications and make actual connections with the staff I need support from. It's all about trial and error and seeing what works with many different types of people. I am always grateful to be a part of special projects and events, as it allows me to be immersed in the community. Those are times for all to enjoy each other's company as one, not focusing on who is RIOC and who is an islander.

Why do you think there is a necessity for Quality Control and how does it impact the corporation overall?

Training is the key for everything. Without training we don't know what we are doing. Quality control is self-explainable because the mission is in the name, to maintain a control of high quality across the board for the corporation and anything associated with it – which means staying ahead of innovative trends that align with the standard RIOC has for its programs and departments.

What is it like working for RIOC and living in the community?

When I first started working and living here, I realized that it was all about balance. You have to be able to create boundaries when you are both staff and a resident. You tend to end up on-call at all times. Fast forward to me now, it allows me to play a unique role because I am able to express myself from two perspectives. I can shed light on topics that can be overlooked in dialogue that happens within the corporation or dialogue between the residents. I work for RIOC and I represent the community. This position allows me to be part of the resolution to issues that may come up.

What's Happening SAVE THE DATE Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020



SOCIAL JUSTICE: RECLAIMING OUR TIME

**RI Senior Center Food Pantry: Fridays
from 4 PM – 6:30 PM (546 Main St.)**

Bike Safety Tips

As we transition seasons, cycling is an activity thoroughly enjoyed by the community. The installment of Citi-bikes on the island has provided added resources in transportation and leisure for our residents and visitors. As a result, an increase of cyclists has occurred, making safety and etiquette a necessary unifier between pedestrians and cyclists. Be sure to read and follow these timely Bike Safety Tips from the NYC Department of Transportation:

- Adhere to all bike signage/Follow lane markings.
- Always wear your helmet.
- Wear a face covering while bicycling.
- Do not go for group rides with people who live outside your household.
- Scan the road behind you.
- Never operate a bicycle wearing headphones, talking on a cell phone or text messaging.
- Do not consume alcohol.
- Use lights at night.

GET THERE SAFELY



If you can't see the driver they can't see you

Use extra caution when passing trucks, buses, or approaching an intersection alongside a large vehicle.



Stop at all red lights and stop signs

Running a red light or stop sign puts you at risk for a serious crash, and startles pedestrians who don't see you.



Be sure to be seen when stopped

At red lights, stop to avoid the driver's blind spot – slightly ahead of a waiting vehicle.



Be aware of your surroundings

Do not wear more than one earphone while riding. Check behind you, especially changing lanes.



Do not pass large turning vehicles. They cannot see you!