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THE BATTERY PARK CITY BROADSHEET

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COMPTROLLER GIVES BPCA A SEMI-CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

BETTER THAN FIVE OUT OF SEVEN

By Matthew Fenton

In a follow-up report to his office's 2007 audit of the Battery Park City Authority, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli (whose predecessor, Alan Hevesi, was driven from office in part because squeaky clean Attorney General and then-gubernatorial candidate Eliot Spitzer was outraged that Hevesi had used state employees to chauffeur his sick wife) says the BPCA has fully and satisfactorily implemented five of seven recommendations, partially implemented the sixth, and made no progress on the seventh. All the recommendations involve guidelines for soliciting and awarding contracts on a competitive basis. While the Comptroller's office says the Authority has made "substantial progress... but additional actions are still needed," the BPCA maintains that the unimplemented recommendations (involving the use of competitive bidding for all contract changes that constitute a scope change or a substantial increase in the contract price) would be unworkable and disruptive.

TWO GHOSTS OF 9/11 NEARER TO BEING LAID TO REST

FITERMAN HALL AND THE STAIRWAY

By Matthew Fenton

Two remnants of the terrorist attacks from September 11, 2001, that have haunted Lower Manhattan for six and a half years, are a step closer to being laid to rest. On March 12, officials at the City University of New York announced that federal regulators have given final approval to plan to decontaminate Fiterman Hall, the wrecked CUNY building on the north side of Ground Zero that has remained shrouded and empty since 9/11. (Once safely decontaminated, the building will be demolished and replaced.) This announcement came just days after a small group of people who had survived the 2001 attacks by fleeing down a staircase on the Vesey Street side of the complex watched as the Survivors' Stairs (the last above-ground remnant of the Trade Center complex) were decorated with an American flag on Sunday, March 9. The 22-foot-tall, 65-ton fragment was then gently hoisted onto a truck and moved to a temporary location 200 feet away to make room for new construction. The 37 steps will eventually be incorporated into the World Trade Center Memorial, now slated to open in 2011.

Gateway Affordability Tops Agenda as Tenants, Government Officials, and Owners Meet

MEETING DEEMED 'CORDIAL AND COOPERATIVE'

By Evan Simko-Bednarshi



Gateway Plaza
Battery Park City's first residential complex, with some 1,750 apartments, has long been a bastion of affordability—at least by Manhattan standards.

As housing prices in Manhattan inch upward, can and will Battery Park City remain the middle-class enclave it was designed to be? Much of the answer to that question rests on the fate of Gateway Plaza, Battery Park City's largest housing complex, where rent stabilization is due to expire in 2009.

Last week, representatives of the Gateway Plaza Tenants' Association (GPTA) and the owners of Gateway Plaza (Lefrak, Fisher, & Olnick) attended a meeting hosted by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to discuss the future of the six-building complex and its more than 1,700 apartments.

Indicative of the importance of the issue, numerous government officials and their representatives were present. They included Manhattan Borough President Scott

Stringer, State Senator Martin Connor, City Council Member Alan Gerson, and members of their staffs, Julie Menin, Chair of Community Board 1, and representatives from the offices of Congressman Jerry Nadler and City Comptroller William Thompson. All spoke strongly in favor of extending rent protection to Gateway residents well beyond 2009.

Although no agreement was reached at the meeting, the atmosphere was "cordial and cooperative" according to GPTA Executive Board members Glenn Plaskin, Jeff Galloway and Linda Belfer, who represented the tenants.

"The Gateway Plaza Tenants Association is grateful for the unprecedented support from our elected officials and remains optimistic that an equitable solution for affordability can be found," Mr. Plaskin said.

A resolution is not likely to be imminent, however. Tenants, the landlord, and officials agreed at the meeting to confer again in the near future.

The Pluck of the Irish

FUGITIVE FINANCIER TRIES TO SELL SOUTH COVE CONDO

CATCH HIM IF YOU CAN: MICHAEL LYNN CAN'T BE EXTRADITED—FOR NOW

By Matthew Fenton

One Battery Park City apartment owner has been hit especially hard by the shakeout from the subprime mortgage crisis: International fugitive financier Michael Lynn, who is alleged to have defrauded half a dozen European banks of more than 80 million euros has been quietly trying to sell the condominium on the fifth floor of South Cove that he acquired in 2005.

Building staff at South Cove (who asked not to be identified) say that Mr. Lynn, who was based in Dublin, occasionally used the apartment as a New York pied-a-terre in recent years, and that it is now occupied by a former employee of one of his companies. (When contacted by the *Broadsheet*, this employee refused to comment.) They also confirmed that Mr. Lynn visited the building in January, apparently to arrange for the apartment's sale.

Mr. Lynn, who has presided over the development of condominiums, supermarkets, and hotels from the United Kingdom to Hungary to Portugal (he is known to have speculated in real estate in a total of nine countries), was widely regarded as a financial genius and a real estate visionary until September, 2007, when his empire came crashing down amid allegations of fraud and embezzlement. He disappeared shortly afterward, and has been a wanted fugitive since December, when he failed to appear in an Irish civil court to answer questions from creditors about how he appears to have taken out the equivalent (at current exchange rates) of more than \$125 million in redundant mortgages on various properties (at least some of which he seems not to have owned) without disclosing the competing liens to lenders or investors. At that point, Mr. Lynn was found to be in contempt of court and a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Mr. Lynn has been increasingly mobile in the days since. Shortly before disappearing in September of last year, he made an advance payment of \$250,000 on his account with NetJets, the private aircraft timeshare company that flies well-heeled clients to 800 airports in 120

#6 IN A SERIES

2008: THE FUTURE OF BATTERY PARK CITY

AFTER THE ELIOT MESS

Because the Battery Park City Authority is a creature of the State of New York, any change on leadership in Albany brings with it the possibility of changes here. Every governor since Nelson Rockefeller has, for better or worse, put his imprint on Battery Park City. Eliot Spitzer served for too short a time to leave an enduring mark on Battery Park City or the BPCA, but how will his successor, David Paterson, affect the community?

The *Broadsheet* spoke to several insiders who have long experience in either state government or the BPCA, or both. All of them are now working in the private sector (and all requested anonymity), but each was able to shed light on the process by which a new governor comes to deal with Battery Park City.

"This is not the first item on any governor's to-do list when he takes office," said one source, who knows Mr. Paterson only in passing. "The first appointments he has to make are his Secretary, who is the equivalent of a chief of staff, and his Counsel. They, in turn, have to appoint deputies, who are responsible for areas like transportation and housing. These deputies are in charge of liaison with cabinet members, the state bureaucracy, and local governments around the state. This process takes the better part of a year. Only after do all these people start thinking about the Authorities—and there are dozens and dozens of them. In a new adminis-

tration, many Authority heads have no idea who they're supposed to report to: cabinet members, or deputies, or the governor himself."

"So most governors take about a year before they start to make changes within the Authorities," he continued. "But it could play out another way. There may be somebody within the State government

BATTERY PARK CITY
SPRING 2008

NEWS & COMMENT

Maybe It Should Be Called 'Battery No-Park City'

The City recently paid a consultant \$570,000 to figure out what neighborhood residents have long known—that parking is a mess in Lower Manhattan generally and is particularly impossible in Battery Park City. The study surveyed a total of 201 metered spaces in this community of more than 10,000 residents and found that more than half of all vehicles parked on Battery Park City streets during business hours were there illegally. The consultants also found that vehicles with law enforcement placards were the biggest law breakers—taking up fully one-fourth of all the legal parking spaces in Battery Park City and elsewhere downtown, while also parking in front of fire hydrants, bus stops, and loading zones. But those who feel that City government is unresponsive can take heart: When a vandal recently spray-painted out the Alternate Side parking signs on Rector Place (for the second time in three months), thus providing a possible defense for parkers who received tickets, alert City workers had replaced them within 48 hours.



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month at \$2 million, but failed to attract even one bidder. At least three other properties owned by Mr. Lynn have been seized by creditors or legal authorities, who are trying to sell them in partial satisfaction of his debts.

In the meantime, Mr. Lynn appears to have run afoul of another law: the buy-low-sell-high rule that governs the New York real estate market. Records in the New York County Clerk's office show that he purchased his one-bedroom unit in South Cove for \$430,000 several years ago, at the top of the market.

Sources within South Cove say they were told that Mr. Lynn was hoping to sell the unit quickly, and at a modest profit, for \$455,000. But the softening property market in Manhattan has dictated otherwise. The same sources say they have recently heard that Mr. Lynn has reduced the asking price to what he paid in 2005.

Sources within South Cove confirm that investigators have stopped by the building on at least one occasion, seeking information about Mr. Lynn. And a spokesman for the Garda Siochana chuckled when the *Broadsheet* asked for Mr. Lynn's e-mail address and telephone number, saying, "if he gets back to you, please tell Mr. Lynn we'd like to speak with him."



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continued from the front page

2008: THE FUTURE OF BATTERY PARK CITY

AFTER THE ELIOT MESS

who is close to David Paterson, or close to somebody he trusts, who has his eye on the Battery Park City Authority. That could translate into bigger changes happening much more quickly. The way it would work is that one of the new Governor's senior staff would reach out to the current leadership at the Authority and say, "you've got a staff of highly paid Pataki appointees there, and we've got some highly qualified Democrats who want those jobs." And you'd see new people here very quickly."

"But without knowing David Paterson's personality or those of the people around him," this source concludes, "it's hard to predict. This is a very intricate web."

A second source says that, "while it's true that new Governors have usually taken about a year to start paying attention to Battery Park City, that was in the days when the State didn't have a direct role to play in Lower Manhattan. And that's no longer the case. David Paterson will be focusing on these issues much sooner than his predecessors." That said, he adds that Mr. Paterson "won't be able to think about this until he gets through the budget process, assembling his own staff, and making appointments."

"The key to all of this," he adds, "is not the Battery Park City Authority. It's the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation. And the people who are most likely to be hurt by this are Avi Schick and David Emil," the chairman and president, respectively, of the LMDC. "From the beginning," he says, "their style has been confrontational and arrogant, just like Eliot's. They've made a lot of enemies and very few friends." This source adds, "the one thing that might save Avi is that he's very close to Sheldon Silver," because keeping the State Assembly leader happy "is important to any new Governor."

About the State's relationship with the City, this source says, "it's much too soon to tell whether Mike Bloomberg will want to play a more direct role in running the Battery Park City Authority. He's a year and seven months from being term-limited out of office. How active he wants to be Downtown probably depends on whether he's interested in running for Governor in 2010."

This source, who knows Mr. Paterson well, concludes, "in the long run, Battery Park City's future will depend on the formulation of a comprehensive plan for the West Side waterfront and Downtown as a whole. And Paterson is interested in these issues."

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LIFE DOWNTOWN



Miniature irises and winter aconite.

Battery Park City in Bloom

Rector Place Esplanade

Beneath the English oak trees where Rector Place intersects the esplanade, some of Battery Park City's first flowers announce that spring is almost here. Though snowdrops appeared weeks ago in South Cove and more recently along the esplanade, the miniature irises (*Iris reticulata*) and winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*) on Rector Place are BPC's first flourishes of color.

Depending on weather conditions, they should be with us until the end of March and will even survive a snowfall, should we have one. Apparently, they like cold weather.

—Terese Loeb Kreuzer

Ask the Broadsheet



What's happening to Pier A?

Q: The last time I walked by Pier A, I noticed that it looked more dilapidated than ever. Plywood was tacked to part of the exterior and some of the supporting beams were exposed. Is Pier A just being allowed to rot until it's too far gone to salvage?

A: Thankfully, no. There's yet another plan afoot to save Battery Park's 122-year-old landmark. In January, the Battery Park City Authority gained jurisdiction over the pier, and plans to sell \$30 million in bonds to renovate it into shops and restaurants. The BPCA hopes that the National Park Service will also become a tenant, and use Pier A as the terminal for ferry service to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. However, skepticism about all of the above may be justified. Pier A has been closed to the public for more than 20 years, despite repeated plans to restore it.

Send your Ask the Broadsheet questions to editor@ebroadsheet.com

— Terese Loeb Kreuzer



What about those lights?

Q: I was wondering about the floodlights at the corner of Albany and South End Avenue. Any info on that? They're eerily reminiscent of the days immediately after 9/11 when the National Guard set up lights like those along South End Avenue. — Kenny Shane

A: There are some things we can't forget, but this time, the explanation is innocuous. There's a problem with the electric feed to the streetlights, so the temporary lights will remain in place for public safety until the lights are repaired.

NEIGHBORS

Bob Townley

ON MANHATTAN YOUTH'S MIDDLE AGE

Growing up in Coney Island, Bob Townley acquired a love for the ocean and an appreciation for fun. Today, he lives in Battery Park City and runs Manhattan Youth—not quite the beach and not exactly an amusement park, but one sees a certain correlation. On April 10, Mr. Townley will preside over the ribbon-cutting of the Downtown Community Center, a state-of-the-art space that will offer academic, recreational and cultural activities. The path toward Lower Manhattan's first community center—which contains art, music and dance studios, classrooms, a teen lounge and a pool—began when Paul Goldstein and others at Community Board 1 hired Mr. Townley to fill the part-time position of Youth Coordinator in the mid 80s.

How did Manhattan Youth start 21 years ago?

In 1986, there was karate for kids at Southbridge Towers, but, as CBI's Youth Coordinator, I felt there was a need for more youth programs. With Trinity Church as the fiscal sponsor I started soccer and football, administered through Community Board 1. When Trinity pulled out, a couple parents suggested we form a nonprofit.



Bob Townley

What were those first few years of Manhattan Youth like?

We were having a good time. PS 234 got built and we started the afterschool program. We started Downtown Day Camp. We were involved in the start-ups of Downtown Soccer League and Downtown Little League.

What's the most important thing you've learned through your years of community advocacy?

To be flexible and to listen well. And to be sensitive. I express my opinions in a way that doesn't alienate people. Each encounter can be positive. I've had a number of issues where I didn't agree with someone. I either had to convince them or back off. It's the Quaker style of decision-making.

In your opinion, what are the top issues for Lower Manhattan?

Bringing Jimmy Buffet downtown. No. We're a little short of recreational facilities but we're coming along. I convinced the Hudson River Park Trust to put a soccer field on the end of Pier 25. That'll help. An indoor soccer field would help a lot, too. Basically the top issues for the neighborhood are operational. We need counseling programs for kids and families. And we need something for older people. There's going to be a whole new need for assisted living, but it takes a while to develop the infrastructure. The Hallmark is too expensive for most people, but maybe there's a way to direct public funds toward that sort of model. We needed places for our kids to grow and flourish, and we've gotten that. Now we have to turn our attention to as a community to other needs.

Your agency is called Manhattan Youth, but you serve people of all ages.

There's been some internal discussion about our name. We're going to have a great senior program. But we are probably going to stay "Manhattan Youth" because... because we're young until we die.

Is Jimmy Buffet a friend of yours?

No. He did give us a donation. I had a conversation with him once. My favorite musicians are beach musicians—Jimmy Buffet, Bob Marley, the Beach Boys. I'm a California guy stuck on the island of Manhattan. That's what Pier 25 was supposed to be, a California-style place where people could chill out for not a lot of money.

Give us a sense of what to expect from the Downtown Community Center.

We'll be offering free teen and senior programs, parent/child programs, afterschool programs. We'll have a lot of things for a lot of people. We want to develop a sense of community where people come and talk about issues, where people come and meet other people. We want to eliminate loneliness in Lower Manhattan.

There are several other community centers planned for Lower Manhattan.

The closest is directly across the highway in Battery Park City. Have you worked with their designers to make sure your efforts are not duplicated? We have some concerns about that. But those folks are very cautious not to have battling community centers. We all sit around the table and discuss what we want at these community centers. Some people might want a gymnastics class -- but do we really want to put SuEllen out of business? Let's be creative about what could go in the Battery Park City community center. We think an Environmental Center would be great.

Something that would build on the BPCA's green mission?

Many of us don't realize how much the Battery Park City Authority forged ahead with green initiatives. Battery Park City technology is being replicated in Dubai now. Maybe with the help of Goldman Sachs, we could have the thinkers of environmental technology come to this center and teach our kids. That's creative programming: Let kids build solar collectors. We're in the belly of the beast here. The BPCA has created a rich history and they should use this. With the Mercantile Exchange here, maybe we could have lessons on oil. We should bring all these resources together. If you're going to use the public dollar, use it for the future.



Generation Next



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LETTERS

continued from back page

legislation has been proposed to place a moratorium on installing artificial turf (even the new supposedly less toxic kinds) while the health risks are thoroughly investigated.

While I agree with most parents that it would be great for our kids to miss fewer games owing to inclement weather, it would be short-sighted to do this at the risk to their long-term health and well-being. There is a lot of talk these days about "going green," people are keen to live in "green" buildings, it is fashionable to drive "green" cars and we are willing to make an effort to turn our businesses and homes as "green" as possible. Those of us who live in Battery Park City enjoy the benefit of the hard work of Tessa Huxley and her staff at the Battery Park City Parks Conservancy to keep our beautiful parks "green" and organic. It would be hypocritical for a community that claims to support "green" to turn their backs on the conservancy's efforts to do everything possible to keep the ball fields "green" and resilient. Since the Downtown Little League has been awarded a generous grant by LMDC to install new fields at another location, the use of the BPC fields will be diminished and their maintenance will be easier. So in keeping with the best interest of our children and our community, let's join the global community that is willing to make the necessary sacrifices to keep the planet "green."

Sincerely,
Caroline Press

To the Editor:

Wow, what an out of touch editor. With Lower Manhattan filling up with children who need a place to play, you don't see a need for year-round space. Your view is a joke; kids need places to go. They don't spend enough time at home playing video games? We need turf to keep our children healthy and for them to enjoy their youth. Please leave your desk and see the youth of our community. We need year-round outdoor space.

Thank you
Mark Bader

To the Editor:

We have two boys that play on the ball fields in Battery Park and are against the turf. I am glad to hear that your organization is expressing multiple views. Thanks.

Linda Gottesfeld

To the Editor,

The ballfields are clearly in need of all-weather turf. The recreational leagues in this neighborhood are a critical element of the children's lives. I have two girls who play soccer and every year they have missed so much of the season, and have had to play on fields that more often than not are a complete mess. It ruins the fun of playing. We need all-weather turf; the kids deserve it.

David Burger

To the Editor,

Outdoor recreation space for children in lower Manhattan is about as difficult to find as a parking space. It is completely absurd to think that the sentiment regarding the replacement of the grass surface with artificial turf has changed. The fact of the matter is that there have never been stronger feelings and more concrete reasons why a change is absolutely necessary. The Battery Park City Ball Fields are a rare New York City commodity that are not being used properly. The fact that the fields are closed from November until April each and every year evidences this point. Should the children wait six months for the grass to grow before they are allowed play or should they be allowed unlimited access throughout the year? I believe that the sentiment is to keep the gates

continued at right, this page

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EATING DOWNTOWN

WALL STREET
BURGER SHOPPE
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212-425-1000

By Stephen Diamond, Jr. and Cristina Alesci



Wall Street Burger Shoppe, a restaurant that opened several weeks ago in the Financial District, offers a bar snack curiously titled "Roasted Marrow Bones." This \$12 nibble may have you wondering whether you've just stepped into the world of Fred Flintstone, where a certain dinosaur movie theater served brontosaurus ribs big enough to flip a Stone Age car on its side.

The restaurant is housed on the first two floors of a four-story nine-

teenth century brick building near Wall Street. The ground floor, glistening with white subway tile walls and bare metal display cabinets, evokes an elegant meat locker, while nicked Art Deco bar stools and a long white lunch counter festooned with glass ketchup bottles and straw containers hark back to a simple Prohibition-era diner. The nostalgia continues in the upstairs dining room, where the walls are lined with small hexagonal black and white tiles arranged in a diamond pattern. In the center of each diamond is a round brass insert that, depending on the amount of Six Points Ale you've consumed, resembles a skull, a smiling face, or neither. The lower half of the walls, as well as the tables, are fashioned from wide planks stamped with Burger Shoppe's logo in black. A modest side bar, together with low-wattage lamps in ceramic wall fixtures and suspended mason jars, help give the upstairs saloon a raffish charm.

The menu, here is all about the meat. Appetizers include short rib pudding (\$15), a delicious hash of pulled short rib braised in red wine and served with char-grilled bread. Although chewier than expected for short rib, the harder texture was a bonus, allowing us more time to savor its toothsome flavor. Then there are the aforementioned roasted marrow bones, which in the words of Heather Tierney, one of Burger Shoppe's owners, "are pure decadence." Four center-cut veal bones are accompanied by toast and a cooked onion relish. This rich dish is not for everyone and, truth be told, we were not crazy about it. The



Chef/co-owner Kevin O'Connell

marrow was not easy to extract and, once withdrawn, overwhelmed the onion relish and toast.

Burger Shoppe's entrees include three kinds of burgers: the Shoppe Burger (\$12), the Barroom Burger (\$16), and a Kobé beef burger (\$150). The Shoppe plate is actually two mid-sized burgers and are everything that a classic hamburger ought to be. (A single is available for \$6). The beef is ground daily by Ottomanelli's Meat Market in Greenwich Village and the freshness is evident in its hearty flavor. Charred on the outside and moist within, medium rare arrives not a touch over- or underdone. With cheese on top and fries on the side, this is an enticing value.

For those wishing to dine in first class, the Barroom Burger is a larger version of the Shoppe, topped with gruyère cheese, sautéed mushrooms and onions.

The Kobe burger exists, presumably, for that rare burger aficionado who owns his or her own jet, and we shall leave it to them to review it. If it is as well executed as its less opulent brethren (and we have every reason to believe it would

ARTS ADVOCATE

ARTS>WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Snakes and Ladders, a gathering of musicians performing new works by contemporary Irish composers, echoed throughout the Winter Garden on the evening of March 16 and at lunchtime on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The festival of Irish music—which ranged from new-age bagpipes to electronic sounds played through laptop computers—concluded with the world pre-



Snakes and Ladders, a performance of new works by contemporary Irish composers includes work played on new-age bagpipes and laptop computers

miere commission of Daniel Figgis's "Photo-Finish (with shortcuts)."

More commissions and world premieres will be offered throughout the year, as Arts>World Financial Center celebrates 20 years of presenting free music, dance, theatre and art works. Next, look for the Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef art exhibition (opens April 7), a New York Theatre Ballet performance of "Agnes de Mille: The Original Broadway Legend" (April 24), and "Giant Place Detail" by the Shua Group, a multi-disciplinary work using 50 local lay performers that celebrates the life of the Winter Garden (May 8-10).

www.worldfinancialcenter.com for more information.

LETTERS

continued from first column, this page

open and allow the children to play. The fact that our schools are overcrowded and our outdoor recreational leagues have doubled in size in the past six years also supports this strong sentiment. Your reporters should wait until baseball season starts and measure what the sentiment is the day after it rains and the fields are closed and gates are locked because the surface hasn't properly drained or the grass is in danger of being damaged. You may not want to print those opinions. As a resident, parent and long-time league volunteer, my sentiment has not changed and neither has the community's.

Vincent Licata

DID YOU WONDER?

To the Editor:
RE: March 7 *Neighbors*
What is that thing that Elli Fordyce is holding? A chicken in a snowsuit? I have studied it for three days and still don't have a clue.

Anonymous



To the Editor:

Oh and BTW, Minty (pictured in the photo) is the reincarnation of Gingi (named after the song Dindi), and she says she's completely fine with you captioning her photo "Dindi." Gingi moved away from BPC right after 9/11 at age ten, living out her life with June Havoc's assistant Tana and Ms. Havoc in CT. Minty, dressed in her new more streamlined body (according to a reputable psychic who specializes in animal communication) moved from KS by way of TX to BPC in May 2006. She loves her photo being in the *Broadsheet*.

Best,
Elli Fordyce

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GIANT PLACE DETAIL

Play a part in a mass group performance and documentary film about the life of the Winter Garden and World Financial Center this May with Shua Group performance company and documentary filmmaker Diana Quinones Rivera.

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Joshua Bisset at joshua@shuagroup.org / 201-993-9668
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LETTERS

PLAY BALL!



Dear Sir,
Congratulations on the spiffy new look and feel. My family loves the dash of color.

Sadly, we didn't love a recent article by Matthew Fenton purporting to report on the latest in the ongoing debate over turf at the Battery Park City Ballfields. Remarkably, it seems that not one of the community advocates for turf were even approached for comment on this wearily one-sided effort by Mr. Fenton.

Balance is good for its own sake, of course. But is also crucial as a means to get the facts straight. For example, interviewing all sides would have allowed Mr. Fenton to correctly state the main provision of the assembly bill he incorrectly glosses in his leading paragraph. The bill, A090503, would not place a moratorium on artificial turf but rather on one type of the more than fifty makes of turf -- and precisely a type of turf which the community has asked the Authority not to install.

Balance would have allowed Mr. Fenton to present your readers with quantified studies of closures on grass, not one person's impressions. (Turf fields are available about twice as many days per year as grass on average.) Balance would have brought light, not heat (and perhaps a few more facts), to this important question.

Sincerely,
Mark Costello

Matthew Fenton replies:

Many thanks to Mark Costello and everybody else on both sides of the turf issue for their eloquent and impassioned letters. We'd like to address the concerns raised in some of these letters:

1) We agree that balance is extremely important, and that's exactly what we were trying to achieve with this article. Just as the *Broadsheet* has run numerous stories in the past that focused on the support for turf (and quoted advocates for the proposal at length), this article was meant to focus on the emerging opposition to turf—as the first sentence made clear.

2) Almost all of the letters we received in support of turf made essentially the same two arguments: First, that there are no serious questions remaining about the environmental or health impacts of turf. And second, that there is no support whatever for keeping grass on the ballfields, because the Downtown community is united and unanimous in its preference for artificial turf. Both of these assertions are incorrect. As the people we quoted in the article (and several of the letters below) make clear, a significant number of Downtown residents oppose turf. And, as frequent news reports attest, more experts raise more questions about turf safety with each passing month.

3) Mr. Costello's letter (and several others) emphasize that the particular kind of turf recommended to the Battery Park City Authority by the advisory committee addresses health and environmental concerns. While this is possible, we have no way of knowing, because the *Broadsheet* was not allowed to attend the closed sessions at which this committee deliberated, and the committee's report has yet to be made public.

Dear *Broadsheet*,

As a resident of Battery Park City whose children play on the local ball fields I was relieved to read in your current issue that the proposal to switch to artificial turf is on hold. There must be significant evidence of detrimental health impacts if state

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Toots and Class
While the Manhattan Sailing School's clubhouse, the *Honorable William Wall* heads to drydock for a new generator and some minor repairs, the school is collecting donations for a new fleet of *Optimist* dinghies. The little craft will be the basis of the first junior sailing program in New York Harbor, teaching kids from ages 8 to 13 the art of sailing. In addition to "Operation Optimist," the school will soon be bringing back free weekend boat rides for kids on *Big Toot*, as *'til Toot* has been sold according to Michael W. Fortenbaugh, head of Manhattan Sailing Club at North Cove.

Calendar

PLEASE CONFIRM THE INFORMATION BELOW BY CALLING OR CHECKING ONLINE. DETAILS MAY HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE PRINTING OF THIS EDITION.

THU 20 Reflecting Absence: Designing a Memorial at the World Trade Center

Michael Arad, Partner, Handel Architects will discuss his work designing the World Trade Center Memorial. The lecture will take place at 7 World Trade Center, NYC's first certified "green" office tower. Designed by David Childs of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, the building is notable for its state-of-the-art glass technology providing reflectivity, light and spectacular views. Doors open at 6pm. Lectures begin at 7pm. Reservation are required for each lecture. Registration begins at 12pm on the 9th day of each month for that month's lecture only. Seating is limited and reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Business casual attire is required. Free. 6pm. 7 World Trade Center. www.downtownyny.com

Momik
Momik is a nine year-old boy and a member of a very loving and close family. His father and mother are Polish Jews and Holocaust survivors. This powerful and uplifting play brings the story of Momik's childhood in 1950s Jerusalem and of his investigations into the Holocaust, triggered by arrival of his long lost grandfather Anshel, a survivor of the German concentration camps. Momik is the only child who is raised in an atmosphere of love and kindness, but along with silence and hidden pain. Grown-ups refuse to answer Momik's questions about their life and he creates an imaginary land where his family hap-

py lived before the war. Momik is appropriate for all ages, and will be performed in Russian with English super-titles. Also March 21 at 7:30pm and March 22 at 3pm and 7:30pm. \$65, \$55, \$45, 7:30pm. Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers Street 212-220-1460. www.tribecapac.org

FRI 21 Meet the Working Waterfront

Enormous numbers of both people and goods move across our harbor waters every day, yet the professionals who accomplish this often work behind the scenes. Discover their important roles during a panel discussion with tug-boat and ferry captains, a harbor pilot, ship-



ping managers, and other New York waterfront workers. A reception honoring the Working Waterfront follows, where you can meet modern mariners in person for questions and stories. Children will also enjoy building simple model boats and playing with them on a harbor play mat. RSVP's are appreciated to ensure adequate seating, 212-748-8786 or reservations@southstreetseaport.org www.southstreetseaport.com. Free. 5pm

8pm. South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street. 212-748-8786.

SAT 22 Community Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all Easter Egg hunters: Trinity Wall Street and the South Street Seaport invite you to jumpstart your holiday with an Easter "Eggstravaganza" at the South Street Seaport. With fun-filled games, crafts, treats, music and, of course, a community Easter Egg Hunt, this event promises to be fun for the whole family and a wonderful way to start your Easter celebration. Free. 12pm-4pm. South Street Seaport. 212-602-0800. www.trinitywallstreet.org

Sprint Into Maritime Art

Sun, sea and surf! Spring has sprung, and what better way to ring in spring than with some maritime art! Capture the sun in your hand-painted sun catcher, prepare for your summer at sea by making your own dirty bag and dive below the surf to create your own underwater sea scene. Free with admission (\$8, \$6, \$4). 12pm-3pm. Melville Gallery, 213 Water Street. 212-748-8786. www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org

A Sailor's Life: Is It the Life for You?

What would it have been like to sail the seas a hundred years ago? Would you have shipped on a cargo vessel rounding Cape Horn, or signed up to chase whales around the world? How often did crews mutiny? Did they really eat weevils? Come join us for a taste of the sea, and explore a slice of history that can bring the past to life for students of all ages. \$5. 1pm-3pm. South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street. 212-748-8786. www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org

Hate Math? You'd be Lost at Sea!

When plotting a course, fixing a position and calculating a ship's speed, modern mariners employ techniques and tools wielded by sailors for generations. These methods offer real-world applications of geometry and algebra to engage students from the fifth grade up. \$5. 1pm-3pm. South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street. 212-748-8786. www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org

THU 27 New York Scandia Symphony

Concert. Suggested \$2 contribution. 1pm. Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall Street. 212-602-0747. www.trinitywallstreet.org

Laura Peterson Choreography: Electrolux

Imagine the kind of luxurious carpet that retains the marks of a vacuum cleaner. Every step destroys its plush perfection. Electrolux is about environment, texture, garbage and carpet. Dance New Amsterdam is pleased to present this rocking premiere performance. Also March 28 and 29 at 8pm, and March 30 at 3pm. \$20, \$17, \$15 8pm. Dance New Amsterdam, 280 Broadway. 212-625-8369. www.dnandance.org

SAT 29 Reading Between the Bricks

Walking Tour
Ever look up at our row of buildings and wonder how old they are? Take either of these two one-hour tours of the Seaport's historic row to learn about the history, people and the unique architectural features of these buildings. Discover what tales these walls can tell. Learn interesting facts about the very ground you're walking on. Children can use this experience to inspire their own paper bag and toothpick buildings! Great for ages 6-12. Free with admission (\$8, \$6, \$4). 12pm, 1:30pm South Street Seaport Museum, 12 Fulton Street. 212-748-8786. www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org

Salute to Magic Show

Don't miss this evening of fun filled clean, family entertainment! It's a "Variety Magic Show" with audience participation and baffling illusions. You will see startling changes, plus expert manipulation, hilarious comedy acts, juggling and colorful magic. Sponsored by the Society of American Magicians, oldest continuing magic show in the U.S. since 1909. \$50. 8pm. Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers Street. 212-220-1460. www.tribecapac.org

ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

CRUISE SHIPS IN THE HARBOR

MANY SHIPS PASS BATTERY PARK CITY ON THEIR WAY TO AND FROM THE MIDTOWN PASSENGER SHIP TERMINAL. OTHERS MAY BE SEEN ON THEIR WAY TO OR FROM DOCKS IN BROOKLYN AND BAYONNE. STATED TIMES ARE BASED ON SIGHTING HISTORIES AND PUBLISHED SCHEDULES. THEY ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO TIDES, FOG, WINDS, FREAK WAVES, HURRICANES AND THE WHIMS OF UPPER MANAGEMENT.

| | | INBOUND | OUTBOUND | NOTES |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|
| Wednesday, Mar 19 | Noordam | 7:15a | 5:15p | To Grand Turk |
| Thursday, Mar 20 | Queen Mary 2 | 5:30a(Brooklyn) | 5:00p | To Bahamas |
| Saturday, Mar 22 | Norwegian Gem | 9:15a | 4:30p | To Port Canaveral |
| Monday, Mar 24 | Queen Mary 2 | 5:30a(Brooklyn) | 4:00p | To Limon |
| Friday, Mar 28 | Explorer of the Seas | 6:30a(Bayonne) | 5:00p | To St. Maarten |
| Saturday, Mar 29 | Noordam | 7:15a | | In port overnight |
| | Norwegian Gem | 9:15a | 4:30p | To Port Canaveral |
| Saturday, April 5 | Noordam | | 5:15p | To Mediterranean |
| | Norwegian Gem | 9:15a | 4:30p | To Port Canaveral |
| Sunday, April 6 | Queen Mary 2 | 5:30a(Brooklyn) | 7:00p | To Tortola |
| | Explorer of the Seas | 6:30a(Bayonne) | 5:00p | To Bermuda |
| Wednesday, April 9 | Amadea | 12:00noon | | In port until April 11 |
| Friday, April 11 | Explorer of the Seas | 7:30a(Bayonne) | 5:00p | To Labadee |
| Saturday, April 12 | Norwegian Gem | 9:15a | 4:30p | To Boston |
| | Queen Elizabeth 2 | 5:30a(Brooklyn) | 5:00p | To Barcelona |
| Sunday, April 13 | Norwegian Spirit | 8:15a | 4:30p | To Southampton |
| Tuesday, April 15 | Norwegian Dawn | 9:15a | 4:30p | To Port Canaveral |
| Wednesday, April 16 | Queen Mary 2 | 5:30a(Brooklyn) | 5:00p | To Southampton |
| Thursday, April 17 | Carnival Miracle | | 5:00p | To Bermuda (Brooklyn) |
| Friday, April 18 | Norwegian Dawn | 9:15a | 6:30p | Cruise to nowhere |
| Saturday, April 19 | Norwegian Spirit | 8:15a | 4:30p | To St. Thomas |
| Sunday, April 20 | Explorer of the Seas | 7:30a(Bayonne) | 5:00p | To Bermuda |
| | Norwegian Dawn | 7:15a | 4:30p | To Bermuda |
| Wednesday, April 23 | Carnival Miracle | 7:15a | 4:30p | To San Juan |
| Thursday, April 25 | Amsterdam | 6:30a | 5:15p | To Port Everglades |
| Friday, April 25 | Explorer of the Seas | 7:30a(Bayonne) | 5:00p | To San Juan |
| Sunday, April 27 | Norwegian Spirit | 8:15a | 4:30p | To Port Canaveral |
| | Norwegian Dawn | 9:15a | 4:30p | To Bermuda |
| Monday, April 30 | Queen Mary 2 | 5:30a(Brooklyn) | 5:00p | To Southampton |

SUN 30 Artists-in-Residence: Degani Shemy

A small microcosmos of five women who examine themselves through their reflections in others and through an outside eye that diagnoses and judges them. In multiple interactions, the dance explores female vulnerability, the push-pull of alienation and connection, and repetitive defensive mechanisms often expressed in the social domain. \$10. 7pm. Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers Street. 212-220-1460. www.tribecapac.org

MON 31 Artists-in-Residence: Lynn Thompson

America-in-Play enters a second season at TPAC. Two groups totally approximately 30 playwrights, in the company of other theatre artists, investigate a neglected legacy of American popular theatre from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to inspire new work. This season's explorations will culminate in two evenings presenting both old and new American playwrights. \$10. 7pm. Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers Street 212-220-1460. www.tribecapac.org

APRIL

WED 2 Geoffrey Hartman: A Scholar's Tale: Intellectual Journey of a Displaced Child of Europe

Literary critic Geoffrey Hartman reflects on how his career was influenced by his experience of being a child of the Kindertransport who was fortunate enough to reunite with his mother in the U.S. \$5. 6:30pm. Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. 646-437-4200. www.mjhnyc.org

THU 3 Martha Guth

Martha Guth, soprano and Spencer Myer, piano, performing works by Rachmaninov, Strauss and Haiby. Suggested \$2 contribution 1pm. Trinity Church, Broadway at Wall Street 212-602-0800. www.trinitywallstreet.org

James Luna's "Artifact Piece" by Erica Lord

A re-creation of artist James Luna's seminal "Artifact Piece," by artist Erica Lord (Inupiaq/Athabaskan). A lecture by Paul Chaat Smith (Comanche) follows the performance at 6pm. This performance and lecture are linked to "Emendatio," a multi-media installation at the museum by James Luna that challenges mainstream assumptions about Native people. Free. 2pm-5:30pm. Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, One Bowling Green. 212-514-3888. www.nmai.si.edu

Artists-in-Residence: Sahar Javedani

From Persia with Measured Love is a dance theater work stationed at the base of the Damavand Mountain, a dormant volcano near the southern coast of the Caspian Sea in Iran. This region possesses a very important place in Iranian mythology and folklore, once said

to imprison a three-headed dragon and is believed to hold very special healing powers for those who inhabit the surrounding land. This work follows a small community of villagers and their crunchy encounters with Western culture. What ensues is a fantastic adventure scrubbing indigenous traditions against pop culture, the end result...the sweet smell of cultural pluralism. \$10. 7pm. Tribeca Performing Arts Center, 199 Chambers Street 212-220-1460. www.tribecapac.org

FRI 4 James Luna's "Artifact Piece" by Erica Lord

A re-creation of artist James Luna's seminal "Artifact Piece," by artist Erica Lord (Inupiaq/Athabaskan). This performance is linked to "Emendatio," a multi-media installation at the museum by Mr. Luna that challenges mainstream assumptions about Native people. Also 2pm to 4pm. Free. 10am-12pm

Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, One Bowling Green. 212-514-3888. www.nmai.si.edu

Tartan Week Concert

A free concert of traditional and contemporary Scottish music, presented by the British Memorial Garden Trust, Inc. in conjunction with the Scottish Executive, will feature the Scots bands MacTalla Mòr, Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Pentland Caledonia Pipes & Drums. Free. 5:30pm. Hanover Square. www.britishmemorialgarden.org

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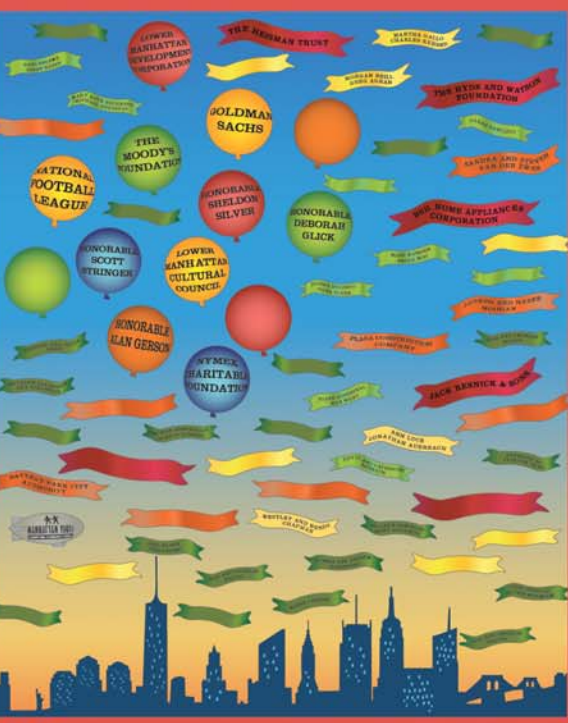
The Downtown Community Center is

Opening!

Help us finish it—help us furnish it

Join our Founders Wall...

We've got a beautiful community center, but we need your help to purchase furnishings and equipment for our art studios, community kitchen, office and study rooms. Show your support and become part of community history by making a Naming or Founder donation. Contact Jim Hopkins, 212 766 1104 x 232 or jim@manhattanyouth.org.



Founding donors will be honored on our mosaic Founders Wall

...and join the party!

Four floors of food and drink prepared by Chef David Bouley
Live music and dancing
A tour of the Downtown Community Center
A preview of our Founders Wall—a gorgeous Italian glass mosaic by Valerie Carmet

Honorees

Hon. Sheldon Silver
Speaker, NYS Assembly
Hon. Alan Gerson
NYC Council Member
Julie Menin
Chair, Community Board One

April 10

6:00 Street Carnival (free)
6:00 Founder's Reception
7:00 Ribbon Cutting
7:30 Dinner Reception

Ribbon Cutters

Madeline Boyd—President, New York Mercantile Exchange Charitable Foundation
Honorable Deborah Glick—NYS Assembly Member
Dan Kurtz, Manhattan Youth Board President
Frances G. Laserson—President, The Moody's Foundation
Avi Schick, Chairman, Lower Manhattan Development Corp.
Honorable Scott Stringer—Manhattan Borough President

120 Warren St. at West Street
212 766 1104 x 232
manhattanyouth.org

MANHATTAN YOUTH
DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY CENTER