

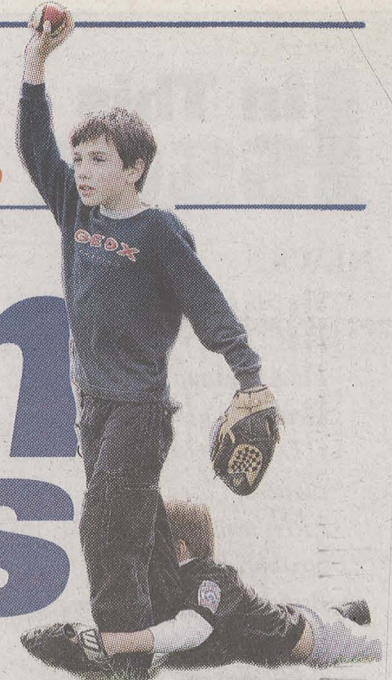
**FREE
WEEKLY**

■ **WEISBROD ON UP**
BID leader takes
Hudson Sq. job
P.3

■ **MUNCHKIN TALES**
Man from Oz tells
his story
P.13

■ **GAME ON**
Hot fielding, clutch
hitting Downtown
P.20

downtown express



VOLUME 17, NUMBER 51

THE NEWSPAPER OF LOWER MANHATTAN

MAY 13-19, 2005

Tribeca tower gets nod from C.B. 1

BY JOSH ROGERS

Developer Edward Minskoff moved one step closer to building a million square foot residential complex and Whole Foods Market in Tribeca by winning approval of a Community Board 1 committee last Thursday.

Under an agreement signed by Councilmember Alan Gerson and Dep. Mayor Dan Doctoroff in September, the community board has the rare power to veto the current proposal at Greenwich, Murray, Warren and West Sts., but Albert Capsouto, chairperson of C.B. 1's Tribeca Committee, said there are so many positive components to the agreement, that the committee was not inclined to ask for more from Minskoff. The full board is expected to vote on the plan May 17.

The developer agreed to kick in an additional \$1 million for a community recreation center being built across the street behind P.S.234. When Minskoff looked to make changes to the proposed buildings on the parking lot known as Site



Downtown Express photo by Robert Stolarik

A new dog run and children's playground opened in Battery Park City this week, and by the looks of things, it had Enzo's seal of approval. Article, page 11.

Continued on page 9



Downtown Express photos by Robert Stolarik

Brett, left, and Alex in the new Battery Park City playground in Kowsky Plaza.

Dog run and playground opens in B.P.C

BY ELLEN KEOHANE

On Tuesday afternoon, the new playground in Battery Park City's Kowsky Plaza was the place to be—if you were under six. More than a dozen children climbed on the yellow, green and black play structure in the center of the playground, while three others dodged squirts of water in the water play area. Another girl ran screaming into her mother's arms after falling on the play structure, but quickly recovered after a hug. In the middle of the madness, one boy calmly buried himself in the sand.

To children, parents, dogs and dog owners' delight, the new playground and permanent dog run at Kowsky Plaza finally opened on Monday after years of discussion and planning. Kowsky Plaza, formerly known as Pumphouse Plaza, is located on the roof of an underground pumping station that was used to supply water to the cooling towers of the World Trade Center.

Plans for the playground and dog run near the west end of Liberty St. have been in the works since 2000. But after 9/11, the site was covered in debris when the towers collapsed and the project was subsequently put on hold. With input from parent and dog owner association members as well as local residents, the playground and dog run were later redesigned.

Parents and caregivers, overlooking the chaos of the playground, chatted with newly acquainted neighbors while sitting on benches underneath recently planted trees, which offered little shade from the bright sun.

The kids may love the water play area, but



Clea walked to the pool to cool off.

Manya Ghahremani, 34, did not come prepared. "I didn't bring any changes of clothes for them," she said. Her 2 1/2-year-old daughter, Estela, and 6-year-old son, Joel, were both wet, but smiling.

"It's great for little kids," said Mary Galperin, a 42-year-old stay-at-home mom. Because the space is fenced in, Galperin found it easy to keep an eye on her daughters Sarah, 3, and Kathryn, 2.

The new permanent dog run, although not as popular as the playground, was also a busy spot. The run is paved, with mounds for dogs to jump over and a water fountain for them to splash in or drink from. Seven dogs and their owners waited patiently outside the dog run while a maintenance worker hosed it down.

Courtney, a 23-year-old actress who would not give her last name, brought her Yorkshire Terrier, Fifi, to the run for the second day in a row. Courtney likes the dog run, although she has to keep a close eye on Fifi because the 5-pound dog can wiggle through the gaps in the fence. "She lets people know who's boss," Courtney said as Fifi barked and lunged at another dog four times her size.

"The most amazing thing about this site is that so many people with different interests were able to come together to create something wonderful," said James Gill, chairperson of the Battery Park City Authority in a statement. "It has everything. It even has a piece of the Berlin wall." Indeed, the site includes a three-ton section of the wall that the city of Berlin donated to the neighborhood last year.