



MONEY



+IRON MAN REIGNS

TONY STARK WAS BOX OFFICE CHAMP over the weekend. "Iron Man 2," the sequel starring Robert Downey Jr. as the gadget-happy billionaire superhero, earned \$133.6 million domestically. (A9)

amNY.com

Farm living – in the apartment

BY KRISTEN V. BROWN
Special to amNewYork

Most New Yorkers relish their closet space, but in Lee Mandell's Bushwick loft, seedlings are crowding out slacks.

Welcome to Boswyck Farms, Mandell's research lab and urban farmstead, where his roommates include rows of lettuce and tomatoes.

In fact, Mandell's passion-turned-business covers nearly every square foot.

In essence, hydroponics replaces water for soil in the cultivation of plants. Its potential to yield high-quality crops in tight urban spaces makes

it fit nicely with today's sustainable food ethos.

In October 2008, Mandell founded Boswyck Farms with no real plan, other than to somehow make a living growing hydroponic plants and teaching others to do the same.

"Who would have thought I'd come to New York to become a farmer?" Mandell said.

Mandell installs hydroponic systems for others and teaches workshops. At P.S. 3 in the West Village, he teaches fourth-graders about biology through hydroponics.

Among Boswyck's clientele is Roberta's, the Bushwick pizzeria where



Lee Mandell uses hydroponics to grow vegetables at Boswyck Farms, which he runs in his Bushwick loft. (KRISTEN V. BROWN)

Mandell installed a backyard hydroponic system that kept the restaurant supplied with lettuce even when the temperature hit 12 degrees.

For Mandell, it all began with a package in the mail –

a box of supplies for his hobby orchids, that came along with a copy of Farmer's Edge magazine and an article detailing vertical farming.

He didn't have a plan, but he knew this was what he

URBAN FARMING

What's hydroponic farming?

- The growing of plants in water, with nutrients, instead of soil.

How long has it been used?

- For thousands of years, dating to the ancient Greeks.

What's a major advantage?

- It requires less space than regular farming, making it ideal for urban settings.

How do I learn more about Boswyck Farms?

- Visit boswyckfarms.org, or call 617-666-8486



A frustrated trader sums up a rough week. (A77)

U.S.: No cyber attack on Wall St.

The White House's homeland security and counterterrorism adviser told Fox News yesterday that there is no evidence a cyber attack was behind the chaos that shook Wall Street last Thursday.

The turbulence sent the Dow Jones industrials plunging almost 1,000 points before staging a partial recovery. (A9)

wanted to do with his life.

"It was a midlife crisis of sorts. I knew I didn't want to be a computer programmer for the rest of my life," Mandell said. "I thought my friends would say I was nuts, but everyone thought it was a good idea, so I went for it."