



# Staten Island Advance

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## A BLUEPRINT FOR A LANDMARK



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/MICHAEL McWEENEY

The "Front Five" Greek Revival Buildings are among the landmarked edifices at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Livingston. For tonight's installment of "Blueprint: New York City," a camera crew explored the buildings and grounds.

# Snug Harbor will be focus of TV program

Cultural center to be featured on tonight's episode of new series on cable's Channel 74

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ADVANCE CITY HALL BUREAU

Staten Island's cable TV viewers will get a behind the scenes look tonight at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center.

The complex is featured on an episode of "Blueprint: New York City," a new series that allows viewers to learn more about the city's landmarks. The episode will premiere at 10 p.m. on Time Warner Cable's Channel 74.

Channel 74 is the flagship station of NYC TV, the city-owned network formerly known as Crosswalks.

Until recently, the network aired little other than mayoral press conferences and boring City Council meetings. But Mayor Michael Bloomberg changed the network's name and gave it a mandate to increase the variety and quality of its programming.

"No one ever thought municipal television could be entertaining until NYC TV came along," said Bloomberg during an April 13 ceremony held to unveil the network's spring programming line-up.

"Blueprint: New York City" is one of the new series that NYC TV began airing last



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE FILE PHOTO

A visitor relaxes near the gazebo at the 83-acre complex.

month. Each of the program's half-hour episodes features an in-depth exploration of one of the city's historic attractions.

"The show basically profiles great New York City landmarks," said Harry Hunkele, the producer/director of Blueprint.

Tonight's show profiles Snug Harbor, a former home for retired seamen that was converted into a center for music and art.

The 83-acre complex was known as Sailors' Snug Harbor when it opened as a retirement home in 1833. It was

converted into a cultural facility after the city purchased the property in 1976.

For tonight's Blueprint episode, an NYC TV camera crew explored the Snug Harbor grounds and its Greek Revival buildings and shot footage that will give viewers a "virtual tour" of the facility.

The tour includes visits to the John J. Marchi Exhibition Hall (formerly the Main Hall), the Noble Maritime Collection, the Music Hall, the Carl Grillo Glass House and the New York Chinese Scholar's Garden.

Besides the new footage, the program includes archival photos and drawings that depict what life was like at Snug Harbor when it was a home for men who were described as "aged, decrepit and worn-out sailors" by the institution's benefactor, Robert Randall.

In addition, historian Barnett Shepherd provides historical background about Snug Harbor in an on-camera interview.

Also appearing in an on-camera interview is Alice Diamond, the wife of the late Ad-

vance publisher Richard E. Diamond and mother of the paper's current publisher, Caroline Diamond Harrison. Mrs. Diamond is a longtime supporter of the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and a founding member of the institution's board of trustees.

The program also includes interviews with Mark Lauria, the current chairman of the Snug Harbor board of trustees; Matthew Titone, the cultural center's acting president and CEO; Ed Koch, the city's former mayor, and Tony Lo Bianco, an actor who recently starred in a production of the musical "Fiorello!" in Snug Harbor's Music Hall.

Hunkele said he hopes people who watch tonight's show will gain an appreciation for Snug Harbor's unique beauty and history and will be motivated to visit it in person.

"It's a great facility," Hunkele said. "It's a really fantastic place."

In addition to its premiere tonight at 10 p.m., the Snug Harbor episode of Blueprint will be repeated on cable channel 74 tomorrow at 11 p.m., Friday at 8:30 p.m., Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 8 p.m.

The first two episodes of Blueprint featured profiles of City Hall and Gracie Mansion. An episode on the Brooklyn Bridge is scheduled to air next week.