



Journal

CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY CENTER RIBBON CUTTING *A Challenge To NYCHA Residents To 'Be Remarkable'*

By Eileen Elliott

The fear was that it was going to take forever, "that it would be just another city project that goes on and on." So said New York State Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera to the crowd of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and staff, Pathways for Youth staff, and community leaders who packed the old gymnasium at the Castle Hill Houses Community Center on March 6, 2003. "But that's not the way that NYCHA does business," he announced, to cheers and a round of applause. To be sure, all such fears were laid to rest at a festive Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bronx development's newly renovated Community Center that cold, snowy morning.

Technically, the \$4.65 million expansion featuring a spectacular third-floor gymnasium built on top of the existing two-story building, took three years to complete. But according to longtime resident leader Gerri Lamb, who is the Castle Hill Houses Resident Association President, Council of Presidents (COP) Bronx North District Chair, and Citywide COP Chair, the story started a long time ago.

"The project really began 25 years ago at the community level," said Ms. Lamb. "City Councilwoman Lucy Cruz helped us keep the project on the books and on the table. She got the first \$2.3 million seed money which escalated to \$3 million."

Ms. Lamb made apologies for the former Council member who was unable to attend the ceremony because of the inclement weather.

"NYCHA takes an undo beating," the resident leader continued. "But the Housing Authority supports and takes care of the people who live in NYCHA communities." As evidence, she cited the ribbon-cuttings over the past year or so at the Melrose Community Center in the Bronx, at Van Dyke Community Center in Brooklyn, and more recently at Baychester Community Center, also in Brooklyn.

State Assemblyman Rivera and Ms. Lamb were among many
(Continued on page 3)



READY, SMILE, SNIP! NYCHA and Pathways for Youth staff joined elected officials, residents and community leaders in the lobby of the newly renovated Castle Hill Community Center in the Bronx on March 6, 2003 for the ribbon cutting that marked the Center's opening. Shown here (left to right) are: NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Capital Projects and Development Joseph Farro, Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, Pathways Executive Director Neil Berger, Department for Youth and Community Development Commissioner Jeanne B. Mulgrav, Castle Hill Resident Association President Gerri Lamb, Bronx Borough Community Operations Director Deidra Gilliard, Reverend Ben Torres, Community Operations Senior Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk (partially hidden), NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Chairman Tino Hernandez, Housing Bureau Assistant Chief Charles Kammerdener, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple and Board Member JoAnna Aniello.

SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS

Are you a young New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident with some extra time on your hands this summer? Why not use that time to earn some money and gain valuable work experience through the Housing Authority's Resident Youth Employment Program?

The Resident Youth Employment Program

The Resident Youth Employment Program (RYEP) is open to NYCHA residents who will be between the ages of 14 and 21 as of the program's start date, June 30, 2003. The program lasts for seven weeks, from June 30 through August 14.

Participants in this program work on the grounds of NYCHA

developments for 20 hours a week, from 8AM to 1PM, Monday through Thursday. The Housing Authority will make every effort to place you in the development where you live, but travel may be required.

Salaries

RYEP workers make \$5.25 an hour. A limited number of positions are available as Team Leaders for residents between the ages of 18 and 21. Team Leaders work one additional hour a week, and earn \$6.00 an hour.

Applications

Check your development's Management Office for an application. The application deadline is April 30, 2003.

Once your application is received, a computer program will be used to randomly select applicants and invite them to register. Your chances of being invited to register will depend on the total number of applicants. In previous years, the Housing Authority has been able to accommodate all qualified applicants. This year, NYCHA estimates it will hire 800 residents through this program.

Important Documents

If you are invited to register you must have certain documents when you come to the registration site in order to be enrolled and get a job. Don't wait until the last minute. If you need information on obtaining a Social Security Card, call 1-800-772-1213. If you

are 14 through 17 years old, you will need an Employment Certificate, commonly referred to as "working papers."

Please note that the Employment Certification Office formerly located at 475 State Street is permanently closed. Public school

students should contact their local district or high school superintendent's office for information about where to obtain working papers. Non-public school students should contact the Department of Education's Office of Attendance at (212) 374-6095.

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April Is Fair Housing Month!

Message From The Mayor

April Is Disabilities Awareness Month



April is Disabilities Awareness Month — a perfect time to recognize the contributions made by people with disabilities in our City. During my Administration I have worked to improve access to City services and the opportunities available to people with disabilities. I have been committed to ensuring that City life mirrors the diversity, spirit, talent and dedication of New York's population, and our large population of people with disabilities has never been more diverse.

Earlier this month, along with Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein, I announced a comprehensive reform agenda to improve special education programs throughout New York City schools. These changes include improving instruction of special needs children by appointing instructional specialists; professional development in nationally recognized instructional strategies; holding schools and principals accountable for improvements in special education; providing services and incentives for better school performance; and streamlining the special education evaluation process.

The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD) functions as a liaison between the community of people with disabilities and City government. MOPD works collaboratively with other agencies to ensure that the rights and needs of people with disabilities are included in all City initiatives by fostering greater cooperation, communication and coordination of functions and services in New York City. It works with the Department of Buildings to ensure that buildings in New York City are fully accessible, and it has collaborated with the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications to enhance the quality of information and services to people with disabilities through the City's web site and the 3-1-1 Citizen Service Center.

The MOPD web site at www.nyc.gov/html/mopd is an invaluable resource for information on the many laws that protect people with disabilities from discrimination in education, work, travel, housing, and all areas of public accommodation. It also lists various government and private organizations that will assist with finding information specific to an individual's needs.

Pedestrian ramps are an essential element of the City's ongoing efforts to remove barriers which prevent individuals with disabilities, particularly those who use wheelchairs, from traveling throughout the City. Last year the City agreed to the efficient and expeditious installation of pedestrian ramps at all remaining unramped locations where pedestrian walkways cross curbs. At the time of the agreement pedestrian ramps had already been installed at 80% of the intersections.

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has retrofitted thousands of apartments to provide decent and affordable housing to individuals with mobility impairments. As of January of this year, 6,175 NYCHA apartments have been rented to people with mobility impairments. NYCHA's overall goal is to convert and make fully accessible a total of 9,100 apartments (that is 5% of NYCHA's entire housing stock) for this population. NYCHA also has a Services for the Disabled Unit (SDU) in its Department of Equal Opportunity to assist residents and applicants with disabilities.

All New Yorkers should have the opportunity to contribute their talents and skills to making this City a great place to live and work. The skills, creativity and dedication of working people with disabilities cannot be overlooked as we salute this population.

For more information on Disabilities Awareness Month call the MOPD at (212) 788-2830 or visit www.nyc.gov/html/mopd. I ask all New York City residents to work with me to help New York City realize its potential as a City that treats all of its residents with the respect they deserve.

Michael R. Bloomberg

**'Brothers Gonna Work It Out' Premieres In Brooklyn
NYCHA Residents Star In Albany Houses' CC Movie**

By Deborah Williams

They rolled out the red carpet at the Linden Multiplex Theatre in Brooklyn on the evening of March 26, 2003, and onto it stepped the cast of the New York City Housing Authority's Albany Houses Community Center movie, "Brothers Gonna Work It Out." The stars were greeted by Carolyn Greer, a representative for Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, who graciously provided funding for the Klieg lights that criss-crossed the sky outside the theater, and Community Operations Brooklyn Borough Director Carl Billington.

The project, funded with NYCHA Drug Elimination Program money, was designed to teach young residents in the community about the film business. It was a dream come true for Albany Houses Community Center Director Sura Khan, to have the film—after two years in the making—finally hit the screen.

With a cast of 270, of which 183 were NYCHA residents, NYCHA developments doubling as sets, and community support from Van Dyke, Seth Low, Glenmore, Hope Gardens, Weeksville and Albany Houses, and St. Mary's Hospital, the movie was truly a NYCHA production. Mr. Khan prepared flyers to solicit resident actors and hired professional actors to work with them. "I wanted to show the residents you don't have to go all the way to Hollywood to have a film produced," Mr. Khan said.

Once the parts were cast the narrative developed into a heart-felt tale of the lives of two brothers who were separated and placed in the foster care system. The film showed how growing up in the inner city versus suburbia can influence your life. Once reunited, one brother makes the ultimate sacrifice to save the other.

With limited acting experience, 18-year-old Joseph Woodley, a resident of Albany Houses, portrayed Malik Patterson, the eldest brother. Together, he and Randy Lefranc (not a resident) as the younger brother Rashawn Patterson, gave riveting performances that bought tears to the eyes of the audience members.

"I saw a flyer and decided to audition for a part. I never thought I would land one of the lead roles," said Mr. Woodley in a modest tone. Dondre Richardson of Hope Gardens, nicknamed Batman in the movie because he carried a bat in his security blanket everywhere he went, also gave an excellent performance. John



STARS AND GUESTS (above) turned out for the premier of "Brothers Gonna Work It Out" at the Linden Multiplex in Brooklyn. For Albany Houses Community Center Director Sura Khan (right), the completion of the movie was "a dream come true."



Shaw, also a resident of the Albany Houses, gave a convincing performance as the ruthless killer and gang leader known as T-Lord. Costumes for the film were provided by Balla Fashion Wear.

An Awards Ceremony was held on April 3, 2003 at Weeksville Houses to honor everyone involved with the film.

****NOTICE****

The New York City Building Code mandates that corridors shall be kept unobstructed and accessible at all times. Corridors are also to be kept free of combustible items. No items should be placed or left in the public hallways or stairways of your building. This includes door mats, furniture, and other combustible materials, or items being disposed of.

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Message From The Chairman

A Tribute To Detectives Rodney J. Andrews and James V. Nemorin



On March 10, 2003, New York City Police Detectives Rodney J. Andrews and James V. Nemorin were brutally murdered while attempting the undercover purchase of a Tec 9 semi-automatic pistol, a gun favored by drug dealers, in the Tompkinsville section of Staten Island. As of the writing of this column, *The New York Times* has reported that three who have been arrested in connection with the crimes have pleaded guilty to second-degree murder charges.

Most of us will probably never be able to fathom the courage and dedication demonstrated by these two detectives and detectives like them. Each day or night, Detectives Andrews and Nemorin entered the fray, putting their lives at risk as all NYPD officers do, to ensure the safety of people like you and me. They were soldiers on the front lines in the relentless war against crime in this City.

Rodney Andrews, 34, was also the son of a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) employee. In addition to his immediate family, he left behind a host of relatives and friends. But he left more than that.

Along with Detective Nemorin, Detective Andrews participated in a six-month undercover investigation at Kingsborough Houses in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn that ended with the arrests of over 30 people in January 2003, and the confiscation of 59 firearms. The operation smashed three gangs and according to authorities reduced overall crime at the development by 35%.

If you live in Cypress Hills Houses in the East New York section of Brooklyn, you may recall a major drug sweep that took place in your development last year. This six-month undercover investigation, during which narcotics detectives made more than 100 purchases of illegal drugs, led to the arrests of 45 alleged gang members in September 2002, and to 60 indictments. It also effectively dismantled five gangs that had long terrorized the residents of that development. Detective Rodney Andrews was one of the detectives who contributed to the success of this operation.

It is the work of Rodney Andrews, James Nemorin and the NYPD in general that has made New York one of the safest large cities in America, and has contributed to the New York City Housing Authority's status as the premier large public housing authority in the country. As of the close of 2002, reported crimes in New York City were at their lowest point since 1963. Major crimes had dropped by nearly 6% from the previous year; homicides were down by 12% and felony assaults and auto thefts dropped by double digits as well. Crime in NYCHA developments was also down.

With the help of the NYPD and the Housing Bureau Police, NYCHA continues to fight drug users and drug dealers with every legal weapon available. The investigators and lawyers who make up NYCHA's Anti-Narcotics Strike Force vigorously pursue the eviction of families that use their apartments to sell or use drugs. In addition, a list of persons who have been excluded from NYCHA property appears monthly in this newspaper (see page 4) and is also distributed to all Police Service Areas. NYCHA residents who suspect drug activity on Housing Authority property can call their local PSA or the Housing Authority's Anti-Narcotics Strike Force at (212) 776-5070; NYCHA's Special Investigations Unit at (212) 306-8876; or the NYPD Drug Hotline at 1-888-374-DRUGS. All calls are confidential.

The deaths of Detectives Andrews and Nemorin were tragic and there is nothing that can bring them back. But they have left behind them the legacy of a safer city, of safer NYCHA developments, and of lives that will be spared as a result of the dangerous work that they did. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the families of these heroes and my gratitude to all police officers for the risks they take to maintain safety and the quality of life that we have grown accustomed to in our developments and our City.

Tino Hernandez

Castle Hill

(Continued from page 1)

The fear was that it was going to take forever, "that it would be just another city project that goes on and on." So said New York State Assemblyman Peter M. Rivera to the crowd of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and staff, Pathways for Youth staff, and community leaders who packed the old gymnasium at the Castle Hill Houses Community Center on March 6, 2003. "But that's not the way that NYCHA does business," he announced, to cheers and a round of applause. To be sure, all such fears were laid to rest at a festive Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Bronx development's newly renovated Community Center that cold, snowy morning.

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"The project really began 25 years ago at the community level," said Ms. Lamb. "City Councilwoman Lucy Cruz helped us keep the project on the books and on the table. She got the first \$2.3 million seed money which escalated to \$3 million."

Ms. Lamb made apologies for the former Council member who was unable to attend the ceremony because of the inclement weather.

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State Assemblyman Rivera and Ms. Lamb were among many distinguished guests on the dais. They joined NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, General Manager Douglas Apple, Department for Youth and Community Development Commissioner Jeanne B. Mulgrav, Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, NYPD Housing Bureau Assistant Chief Charles Kammerdener, and Path-

(Continued on page 5)



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

NYCHA Road Runners—Fitness has become a major concern for the youth of our City, and The New York Road Runners Foundation (NYRRF) has collaborated with the New York City Housing Authority to help improve the health and fitness of NYCHA's youth. Staff from the NYRRF have joined the staff of NYCHA's Community Centers to train young runners. Participants are learning to run races ranging from one to five miles and attend workshops on nutrition and substance abuse prevention. Those who complete the program can compete in two special upcoming races—on June 1, 2003, the Race Against Teen Smoking, and on November 9, 2003, the NYRRF Team Marathon.

There are currently NYRRF/NYCHA programs in the following districts: Bronx North, Bronx South, Manhattan North, Manhattan South and Brooklyn. Additional sites, including one in Staten Island, are scheduled to open in the near future. The program will provide 35 weeks of training at each selected NYCHA Community Center. All supplies including whistles, relay batons, posters, team uniforms, training material and bus transportation to at least two special events will be provided through the Road Runners Foundation. Perks and bonuses for participants also include shirts, prizes and additional awards for runners with the best times.

Some of the children who participate in the program at the Moore Houses Community Center in the South Bronx wrote to the NYRRF about their experiences. Andrew Vinz wrote, "I'm moving faster than the wind." "I thank you for this program and for the shirts and sweaters," wrote Randy Arzu. Kelsey Moorehead was especially enthusiastic. Referring to her teacher, Kelsey wrote, "He makes us run one lap, two laps, three, four, and five laps. Running makes me really strong and healthy. I am so proud that I am running. I really want to thank you for letting me have a running program. I really enjoy it because I am running a little faster. I also like the shirt you gave us. When I grow up I might be a runner!"

Congratulations to Andrew, Randy, Kelsey and all of the other young NYCHA runners out there for discovering this great activity. Keep at it! The benefits of a healthy lifestyle will last a lifetime.

Scholarship Winner—Samantha Morales, a resident of Melrose Houses in the Bronx, is quite the scholar. Ms. Morales has received a grant from the Oprah Winfrey Foundation to attend the Miss Porter Boarding School for Girls in Farmington, Connecticut. The grant will support Samantha all the way through her senior year of high school.

The Miss Porter Boarding School for Girls is for the academically gifted. Samantha was recognized for her scholastic achievement through her enrollment in A Better Chance. This national organization helps the economically disadvantaged scholastic achiever to get exactly that—a better chance at life. At the young age of 16 Samantha is just beginning to show everyone what she is capable of. As she begins to grow intellectually who knows what contributions to the world she will make.

Samantha, I congratulate you on your success and expect to hear only great things about you. I want you to know that it was your mother, Amelia Santiago, who contacted me about your scholarship. She asked me to share this very special message with you and with the public housing community: "I can never express how proud I am of the success my children have had. I felt I needed to share this with "Deborah's Diary" so that others can know that just because you live in public housing it doesn't mean you can't raise wonderful children."

Deborah's Diary is a column that is for you, the residents of NYCHA, to share significant events in your lives with your neighbors. As always, I plan to tell you about those individuals who are the "talk of the town," but I need your help in getting that news. So, remember the Diary! If you have news, share it with me and I will share it with my readers. Drop me a few lines c/o The NYCHA Journal, 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, NY, NY, 10007, or by fax at 212-577-1358. Or, hey, make it personal! Give me a call at 212-306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it, but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.

The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on January 2, 9, 23 and 30, 2002. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE PERSONS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LIST IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of January 2, 2002

Rogelio Sprauve	Case 4009/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 778 Henderson Avenue, West Brighton Houses, Staten Island.
Lamar Green	Case 3898/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 511 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.
Cecilia Simmons	Case 4020/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 515 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Tracey Ruffin	Case 4027/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 21 Mill Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Tyrell Tucker	Case 4028/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 2120 Madison Avenue, Lincoln Houses, Manhattan.
Terrall Tucker	
Albert Pantosa	Case 4029/01 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 920 East Sixth Street, Wald Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of January 9, 2002

Lorenzo Smart	Case 4117/01 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1165 East 229th Street, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Lamar Means	Case 4161/01 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2950 West 35th Street, O'Dwyer Gardens, Brooklyn.
Kimberly Farrell	Case 4140/01 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 164-01 Fosch Blvd., Baisley Park Houses, Jamaica, New York.
Mark Garcia	Case 4139/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 484 Columbia Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 23, 2002

Sherod Morris	Case 4227/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 275 Blake Avenue, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
Daniel Allen	Case 4230/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2926 West 25th Street, Surfside Gardens, Brooklyn.
Edwin Ferrera	Case 4233/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 950 East Fourth Walk, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
Eugenio Rodriguez	Case 4234/01 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2960 West 31st Street, Surfside Gardens, Brooklyn.
Kareem Carter	Case 13/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1770 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.
Albert Hernandez	Case 18/02 formerly associated with the eighteenth floor of 1405 Park Avenue, Clinton Houses, Manhattan.
Jermaine Reddick	Case 29/02 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 325 East 143rd St. Patterson Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of January 30, 2002

Rodney Irvin	Case 70/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2839 West 33rd Street, Surfside Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Christopher Negron	Case 38/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 240 Madison Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.
John A. Rivera	Case 39/02 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 3050 Park Avenue, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.
Andre Collier	Case 40/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 67 Warren Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.

From The Chief's Corner

What You Can Do To Combat Terrorism

Let me start by wishing everyone a happy and safe 2003. In the past, the New York City Police Department and the residents of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) have always worked together to combat crime and improve the quality of life in NYCHA developments. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, the Police Department had to take on a new responsibility — **counter terrorism**. We are now asking you to help us in our struggle to fight terrorism.

What is the difference between a criminal and a terrorist? A criminal is out to commit a crime for personal gain (for example, money) while a terrorist commits a crime to make a religious or political statement.

You ask yourself, "What can I do to stop terrorism?" I'll tell you. You can help by serving as the eyes and ears of the Police Department. With over 400,000 residents currently living in NYCHA housing developments throughout the city, that's a lot of eyes and ears. **If you suspect suspicious behavior DO NOT: Take direct action; confront an individual; or reveal your suspicions. DO: Pay attention to detail and notify the proper authorities at 1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233). All calls are kept confidential. Remember the 5W's — Who, What, When, Where, and Why — when reporting suspicious activity.**

"Rent apartments in transient low-income areas or in new developments, where people do not know their neighbors, rather than in older neighborhoods."

— Al Qaeda manuscript

Another way that you can help is by knowing who your neighbors are. This can easily be achieved by either starting a Tenant Patrol in the lobby of your building or by joining one that is already sitting. A Tenant Patrol serves two purposes: It allows you, the residents, to become familiar with the other residents of your building, and it acts as a deterrent against criminal activity. To either join an existing tenant patrol or to start a new one contact your local Police Service Area Community Affairs Officer or the local NYCHA Tenant Patrol Coordinator for information. Remember criminals and terrorists alike do not want to be seen, or have their business known. Thank you for your continuing support in these troubled times.

Chief Douglas Zeigler



Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS REGARDING MEDICAID

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER RECEIVE MEDICAID BENEFITS YOU MUST JOIN A HEALTH PLAN. YOU PROBABLY RECEIVED AN ENROLLMENT FORM AND OTHER INFORMATION TO HELP YOU CHOOSE A PLAN. IF YOU DO NOT CHOOSE A PLAN WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD ALLOWED, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY ASSIGNED TO A PLAN. YOU WILL THEN HAVE TO USE THE DOCTORS AND HOSPITALS THAT ARE IN THAT PLAN... OR SWITCH PLANS LATER.

— IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THE DOCTOR YOU HAVE NOW, CALL THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE AND FIND OUT WHAT PLAN OR PLANS THEY BELONG TO, THEN ENROLL IN THAT PLAN;

— IF YOU CHOOSE A NEW DOCTOR, CALL THE DOCTOR YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE TAKING NEW PATIENTS AND ENROLL IN ONE OF THE PLANS THEY BELONG TO;

— IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, CHOOSE A PLAN AND SEND IN THE ENROLLMENT FORM;

SOME PEOPLE MAY NOT HAVE TO JOIN A HEALTH PLAN IF THEY HAVE SPECIAL REASONS.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP, CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-505-5678.

Start Your Own Business

If you want to start your own business, please call NYCHA's Business Development Division. We are particularly interested in residents with the following skills: painting, electrical installation and maintenance, plumbing, door and cabinet hanging, building maintenance, general construction, landscaping, welding, and iron work. However, please call, whatever your business idea is.

718-250-5987 or 718-246-6510

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER GETS R.E.A.L. AT CLINTON CC FOR INNER-CITY GAMES



STAR POWER NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez (Back row, second from left) teamed up with (continuing left to right) Inner-City Games Founder and National Chairman Arnold Schwarzenegger, rapper Rah Digga of Flip Mode Squad and producer DJ NEF at the Clinton Houses Community Center in East Harlem on March 13, 2003 to announce the creation of Power 105.1 FM's book club, Project R.E.A.L. The name stands for Rappers Encouraging America's Literacy. The goal of the pilot program, which is being launched by the New York Inner-City Games and Power 105.1 is to help inner-city teens get off the street and involved in after-school activities, through participation in the book club. Prior to the Press Conference, Arnold toured the Community Center and spoke with 50 NYCHA children who participate in the Fun After School (FAST) and Partners In Reading Programs.

Now in its seventh year, NYCHA's partnership with Inner-City Games had provided opportunities for thousands of NYCHA youth to participate in sports, educational, cultural and community enrichment programs, aimed to help them build confidence and self-esteem; to encourage them to say "no" to gangs, drugs and violence, and "yes" to hope, learning and life. An expected 1,000 NYCHA children will attend the two-week ICG summer camp, CampUS, at St. John's University in Queens, which combines athletics and learning. NYCHA residents also attend Junior Scientist, FAST and General Equivalency Diploma (GED) programs sponsored by ICG. In 2002 ICG also awarded 36 scholarships to NYCHA children for St. John's University, when they are old enough to attend college.



CASTLE HILL RIBBON CUTTING

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captured the spirit of the day. "This is a wonderful day; a wonderful thing."

No account of the ceremony would be complete without mentioning the outstanding rendition of the National Anthem by Castle Hill Resident Eric Darby and the

stirring hymns sung by the Castle Hill Senior Choir under the direction of Bernice Hill, Ph.D., featuring a solo by Gladys Masa.

"Facilities are only a vehicle to change lives," said Bronx Borough Community Operations Director Deidra Gilliard, who served

as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. "Community Centers such as this challenge NYCHA residents to be remarkable."

The ceremony concluded with the actual ribbon cutting beneath a skylight covered with snow in the building's new lobby.

What's Happening In ...Manhattan?

In an effort to keep NYCHA's residents informed about improvements in their developments, the *Journal* runs a regular column on recently awarded modernization contracts.

Jefferson Houses Slated for Exterior Renovation

Jefferson Houses is getting a \$5.6 million renovation. The contract calls for the repointing and replacement of exterior brickwork on the eighteen buildings, that range from 7 to 13 and 14 stories high. The complex has 1,487 apartments housing an estimated 3,729 persons. Jefferson Houses was completed June 30, 1959. It covers 17.38 acres in East Harlem between First and Third Avenues, East 112th and East 115th Streets. The contract was awarded to ENM General Construction Limited, and will take two years to complete, once work begins.

"We are replacing over 40 years of wear and tear to keep this housing development viable," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "It is part of our overall effort to modernize our buildings internally and externally."

Smith Houses Getting \$6 Million Grounds Refurbishing

Smith Houses on the Lower East Side of Manhattan will be getting totally refurbished grounds and a new playground surrounding all 12 buildings on the 21.75-acre complex under a \$6.1 million contract. New pavement, fences, curbs, walls, ramps, steps, steel benches, trash receptacles, concrete tables and plantings will be installed. Also, there will be new play equipment with safety surfaces, spray showers, outdoor lighting and exterior trash compactors. The contract was awarded to GKC Industries, Inc. and is expected to take two years to complete, once work begins.



Smith Houses, completed April 1, 1953, was named for former New York State Governor Alfred E. Smith. The complex's 12 buildings, 15, 16 and 17-stories tall, have 1,931 apartments housing some 4,316 residents. St. James Place, Madison, Catherine and South Streets border the development.

Developments To Get New Kitchens & Bathrooms

Hernandez Houses and Meltzer Tower on Manhattan's Lower East Side will get brand new kitchens and bathrooms under a \$2.3 million contract. "This work complements our efforts city-wide to continuously upgrade the interiors as well as the exteriors of our housing stock," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. The contract was awarded to SSN General Construction Corp. and should take about one year to complete. Work includes new kitchen cabinets, sinks, faucets, washing machine connections and related plumbing. Bathroom renovations will include new tubs and showers, toilets and ceramic tiles.

Hernandez Houses, completed in 1971, consists of a 17-story building with 174 apartments located at 189 Allen Street. Meltzer Tower is a 20-story building, exclusively for senior citizens, with 230 apartments. Completed in 1971, Meltzer Tower is located at 94 E. First Street.

La Guardia Houses To Get New Closet Doors

All apartments in La Guardia Houses in Manhattan will get new plastic laminated closet doors under a \$1.9 million contract. The contract calls for replacing 6,718 closet doors. The contract was awarded to Fulton Building Company Inc. and is expected to take about seven months to complete.

La Guardia Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side has nine buildings, 15 and 16-stories high, with 1,093 apartments housing about 2,596 residents. The 10.67-acre complex was completed in July 1957 and is bordered by Rutgers, Cherry, Madison and Montgomery Streets.



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The final piece.

The State of New York Mortgage Agency offers closing cost assistance and zero points with all of its low interest rate mortgage programs.

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Joseph Strasburg Chairman Stephen J. Hunt President/CEO



Household Emergency Preparedness


Are you prepared for an emergency? The Office of Emergency Management recommends New Yorkers assemble three major components to prepare their households for an emergency or disaster. For more information visit OEM's Web site at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/oem>.

What to Have in Your Hand

"Go Bag"

Every household should assemble a Go Bag—a collection of items you may need in the event of an evacuation. Each household member's Go Bag should be in a sturdy, easy-to-carry container such as a backpack or suitcase on wheels, and should be easily accessible if you have to leave your home in a hurry. Make sure it is ready to go at all times of the year.

Go Bag Checklist

- Copy of your important documents in a waterproof and portable container (insurance cards, birth certificates, deeds, photo IDs, etc.)
 - Extra set of car and house keys
 - A small regional map
 - Credit and ATM cards and cash, especially in small denominations. We recommend you keep \$50-\$100 on hand.
 - Bottled water and non-perishable food such as energy or granola bars
 - Flashlight, battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries. You can also buy wind-up radios that do not require batteries at retail stores.
 - Medication for at least one week and other essential personal items. Be sure to change medications before they expire and keep a list of the medications each member of your household takes and their dosages, or copies of all your prescription slips.
 - First aid kit
 - Sturdy, comfortable shoes, lightweight raingear and mylar blanket
 - Contact and meeting place information
 - Child care supplies or other special items
- 

What to Have in Your House

In-Home Survival Kit

Keep enough supplies in your home to survive on your own for at least three days. If possible, keep these materials in an easily accessible, separate container or special cupboard. You should indicate to your household members that these supplies are for emergencies only. See checklist below.

Home Survival Kit Checklist

- One gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Non-perishable, ready-to-eat canned foods and manual can opener
- First aid kit
- Medications and prescriptions
- Flashlight, battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- Whistle
- One quart of unscented bleach or iodine tablets (for disinfecting water ONLY if directed to do so by health officials) and eyedropper (for adding bleach to water)
- Personal hygiene items: soap, feminine hygiene products, toothbrush and toothpaste, etc.
- Sturdy shoes, heavy gloves, warm clothes, mylar blanket and lightweight raingear
- Other supplies and tools: plastic sheeting, duct tape, utility knife
- Extra fire extinguisher, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors
- Child care supplies or other special items

What to Have in Your Head

Household Disaster Plan

Develop a disaster plan with your household members to prepare for what to do, how to find each other, and how to communicate in an emergency.

- 1) Decide where your household will reunite after a disaster. Identify two places to meet: one right outside your home and another outside your neighborhood such as a library, community center or place of worship.
- 2) Make sure everyone knows the address and phone number of your second meeting place.
- 3) Know and practice all possible exit routes from your home and neighborhood.
- 4) Designate an out-of-state friend or relative that household members can call if separated during a disaster. If New York City phone circuits are busy this out-of-state contact can be an important way of communicating between household members. When local phone circuits are busy, long-distance calls may be easier to make.
- 5) Account for everybody's needs, especially seniors, people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
- 6) Practice your plan with all household members.
- 7) Make sure that family members have a copy of your Household Disaster Plan to keep in their wallets.



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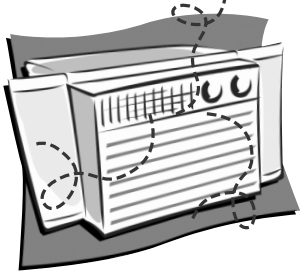
CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT OFFICE HOURS

BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT FISCAL SITUATION NYCHA WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO OFFER EXTENDED MANAGEMENT OFFICE HOURS ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME INTO THE MANAGEMENT OFFICE DURING THE REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS OF 8:30AM TO 4:30PM, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR HOUSING ASSISTANT WHO WILL MAKE AN EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE YOU VIA TELEPHONE OR SCHEDULE A MORE CONVENIENT TIME.

2003 KEEP COOL PROGRAM

April 1, 2003 – July 31, 2003

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For more Information, please call

212-349-9768

Admissions office is located at:
**42 BROADWAY, 22ND FLOOR,
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FREE JOB TRAINING TO INCREASE YOUR EARNINGS!

The Wildcat Service Corporation, in partnership with NYCHA, is offering the following training programs and job placement assistance to NYCHA residents who want to increase their earnings. Wildcat has been providing employment training and job placement services in New York City for over 30 years. All training and certifications are **free**.

Bank Teller:

For employment as a bank teller or customer service agent in one of NYC's largest banks. Average starting salary: \$10.50 to \$11.00 per hour.

Security Guard:

Become either a security guard or security supervisor. Get an 8-hour security certificate, 16-hour security certificate, fireguard certification or any combination of these. Starting salaries range from \$6.50 to \$15.00 per hour depending upon prior experience.

Data/Coding Entry:

Open the door to a new career in the clerical field with a starting salary of \$8 per hour or more. This job offers opportunities for advancement into junior secretary or administrative assistant positions.

Minimum Enrollment Requirements

- Must be currently employed
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must be a legal NYCHA Resident
- Must be available weekday evenings

Interested? Want to find out more? Call the Recruitment Unit at 718-250-5904 or DEBI's 24 Hour Hotline at (212)306-3800

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS INITIATIVES

Visit NYCHA's
Web site at:
www.nyc.gov/nycha

SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General ("IG") at 212-306-3355 or the Department of Investigation ("DOI") at:

212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.

The IG and DOI rely on NYCHA employees, residents and people who do business with NYCHA, and the public at large to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear.

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Adirondack Trailways

NYCHA'S RESIDENTS AND NYCHA'S RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD WILL JOIN HOUSING ORGANIZATIONS FROM AROUND THE NATION TO LOBBY AGAINST PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS IN WASHINGTON D.C. ON MAY 21, 2003.

The Citywide Council of Presidents is requesting NYCHA resident support in a rally/lobbying effort to take place in Washington, D.C. on May 21, 2003. The focus is the proposed budget cuts to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for Fiscal Year 2004. Residents will express their opposition to funding cuts which will affect the repair, renovation, and modernization of NYCHA developments. On May 21, 2003 buses will depart from a variety of locations in New York City beginning at 5:30 AM and will return at approximately 10:30 PM. This is a ten-hour roundtrip bus ride. Please call Keith Mitchell at (212) 306-7036 for further information.

El Consejo de Presidentes de la Ciudad solicita el apoyo de los residentes en este esfuerzo de cabildeo a efectuarse en Washington. El enfoque es en los cortes al presupuesto del Departamento de Renovación Urbana y Vivienda de los Estados Unidos propuestos para el año fiscal 2004. Los residentes expresarán su oposición a cortes de fondos que afectarán la reparación, renovación y modernización de los residenciales de NYCHA. El día 21 de mayo, autobuses partirán de varios puntos de la Ciudad de New York a las 5:30 AM y regresarán aproximadamente a las 10:30 PM. Este será un viaje de 10 horas. Llame a Keith Mitchell al (212) 306-7036 para información adicional.

EL CUERPO DE RESIDENTES Y EL CONSEJO ASESOR DE RESIDENTES SE DIRIGIRÁN HACIA A WASHINGTON D.C. JUNTO CON EL RAB Y ORGANIZACIONES DE VIVIENDA DE LA NACIÓN PARA CABILDEAR CONTRA LOS CORTES EN EL PRESUPUESTO EL 21 DE MAYO DEL 2003.