



Journal

MONROE COMMUNITY CENTER WINS CHESS TOURNAMENT

By Eileen Elliott

After endless days of rain, June 12th felt like a real summer's day. Children played ball and jumped rope in the sun outside of the gymnasium at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Melrose Community Center in the Bronx. Inside the gymnasium, the basketball hoops hung motionless and the bleachers were empty – but that's where the real action was taking place, at least between the hours of 5 and 8PM. There, at 15 tables arranged neatly into two rows, 60 youth between the ages of 9 and 12 tested their strategies at the Department of Community Operations' Citywide Chess Tournament.

"It's a fabulous program," said Community Coordinator for the Chess Club Eric Espinal. "These are the top ten sites from 24 centers. We started the program last September and since then it's just been an explosion. Now the chess program is going to be a full year-round activity."

Mr. Espinal recited a list of benefits derived from the game, including an increased ability to concentrate and improved mathematical skills. "It teaches the players to think before they make a move, to take things one step at a time. Problem-solving is the number one thing they learn."

Unlike most NYCHA events, crowds of well-wishers weren't lining the bleachers to cheer the players on.

"We don't want people making noise," said Community Operations' Assistant Director of City-

wide Programs Ukah Busgith before the tournament began, by way of explanation. "Watching chess is boring. You can't see what's going on in the players' minds."

Well, you almost could. For nearly three hours the tournament ran its course as the youth twirled their hair, chewed their fingernails, or twisted up their faces in concentration, their eyes only occasionally darting away from the pieces on the boards in front of them. A computer software program was used to evenly match skill levels, maximizing the competition. Each round lasted for 30 minutes, at which time a winner was called based on the number of pieces captured if no one had won by thwarting their opponent's king with the move known as checkmate. Winners were then

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A young NYCHA resident contemplates his next move at the Citywide Chess Tournament held at the Melrose Community Center in the Bronx. Sixty youth from ten community centers participated in the tournament which took place on June 12th.

Williamsburg Houses Declared a Landmark



The Landmarks Preservation Commission awarded Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn (above) landmark status on June 24, 2003. The photo at right shows the corner of Bushwick Ave. in 1935 before construction on the development began.



By Allan Leicht

On June 24, 2003 the Landmarks Preservation Commission voted to designate Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn a New York City Landmark. Chair of the Landmarks Preservation Commission Robert B. Tierney said, "The Williamsburg Houses represent public housing and public architecture at their finest. The New York City Housing Authority's recent restoration inspires all New Yorkers."

Constructed between 1935 and 1938, the Williamsburg Houses were a collaborative project of the Federal Public Works Administration and the newly established New York City Housing Authority. Among the ten architects who worked on the project, the best known are Richmond H. Shreve, of Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, the architects of the Empire State Building, and William Lescaze, the Swiss-born architect who helped introduce European-style modern architecture in the United States.

Lescaze was responsible for the overall design, which includes twenty T- and H-shaped, 4-story structures on four superblocks

turned at a 15 degree angle to the street grid. To distinguish the complex from previous public housing projects, the building exteriors are clad in light-colored brick and concrete, and the entrances are marked by dark blue tile and projecting stainless steel

canopies. During the mid-1990s, the buildings underwent an extensive \$70 million restoration, which included the replacement of all exterior materials.

Landmark status puts Williamsburg Houses in the architectural

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Message From The Mayor

New York City—
The Crime Fighting Capital



July marks the 18th month of this Administration — a good time to focus on crime which I know is a topic of great importance to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents as it is to all New Yorkers.

When it comes to doing more with less New York City's success in fighting crime tops the list. Even as crime has begun to increase elsewhere in the nation, and

despite a reasonable apprehension that a souring economy might produce soaring crime, we remain the safest large city in the U.S.

It's important not only to acknowledge our success, but also to appreciate how and why it's been achieved. For example, we're using data to pinpoint the neighborhoods hardest hit by crime, and the criminals who are the greatest threats. We're deploying our resources to focus on those targets. We're accelerating the use of technology in fighting crime. And we're bringing the entire criminal justice system to bear.

The cumulative result has been a new, sharper and successful focus by the NYPD and other criminal justice agencies on problem people and problem places.

Aggressive quality of life enforcement has been the foundation of the NYPD's crime-fighting success—a strategy I might remind you Commissioner Ray Kelly first championed in 1993 during his first tenure. And we've maintained that strategy. That's why in our first week in office, we launched Operation Clean Sweep, aimed at offenses like aggressive panhandling.

Over the last 18 months, since Ray Kelly and I went to a street corner in Queens to announce that initiative, the NYPD has issued more than 161,000 summonses and made more than 15,000 quality of life arrests. In the process, we've also made arrests for more serious crimes and we found that the vast majority of quality of life complaints are noise-related. Calls to the city's 311 hotline confirm that, too. So, last October, we also launched Operation Silent Night. It targets areas in which there have been many noise complaints made by the community.

To date, it has produced more than 4,000 arrests, including more than 800 felony arrests, and over 60,000 summonses. This operation has been a success with New Yorkers eager for some peace and quiet in their home neighborhoods. And by curbing disorderly behavior, it has helped prevent the kind of serious crime that is on the rise in other cities.

The results are confirmed by national crime figures just released at the end of last month. On the FBI's overall crime index for 2002, New York ranked safest among the 10 largest cities in the U.S. We ranked 203rd out of the nation's 225 cities of 100,000 or more population. That puts us right between Garden Grove, California and Henderson, Nevada.

The overall drop in crime throughout the City is also reflected in NYCHA developments. For the first five months of 2003 as compared to 2002, crime in NYCHA developments decreased by 3.7%, continuing the trend towards decline that began in the 1990s. I'd like to thank all NYCHA residents who do their part to maintain the quality of life in NYCHA developments.

Keep up the good work New York!

Michael R. Bloomberg

RESIDENT ART EXHIBIT AT U.S. CUSTOMS HOUSE
Artists Honored at Harborview Arts Awards Ceremony

By Eileen Elliott

Resident artists from all over the City converged at the historic U.S. Customs House inside the American Indian Museum at the southern tip of Manhattan to be recognized for their stunning paintings, sculptures and other creations that were on exhibit there beneath the domed skylight of the Rotunda Gallery. The date of the Harborview Arts Center Awards Ceremony, June 17th, was also the opening date of the exhibit which ran through the 22nd.

After many years of trying, NYCHA's Department of Community Operations was finally successful in obtaining a site for the Harborview Arts Center Award Ceremony deemed to be (according to the program notes) "a highly visible, historically and artistically respected location."

Many of the 59 Grand Prize Winners were joined by Harborview Arts consultants, NYCHA staff, family and friends to receive, along with congratulations, certificates and art sets. The event was the culmination of visual arts workshops taught by 40 Harborview consultants at 75 NYCHA Community Centers over the past year.

This year's workshops generated more artwork than ever before. To appropriately recognize the wide range of talented artists and teachers NYCHA held a special exhibit, the Resident Art Show 2003, at the Rutgers Houses Community Center on Manhattan's Lower East Side, which ran from June 5th to June 13th.

Over 55,000 works of art were submitted for that show, and of those 259 were displayed. In turn, only 59 of the works on display at Rutgers were chosen for the exhibit in the Rotunda Gallery and Great Hall in the Customs House.

Citywide Programs & Contract Management Director Denise Lara welcomed the many artists of all ages and their families as well as the distinguished guests on the dais — NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, Senior Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk and Harborview Visual Arts Program Coordinators Wylie Lucero, Leticia Barboza and Mildred Beltré. They were soon joined by General Manager Douglas Apple and Assistant Deputy General Manager for Operations Rowland Laedlein.

Mr. Spence described how the Harborview Visual Arts Program started. "Some 15 years ago, a U.S. Department of Housing and



Top Photo (left to right): DGM Hugh B. Spence, Harborview Arts Coordinators Wylie Lucero, Leticia Barboza and Mildred Beltré, Board Member JoAnna Aniello and Chairman Tino Hernandez pose for a photo at the Harborview Arts Center Awards Ceremony. Bottom photo: NYCHA Resident Artist Ana Piñeiro of Metro North Plaza in the Bronx with her painting, which she said had a religious inspiration, entitled, "With Me."

Urban Development (HUD) official was touring a development in Brooklyn when he noticed the graffiti there. It was his idea to

develop a program for young graffiti artists to channel their energy in a constructive way, and the

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Message From The Chairman

Stay Cool and Get To Know Your Neighbors During NYCHA's Family Days



It is going to be an activity-filled summer at NYCHA developments and residents of all ages should take full advantage of every event. I look forward to seeing many residents at the traditional celebration held at NYCHA developments throughout the City known as Family Days. I won't be able to get to every Family Day but I'll be going to as many as I can (and will no doubt put on a pound or two in the process.) Of course, the real

goal of NYCHA Family Days is to encourage neighborliness and community pride.

NYCHA will celebrate six big anniversaries this summer. Edwald Houses and Throggs Neck Houses in the Bronx will celebrate their 50th anniversaries. Markham Gardens on Staten Island is celebrating its 60th. Smith Houses in Manhattan is 50 years old this summer, as is Cooper Park in Brooklyn. And one of our oldest, Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn is celebrating its 65th anniversary. We look forward to being with you to commemorate these milestones.

As delightful as summer is, we should bear in mind that New Yorkers are vulnerable to hot weather hazards. On warm summer days the City can be as much as 10 degrees warmer than its surrounding areas. Heat waves are particularly dangerous for children, the elderly and the infirm. According to the Center for Disease Control, social isolation and the inability to care for oneself put a person at greater risk of heat-related illness. During a heat emergency, when the heat index (temperature and humidity combined) goes over 100 degrees, many NYCHA Community Centers and Senior Centers become air conditioned cooling centers open for extended hours from 9:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. So even if you have air conditioning in your apartment, you can join your neighbors at the Community Center or Senior Center, save electricity and stay cool. You may call 3-1-1 to find out the location of the nearest cooling center.

A heat wave's duration plays an important role in how people are affected. Studies show that a significant rise in heat-related illnesses occurs when excessive heat lasts for more than two days. Spending at least two hours per day in air-conditioned spaces significantly cuts down on the number of heat-related illnesses. However, unusually high temperatures that persist over several days can cause heat-related illnesses that result in death, especially among the elderly.

We have had one heat wave already this season and we can expect more. So I urge you to check on your neighbors and offer them assistance during a heat emergency. Come to the cooling centers, kids use the sprinklers, and to help avoid power problems, don't run air conditioners when you are not at home.

There is a listing of many of NYCHA's summer activities in this issue of the *Journal* on page 7. There are fishing contests in every borough, and track and field events in the Bronx and Manhattan. I look forward to kicking off the Second Annual NYCHA Kids' Walk in August, which takes place this year in Central Park in Manhattan. August will also see games festivals in every borough.

So there is much to do. Enjoy it all, safely and in good health.

Tino Hernandez

Chess Tournament
(Continued from page 1)

rematched in the next round, for a total of three rounds.

The five instructors, each assigned to teach at the community centers in one of the city's boroughs, strolled among the tables while the players plotted their moves. The instructors were there to keep an eye on things, give a nudge when a game stalled, or shake a winner's hand. They also kept score.

"They're all talented in their own way," said John Gorman, the instructor for Manhattan, referring to his students. "They all learn chess differently."

Abdul Rahman, the instructor assigned to Brooklyn, highlighted some of the less obvious advantages of chess. "It's excellent for teaching social skills and working off aggression," he said, "because you're fighting in a socially acceptable way. All kids aren't cut out for basketball or baseball and it's great for their self-esteem."

The camaraderie that developed between team members was evident as they clapped each other on the back or raised their hands for high-fives with each win.

"I'm so proud of my kids," said Jackie Robinson Community Center Director Alfredo Miranda, flanked by 11-year-old Dennis Jimenez and 9-year-old Brian Rosa. Mr. Miranda beamed. "We're going to bring home the big trophy."

Jackie Robinson brought home a trophy, but not the biggest. The First-Place Winners were from Monroe Community Center, with Jackie Robinson coming in second. The other centers participating were Stapleton and Markham Gardens from Staten Island; Woodside and South Jamaica from Queens; Williamsburg and Cooper Park from Brooklyn; 1162 Washington Avenue in the Bronx; and Lincoln West in Manhattan. (See "Deborah's Diary," at right, for the names of the first-place winners.)

Mr. Espinal's claim that the program has "exploded" seems evident — 37 community centers are participating in the eight-week summer program which began on July 7, and 24 are already signed up for the fall.



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

A Mentor for Everyone—Linda Sanders hasn't had an easy life. Born in the Brownsville area of Brooklyn she was the seventh of Ana Sanders' eight children. Linda, along with her siblings grew up in the Brownsville Houses and still resides there where she cares for her 34-year-old son who was stricken with Cerebral Palsy as a child. "It's not easy raising a son who can't walk or talk but God is good. It was a long hard struggle but I kept myself busy with community work. I've been a nurse, a counselor, a school crossing guard, home attendant, security guard, and foster mother." Not only has she been a resident since 1947, in 1992, Ms. Sanders became Vice President of the Brownsville Houses Tenant Council. In 1997 she was elected President of the Tenant Council. As she became more involved in her community, Ms. Sanders decided to focus on children and became an advocate for children, teens and families. She helped open after-school programs throughout the community and the youth considered her an invaluable resource when it came to finding summer jobs. Ms. Sanders then went on to become the "First Lady of Brownsville Houses," Ms. Sanders recently had surgery and is now in a wheel chair but that won't keep her down, "I must keep going," she said enthusiastically. *Well, Ms. Sanders you appear to be a very devoted person. Through your caring and commitment I know you have touched the lives of many improving, molding and helping your community and neighbors grow, flourish and shine. You seem to be a remarkable and independent woman and are an example for us all. I commend you on your efforts. Be well and stay strong!*

Empire State Olympian—Markham Gardens Tenant Association President Sylvia Cunningham participated in the 2003 Empire State Senior Olympic Games. Seniors from all over the state participated in over 30 athletic and recreational activities. And if that wasn't enough to tire them out, after the games the seniors enjoyed a night of partying. The games were open to athletes aged 50 and older. There were instructional clinics, informational exhibits, and educational seminars held during each activity. The Olympic Games were held on the campus of Cortland College, Cortland, New York from June 10th through the 15th. Ms. Cunningham, 62 years old, competed in the 5K walk and basketball event. She received a bronze medal for sportsmanship in basketball. Ms. Cunningham has attended the Empire State Senior Olympic Games for the past two years however this is the first time she actually competed. "The very first time I attended one of the Olympic Games I watched seniors who were 97 compete and that inspired me. I said to myself next year I am going to participate and that's what I did. I hooked up with Honey and the Bears, a swimming team in Harlem, and signed up to compete in the 2003 Senior Olympic Games. And it was fun," said Ms. Cunningham with a tickle in her voice. *Congratulations Ms. Cunningham—you deserve applause and a pat on the back. It takes drive and commitment to compete in sporting events at any age You did GREAT!*

Chess Tournament Winners—The best of the best of young NYCHA chess players participated in the Housing Authority's Citywide Chess Tournament held on June 12, 2003. Monroe Community Center won the First-Place Trophy. (See article page 1.) Congratulations to Jassa Tucker, Rafael Millan, Genito Vale, Amador Meza, Randall Logan, and Steven Butler. The Second Place Trophy went to Jackie Robinson Community Center: Dennis Jimenez, Diamond Rogers, Mustapha Barns, Shafeeq Cole, Shavon Ferrer, and Brian Ross. The Most Valuable Player Award went to Rafael Millan of Monroe Houses. *It's great to hear about how dedicated to chess each of you has become. I predict more wins in the future. Once again, congratulations on your success!*

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



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 May 8, 15, and 22, and June 12, 19, and 26, 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 May 8, 2002

- Francisco DeJesus Case 1754/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 80 East 110th Street, Lehman Houses, Manhattan.
- Derrick Miller Case 1756/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1595 Madison Avenue, Lehman Houses, Manhattan.
- Andre Hurdle Case 1755/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 2724 Linden Blvd., Pink Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of May 15, 2002

- Tiffany Bowie Case 1314/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 535 Havemeyer Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
- Raheem Hightower Case 1817/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 100 Dramer Street, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.
- Jerman Pannell Case 1819/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 54-75 Almeda Avenue, Edgemere Houses, Far Rockaway.

Prohibited as of May 22, 2002

- Duvall Blake Case 1928/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 2120 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of June 12, 2002

- Naquan Brice Case 2276/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 340 Miller Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
- Marcus Taylor Case 2277/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 106-05 Glenwood Road, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn.
- Kareem Samuels Case 2333/02 formerly associated with the eighteenth floor of 1694 Madison Avenue, Taft Houses, Manhattan.
- Nekeya Brown Case 2334/02 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 21 West 112th Street, King Towers Houses, Manhattan.
- Phillip Mayo Case 2335/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2055 3rd Avenue, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.
- Antoine Daniels Case 2339/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 70 Amsterdam Avenue, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.
- Jeraine Correll Case 2349/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 14-60 Beach Channel Drive, Redfern Houses, Far Rockaway.

Prohibited as of June 19, 2002

- Matthew Blount Case 660/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 414 Sutter Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.
- Keith Blakely Case 1567/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 90 Columbia Avenue, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.
- Derek Milner Case 2449/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 730 Euclid Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
- Bernard Wallace Case 2451/02 formerly associated with the seventeenth floor of 1694 Madison Avenue, Taft Houses, Manhattan.
- Elijio Clotter Case 2459/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of June 26, 2002

- Lawrence Minott Case 2514/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 525 Jackson Avenue, E.R. Moore Houses, the Bronx.

Senior Volunteers Honored at Luncheon In Long Island

Improving The Lives Of Residents Through Daily Acts Of Kindness



Chairman Tino Hernandez kneels beside Essie Mae Profit of Union Avenue Consolidated Houses, who was honored as the Oldest Active Floor Captain for the Bronx at the Annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon. Surrounding them are (from left to right) NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, Community Operations Senior Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk, Board Member JoAnna Aniello, and NYCHA Staff Isabel Sabater, Arelis Vega, Eloise Howell, Barbara Toomer, and Rachel Ramirez, NYCHA Director of Social Services Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, and Edna Thomas.

By Allan Leicht

The 23rd Annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon brought 800 NYCHA residents, executives and staff to Leonard's of Great Neck, Long Island on June 5th, with the Authority's Chairman Tino Hernandez and New York City's Commissioner of the Department for the Aging Edwin Mendez-Santiago leading expressions of praise and gratitude for the hundreds of volunteers who help to improve the quality of life of NYCHA's elderly and non-elderly disabled residents. One of the high points of the year, the Senior Volunteer Luncheon is an event that is, in the words of Chairman Hernandez, "an inspiration."

Commissioner Mendez-Santiago remarked on the extraordinary vitality of the seniors and the invaluable partnership between NYCHA and the Department for the Aging (DFTA). The Commissioner noted NYCHA's recent assumption of the cost of operating 105 senior centers and "NORCs," or Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. In their remarks, the Commissioner and Chairman Hernandez both underscored the fundamental importance of the senior volunteer who, with a walk in the park, a phone call or a regular visit makes a world of difference in the life of a neighbor. As Mr. Hernandez said, "These are the daily acts of kindness that make NYCHA a caring community."

In honor of that "caring community" NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Board Secretary Frank Marin, and General Manager Douglas Apple were all in attendance, as was NYCHA's Citywide and Bronx North Council Of Presidents (COP) Chair Gerri Lamb, and Manhattan South COP Chair Nikki Azure.

The programs themselves — the Senior Resident Advisor/Service Coordinator Program, the

Senior Network Program, and the Saratoga Square Congregate Housing Services program — provide the structure, but the volunteers are the heart of these services, or as NYCHA's Department of Social Services Director and Mistress of Ceremonies Nora Reissig-Lazzaro put it, "You are the eyes and ears who enable the programs to provide critical services to seniors who need them."

A new feature introduced this year was a special tribute to "The Oldest Active Floor Captains" who set a high standard of dedication and longevity. Ranging in age from 72 to 94 years old, the Oldest Active Floor Captains honored were Elsie White of Brooklyn's Vandalia Houses, Essie Mae Profits of Union Avenue Consolidated in the Bronx, Rosa Lee Cobb of Manhattan's Bethune Gardens Houses, Helen Gibson of Conlon Lihfe Houses in Queens, and Rosa Williams of Cassidy-Lafayette in Staten Island.

The presentation of 750 awards was the central focus of the afternoon during a full-course lunch, after which a concert by the NYCHA Senior Choir and Senior Band opened with Chorus Director Carrie Payne of Atlantic

Terminal Houses singing, "Neither One Of Us" and "Inseparable." Then the Chorus, recently renamed "NYCHA Senior Chorus Eternity Forever," filled the hall with "Lord, We Lift Your Name On High." Minnie Matthew of Palmetto Gardens Houses led the seniors in "Elijah Rock," Cora Little of Gowanus Houses was soloist for "Oh, Happy Day," building to the choral finale of a Jamaican medley. Gail Williams of Cypress Hills Houses completed the vocal part of the program with "I Will Survive," and then the Senior Band jammed that into a calypso beat and electric slide that spurred luncheoners up from their chairs into spontaneous dance around the tables.

Department of Community Operations Senior Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk told the audience that the Senior Volunteer Luncheon was one of the first events she attended after joining NYCHA two years ago and it remains one of the most moving for her. Ms. Pinnock-Clerk commended the Community Operations staff, coordinated by Zoberia Martinez, for the efficiency and sensitivity in the planning of the complex event.

24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

1-800-621-HOPE

NYCHA Residents and Employees Among Those Arrested for Post-9/11 Theft from Municipal Credit Union

Twenty-seven NYCHA residents were among the 74 people arrested for stealing money from the Municipal Credit Union (MCU) in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, joined by New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn, announced the arrests on June 18th. Forty-four people are still being sought for arrest. Of the total of 118 people who have either been arrested or are being sought, 27 are employees of the City of New York and five are NYCHA employees. Of those five NYCHA employees, one has been terminated and four are being brought up on general trials. The investigation is continuing into as many as 4,187 members of the Municipal Credit Union and the theft of \$15 million.

Each of the defendants is charged with stealing more than \$5,000 from MCU by using their ATM cards to withdraw funds in the weeks following the World Trade Center attacks far in excess of their account balances. The defendants arrested on the 18th, as well as those still being sought, are all individuals who withdrew their accounts by more than \$5,000 and who have made no effort to repay the money. The defendants have been charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, which is punishable by up to seven years in prison. The total amount allegedly stolen by these defendants is \$730,518.68.

MCU, whose membership is open to, among others, employees of the city, state and federal governments and employees in the health care industry, was located at 22 Cortland Street, near where the World Trade Center towers stood. As a result of the collapse of the towers, MCU's own ATM machines were disabled and MCU intermittently lost its computer link to the New York Cash Exchange (NYCE) network which administers bank-to-bank transactions and processes ATM transactions, including withdrawals. When the link to the NYCE network was interrupted, NYCE had no ability to access MCU account balances to ensure that there were sufficient funds to cover a withdrawal when a member withdrew cash using his MCU-issued ATM card or used it as a Visa credit card (the MCU cash accounts linked to the ATM

cards did not have overdraft protection). Upon learning this, MCU made a determination not to shut down its entire ATM operation because of the hardship it might impose on members, particularly those adversely affected by the tragedy, but rather to allow NYCE to continue to dispense cash to MCU account holders.

In November 2001 MCU mailed notices to all of the individuals who had overdrawn their accounts, listing the amount overdrawn and demanding repayment immediately. MCU then engaged a collection agency that contacted or attempted to contact the individuals. Those individuals who responded to either the letter from MCU or the actions of the collection agency were offered the opportunity to convert their negative account balances to loans with a defined repayment schedule. Those who were arrested or sought on June 18th made no effort to repay despite notifications.

More than 540 MCU members (including those arrested on June 18th or previously, or who are still being sought) made ATM withdrawals that exceeded their account balances by at least \$5,000 in the weeks after 9/11; more than 1,700 overdraw their accounts by at least \$3,000; and more than 4,000 overdraw their accounts by at least \$1,000. Although some of the MCU members have repaid all, or a substantial sum of the money, a large number have made little or no repayments. The investigation is continuing.

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY 250 BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY 10007

GENERAL SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

The New York City Housing Authority has available a limited number of STUDIO and ONE BEDROOM apartments for seniors, 62 years of age or older, at the following developments in New York City.

BRONX -

Bronx River Addition - East 174th St. & Harrod Ave.
College Avenue - College Ave. & East 163rd St.
Courtlandt Avenue Senior - East 153rd St. & Morris Ave.
Mitchel Senior - East 135th St. & Willis Ave.
Morrisania Air Rights Senior - East 161st St. & Park Ave.
Randall-Balcom - Randall Ave. & Balcom Ave.
Twin Parks East - Clinton Ave. & East 180th St.
Union Senior - East 163rd St. & Polite Ave.
West Tremont Avenue - W. Tremont Ave. & Sedgwick Ave.

BROOKLYN

Kingsborough Extension - Bergen St. & Buffalo Ave.
Woodson - Livonia Ave. & Powell St.

MANHATTAN

Corsi - East 117th St. & Second Ave.
P.S. 139 Conversion - West 140th St. & Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.
U.P.A.C.A. - East 128th St. & Lexington Ave.
White - East 104th St. & Second Ave.

STATEN ISLAND

Cassidy-Lafayette - Cassidy Pl. & Lafayette Ave.

If you wish to be considered for one of these apartments, you need to complete and submit a specially designated Public Housing Application identified by the "GSO" stamp.

TO BE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS MUST NOT EXCEED THE FOLLOWING FEDERAL INCOME LIMITS

1 Person	2 Person
\$35,150	\$40,200

These applications are available at the following locations:

Bronx Applications Office
 1 Fordham Plaza, 5th Floor
 (718) 329-7859

Brooklyn Applications Office
 350 Livingston Street, 2nd Floor
 (718) 250-5900

Manhattan Applications Office
 55 West 125th Street, 7th Floor
 (212) 828-7100

Queens Applications Office
 120-34 Queens Blvd., 2nd Floor
 (718) 286-7500

Staten Island Applications Office
 120 Stuyvesant Place, 2nd Floor
 (718) 448-7326

Or you may write to:

The Department of Housing Applications
 350 Livingston Street, Bsmt. - Brooklyn, NY 11217
 Attention: Senior Outreach Coordinator

Only a limited number of applicants will be considered for this outreach program. Applicants will be selected for interviews in the order the Housing Authority receives their response. If you are not among those selected for an interview, your application will be placed on our preliminary waiting list and be processed in the normal way. But please be advised that due to the large number of applications on our waiting list, it is possible that we may not reach your application within its three-year life span.

Titans Beat Saints at Little League Championship Game



NYCHA has its first baseball Little League, and at the first game of the first three-game Championship Series on Staten Island on June 24th, Chairman Tino Hernandez threw out the first ball. It was the Todt Hill Houses Titans versus the Markham Gardens Saints, with the Titans taking the first game of the best-of-three series by a score of 4 to 3 and going on to take the second game 4 to 3 to become the Housing Authority's first League Championship team.

Director of Staten Island Community Operations Ernesto Lozano, who initiated the Little League, said that it was a very special day and that the Chairman's first pitch "was thrilling for the players - and for the staff, too. The Little League is the newest part of our 'Education Through Sports' program," said Mr. Lozano. "We have 16 soccer teams and 36 basketball teams for boys and girls. We're going to have a soccer team for teens in the fall and flag football for teens."

The new Little League has a total of 16 teams, eight baseball teams for boys and eight softball teams for girls. Each league is divided into two divisions, north and south regions of Staten Island, with 288 players from ages 9 to 12. Community Center staff are the coaches, as they are for the other athletic teams.

"We had the full support of Elizabeth Stanton and her resident leadership," said Mr. Lozano, referring to the Council of Presidents Chair for Staten Island. "We could not have done it without them. When I brought them the idea, they just loved it."

Attended by parents, resident association officers and other fans, the Little League games are played on NYCHA's own South Beach Athletic field, which is also the site of soccer and football.

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HARBORVIEW ARTS AWARDS CEREMONY

(Continued from Page 2)

Anti-Graffiti Program was born, from which the Harborview Visual Arts Program evolved.

Mr. Spence thanked Denise Lara saying, "Most people don't understand how difficult it is to put together this show. It takes months and months of planning." He also thanked the Chairman, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Board Member JoAnna Aniello for supporting the program. Mr. Hernandez, in turn thanked Mr. Spence, all Department of Community Operations staff who were involved, parents, artist, and especially the Harborview Coordinators, "Wylie, Leticia and Mildred, for all the work you put into this exhibition

and the awards ceremony."

Mr. Lucero, who was the very first employee of the Harborview Visual Arts Program beamed as he told the artists in the audience, "You are very special. It's not this one picture or work of art, it's the fact that you had a vision. Don't give up the vision. I'm very proud of you. You should be proud of yourselves."

The Grand Prize Winners came up to the stage for a congratulations, a handshake and a deluxe art box filled with paint, sketching pencils and other tools of the trade. After the ceremony artists, guests and staff trailed into the Rotunda Gallery to view the work.



Bayview Community Center
Group Project Ages 5-12
"Salute to the First
American Immigrant"
Acrylic Yarn/Paper

HOPE GARDENS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

By Allan Leicht

The Hope Gardens Senior Center was the scene of the Annual International Festival on the morning and afternoon of June 5th. The International Festival, created 13 years ago by Center Director Anna M. Gonzalez, brings the young people and older people together in a cavalcade of entertainment representing the four corners of the world. Addressing a gathering of 300 children, parents and seniors, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez encapsulated the day of song, dance, traditional costume and ethnic food as "the generations meeting and enriching each other across backgrounds, nationalities and languages."

For the International Festival, the young people do the performing, their parents do the encouraging, and the seniors work on the costumes and the food.

The festival was distinguished this year in having one of the youngest Masters of Ceremonies in the City, 13-year-old Christopher Michael Agron, born the year the Festival was inaugurated. Mr. Agron, a resident of Tompkins Houses and regular participant at Hope Gardens Community Center, presided over the "Parade of Nations and People." The parade included a dance by the "Shakira Girls," Diamond Maldonado's portrayal of "Miss Native America," Kimberly Simeron as "Miss Egypt" and Tatiana Baker as "Miss Africa." The children circled the globe in high spirits, celebrating community, diversity and hope at Hope Gardens. The Hope Gardens Senior Center is sponsored by Ridge-Bushwick Senior Citizens Council.



Master of Ceremonies Christopher Michael Agron presents a plaque to Chairman Tino Hernandez at the 13th Annual International Festival at Hope Gardens. The plaque reads, "In appreciation for your support, love and dedication to the families of Hope Gardens."

Williamsburg Houses Declared a Landmark

(Continued from Page 2)

company of the Woolworth Building on Broadway in downtown Manhattan, Grand Central Station and the Brooklyn Bridge.

Chairman Hernandez observed that Williamsburg Houses is not the first of NYCHA's developments to be so honored. "First Houses on the Lower East Side and Harlem River Houses have also been declared landmarks," said Mr. Hernandez. "They were built before Williamsburg in the 1930s, the first and second public housing developments in the City.

Williamsburg, of course, was and still is very different," he added. "At only four stories they are not high-rise buildings — they feel like a village in the City."

With 1,620 apartments and approximately 3,115 residents in twenty buildings set on 23 acres, Williamsburg Houses is one of the anchors of a neighborhood that has seen its ups and downs over the years. It is now very much on the upswing. This new honor will make the people of Williamsburg Houses and the Williamsburg

community prouder still.

In the 1930s the fledgling Housing Authority became a Mecca for the commission of many murals, paintings, sculptures and other kinds of art works executed by the Works Projects Administration and other artists. Many of these works of art have been lost, but there were murals at Williamsburg Houses that were rediscovered and restored in 1974. The famous Williamsburg Murals have been placed in the Brooklyn Museum, where they are exhibited on indefinite loan.

Public Hospital Seeks to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Heart Disease Risk

On June 24th, the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation (HHC) announced that it will be launching the HeartBeat Community Cardiology Initiative at Harlem Hospital to link medically underserved communities with important diagnostic and preventive cardiac services.

"HHC's primary mission," said HHC President Dr. Benjamin K. Chu, "is to provide the highest quality health services to all New Yorkers regardless of ability to pay. Prevention and early treatment are critical components of this goal, which is why HHC has developed a comprehensive program to prevent cardiovascular disease, promote health and deliver appropriate care to the diverse racial and ethnic communities served by Harlem Hospital."

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is the leading cause of death in the United States and claims the lives of over 960,000 Americans each year. In 2000, heart disease in New York City accounted for 41% of all deaths. As with many other chronic conditions, CVD disproportionately impacts medically underserved populations, and particularly African-Americans, who continue to have the highest mortality rates — about 50% higher than that of whites — for heart disease. African-Americans are still 13% to 40% less likely to receive coronary angioplasty, and 32% to 70% less likely to receive bypass surgery.

CVD-related deaths in at-risk populations are also attributable to differences in lifestyle and the prevalence of certain risk factors, such as high blood pressure, less physical activity, excess weight and diabetes.

Following its initial launch at Harlem Hospital, HHC plans to roll out the HeartBeat program in selected public hospitals throughout New York City, in areas where the community is at highest risk for heart disease. Plans are underway to offer free screenings to NYCHA residents who live in Harlem and Northern Manhattan at their developments' Family Days. If you are interested, or would like more information, please call (212) 939-1300.

Montefiore/NYCHA Geriatric Program

In early January the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx began a collaboration that is benefiting hundreds of seniors. The NYCHA/Montefiore Geriatric Program, an outreach health service for NYCHA seniors in the Bronx, has been so successful during its first five months that it is now expanding to include not only the original three developments where it began — Baychester, Boston Secor and Edenwald Houses — but also Soundview, Bronxdale, Monroe, Bronx River, Sack Wern, and Clason Point Gardens.

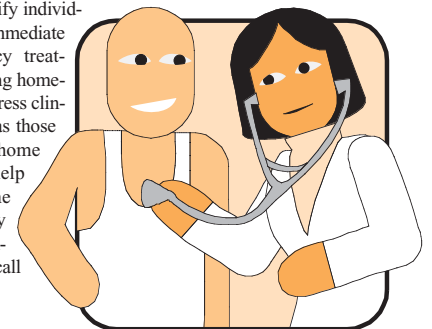
"The program has been very helpful to our seniors because it provides them with access not only to a physician but to an entire provider network. So those who choose to participate can access a comprehensive array of health services. There are no out-of-pocket expenses for participating residents," said NYCHA's Director of Health Services Richard T. Greene.

Montefiore Medical Center's stated goal in working with NYCHA is to make contact with every senior living in developments in the Bronx and connect them with appropriate health services. The program includes a broad array of health and wellness-related services that, to the extent possible, are delivered on-site by Montefiore personnel. Offerings include health promotion, health screening, primary care house calls to the homebound, coordinated referrals to specialists, assistance with transportation and other services.

Outreach efforts are conducted by a team of trained, non-clinical outreach workers, a nurse practitioner certified in geriatric psychiatry, a phone concierge service center staffed by two full-time personnel to schedule appointments, arrange transportation and follow up on contacts, and a manager dedicated to the coordination of program activities.

The door-to-door activities have al-

lowed staff to identify individuals who are in immediate need of emergency treatment, those requiring home-care services to address clinical needs as well as those who require a home health aide to help them address the challenges of daily living. For more information please call (212) 306-8443.



CITYWIDE PROGRAMS SUMMER SCHEDULE 2003 JULY AND AUGUST

JULY

Friday, July 24TH

Manhattan Fishing Contest

The fishing contest is a one-day event for each borough held at Prospect Park Lake Park, Harlem Meir Central Park, Clove Lake and Baisley Park and is attended by over 6,000 NYCHA Youth who catch fish for prizes.

Location: Central Park between E. 107th & 5th Avenue, NYC. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Tuesday, July 29TH

Bronx Track & Field

Location: Van Cortlandt Park between 242nd Street & Broadway, NYC.

10:00am to 3:00pm.

Wednesday, July 31ST

Manhattan Track & Field

Location: Riverbank State Park, Riverside Drive and 145th Street, NYC.

10:00am to 3:00pm.

AUGUST

Tuesday, August 5TH

Manhattan/Bronx Games Festival

Location: Central Park, East 97th & 5th Avenue, NYC. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Wednesday, August 6TH

2nd Annual NYCHA Kid's Walk

NYCHA will sponsor its Second Annual Walkathon, which will involve approximately 1200 youth ages 6 to 12. The youth are from all five boroughs, lunch and goodie bags will be provided.

Location: Central Park East Meadow, 97th & 5th Avenue. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Thursday, August 7TH

Track & Field Citywide Olympics

Location: Riverbank State Park, 145th & Riverside Drive. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Tuesday, August 12TH

Brooklyn Games Festival

Location: Prospect Park, Nethermead, Brooklyn. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Wednesday, August 13TH

Queens Games Festival

Location: Baisley Park, 150th Street between Rockaway Boulevard and Conduit, Queens. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Thursday, August 14TH

Bronx Fishing Contest

Location: Crotona Park East, Bronx 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Friday, August 15TH

Staten Island Fishing Contest

Location: Clove Lake Park, Clove Lake Road. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Tuesday, August 19TH

Brooklyn East Fishing Contest

Location: Prospect Park, Parkside & Ocean Parkway. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Wednesday, August 20TH

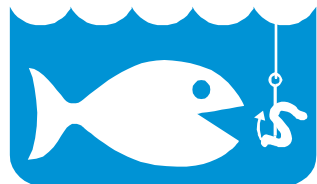
Brooklyn South/West Fishing Contest

Location: Prospect Park, Parkside & Ocean Parkway. 10:00am to 3:00pm.

Thursday, August 21ST

Queens Fishing Contest

Location: Baisley Park, 150th Street between Rockaway Boulevard & Conduit. 10:00am to 3:00pm.



All events are subject to change.
For more information, please contact
Xiomara Carcamo at:
(212) 306-8851

What's happening in ... the Bronx?

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

Pelham Parkway Houses To Get Bathroom Renovations

Pelham Parkway Houses will receive a \$4.6 million renovation of bathrooms in 1,243 apartments in the development. Twenty-three apartments in the development have already recently been renovated to comply with the barrier-free requirements of the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS) to meet the needs of mobility impaired individuals, and so will not be included in this renovation process. The contract was awarded to GKC Industries, Inc., a minority-owned business. The scope of the work will modernize existing bathroom fixtures, which date back to Pelham Parkway Houses' completion in 1950.

"We are happy to bring these apartments up to date," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, "and improve the quality of life at Pelham Parkway."

Pelham Parkway Houses is a development of 23 residential buildings of six stories each with 1,266 apartments and an estimated population of 2,534 residents. It is set on about 24 acres, of which almost two acres are parkland.

Mill Brook Houses and Extension Getting New Apartment Entrance Doors

Mill Brook Houses and Mill Brook Extension at East 135th Street and Cypress Avenue will see the replacement of 1,373 apartment entrance doors and hardware. Apartment entrance door bucks and saddles will also be replaced at 191 of the apartments at Mill Brook and Extension. Pride Contracting, Inc. was awarded the \$604,000 contract, which includes a Section 3 hiring plan for NYCHA residents.

Mill Brook Houses was completed in 1959 and Mill Brook Extension in 1962. Approximately 3,366 residents live in ten 16-story buildings at the development which sits on 13 acres of land.

Patterson Houses to Have Apartments Painted

Patterson Houses residents will have their apartments painted by R&G Tile Works, Inc., which received a contract of approximately \$300,000 for the work. It will take about 12 months to repaint all 1,788 Patterson apartments, which are located in 15 buildings of 6 to 13 stories each.

Patterson Houses was completed in 1950. It is situated on more than 17 acres in the Bronx.



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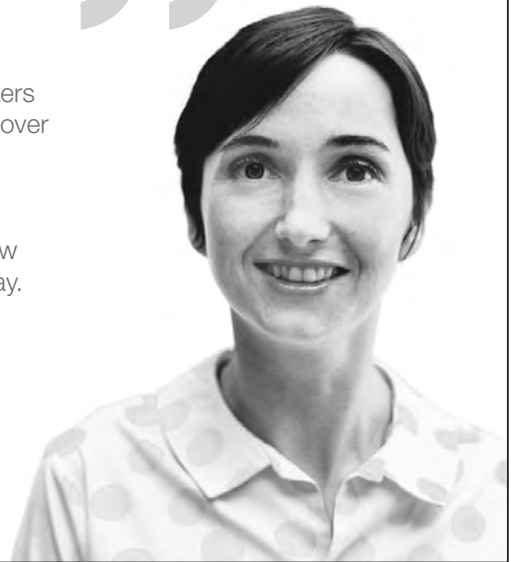
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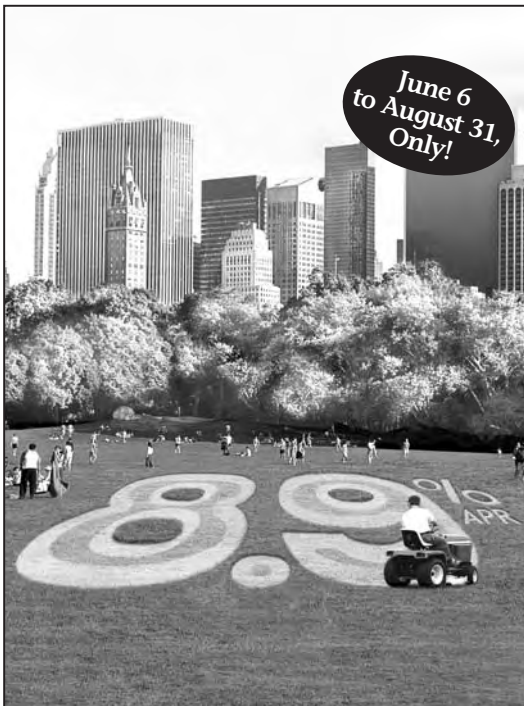
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