



Journal

Rave Reviews For NYCHA's 33rd Annual Talent Search

By Eileen Elliott

It was standing room only again this year, as resident performers lit up the stage at the 33rd Annual Talent Search Competition held in the Fashion Institute of Technology's Haft Auditorium on Saturday, May 10, 2003. For two-and-a-half hours New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents danced, sang, and in one case, recited an original poem, while the audience kept beat with a steady stream of enthusiasm.

Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence encouraged a round of applause for the performers who worked hard for ten weeks to create a professional stage show under the direction of Lisa Dawn Cave. Chairman Tino Hernandez helped kick things off by thanking everyone involved and telling the audience to sit back, relax and have a great time. Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Board Member JoAnna Aniello were also on hand to say hello.

The quick-witted comments of this year's master of ceremonies, Drew Fraser, kept the audience laughing for the few minutes in between performances. Fans of the television show Comedy Central and the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night are probably already familiar with Mr. Fraser, who is also a former housing resident.

Nineteen acts competed in four different categories: ages 6-13; ages 14-18; ages 19-55; and for the first time this year as a separate

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FAME is the name of the dance troupe from Astoria Houses in Queens. These dancers won First-Place in the 19-55 age category at NYCHA's 33rd Annual Talent Search Competition on May 10, 2003.

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RESIDENTS AND RAIN DESCEND ON WASHINGTON



SAVE PUBLIC HOUSING was the cry that echoed through Capitol Hill as NYCHA residents joined with public housing residents from Boston, Newark, Cleveland and other cities to protest proposed budget cuts.

By Allan Leicht

Over 1,000 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents braved a rainstorm travelling to Washington, D.C. to rally in support of public housing outside the Capitol Building on Wednesday, May 21. Rain fell lightly at 5:30 A.M. when 53 buses left New York City, but six-and-a-half hours later, when the convoy reached the nation's capital, it was pouring. Undaunted, NYCHA residents from all five boroughs made their way up soggy Capitol Hill to Upper Senate Park, where senators and congress members inside the building across the street were within earshot of the loudspeakers on the rain-soaked platform.

The rally was planned by the residents to protest reductions in federal funding, but Gerri Lamb, Chair of NYCHA's Citywide Council Presidents made certain that Washington heard that "We love America!" Having said that, she left no doubt about the message: "We are here to speak for the rights of the people who live in public housing."

A leading spokesperson for NYCHA's residents, Ms. Lamb's appeal to Congress and the White House was echoed by residents from Boston, Newark, Cleveland, the District of Columbia and other cities. The ink on their hand-lettered signs ran in the downpour

but spirits remained high.

"We need the rain," Ms. Lamb declared, "but it wouldn't matter if the sun was shining or if it was 110 degrees in the shade, our message is the same, 'Save Public Housing!'"

Reverend Mark Taylor, Pastor of the Church of the Open Door in Brooklyn, accompanied the residents. He stood close by Ms. Lamb and told the crowd that their voices would be heard even more emphatically because of their commitment and persistence.

Paulette Shomo, Resident Association President of Marble Hill Houses in the Bronx had no doubt

that the journey was well worth the effort. A former NYCHA employee of 36 years, Ms. Shomo now works in the office of Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat as a constituent liaison and knows firsthand the impact voters have on elected officials.

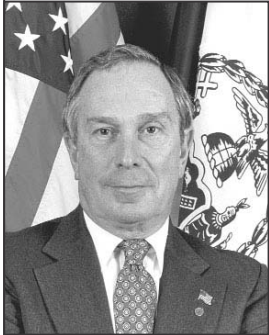
"We get 100 calls a month in the assemblyman's office," said Ms. Shomo, "and most of them are about landlords and tenants. That's the most important thing on people's minds whether they're in NYCHA or not." Because almost all of NYCHA's funding comes from Washington, she observed, it is in Washington that the concerns

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Agency Plan Public Hearing, July 16th

Message From The Mayor

Get In The Swim Of New York City This Summer



New York City's 14 miles of beaches offer all New Yorkers a free and fun way to cool down and enjoy themselves during the hot summer months. All beaches opened on Saturday, May 24, 2003, and all outdoor pools will open on Saturday, June 28, 2003. And thanks to lifeguards from around the City and around the world, all of the City's beaches and pools will be open throughout the upcoming summer.

The Department of Parks & Recreation conducts an extensive lifeguard recruitment campaign which includes international recruitment, visiting public schools, distributing literature, and making public service announcements. An expected 50 foreign lifeguards will patrol City beaches and pools this summer. The City is seeking to place a total of 1,100 lifeguards at beaches and pools throughout the five boroughs.

The City decided to continue recruiting international lifeguards because of the success of last year's program. Last summer, for the first time in the City's history, 37 lifeguards from around the globe patrolled the City's beaches and pools. These lifeguards, who arrived from the Netherlands, England, Ireland, Scotland, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Romania, and Yugoslavia, along with local recruits, helped protect over ten million people who visited City beaches and pools last year.

Candidates for lifeguard positions must be 16 years or older, swim 50 yards in 35 seconds, and complete 40 hours of training, including CPR instruction. The Department of Parks & Recreation still has lifeguard openings, and potential applicants should call 311. I encourage all qualified New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents to apply.

The City's beaches are open daily from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. City beaches include Orchard Beach in the Bronx; Brighton Beach, Coney Island, and Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn; Rockaway Beach in Queens; and Midland Beach, South Beach, and Wolfe's Pond Beach in Staten Island. Swimming is prohibited when beaches are closed. As a matter of public safety, we remind beach-goers to observe all beach rules and regulations, and especially to never swim when there is not a lifeguard on duty.

This summer the City is offering a new service — people may ride free MTA 'F' and 'Q' Beach Buses from nearby subway stations non-stop to Coney Island. The free Beach Buses will operate between the last stops on the 'F' and 'Q' subway lines and a temporary beach terminal located on Surf Avenue at West 8th Street near the Cyclone. The special buses will run Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays between 8:00 AM and 11:00 PM through the weekend after Labor Day. Passengers may board the 'F' Beach Bus at the Avenue X station and the 'Q' Beach Bus at the Sheepshead Bay station. In addition to the Beach Buses, there will be more frequent weekend service on the 'W' subway line, which will offer the only subway service to Coney Island while rehabilitation work continues at the several local subway stations, as well as increased weekend and weekday 'F' shuttle service, and B1 and B68 bus service.

I'd like to wish all NYCHA residents a happy and safe summer season and encourage you to take advantage of the City's beaches and pools. City beaches and pools are free to the public and will be open through Labor Day, September 1, 2003.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Former Edenwald Resident Retires At 44 After Successful Career In The Military

By Eileen Elliott

During his more-than-25-year career in the military, Master Sergeant Raymond M. Jackson has received many awards and decorations. He has serviced aircraft with names like the Eagle, the Warthog, the Fighting Falcon and the F-117 Stealth Fighter. He has circled the globe. But on June 6, 2003 at 1400 hours (that's 2PM) Master Sergeant Raymond Jackson went back to being just Raymond Jackson. At the age of 44, he retired at a gala ceremony held at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where he has been stationed for the past two years.

Raymond Jackson is one of many former NYCHA residents for whom public housing has helped to provide the foundation for a wonderful future. And although he has lived all over the world, in a recent interview Msgr. Jackson said that wherever he is, he always considers New York City and Edenwald Houses in the Bronx his true home.

"I'm so proud of my baby," said Mrs. Louise Jackson, Raymond's mother, who still lives in the development where she raised Raymond and his seven siblings. "He's really accomplished a lot. He's a very giving person. When Raymond comes home my house just jumps—its full of young people."

Msgr. Jackson shared only fond memories of Edenwald. "I spent a lot of time with the Police Athletic League when I was growing up," he said. "I had the best friends anyone could have. We did everything together. After school we went to the Community Center on 229th Street where we were given snacks and played games. I also really enjoyed community activities like trips to Bear Mountain and block parties."

Jackson first became interested in the military during his senior year at the Food and Maritime Trades High School in Manhattan. After his high school graduation in 1977, Raymond Jackson enlisted in the United States Army and was sent to Basic Training at Ft. Jackson's Tank Hill in South Carolina where, "The hardest thing at first was taking orders."

He then went on to Technical School at Ft. Lee, Virginia, and at the age of 19 his first duty assignment took him halfway around the world, to Zweibrucken Air Base in Germany. While there, he was a small arms weapons instructor for the Combat Intelligence Imagery Interpretation Detachment of the 66th Military Intelligence Group. When his enlistment with the Army was up in 1981, Jackson joined the U.S. Air Force.

Why the Air Force? A simple reason. "The Army had barracks, with three or four to a room; on the Air Force Base I would have a room to myself."

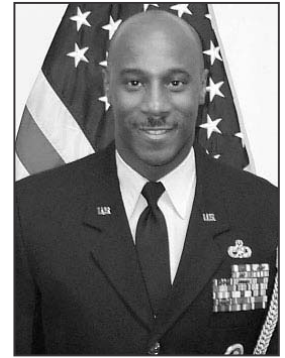
In June of 1981, Raymond Jackson attended Jet Engine Me-

chanic Technical School at Chanute Air Force Base in Illinois. His first Air Force Assignment was at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, with the 48th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Air Defense Command. At Langley he serviced the engines of the F-106 Delta Dart and was instrumental in the transition to the F15 Eagle.

Jackson continued to hone his aircraft maintenance skills at Hill Air Force Base in Utah before he was assigned to Misawa Air Base in Japan. There, his dedication to duty and attention to detail earned him the "Five Star Dedicated Crew Chief Award" for the best jet in the wing in February 1990. His aircraft also won the "High Flyer Award" for Exercise Cope Thunder at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

In October of 1992, Jackson returned to Germany, this time to Spangdahlem Air Base where he won more medals and awards, including the 1994 Foreign Object Damage Fighter of the Year Award. His next assignment was to Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico.

In 1997, Jackson was promoted to Master Sergeant. A master



Master Sergeant Raymond M. Jackson

sergeant is a sergeant who has mastered his career field, in the case of MSgt. Jackson, that field is aircraft maintenance. In 1999, he completed the Senior Noncommissioned Officer correspondence course and was awarded his Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Systems Technology, and another CCAF Degree in Personnel Administration.

Mr. Jackson said he is most proud of a recent Achievement Medal he received when he stopped a civilian aircraft from taking off because of possible FOD — that's military talk for Foreign Object Damage. He saw a mechanic accidentally drop some nuts and washers in the front intake of the plane's engine, and alerted the crew to prevent it from taking off.

"He saved a whole plane full of

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Message From The Chairman

Make Your Voice Heard On the Draft 2004 Agency Plan



Most New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") residents are aware that each year NYCHA and the Resident Advisory Board (RAB), now comprising 54 members, work together to complete an Agency Plan. This plan is required by law and submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Crucial issues that affect the lives of residents, issues like Community Service, rent, crime and safety, and NYCHA's tenant selection procedures, are just

some of the policy issues that are addressed in the annual plan.

The 2004 Draft Agency Plan has been available for public inspection since May 30, 2003 and will continue to be available through July 16, 2003, at which time the Housing Authority will hold a public hearing at the New York Marriott on 333 Adams Street in Brooklyn, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. The hearing will provide the public with an opportunity to speak directly to NYCHA's board. There are many opportunities for NYCHA residents to view the plan. Each Resident Association President has a copy, each RAB member and their alternates have a copy, management offices in each NYCHA development have a copy and it is also available at nine designated community centers. Residents with computer access can also log onto www.nyc.gov/nycha to view a draft copy of the plan.

In addition to the public hearing in July, NYCHA has already held three town hall-style meetings, in Brooklyn, Manhattan and Queens, to solicit resident comments, and will hold two more, one in the Bronx at the Classic Center at Melrose Houses on June 25, 2003 and one in Staten Island at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center on June 30, 2003. (See "Notice" on page 5 for full details.)

We want to hear from you! Communication between NYCHA's administration and the nearly half-a-million residents of our 345 public housing developments is the best way of making sure that your concerns are taken into account as policy decisions are made for the upcoming year. If you haven't seen a copy of the 2004 Draft Agency Plan I urge you to do so and if you feel strongly about any of the issues in that plan please come to one of the two remaining town hall meetings, or the public hearing on July 16 and let us know what you think.

I would also like to encourage residents who are unable to attend any of these meetings to submit written comments on the draft plan. The deadline for receipt of these comments is the same as the date of the public hearing, July 16, 2003. Comments can be sent to the Housing Authority via the internet at the address mentioned above, or by mail to The New York City Housing Authority/Public Housing Agency Plan Comments/Church Street Station/P.O. Box 3422/New York, New York 10008-3422.

What happens after the public hearing? Once all of the comments are received NYCHA will take them into account in preparing a final version of the plan. In August, the Final Plan will be submitted to the RAB for their final comments. NYCHA's response to these final comments will accompany the 2004 Agency Plan when it is submitted to HUD in October. If HUD does not disapprove the plan in 75 days it will be approved.

One of the hottest topics addressed by residents in recent town hall meetings is Community Service. The law suspending the Community Service requirement — that some residents perform eight hours a month of community service as a condition of their tenancy — has expired and the New York City Housing Authority has no choice but to implement the law. However, NYCHA has expanded the list of exemptions from community service to approximately 20 different classifications and will consider suggestions for additional classifications received at the town hall meetings and at the public hearing.

Tino Hernandez

Attack On Rats In Bedford-Stuyvesant

Educate, investigate, exterminate! That's State Senator Velmanette Montgomery's motto as she and a Task Force of City and State agencies work to end what has commonly been referred to as an "infestation" of rats in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn. Over the past year, the Senator and concerned residents and merchants in the area have worked together with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the Department of Sanitation, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and a number of state agencies to put an end to the resilient rodents.



State Senator
Velmanette Montgomery

Representatives from these agencies provided an update for area residents in a panel discussion hosted by the Senator on the evening of May 22, 2003 at the Boys and Girls High School on Utica Avenue. State Assembly Member Annette Robinson also participated.

"Our first meeting was in the Spring of 2002," the Senator told an audience of 50 or so area residents. "Most of the 12 people on this panel have been meeting since then to resolve a long list of issues and problems and have been involved in many levels of activity. We decided then that we needed to establish an ongoing program to keep this problem in abeyance."

There are many NYCHA developments in the area including Brevoort, Armstrong, Albany, Tompkins and Sumner Houses. NYCHA's Technical Advisor for Pest Control Jamal Rashid and Refuse Management and Recycling Coordinator Tony Solomita were on hand to discuss procedures for dealing with rodents on NYCHA property. Mr. Rashid informed the audience that NYCHA has 91 licensed exterminators with nine supervisors to cover all property — apartments, grounds, and basements. NYCHA receives complaints from a variety of City

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Deborah's Diary



By Deborah Williams

Congratulations to Tiffany Wright of 131 St. Nicholas Avenue in Manhattan. On May 4, 2003, Tiffany graduated from Paul Smith College with an Associate's Degree in Culinary Arts. In August of 2003, Tiffany will be off to Delhi New York, where she plans to attend SUNY Delhi to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Food Service and Restaurant Management. Tiffany is the granddaughter of 131 St. Nicholas Avenue's Resident Association President Gloria Wright. *Tiffany, your grandmother contacted me because she wanted to tell the world how proud she is of your accomplishment. I can't guarantee the world will read this but the NYCHA Journal does have a circulation of 200,000 and will at least get the word started. I too would like to say congrats on a job well done and I expect to hear from you when you get your Bachelor's Degree. In the meantime stay focused and study hard to make your dreams become a reality.*

Graduation Announcement Ms. Mary Ealey of the Moore Houses in the Bronx would like to announce that on May 23, 2003 her daughter Monica Ealey graduated cum laude from the State University of New York at Stony Brook with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. In the words of your mom Ms. Ealey, "You Go Girl!"

Monica, it takes great strength and commitment to your studies to graduate cum laude, and for that I believe you deserve a round of applause and praise. Beverly and Thomas Jr. wanted to take this opportunity to also extend congratulations to their sister on a job well done.

Being a modest person and unwilling to accept all the glory, Monica would like to acknowledge that without her family's dedication, their hard work and sacrifice, her graduation would have not been possible. She extends her heartfelt thanks to her family. After graduation Monica will continue to work at the NYC Department of Mental Health and Hygiene. However, her educational career is far from being over. Her Bachelor's Degree is just a stepping stone. She plans to go on to law school later in life.

Honorable Mentions Murphy Community Center Director Leroy Williams didn't know when he submitted the essays of ten children from his center to the *Bronx Times* Mother's Day Essay Contest that he would open the newspaper one day and read the names of all of those children. However, on May 15, 2003 he did just that! He opened the paper and read the names: Kevin Martinez, Getsie Marie Richards, Brandon Seda, Augustin Molina, Kristopher Brown, Tisa Tana Evans, Naisha Turner, Carrie Dueño, and Antonio Nieves.

"When one of the children came to me and showed me that ten of the children in the community center were given honorable mentions for their writing, I was thrilled and excited. It made me feel as though we are able to make a difference in these young people's lives in such a short amount of time, since the Community Center has only been open for four months. I am very proud of these children," wrote an enthused Leroy Williams.

This was quite an accomplishment for the children, since over 2000 contestants submitted their essays to the *Bronx Times*. With pen and paper in hand, these remarkable children aged 6 to 13 years were able to create inspirational Mother's Day messages that would earn them all an honorable mention. *Well kids you deserve a standing ovation and a round of applause—you did great! Remember if you really enjoy writing stay with it because the ability to write well can open the door to an exciting future.*

**To Report
Dangerous Dogs
Call the Dog Hotline:
1 (888) 895-3647**

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 March 13, 27, April 3, 10, 24, and May 8, 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 March 13, 2002

Ira Santana Case 656/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 55 Rutgers Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of March 27, 2002

Roosevelt Joye Case 867/02 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 2940 West 31st Street, Surfside Gardens, Brooklyn.

Michael Ward Case 869/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 426 Columbia Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.

Anthony Hawkins Case 873/02 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 314 East 143rd Street, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.

Ayesha Carter Case 874/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 1315 Amsterdam Avenue, Grant Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of April 3, 2002

Lineton Brown Case 1042/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 293 Dumont Avenue, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.

Tara Ruiz Case 1045/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 515 Rosedale Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.

Holis Forteau Case 963/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 450 East 169th Street, Webster Houses, the Bronx.

Raul Echevarria Case 1007/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1595 Madison Avenue, Lehman Houses, Manhattan.

Latoya Phillips Case 1034/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 197 Gordon Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.

Bryant Jones Case 1036/02 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 301 East 156th Street, Jackson Gardens, the Bronx.

Terrell Lauallen Case 1028/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2237 Second Avenue, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.

Cynthia White Case 1029/02 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 890 East 6th Street, Wald Houses, Manhattan

Richard Buel Case 1030/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 700 Morris Avenue, Melrose Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of April 10, 2002

Raymond Rivera Case 1076/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 865 Cauldwell Avenue, Union Avenue Consolidation Houses, the Bronx.

Kaseem Palmer Case 1104/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 108-39 Flatlands Avenue, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn.

Robert Hayward Case 1107/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 2160 Seward Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Nelson Padiel Case 1109/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 2120 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of April 24, 2002

Joseph Ramon Case 1434/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of May 8, 2002

Terrence Johnson Case 1649/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1595 Madison Avenue, Lehman Houses, Manhattan.

33rd Annual Talent Search

(Continued from page 1)



Isis McIntosh
First Place, Ages 6-13

category, ages 56 and up. The Housing Authority also introduced a special award this year, The Mel Edwards Award, in honor of the consultant who conceived of the Talent Search Competition, and served as its director for 27 years. The Mel Edwards Award is reserved for that resident who shows initiative, enthusiasm, show biz spirit and (most importantly) wins the heart of the audience.

The two hours flew by with many notable acts: there was ballet and modern dance, a lot of



Cherelle Davis
First Place, Ages 14-18

singing of popular, hip hop and classic songs, and as mentioned earlier, one poem. After the competition the audience was treated to performances by some of last year's winners. One was Eric Darby of Wagner Houses, who sang, "I Think I Can Fly" while the five judges, all of whom have impressive careers in the entertainment industry, made their decisions.

And the winners were...

In the 6-13 Age Category: Isis McIntosh of VanDyke Houses took First Place for her original poem about African American history; Second Place went to the dance troupe Dynamic Expression of Cypress Hills; and Third Place went to vocalist Silvina Williams, also of Cypress Hills, whose talent transcended her years when she sang, "I Keep Fallin' In And Out Of Love With You."

In the 14-18 Age Category which was the most competitive with eight acts: First Place went to Cherelle Davis; Second Place went to Dara Gadsen for her moving ballet performance; and Third Place went to vocalist Kimberly Gonzales of Campos Plaza, who sang the inspirational, "The Hero Lies In You."

In the 19-55 Age Category, First Place went to the dancers with hip street clothes and liquid movements who seem destined to fulfill their name — Fame — from Astoria Houses; Second Place went to Music In the Center for their bluesy rendition of "God Bless The Child"; and Third Place went to Sam Newton of Wagner Houses for his dynamic performance on the drums.

In the 56 and Up Age Category: First Place went to Gail Williams of Cypress Hills; Second Place to



Gail Williams
First Place, 56 & Up

Mona Lisa of Langston Hughes Houses who sang a spiritual; and Third Place went to Hope Thomas of Marcus Garvey Houses. Ms. Thomas sang "It's All In The Game."

Vocalist Linda Hutchinson in the 19-55 age category took the Mel Edwards Award for her soulful rendition of the classic, "At Last My Love Has Come Along."

All of the performers joined the NYCHA Youth Chorus for a grand finale, singing, appropriately, "Oh Happy Day!"



Linda Hutchinson
Mel Edwards Winner

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



West Nile Virus Information

The West Nile Virus season is upon us. Residents, protect yourself against the West Nile Virus:

- Wear clothing covering skin between dusk and dawn
- Make sure all windows have tight fitting screens
- Repair or replace all torn screens
- Report all standing water on NYCHA properties by calling the City's new all-purpose non-emergency number, "311," or call your development Management Office
- Report all dead birds by calling 311 or your development Management Office

Residents In Washington, D.C.

(Continued from page 1)

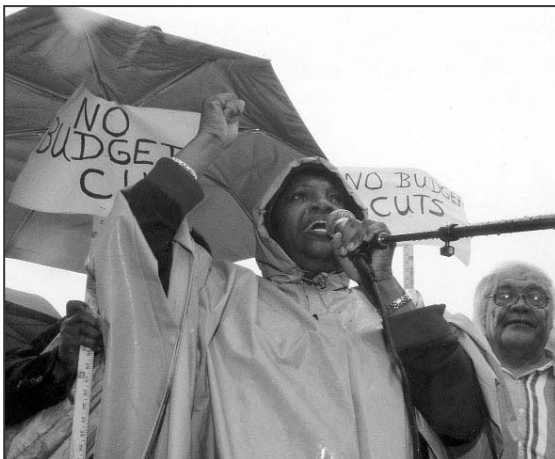


of public housing residents must be heard. "We want to make sure the Housing Authority isn't strapped. Budget cuts have already affected some programs and they had to cut down on weekend workers."

Raymond Ballard, Chair of the Brooklyn West Council of Presidents and President of the Summer Houses Resident Association, led the chant, "Save our homes," and then addressed his remarks to President Bush. "Charity begins at home and the homes of public housing residents are being neglected. Restore the money for our homes, Mr. President," said the 38-year NYCHA resident over the splattering rain. "That is what I call 'Homeland Security.'"

Reginald H. Bowman, Second Vice President of the Citywide Council of Presidents and Resident Association President of Seth Low Houses in Brooklyn, told the crowd that it was time for the federal government to restore the cuts to operational and capital funding. "Put the money back," urged Mr. Bowman. As the residents headed back to their buses after the speeches, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Lamb and a group of residents made their way to the office of New York Senator Hillary Clinton where they hand-delivered over 5,000 cards and letters from NYCHA residents addressed to President George W. Bush and HUD Secretary Mel Martinez. Ms. Lamb requested that Senator Clinton's staff make sure that they were delivered.

"I told them that there were more to come," said Mr. Bowman.



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NOTICE

New York City Housing Authority Agency Plan 2004

In accordance with Section 5A of the Housing Act of 1937 as amended, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has developed a draft agency plan for the year 2004. The draft plan was developed following weeks of meetings and discussions with the 54 members of the citywide Resident Advisory Board.

Availability of Plan for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the proposed plan will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, Reception Area, New York, and New York, starting on May 30, 2003 through July 16, 2003 between the hours of 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The Plan will also be available at the following locations:

- On NYCHA's webpage, which can be located at <http://www.nyc.gov/nycha>
- At the Management Office of each NYCHA public housing development during regular business hours.
- At the Community Centers listed below during the hours of 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM:

Campos Plaza Community Center 611 East 13 th Street New York, New York	Baychester Community Center 1220 East 229 th Street Bronx, New York	Atlantic Terminal Community Center 501 Carlton Avenue Brooklyn, New York
King Towers Community Center 2 West 115 th Street New York, New York	Bland Community Center 133-36 Roosevelt Avenue Flushing, New York	Breukelen Community Center 715 East 105 th Street Brooklyn, New York
Classic Center at Melrose 286 East 156 th Street Bronx, New York	Ocean Bay/Edgemere Community Center 57-10 Beach Channel Drive Far Rockaway, New York	Staten Island Community Operations Borough Office 140 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, New York

Public Comment

NYCHA will hold five Town Hall meetings at which the public is invited to raise questions regarding the draft plan to senior NYCHA officials. These meetings will be held between 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM at the dates and locations shown below:

Tuesday, June 3, 2003 Brooklyn Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts Walt Whitman Theater Campus Road Between Nostrand Ave and Avenue H Brooklyn, New York		Thursday, June 12, 2003 Manhattan Pace University Schimmel Theater Spruce Street Bet. Park Row and Gold Street New York, New York
Monday, June 16, 2003 Queens Elechester Industrial Center 67-35 Parsons Blvd at Jewel Ave Flushing, New York	Wednesday, June 25, 2003 Bronx Classic Center at Melrose 286 E. 156 th at Morris Avenue Avenue Bronx, New York	Monday, June 30, 2003 Staten Island Snug Harbor Cultural Center 1000 Richmond Terrace at Snug Harbor Road Staten Island, New York

Public Comment:

NYCHA also invites public comment on the proposed plan at a public hearing to be held on *Wednesday, July 16, 2003, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at

The New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge
333 Adams Street
(between Fulton and Tillary Streets)
Brooklyn, New York

Each location listed above is both handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation.

Written comments regarding the draft plan are encouraged. To be considered **submissions must be received not later than July 16, 2003**. Comments may be sent either through the internet address set out above or via ordinary mail (fax submissions will not be accepted) to the address set forth below:

New York City Housing Authority
Public Housing Agency Plan Comments
Church Street Station
P.O. Box 3422
New York, New York 10008-3422

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

Tino Hernandez, Chairman

*Please note July 16 is a Wednesday, not Thursday as stated in last month's Journal

Edenwald Resident's Military Career

(Continued from page 2)

people," his mother, Mrs. Jackson said.

Jackson said he has enjoyed travelling the world and experiencing new and diverse cultures. He attributes his success in the military to his strong work ethic. Now that he has retired, Raymond Jackson plans to return to school. Because his wife Nicole, who is also

in the service, will still be on active duty, Jackson is unsure where his permanent roots will be, since he will follow his wife to wherever her assignments take her.

"The military has given me the ability to look at life in greater perspective. I have grown to the point where I feel I truly know the meaning of life and why we are

here — to help our fellow man or woman — that's what it's all about, not material things."

And when asked what he considers to be the best thing about the military, Msgt. Jackson was emphatic in his response, "There are NO boundaries; anything is possible!"

FDNY FIRE SAFETY

FDNY wants you to become part of our Fire Safety Team. Keeping you and your family fire safe whether at home, work or school takes planning, preparation and teamwork.

*Fire prevention starts with **you**. So talk it over with your family. And remember:*

1 SMOKE DETECTORS

Test them often to make sure they work. Replace the batteries at least twice a year when you change your clock for daylight savings.

2 HAVE A HOME FIRE ESCAPE PLAN

Develop a home escape plan with your family in case of fire. Practice it. Have a pre-arranged meeting place somewhere outside.

3 HOME SAFETY INSPECTION

*Conduct a safety inspection of potential fire hazards in the home. **Eliminate** them. Make every room fire safe.*

FDNY TOP TEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS



1. Smoke alarms save lives. Test and maintain them.
2. Smoking and drinking are a lethal combination. Smoking carelessness is a leading cause of fire. Don't empty ashtrays into the trash.
3. Keep matches, lighters and candles away from children.
4. Be careful with candles. Don't leave them unattended. Never sleep with candles burning.
5. Remove electrical cords from under rugs and behind radiators. Never nail or staple the cord to walls or molding.
6. Never overload outlets and extension cords.
7. Never put a portable space heater near drapes, furniture, bedding or other flammable materials.
8. Move flammable liquids stored near the stove or other heat source to a safe, distant location.
9. Remove all materials on or near your stove that could catch fire, including paper, dishcloths, etc.
10. Early notification can make all the difference – in case of fire, call **911**.

Brooklyn Rat Forum

(Continued from page 3)

agencies, as well as residents. All pesticides used by the Authority are registered with the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection and are approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

DOHMH's Rick Simeone narrated a ten-minute slide show that provided some basic rat facts. For example, the most common rat in New York City is the Norway rat which grows to an average size of one to one-and-a-half feet and has a very thin bone structure — so thin that it can fit through a space as small as one-and-a-half inches. These rats live in colonies of 60 or more, have seven to ten litters annually, and feed at dawn and dusk.

Signs that you may have rats if you don't actually see them include gnaw marks, droppings, high pitched squeals and odors.

In introducing Yves Rene, also from DOHMH, Mr. Simeone said his "endless hours in the Bushwick section training homeowners and working with community based organizations has resulted in a reduction of rats."

Mr. Rene elaborated on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques, which when implemented properly, reduce the amount of rodenticide and pesticide that needs to be used. These techniques include blocking the paths by which rodents travel from floor to floor or room to room; keeping all surfaces in the home clean, including floors and

MS. FOUNDATION AWARDS

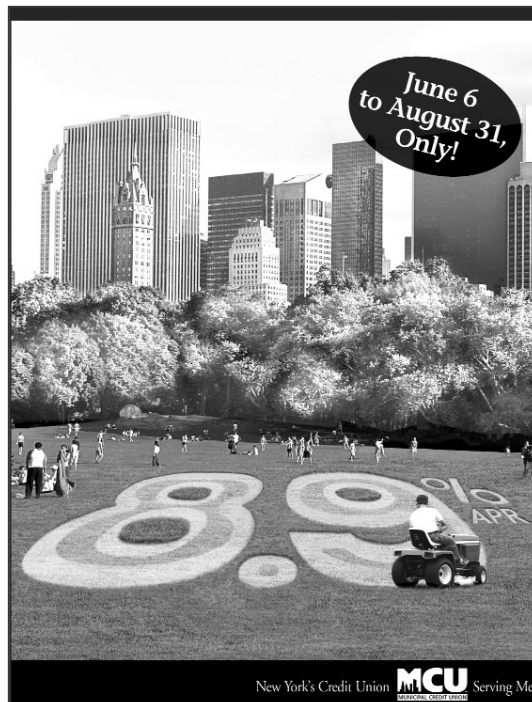


Girls and women from New York City Housing Authority community centers in Brooklyn came to the Waldorf Astoria on May 15, 2003 to celebrate the Ms. Foundation for Women's 2003 Gloria Awards. The event marked the 30th Anniversary of the Ms. Foundation. The Foundation's Mission is to "support the efforts of women and girls, to govern their lives and influence the world around them." The girls who attended all participate in the biweekly rap session held at the Seth Low Community Center called, "Can We Talk?" Pictured here are (left to right) Glenmore Community Center Director Sadie Sanders, Anish Coleman from the Tilden Community Center, NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Brooklyn Borough Senior Program Manager Lisa Davis, and Breukelen Houses residents Selah Bucknal and Shakira West from the Seth Low Community. The Ms. Foundation works in unison with NYCHA's Department of Community Operations to sponsor such events as the Take Our Children to Work Day, held this year on April 24th. *Photo credit: Sarah Quintana.*

countertops; keeping all food in containers and keeping trash well sealed. Mr. Rene said that these simple techniques will eliminate rodents by up to 60%. "The biggest problem we have here in the City is containment," he said, referring to inadequate storage of trash left on the streets.

Assembly Member Robinson stated the single most important message of the panel succinctly when she said, "We as a community have to work cooperatively with the City agencies to rid ourselves of these four-legged pests that cause sickness and disease."

NYCHA residents who would like to register a rodent complaint should call their development's Management Office or 311.



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Far Rockaway Homeownership Fair



(Above) Over 150 public housing and private residents attended the Far Rockaway Homeownership Fair co-sponsored by NYCHA, FannieMae, U.S. Representative Gregory Meeks and the With Ownership, Wealth (WOW) Committee Members. (Below) Youth who participate in the Ocean Bay Audio Program pose with two NYCHA staff, Caretaker Eugene Pinckard (front left) and Department of Housing Finance and Development Michelle Diaz (in second row).



The New York City Housing Authority's Department of Housing Finance and Development participated in the Far Rockaway Homeownership Fair on April 26, 2003 at Junior High School 198 in Far Rockaway, Queens. The purpose of the fair was to inform people who live in the Far Rockaway area about homeownership opportunities.

The event was co-sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation With Ownership, Wealth (WOW) Initiative and the FannieMae New York Partnership Office. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), as well as approximately 25 leading lending institutions, community organizations, realtors and professional home service organizations set up information booths at the fair.

Congressman Gregory W. Meeks officially opened the program and urged participants to take advantage of the homeownership opportunities that exist in Queens. There were six workshops which focused on First-time Homeownership, Knowing and Understanding Credit, How to Avoid Predatory Lending, Co-ops and Condos and the Ocean Bay HOPE VI Homeownership Program.

NYCHA's Department of Housing Finance and Development Director Sharon Ebert facilitated the HOPE VI workshop. Deputy Director Richard French served as a panelist on the Finding an Affordable Home workshop and discussed NYCHA's citywide homeownership initiatives. NYCHA is collaborating with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and other organizations to help create homeownership opportunities throughout the city.

The overall goal of the Ocean Bay HOPE VI Program is to physically and economically revitalize the formerly named Arverne and Edgemere Houses in Queens, which have been renamed Ocean Bay apartments. The revitalization will result not only in the comprehensive renovation of the physical environment but will include a program of community and supportive services for the benefit of the residents. The project also includes the renovation of an existing shopping plaza and the construction of a new 33,000-square-foot recreation center.

As of March 2003, the modernization work at Ocean Bay was more than 80% complete, with over 600 apartments slated to be rented in the coming months.

Summer's Here... Make Sure Your Window Guards and Air Conditioners Are In Place!

As the weather gets warmer it's especially important to make sure that your window guards are in place and that air conditioners are properly installed. Don't think for a minute that simply having screens in your windows can prevent accidents the way window guards can. They can't!

The New York City Health Code requires all residential property owners to install window guards in every apartment where a child who is under 10 years old resides or at the request of a resident whether or not a child lives in the apartment, free of charge. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) takes it one step further, and requires the use of window guards in apartments where a child who is 10 years old or younger regularly visits.

NYCHA installs window guards in all windows, including windows leading to a terrace or balcony at no cost to the resident. Windows providing access to fire escapes and windows that are a secondary exit in a first floor apartment where there are no fire escapes on the upper floors do not require window guards.

If you do not have a full set of window guards installed and if there are children 10 years of age or younger living in or visiting your apartment regularly, or you otherwise want window guards installed in your windows, please contact your development's Management Office IMMEDIATELY so that window guards can be installed.

Every NYCHA lease requires that residents cooperate and do everything necessary to permit NYCHA to comply with New York City laws concerning the installation of window guards. Current residents and occupants are required to complete the Annual Window Guard Survey. In addition, residents may not refuse the installation of window guards.

Remember: It is a violation of the law if: You do not complete the Annual Window Guard Survey; You refuse or do not allow access to install window guards if children 10 years old or younger live in your apartment; you remove window guards from your windows. Residents and occupants who fail to comply may be subject to penalties and/or termination of tenancy.

However, air conditioners are an acceptable alternative to window guards only if they are properly and permanently installed (not seasonally removed). Prior to installation of air conditioners, residents are required to sign an Air Conditioner Agreement. The Agreement requires that residents notify NYCHA within (3) three days after installation of the air conditioner has been completed. Air conditioners are installed at the resident's expense. Installation guidelines are as follows:

The air conditioner unit must fit the entire width of the window. There cannot be any open unguarded spaces greater than 4 1/2 inches; two "L" shaped stops are required in the window track when the space between the air conditioner and the fully raised window sash is greater than 4 1/2 inches; "L" shaped stops must be installed in both sides of the inside window track to prevent the window from lifting upward; the air conditioner must be permanently attached to the window opening and the air conditioner must have a permanent, structurally sound barrier installed when it does not fill the entire width of the window.

You must notify your Management Office immediately when an air conditioner is to be removed and schedule an appointment so that a window guard can be installed at the time the air conditioner is removed.

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