



Journal

Parkside Community Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

A Beacon Of Light For NYCHA's Youth



GRAND OPENING (left to right) Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler (partially hidden), Community Center Director Doreen Davis, City Councilmember G. Oliver Koppell, Donna K. Drayton of Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson's office (partially hidden), Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Community Operations Bronx Borough Deputy Director Iliia Figueroa and Director Deidra Gilliard, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple and Board Member Earl Andrews, Jr. prepare to snip the ribbon at Parkside, marking the community center's opening.

By Eileen Elliott

Just down the hill from the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Parkside Houses Senior Center in the Bronxdale section of the Bronx and across the street from the Bronx Park, is the newly renovated Parkside Community Center. If you happened to have visited the center on the morning of March 31, 2003, you would have witnessed a gathering of the many people who helped to make the \$1.67 million renovation possible. After four years in the making, the cozy, 5,000-square-foot Parkside Community Center sparkled while the community came out to celebrate its official opening with—what else—a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony.

Streams of visitors ducked (complete with kiln) as they made their way to the multi-purpose room at the end of the hall where room and arts and crafts studio

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REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING ON NYCHA PROPERTY

Did you know that it is against the law to dump, deposit or otherwise dispose of dirt, gravel, building rubbish, household waste, or debris of any sort, being transported in a dump truck or other vehicle, in or upon any street, lot, park, public place or other area whether publicly or privately owned?

That includes dumping on NYCHA property. Unfortunately, the fact that this practice is illegal doesn't prevent it from happening. It happens on NYCHA property all over the city, most often in developments where dumpsters are visible from the street, or where there is curbside pickup. Often construction companies or store owners are the culprits. Not only does this illegal dumping make our grounds unsightly, NYCHA must pay to have the rubbish removed.

Dumper Tip Program

But...there's something you can do. The Department of Sanitation (DSNY) runs an Illegal Dumper Tip Program, which was created to help get New York City residents involved without placing them at risk by the dumpers. If an individual provides information leading to the conviction or a fine for illegal dumping, they may receive a bounty of up to half the fine imposed or \$500 for a criminal conviction when no fine is levied.

A few things to keep in mind if you see someone dumping illegally and you want to report them: Don't approach them directly; do not make your presence known! If you can, note the make and model of the vehicle, the color and the time, date and location. Do not touch the material dumped and remember that you are reporting the vehicle, not the individual doing the dumping.

To report the tip, while

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DEO Language Bank Salutes 190 Volunteers At Luncheon

By Allan Leicht

New York, perhaps more than any other city in the country, distinguishes the United States as a nation of immigrants and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) reflects this diversity, with nearly 40% of our households headed by a resident who was not born in the United States. For many immigrants, the opportunity of a new beginning is accompanied by the challenge of learning English, and the confusion and isolation that can result from living in a country where you do not understand or speak the language. For thousands of New Yorkers with limited English, NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO) established its Language Bank.

The Language Bank, or the Language Services Unit, as it is officially known, is a corps of NYCHA employees who generously volunteer their time and skill to bridge the language gap not only for NYCHA residents and applicants, but for New Yorkers seeking services from a variety of city agencies. On April 15, 2003 at a breakfast ceremony at District Council 37 headquarters in Manhattan, NYCHA and New York City said "thank you" to these volunteers at the Ninth Annual Language Bank Ceremony.

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Spring Easter Egg Hunt



PAINTED SMILES NYCHA residents from Community and Senior Centers in the Bronx came to Van Cortlandt Park to celebrate spring on April 24 with an Easter Egg Hunt and Festival. There was lots of fun to be had with pony rides, potato sack races, spoon egg relays, carnival games and face painting. The Easter Bunny also made an appearance. But it wasn't all fun and games. All 937 residents who came to the park participated in a group handshake, and it looks like they may have just broken the world record of 700 reported by Guinness.

Memorial Day, May 26, 2003

Message From The Mayor

May Is Foster Parent Recognition Month



May is Foster Parent Recognition Month and the New York City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) is recognizing foster parents through a new campaign aimed at recruiting and retaining foster parents. You may have already seen the many print advertisements all over the City — in newspapers, the subway, billboards, bus shelters and phone kiosks, or heard or seen them on the radio and television.

The new advertising campaign focuses on neighborhoods in districts of the City where most of the children who are in foster care come from. Four of the 18 "high need" districts include the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood in Brooklyn, Central Harlem, Concourse/Highbridge in the Bronx and Jamaica, Queens — neighborhoods that also house a large number of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents. This means that public housing residents are in a unique position to provide foster homes to children in the neighborhoods they are already familiar with.

NYCHA encourages the placement of foster children with qualified residents and money provided for the care of foster children is not included in the family's projected annual income. When necessary, a commitment letter from a foster care agency will entitle a NYCHA family to be placed on the waiting list for a larger apartment. The transfer will be handled in the same way as a family whose size increased through the birth of a child.

A 600-person telephone survey conducted by ACS last year found that in 16 of the high-need community districts, nearly all (95%) of current foster parents reported a positive experience in working with ACS in today's foster care. Additionally a majority of current foster parents (83%) and prospects (58%) believe that ACS is doing a good or very good job of helping children in need of families.

There has never been a better time to become a foster parent in New York City. Today's foster care is better than it has ever been. Foster parents are given tremendous training and better support systems than ever before with community based support groups called "Circles of Support" in each borough. Today's foster care also employs a neighborhood-based approach to placement so that children can remain in their neighborhoods of origin, close to their family, friends, schools, doctors and other health care resources.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of us to do more for the City's most vulnerable youth. It is critical for children who are in foster care in New York City to live in safe, stable, loving and permanent homes. Currently, there are approximately 25,400 children in foster care in New York City, with 8,500 children coming into care last year. Of the total 25,400, there are roughly 10,000 children who have the goal of adoption.

Becoming a foster parent is a very real way to make a difference in the world to a child in need. I encourage any New Yorker who has ever considered being a foster parent to call 311 (the City's new telephone number for information on any non-emergency City program or service) to inquire about the process. The Parent Recruitment Hotline through 311 is open 9AM — 5PM, Monday through Friday and is staffed by trained adoption representatives. You can also log onto www.nyc.gov to view the ACS Family Album, a color photo album which provides prospective parents with an introduction to the foster children in ACS's care who are waiting to be adopted.

Please take this opportunity to learn more about becoming a foster parent. You can make a big difference in the life of a child or a group of children in need of a permanent home.

Michael R. Bloomberg

DEO Language Bank Salutes Volunteers

(Continued from page 1)

The Fair Housing Act

The April ceremony coincided with the the Authority's recognition of National Fair Housing Month. The Fair Housing Act, which was signed on April 11, 1968, prohibits, among other things, discrimination in housing based on national origin. The 35th Anniversary of its signing was therefore an opportune time to honor the 190 Language Bank volunteers who serve as translators and interpreters in 43 languages. Although all 190 were not present at the ceremony, all were honored.

DEO Deputy Director Norman J. McCullough served as Master of Ceremonies, introducing DEO Director Fredrika A. Wilson who paid tribute to the NYCHA secretaries, lawyers, caretakers — employees from all quarters of the Authority for their service not only to the NYCHA community but to a variety of City agencies. Ms. Wilson reported that in the past year Language Bank volunteers had responded to 438 requests for translations and 538 requests for interpreters.

Chairman Tino Hernandez told the volunteers, "The work you do goes above and beyond. There is nothing like this program in scope at any other agency of the City."

Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., noting that this was his fourth annual Language Bank Ceremony, thanked the volunteers for making it possible to give every NYCHA resident or applicant an equal opportunity and equal access to the Housing Authority's many services and programs regardless of national origin or proficiency in English.

Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker for the occasion was Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Sayu V. Bhojwani. Ms. Bhojwani related her personal account of leaving India at the age of three with her grandmother, who barely spoke English. Commissioner Bhojwani told the gathering that now, many years later, she is fluent in four languages, but she remembered vividly her journey and how similar it was to the journeys many of the volunteers had taken.

The ability to identify with the 40% of New Yorkers who are foreign born, the Commissioner observed, is a critical aspect of creating a welcoming environment for newcomers to the City. "You look like and sound like the people you serve," she told the volunteers. "Without your help



KEYNOTE SPEAKER Commissioner Sayu V. Bhojwani of the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs was the keynote speaker at the Ninth Annual Language Bank Ceremony.

the City would not be able to meet its language needs. You are everyday heroes."

The volunteers could not give of their time as they do without the cooperation and support of the supervisors in charge of their regular responsibilities at the Authority. DEO Assistant Director Damaris Burgos made special mention of the supervisors who allow their staff to take that time, often at short notice. In response, Department of Records Management Director Irene Shapiro observed that the experience enabled employees to connect with residents and encouraged continued participation in the program.

A vivid picture of the Language Bank experience came from a volunteer, Design Depart-

ment Assistant Civil Engineer Klara Shvartz. "I am one who knows what it means not to know language," said Ms. Shvartz with a heavy Russian accent. "How scared I was, how vulnerable. Now I am brave enough to make this speech in front of you. When I came to this country it was the hardest time in my life. I remember how hard it was for me and I know I can make life a little bit easier for someone else, help them to understand this country, to love this country as I do — the United States of America. This is why it is so important."

The Language Bank volunteers were presented with certificates of recognition and were given the afternoon off as a token of NYCHA's appreciation.

The Housing Authority

Journal

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years
of Public Housing
in New York City

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Message From The Chairman

Enforcing The Prevailing Wage



The new Prevailing Wage Enforcement Initiative will make it even more difficult for contractors and subcontractors who carry out modernization and capital improvement work in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments to defraud their workers.

NYCHA awards over 1,000 construction contracts annually. Every contractor awarded a construction or building services contract with NYCHA is required to pay its workers wages and supplemental benefits that are equal to or greater than the applicable prevailing wage. These minimum wage rates and fringe benefits are set by federal and state prevailing wage laws and are designed to make sure that all tradespersons are paid fairly.

Over the years, the Housing Authority has worked very hard to ensure that the contractors and subcontractors on these jobs pay prevailing wages to their workers. Since 2000, NYCHA has investigated 143 contractors and uncovered 26 who failed to pay their workers prevailing wages amounting to over \$950,000. The money was recovered and the workers were paid. Currently, NYCHA is withholding over \$1.6 million in payments to contractors pending the outcome of ongoing investigations. In addition, NYCHA's Office of the Inspector General is in the process of recovering over \$6 million for workers who were underpaid by contractors.

Just as NYCHA works hard to enforce prevailing wage laws, we also try to make sure that residents are hired for these construction jobs through the Section 3 and Resident Employment Programs. In 2002, these programs placed 350 residents in jobs with contractors. Although NYCHA has always been dedicated to making sure that workers are getting paid the wages they deserve, now we are doing even more. Under the new initiative: NYCHA will increase the number of staff performing prevailing wage investigations and enforcement activities; contractors will be required to place an advisory poster at the work site informing workers of the prevailing wage. The poster lists a new toll-free number, 1-888-NYCHA-PW (1-888-692-4279), where workers can call to get help or more information. It also provides information to non-English speaking workers in Urdu, Russian, Spanish, Chinese, Hindi and Polish. Workers with questions can also call 311, the Citywide number for all non-emergency information and services.

NYCHA has established a uniform procedure for monitoring and enforcing prevailing wage requirements, specifically outlining the responsibilities of contractors, inspectors, development staff and administering departments. And all NYCHA staff with a role in the oversight of the performance of contracts will be held accountable for monitoring compliance with prevailing wage requirements. Over 620 NYCHA staff have been trained to date on the new requirements. NYCHA has also established provisions for training contractors so that all understand the new enforcement requirements.

Since the hotline has been open, from March 17 to April 30, we have received 68 calls. Many of these calls were on cases we were already investigating, which means that we have been doing our job. In addition to the current penalties such as the suspension of construction work, termination of a contract, a finding of non-responsibility and prevention from bidding on future contracts, NYCHA will now require contractors to pay for the cost of investigations where it is found that they failed to pay prevailing wages. This is a wake up call to contractors conducting business with NYCHA. Prevailing wage is a major priority. Contractors who do business with NYCHA know this; those who seek to do business with NYCHA know this, and whoever considers bidding for a contract with us should be aware of our rules. The Housing Authority will continue to be vigilant to ensure that workers get the pay and benefits to which they are entitled — anything short of that is not acceptable.

Tino Hernandez

3-1-1 CITIZEN SERVICE CENTER

Now New Yorkers only need to remember two numbers to access New York City government services: 9-1-1 for emergencies and 3-1-1 for all non-emergency City government services. Among the many services accessible through 3-1-1, you can:

- Find out if alternate side of the street parking is in effect;
- Report a loud noise or blocked driveway;
- Find your neighborhood library and its operating hours;
- Find out how to become a Parks Department lifeguard;
- Give the Mayor your opinion;
- Report a pothole or street light that needs to be fixed;
- Find out about garbage collection;
- And, much, much more.

3-1-1 eliminates the need to search through hundreds of numbers in the phone book to find the appropriate government agency that can assist you.

Calls to 3-1-1 are answered by a live operator, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and services are provided in over 170 languages. Callers are provided with a tracking number so that they can call back later to find out the status of their request. Dial 3-1-1 from within the City or (212) NEW YORK outside of the five boroughs. TTY service is also available by dialing (212) 504-4115.

3-1-1 provides New Yorkers with one easy-to-remember number to access non-emergency City government services. But remember — always call 9-1-1 for emergencies.

CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT OFFICE HOURS

Because of the current fiscal situation NYCHA will no longer be able to offer extended Management Office Hours on Wednesday evenings. If you are unable to come into the Management Office during the regular business hours of 8:30AM to 4:30PM, please contact your Housing Assistant who will make an effort to accommodate you via telephone or schedule a more convenient time.



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

In keeping with the spirit of Mother's Day, although it has already passed, I would like to dedicate my May column to all of the mothers who diligently and lovingly devote themselves to their children. I have received some letters from residents that express their love for their mother on Mother's Day and every day, that I would like to share with the readers of "Deborah's Diary."

To Rosie S. Figueroa of Throggs Neck Houses in the Bronx — You are a beautiful and special woman who has always been there for me and others, never once thinking of yourself. I thank God for making you my mother—HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! *With love, Regina.*

To Mary Ealey of the Moore Houses in the Bronx — To a wonderful mother that personifies greatness, love and dedication. We would like to say THANK YOU for all of your hard work, sacrifice and moral teachings, which have not gone unnoticed; but instead have been appreciated by us all. We would not only like to celebrate you on Mother's Day but every day because your love is eternal. Everything we do is for you; we work hard and strive for success to meet your approval, make you proud and show the world what a great mother we have. We would like to say—WE LOVE YOU! *Your grateful children, Beverly, Thomas Jr., and Monica.*

To Ethel Williams of the Webster Houses in the Bronx—It's not everyday that we get the opportunity to tell you or express to you how grateful we are to have you as our mother. There are no words that can truly express the love we each hold dear for you but we are hoping this will give you some insight and let you know how important you are to us. I know there are times that through our actions or choice of words we might appear to be selfish, opinionated and heartless but that's not who we are; and if we have hurt you in any way we would like to take this opportunity to apologize. We would like to convey to you on this Mother's Day the fact that you are our inspiration and without your love, understanding and direction we would not be who we are today. You have conquered the fears and myths of parenthood and have successfully raised nine children and two grandchildren and we know that was no easy task. Like Wonder Woman you always come to the rescue in our time of need and you are always available to help or guide us in raising our children. Throughout your life you have had good times, and tough times, losing your parents, several siblings and your eldest son and through it all you manage not only to keep your focus but you have kept the family intact—you are indeed a strong woman. You are a strong woman who we admire and mold our children after and it is with love and joy that we rejoice for your life and celebrate you on Mother's Day. Mom, you mean the world to us! *We all love you, Deborah, David, Cheryl, Paulette, Jacqueline, Ronald, Albert, Shakeema, David, Eric and Isiah—Thanks for being our MOM!*

To Rosemary Canteen in Brooklyn — Stephanie Canteen (known to everyone as Sabrina) of Stuyvesant Gardens in Brooklyn, along with her family have this very special message to share with their mom, Rosemary Canteen. We are truly blessed to have you as our mother. Your heart has been like a blanket providing warmth and love through the years. You have sheltered us from the cold world and instilled us with great values and for this we thank you. Sometimes life throws you a curve and you experience some heartfelt times, but having you as a mom made those times seem a little easier to endure. We send this message filled with love to you on Mother's Day with the hope that it brings added joy to your day. Although the celebration of Mother's Day comes but once a year we want you to know that we celebrate you each and every day. If it were possible to choose your mother, you would still be our one and only choice! We love you! *Tonya, Anthony, Stephanie, Richard, and your grandchildren.*

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on January 30, 2002, February 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2002, and March 13, 2002. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE PERSONS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LIST IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of January 30, 2002

- Gregory Harris Case 48/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1308 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
- Rahn Hill Case 85/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 620 East 137th Street, Millbrook Houses, the Bronx.
- Edwin Padua Case 101/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 155 Seigel Street, Borinquen Plaza II Houses, Brooklyn.
- Leroy Washington Case 104/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 159-38 Harlem River Drive, Rangel Houses, Manhattan.
- Roberto Diaz Case 1579/01 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 304 East 156th Street, Melrose Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of February 6, 2002

- Juan Beltré Case 209/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 74 West 92nd Street, Wise Towers, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of February 13, 2002

- Robert Brown Case 231/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 60 East 106th Street, Carver Houses, Manhattan.
- Idris Ofray Case 267/02 formerly associated with the Ground floor of 555 F.D.R. Drive, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.
- Shawanda Claxton Case 326/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 150 Brabant Street, Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island.
- Sherif Ray Case 328/02 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 2175 Lacombe Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of February 20, 2002

- Jairo Gil Case 398/02 formerly associated with the twentieth floor of 420 West 26th Street, Chelsea /Elliott Houses, Manhattan.
- Shawn Dew Case 362/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 2385 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
- Ivan Monserrate Case 364/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 1223 F.D.R. Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan.
- Derrick Foster Case 380/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 2007 Surfside Avenue, Carey Gardens Houses, Booklyn.

Prohibited as of February 27, 2002

- Ali Vasquez Case 486/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Gardens, Brooklyn.
- James Rawls, III Case 2196/02 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 390 Sutter Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.
- Cleophis Hammond Case 482/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 130 Humboldt Street, Borinquen Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
- James Shields Case 485/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 920 Vermont Street, Pennsylvania-Wortman Houses, Brooklyn.
- Jeremy Lake Case 529/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of West Brighton Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of March 13, 2002

- Sezer Hamilton Case 656/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 300 Morris Avenue, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.

YOUTH RALLY TO FOSTER TEEN PARTICIPATION

By Allan Leicht

It was February, not the usual time to go into the woods, but NYCHA teenagers from 25 community centers in all five boroughs gathered for a warm weekend at The Fresh Air Fund Camp in Hidden Valley in upstate New York. Accompanied by Community Operations Senior Program Managers, the teens came to find ways to rally their peers to participate in programs at their community centers.

"I never travelled to a real camp or the real woods before to see real deer up close like we did," said Shanee Lewis, a participant from South Beach Houses in Staten Island. "It was a fun experience I will never forget." But it was more than just fun.

"Our hope," said NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Hugh B. Spence, "is that the staff who attend this retreat will return to their respective centers and be able to motivate youth with leadership potential to take charge in initiating programs and attracting other youth to join them."

From February 21st through the 23rd, a long non-school weekend, the young people participated in Team Building Exercises,



NYCHA teenagers participate in a team building exercise during a weekend retreat in Upstate New York.

and workshops in Community Development, Leadership, and Program Development/Recruitment. As the young people were going through their workshops the staff were trained simultaneously in the very same areas. The idea was for all to return to their community centers and start recruitment drives with new leadership skills.

On the lighter side, there was a No-Talent Talent Show, Musical Chairs, Name that Tune, and a Dance Party. The main musical

feature of the weekend, however, was the celebrated NYCHA Youth Chorus, who stayed the weekend and took part in the same workshops as the others.

Community Operations' Manhattan Borough Senior Program Manager Mario Hamblin spearheaded the project and proposed it to Community Operations Senior Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk and DGM Spence. "When one young person encourages another young person to come to the community center, there's a much

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Parkside Community Center Ribbon Cutting

(Continued from page 1)

the ceremony, with the exception of the actual ribbon cutting, took place.

Community Operations Bronx Borough Director Deidra Gilliard served as Mistress of Ceremonies, introducing the distinguished guests on the dais.

Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, who was the first to speak, said he was delighted to attend and congratulated everyone involved. "You have built a place that can nurture the individual," he said.

"This is not an isolated facility," pointed out Community Oper-

ations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence. "We're doing this all over the city. Sixty percent of our community centers are undergoing expansion and renovation. We have an award-winning, nationally recognized design department that actually sits down with our residents and says, 'This is the budget. What do you want to do with it?'"

Mr. Spence attributed the success of NYCHA's recently completed centers to the collaboration between Housing Authority staff and residents. He noted some recent innovations in our community centers, such as the use of trans-

parent walls for safety so that people can see in as well as out, and a system by which heat radiates up from coils beneath the floor.

Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. emphasized NYCHA's commitment to projects like Parkside. "The Board hands out the money with the help of Washington, the City Council, borough presidents and others. We have tried to make sure we have enough money for the renovation and expansion of our community centers. We believe we have a mission, and we will continue to serve you."

Board Member JoAnna Aniello apologized for Chairman Tino Hernandez who was unable to attend the ceremony because of a meeting at City Hall. Ms. Aniello encouraged the audience to applaud the efforts of staff and residents involved in the center's renovation.

Most enthusiastic of all was Parkside Resident Association President Monica Berry. "The project moved from discussion to a dream to a reality," she said. "We're extremely happy to have made it."

Ms. Berry explained that the Parkside Resident Association works hard to make the community sound and safe and to keep lines

(Continued on page 7)

HOME HEALTH AIDES PERSONAL CARE AIDES

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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	Brooklyn 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:

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

**FORMER DEPUTY DIRECTOR
PLEADS GUILTY OF EXTORTION**

On March 25, 2003, former New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Deputy Director of Facility Planning Robert Swinton, 52, pled guilty in Manhattan federal court to extorting and attempting to extort approximately \$28,000 from a Harlem shopkeeper who sought to lease commercial space from NYCHA. Swinton was arrested on December 18, 2002 and charged in a criminal complaint. A federal criminal Information, which is a charging instrument brought by a federal prosecutor in lieu of a Grand Jury indictment, charging Swinton with extortion, was filed on March 12, 2003.

According to a press release from the United States Southern District of New York, the legal documents mentioned above stated that in the summer or fall of 2000, the shopkeeper, who was already leasing a NYCHA space for a supermarket in Harlem, contacted Mr. Swinton to inform him that he was interested in leasing the space next to the supermarket as well, so that he could expand his store. The two men then met at NYCHA’s Central Office where, it was charged, Swinton told the shopkeeper he would have to pay him \$40,000 in order to obtain a lease on the second store. The shopkeeper had previously allegedly paid Mr. Swinton approximately \$8,000, at Swinton’s direction, for his initial lease. NYCHA does not charge a fee for obtaining a lease.

When Swinton allegedly agreed to lower the price the shopkeeper agreed to pay him the money. On approximately 11 different occasions between October 2001 and September 2002, the shopkeeper paid Swinton a total of approximately \$12,500 in cash.

Swinton had already obtained a degree of notoriety before he was charged with extortion thanks to the *New York Post* which broke a story about NYCHA employees’ extended smoking breaks at Central Office. In the article, which ran on September 30, 2002, the reporter clocked one of Swinton’s smoking breaks at 69 minutes before lunch. Swinton was subsequently fired from his \$80,000 a year job with NYCHA. Even though he was no longer working for the Housing Authority, Swinton continued to contact the shopkeeper for the money.

In a November 13, 2002 tape recorded telephone conversation Swinton told the shopkeeper he still owed him \$5,000, it was charged. The men allegedly agreed that the shopkeeper would pay Swinton \$2,000 of the remaining \$5,000 on November 15, 2002. According to the Complaint, on November 15, 2002, the shopkeeper was given \$2,000 in pre-recorded money by New York City Department of Investigation investigators, and a recording device was placed on his person. Swinton was videotaped entering and exiting the shopkeeper’s store that day and during the meeting, which was tape recorded, the shopkeeper gave Swinton the \$2,000 in marked bills. Swinton then went next door to the shopkeeper’s adjoining store and used a \$50 marked bill to buy lottery tickets, it was charged. The \$50 buy money was confiscated shortly thereafter.

Swinton is scheduled to be sentenced on July 2, 2003. Under federal sentencing guidelines, he faces a jail sentence of 12 to 18 months and the greater of a \$250,000 fine or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the crime.

The announcement of Swinton’s plea was made by James B. Comey, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and Rose Gill Hearn, Commissioner of the New York City’s Department of Investigation.



**SPEAK OUT AGAINST
FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!**

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority (“NYCHA”) by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General (“IG”) at 212-306-3355 or the Department of Investigation (“DOI”) at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959. The IG and DOI rely on NYCHA employees, residents and people who do business with NYCHA, and the public and large to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear.

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*Co-payments, deductibles and prescription drug benefits are covered by Medicaid.



Parkside Community Center YOUTH RALLY

(Continued from page 4)

(Continued from page 4)

of communication open. She thanked its many committees as well as the tenant patrol, the Block Watches Program, the Civilian Patrol, and PSA 8, among others for their dedication and support.

After thanking Chairman Hernandez and Bronx Borough Management Director Patricia Lawler, Ms. Berry said the center will be a "beacon of light to help our children, our young people to shine."

Center Director Doreen Davis estimates that 35 programs will operate from Parkside, serving approximately 40 children a day. Programs include the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Partners In Readings, chess, arts and crafts, computer training and sports recreation. The center also plans a wide variety of trips and cultural events for residents.

There were a number of musical highlights during the ceremony, beginning with Parkside Houses resident Celeste Hill's rendition of "The Greatest Love," which she sang a capella, adapting the lyrics to appropriately reflect the essence of the day. Later in the ceremony came a performance by the Parkside Senior Center Recording Group and a special guest appearance by V.J. Crosby, who took a break from her current role on Broadway in the hit, "Chicago" to sing to NYCHA residents.

The ribbon was cut outside the building entrance, completing the official ceremony and marking a new chapter in the history of the Parkside Community Center.

better chance it will happen," Mr. Hamblin said. "The adult program people can do a lot to bring teenagers in, but there's nothing like peer influence. It can work for good just as it can work in the opposite direction," he continued. "We won't know how successful we've been for a while. It looks very promising." Mr. Hamblin was joined on the retreat by Senior program Managers from each borough as well as citywide NYCHA program staff.

In rap sessions about the quality of life in their boroughs the teenagers expressed their opinions, good and bad. Their responses were quite similar from borough to borough. Community centers themselves ranked high among the good qualities of city life, along with shopping and schools. Drugs, gangs and overcrowding ranked among the bad qualities. In thinking critically about their communities and discussing issues, the young people were taking realistic steps towards leadership. Indeed, this was an experience that gave them a deeper sense of community, coming as they did from all corners of the city for a meeting in the country.



Ask Mr. Maintenance...

APARTMENT PAINTING and PREPARATION

As a resident of a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) apartment, you are entitled to have your entire apartment painted every 36 months and to have it painted partially when maintenance repairs make that necessary. If you believe your apartment is past due for painting you should contact your management office.

The Housing Authority's Paint Inspector typically schedules this work. The Inspector will contact each resident and visit the apartment for an inspection to determine the amount of work to be done. He will then schedule a date with the resident for the completion of the work. NYCHA hires contractors when an entire apartment is scheduled for painting. In cases where a single room, wall or ceiling require painting because of a maintenance repair, a Housing Authority painter will complete the task. This usually follows work done by Housing Authority plasterers. If you have had a maintenance repair that requires painting which has not been completed in a reasonable amount of time, please contact your management office to make sure the painting has been properly requested.

Whether a complete apartment or a single room or wall is scheduled for painting, residents should take certain steps in preparation. This will reduce the amount of time needed to complete the paint job and help prevent damage to personal property.

- 1.) Prior to the painter's arrival, remove all pictures and ornaments from the walls to be painted.
- 2.) Remove the curtains from the windows and clear the objects off of all shelves. When possible, the shelves themselves should be taken down.
- 3.) If possible, furniture should be moved to the middle of the room to allow for easy access to the walls. If you are unable to move the furniture, the painter will assist.

The painter is required to cover your personal belongings and the floors with drop cloths for their protection. Upon completion of the work, the Paint Inspector will return to ensure that all work was completed to your satisfaction and the satisfaction of the New York City Housing Authority.

As with any repair work performed in your apartment there is some inconvenience involved; the proper preparation will help make the job go as quickly and smoothly as possible.



Do you have a maintenance question? Please send it to: Mr. Maintenance, c/o New York City Housing Authority Journal, New York City Housing Authority, 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, New York 10007.

Editor's Note: In response to earlier Mr. Maintenance articles, we have received a number of letters from residents about outstanding repairs in their apartments. Please keep in mind that Mr. Maintenance is here to provide answers to general maintenance issues and procedures in your developments, not to address individual residents' specific problems obtaining repairs or services. If you are having difficulty obtaining a needed repair or service, please contact your development's Management Office first; if you are not satisfied with the response you receive at the development, you should then contact your Borough Management Office. Thank you.



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ILLEGAL DUMPING

(Continued from page 1)

remaining anonymous, you can then file an Illegal Dumping Plan form with the Department of Sanitation. After your tip is received, the Sanitation Police will monitor the location for several weeks in an attempt to catch the dumper. When the dumper you reported is apprehended again dumping at the reported location you will be eligible to receive up to 50% of any fine collected or \$500 if there is a criminal conviction and no fine is paid.



For more information on the program, residents should call the NYC Citizens Service Center at 3-1-1 or visit the DSNY web site at: www.nyc.gov/sanitation. New York City employees are unable to collect the reward.

And, if you have any questions about what you are allowed to throw out where, please contact your management office.



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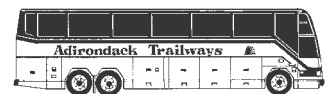
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Start Your Own Business

If you want to start your own business, please call NYCHA's Business Development Division. We are particularly interested in residents with the following skills: painting, electrical installation and maintenance, plumbing, door and cabinet hanging, building maintenance, general construction, landscaping, welding, and iron work. However, please call, whatever your business idea is. **718-250-5987, 718-246-6510**

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