

# New York City Housing Authority Journal

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## 35th ANNUAL TALENT SHOW COMPETITION!



**IT'S A RAP!** Keith Clayton, Al Killibrew and Earl Thomason from Brooklyn's Tilden Houses, together known as "The Dead," with the first-place trophy they won in the 24-55 Age Category, for their rap songs. One song included the line, "Public housing, you know we love you."

By Eileen Elliott

FORGET ABOUT WINNING, JUST GETTING THE CHANCE TO APPEAR IN THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) 35TH ANNUAL TALENT SHOW WAS TOUGH. Two-hundred acts auditioned, but only 19 were chosen. On October 29th at the Fashion Institute of Technology in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan, the singers and dancers in those 19 acts demonstrated an impressive degree of polish and professionalism. They were the best of the best, the crème de la crème of NYCHA talent. As the rappers in the "35th Tribute" which opened the show put it, "Seniors, teens and youth/Competition was fierce this year/And that's the truth."

Citywide Programs Director Ernesto Lozano welcomed the crowd, Assistant Deputy General Manager Michelle Pinnock thanked everyone involved, and Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence appeared eager to let the show begin, saying the NYCHA Talent Show was "better than Star Search and all the others."

The host for the afternoon, a comedian known professionally as "Jay," brought with him a quick wit sharpened by years of performing stand-up at the Apollo. He managed to squeeze in some

positive messages about the importance of staying in school throughout the course of his humorous banter.

The performances were diverse with hip-hop that was both uplifting in its distinctively religious tone, by Daydra Sotto & Friends from Campos Plaza in Manhattan, or more serious, like that by "The Dead," from Tilden Houses in Brooklyn. With their original lyrics about living in public housing, The Dead came in first-place in the 24-55 Age Category.

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## Expo Helps Residents Find Jobs

By Deborah Williams

ON OCTOBER 12, 2005 THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (RES) HELD ITS VERY FIRST 2005 JOB FAIR CAREER RESOURCE INFO EXPO AT THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY IN BROOKLYN. Unlike the torrential rains that pounded the city that day, the stream of people that poured into the Polytechnic University was slow but steady at first, picking up as the day wore on.

The pouring rain couldn't stop the residents who were seeking jobs, educational services, and skills training. In fact, more than 300 residents attended. With umbrellas in tow they came in water-logged shoes and pants soaked to the knees. "I strongly believe that I will get something because there is a lot of good information here and even if I don't get a job I know I have found some valuable resources and made some important job connections," said Candice Palmer of Lincoln Houses in Manhattan.

With approximately 100 companies represented it was easy for resident Michelle Butterfield of Eastchester Gardens in the Bronx, who holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, to find

three different companies that she would consider working for.

"There were a lot of positions and training available in health-care—for someone interested in health-care, this is a gold mine," said Ms. Butterfield.

That's exactly what the Job Fair was for resident Amy Fincher, a senior from Douglass Houses in Manhattan. "I worked as a cook in a day care center for years until it recently closed and before that I was a housekeeper. I've worked all my life and I worked because I enjoy working. When I saw the flyer in the *Housing Authority Journal* I made sure I came and I even told my neighbor and there she is over there," Ms. Fincher said pointing. She continued, "Mount Sinai Hospital has openings in the

Food Service Department and I gave them my resume. I have their card and hopefully they will call me."

This was the scene throughout the day as folks sought employment with companies like Zales, Chase Bank, the Greyhound Bus Company, JP Morgan Chase, Jamba Juice, Maragret Ultra Home Care, and B&S Security Co. Others sought training or educational services from organizations such as the Asbestos Local 12A, Per Scholas, Brooklyn Young Filmmakers, Local Union #8 Roofers, the FDNY, Platform Learning, and the Brooklyn Public Library Adult Learning Center. The lines at the

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**EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT** One-hundred companies were represented at the 2005 Job Fair/Career Info Expo at Brooklyn's Polytechnic University.

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**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**The New Out-Of-School Time Initiative**  
*High-Quality Programs for Youth*



THE NEW OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME (OST) INITIATIVE IS A THREE-YEAR, \$200 MILLION INITIATIVE THAT WILL PROVIDE A MIX OF ACADEMIC, RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AFTER SCHOOL, DURING HOLIDAYS AND IN THE SUMMER. The new OST system consists of over 550 programs free of cost, in every neighborhood across the City. The programs, which are operated by 200 community-based organizations, are located in schools,

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and other community centers, settlement houses, religious centers, cultural organizations, libraries, and Parks Department facilities.

Building on my Administration's commitment to improve the education system, we began the OST reform initiative in the fall of 2003, inviting 200 community leaders and representatives from city agencies, community organizations, parent groups and foundations to attend an OST summit. Working groups developed plans to bring an array of new OST activities to youth across the City, including areas which were previously underserved, such as the Rockaways and parts of Staten Island. We set out to provide the children of New York City with the highest quality services during non-school hours, adopting the best practices from across the country to deliver comprehensive programs that will help young people develop socially, academically and emotionally in a supportive environment. After an open and competitive review process of proposals, hundreds of programs were funded.

High-need areas were pinpointed by analyzing five demographic variables: youth population; youth poverty rate; rate of youth ages 16-19 years who are not in school, not high school graduates, and not in the labor force; number of English Language Learner students in public schools; and the number of single parent families with related children under 18. Sixty percent of programs were opened in 58 high-need zip codes in the City. In total, there will be 118 OST programs in the Bronx, 194 in Brooklyn, 118 in Manhattan, 105 in Queens and 23 in Staten Island.

OST will serve more than 47,000 elementary, middle and high school students this school year, and is expected to grow substantially to serve at least 65,000 students next September. These new programs are the product of reforms designed to make OST programs better targeted, more comprehensive, more accountable, and better integrated with the overall education reform goals.

Our new OST system will better serve children and working parents by engaging youth at precisely the times of the day when they are likely to be home alone or are most vulnerable. For these young people, the learning and growing will continue even after the school bell has rung. This reform has been long overdue.

The OST system is a model of interagency coordination as it reaches into every corner of the City and consolidates services from a multitude of City agencies. For example, the Department of Education (DOE) is hosting 60% of all OST programs in public schools and will contribute a range of services, including security and healthy snacks. There are 32 OST programs slated for 24 NYCHA facilities, OST programs in 13 Parks and Recreation facilities, and in public libraries. Additional resources are coming from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the Department of Cultural Affairs. The entire OST system will be administrated by the Department of Youth and Community Development,

OST programs form the core of New York City's youth programming, which includes a broad spectrum of more than 1,400 City-funded after-school programs in total. Families can find OST and other youth programs in their neighborhood, including program hours, ages served and types of activities, either online at [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd) or by dialing the City's 311 information line.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**CHECK OUT NYCHA'S NEW WEBSITE!**

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE, AT [NYC.GOV/NYCHA](http://NYC.GOV/NYCHA) IS ALL SET TO GO LIVE THIS MONTH. It is leaner, cleaner and easier to use than before, plus it has tons of useful information on just about everything having to do with NYCHA.

**The Homepage**

The site will be updated on a biweekly basis to highlight NYCHA news. You'll see three or four stories on our homepage, along with a new feature, "The Capital Report," which will describe construction projects the Housing Authority is working on, or plans to work on in the future.

From the homepage you can access anything on the Website. If you aren't sure where to begin, the new "Search" feature can help you find what you're looking for.

As on the previous site, there is a "Resources" section that has all of the data you would ever want about NYCHA, including our Fact Sheet, Development Guide, Development Data Book, Agency Plan, and Budget Information.

**Especially For Residents**

One new feature that is probably of most interest to readers of the *Journal*, is the "Residents' Corner." The Residents' Corner is where you can find out about the many activities, events, programs and services available to you. It also includes information about various NYCHA policies.

You can even view a sample copy of the standard NYCHA lease here in the Residents' Corner.

As its name implies, The "What's Happening" section of the Residents' Corner includes a Calendar of Events and articles or links to articles on current topics in health, finances, and teen life.

**Community Programs and Services**

There are 164 Community Centers in NYCHA developments: NYCHA operates 115 of them and community service partners run the other 49. NYCHA is extremely proud of the programs and services we offer at our Community and Senior Centers. Our new Website features a separate listing for Community Programs and Services. All you have to do is click on "Community Programs And Services" to access all of the specifics on Resident Employment Services, Education Programs, Sports and Recreation, the Garden Program, Performing Arts, Music Programs, Health Services, Senior Services, Social Services and Equal Opportunity.

**Doing Business With NYCHA**

Did you know that NYCHA purchases over \$700 million of goods and services annually? If you are a contractor who wants to do business with NYCHA, everything you need is right at your fingertips in the "Doing Business with NYCHA" section. Here you can find out about Procurement Opportunities, Events for Vendors such as pre-bidders'



**NO PLACE LIKE HOMEPAGE** NYCHA's new homepage is easier to navigate and has new features. It's at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha).

conferences, Requests for Proposals (RFPs) Informational Sessions and Workshops, Special Information for Minority, Women and Small Business Enterprises (MWSBEs), and the Prevailing Wage Initiative.

**Easy Access**

The new site provides contact information for all pertinent NYCHA borough offices and Central Office departments, as well as for the Inspector General. It contains a number of useful links to related government agencies, like the federal Department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD) and the City's Human Resources Administration (HRA). There is also a link to the LaGuardia Archives, the official archive for the New York City Housing Authority, which has a treasure trove of historical documents, photos and memorabilia all about—you guessed it—NYCHA!

Help us keep you informed by logging onto: [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha), and see what's new (as well as what's not so new) at the New York City Housing Authority

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## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

## A Look Back On A Year Of Progress



THE YEAR 2005 HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT ONE FOR THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA). IT HAS BEEN, INDISPUTABLY, A YEAR OF PROGRESS. We have seen important programs implemented, weathered some tough challenges from Washington, contributed to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's New Housing MarketPlace Plan to increase and preserve affordable housing, and we've emerged with our feet planted firmly on the ground.

I think the single most exciting event of the year took place in February when the Mayor announced the most comprehensive plan in the City's history to modernize and preserve thousands of public housing units. This initiative is made possible thanks to an unprecedented four-year plan to sell up to \$600 million in bonds, and an anticipated capital allocation of \$1.4 billion from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). As the Mayor said when he announced the plan, virtually every public housing development in New York City will be markedly improved. The first phase will finance exterior brickwork, roofing and major structural repairs in 129 developments with over 500 buildings in all five boroughs.

To improve the quality of the capital projects at our developments, and to ensure that the work is completed on time and within budget, NYCHA implemented the CM/Build or Construction Management/Build Program over the past year, which currently has \$800 million of CM contracting capacity. So far, the construction management companies who are responsible for the work, or CMs, have issued \$370 million in task orders. As part of this program, the bidders for the jobs must participate in State-approved apprenticeship programs to create long-term job opportunities for residents. Over the next three years, NYCHA will provide approximately 300 apprenticeships in the construction trades to public housing residents.

And then, there's the Centralized Call Center, a major customer service initiative which is revolutionizing the way NYCHA takes care of maintenance repairs by actually scheduling appointments. In 2005 the Call Center was rolled out in the boroughs of Staten Island and Queens. Residents of these boroughs can now call a single, dedicated number for all routine maintenance repairs. The Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with Customer Service Representatives on hand to enter requests into a work ticket system and schedule appointments. This pilot program is expected to be fully implemented in all boroughs by 2007.

Of course, the issue of resident safety is always high on NYCHA's list of priorities. Crime continues to drop in public housing. From 2002 to 2004 it fell by 8.94%, and by 28.6% from 1994 to 2004. Mayor Bloomberg's four-pronged approach to fight crime – Operation Safe Housing – has created a dedicated administrative hearing part to expedite eviction cases involving felony gun, drug, and sex offenses committed on NYCHA property; it bans drug dealers who sell drugs on NYCHA property from public housing grounds and arrests violators for trespass; and it enhances supervision of parolees who live in public housing.

In addition, with the support of City Council funding, NYCHA is expanding its CCTV initiative, using state-of-the-art high resolution video cameras to deter crime in our developments. An additional 12 developments are scheduled to get the small-scale video camera systems bringing the total number of sites to 28.

NYCHA has a lot to be proud of. But we should keep in mind that we also face challenges. In 2005, HUD funded only 89% of our required operating subsidy. As the House and the Senate try to establish funding levels for the coming year, we remain hopeful that the final appropriation will be better than the amounts requested by HUD. NYCHA was successful in changing the funding formula that HUD proposed last April that would have reduced our operating assistance by 16%. I want to thank Mayor Bloomberg for writing to HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Congressional leaders requesting that the original agreement made between HUD and the nation's public housing authorities be honored.

I'd also like to extend a special thank-you to those of you on the Resident Advisory Board (RAB) who worked with NYCHA to create the Annual Plan for 2006; and to the Council of Presidents and the many residents and staff who all helped make 2005 a successful year for the Housing Authority. May our progress continue in the coming year. Happy Holidays!

Tino Hernandez

## BOROUGH DIGEST

## The Bronx

Former NYCHA Chairwoman Sally Hernandez Pinero was appointed Executive Director of the nonprofit "food rescue" program City Harvest in September. In a newspaper article published at the time of her appointment, Ms. Pinero, who grew up in the South Bronx, credited her neighborhood for teaching her the values that led her to be who she is today. Ms. Pinero received a law degree from New York University Law School, and has had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. She was Chairwoman of NYCHA from 1992 to 1994. City Harvest holds Mobile Markets in the Bronx at Melrose Houses twice a month, where registered NYCHA residents receive free fresh produce. (There is also a Mobile Market at Stapleton Houses in Staten Island.)

## Brooklyn

Twenty-five young NYCHA residents who may have never left Canarsie got a taste of the wider world on October 15th, when they attended the Million More Movement in Washington, D.C., on the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March. The youth were able to attend thanks to Breukelen Houses residents Lynda Johnson, Betty Cooper and Ethel Miller, who baked and sold cakes in front of their apartment building to help raise the money. "We wanted to show these young men that we love them; that there are people who care," said Ms. Johnson. With the help of a Brownsville old-timer James Johnson, who contributed \$1,000 to rent a bus, and the proceeds from the bake sale, the residents were able to join thousands of others in Washington to address issues such as unity, spiritual values, education, economic development, political power and peace in the African-American community.

**Correction:** In last month's entry about the Annual Bike Run, Captain Kevin Harrington was misidentified as the Commanding Officer for PSA #2. The PSA's new commanding officer, Captain Donald Lyons, led the Bike Run.

## Manhattan:

On December 7th Community Operations Borough Administrator Darnell M'Baye will host a special awards ceremony, the first of its kind, at the Campos Plaza Community Center for members of NYCHA's Lower East Side Basketball League. Players, their parents and staff will be honored for participation in the LES tournament which began in mid-September

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## DEBORAH'S DIARY By Deborah Williams



**Community Philanthropist**—Her name is Delores Sanders but everyone in the community refers to her as Ms. Lourdy. It's a term of endearment and respect that she has earned from the youth in the Farragut Houses in Brooklyn where she has been a resident for 38 years. "I have lived in # 2K for 11 years and the rest with my parents in a different apartment but here at Farragut," said Ms. Lourdy. During those 38 years Ms. Lourdy has befriended many of the adults and children at Farragut and while the adults embrace her enthusiasm and spirit, her popularity is at its peak with the youth. Ms. Lourdy had been a coach for what appears to be the most popular sport at Farragut—B-ball. Each year when school closes for the summer the kids ask Ms. Lourdy, "Are we going to have the TOP 40 program this summer?" Why do they ask her? Well, it's probably because the youth automatically assume that Ms. Lourdy who has become a fixture in NYCHA's TOP 40 program has coached youth ages 12 and under and 14–16 for the past three years. In 2003, it was Ms. Lourdy's team that won the championship game. But before TOP 40 there was the 84th Precinct where she coached young men aged 16–19 and in 2004, she coached for the NIKE SWOOSH basketball program.

"It took a lot of work and time away from my evenings and weekends but I did it because I love kids and when I know they're all in one place I feel good. Playing basketball keeps them out of trouble. I don't get paid to coach but I coach anyway. It's my way of giving to the community," said Ms. Lourdy. Ms. Lourdy gives more than just her time — she gave from her purse when she paid the team's registration fee and purchased the team jerseys for the 84th Precinct and NIKE SWOOSH teams. While interviewing her I got the sense that she felt no cost was too great to keep youth off the street and no reward is greater than the love of our children.

## Beyond Basketball

She's more than just basketball—Ms. Lourdy has been the fundraiser for P.S. 307 Parent-Teacher Association and for the Farragut Day Care Center. This year on Halloween eve Ms. Lourdy decided to have a little Halloween fun. So, she decorated the 2nd floor of 233 Sands Street with ghouls and goblins, cob webs and spiders, skeletons and other creepy things in an effort to provide a safe Halloween for the trick-or-treaters. She purchased all kinds of goodies, cakes and prepared food such as salad, lasagna, and fried chicken for the trick-or-treaters and their families.

Everyone turned out! Costumes ranged from adorable China dolls to horrifying creatures of the night and don't forget about the superheroes. With a serious tone and stern look Ms Lourdy said, "I think everyone should have a safe place to observe the Halloween tradition that's inside their community. It's a shame when kids have to travel outside their community and into another neighborhood for a Halloween treat." And that was another fine example of the altruistic character that Ms. Lourdy possesses. I think her character must be hereditary because her mother

Delores Hays, was an active member of the community and in 2003 Ms. Hays received an award for her community involvement. *Well I'd like to take the opportunity to personally congratulate you on your devotion to the children of Farragut Houses. It's always a pleasure to find someone who is willing to go the extra mile to keep our kids safe and off the streets. I extend my gratitude to you for being a terrific coach and a wonderful person and look forward to hearing more about your work in the Farragut community and on the basketball courts.*



**UPDATE**—In the September 2005 edition of the *HA Journal* I wrote an article about Chiquita Jones, resident of Linden Houses in Brooklyn, to congratulate her on her scholastic achievement, her excellent attendance record and her graduation from Thomas Jefferson High School. Today, I am happy to report that Chiquita will be leaving us soon to start her college years at the University of London. **Congratulations Chiquita! Remember to study hard and during your leisure time do some site seeing. London is a great place!**



## 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. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort 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 July 14, 21, and 28, and August 4, 2004.

**REMEMBER,  
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON  
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL  
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE!  
THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL  
POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

### Prohibited as of July 14, 2004

Gordon Abernathy, Jr.	Case 5899/04 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1154 229th Drive South, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Mark Carrero	Case 6388/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 1216 Burke Avenue, Eastchester Gardens Houses, the Bronx.
Kylik Fogg a/ka Clark Fogg Melshawn Christianes Vincent Coleman	Case 6521/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 1440 Bronx River Ave., Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Peter Chavez	Case 6546/04 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 224 East 28th Street, Straus Houses, Manhattan.
Benjamin Jackson	Case 6557/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 181 Gordon Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.

### Prohibited as of July 21, 2004

Richard Holt	Case 6597/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 153 Sumner Avenue, Roosevelt Houses, Brooklyn.
Quetzal Hernandez	Case 3984/04 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 5240 Broadway, Marble Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Kimberly Briggs	Case 6562/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 108 Lamport Boulevard, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.
Curtis Woodley	Case 6680/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 225 West 152nd Street, Harlem River Houses, Manhattan.
Joshua Thervil	Case 6718/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 160 West 174th Street, Sedgwick Houses, the Bronx.
Kervin Cameron	Case 6719/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 521 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.
Anthony Thomas	Case 7804/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 400 Williams Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.

### Prohibited as of July 28, 2004

Paul Brown	Case 6800/04 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1285 Washington Avenue, Webster/Morrisania Houses, the Bronx.
Tyrone Johnson	Case 6869/04 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 159-70 Harlem River Drive, Rangel Houses, Manhattan.
Marcus Scott	Case 3194/04 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 309 MacDougal Street, Ocean Hill Apartments, Brooklyn.
Joseph Harrison	Case 6956/04 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 45 Rutgers Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.

### Prohibited as of August 4, 2004

Patrick Sims	Case 6884/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 456 Richmond Terrace, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.
Judon McLeod	Case 6969/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1560 East 102nd Street, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.
Anthony Diaz	Case 6998/04 formerly associated with the twentieth floor of 674 East 149th Street, Moore Towers, the Bronx.
Jessie Jacobus	Case 7039/04 formerly associated with the second floor of 1905 Second Avenue, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan.

## HUD's Resident Service And Satisfaction Survey Is Coming!

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) wants to know how you feel about living in public housing. That's right — once again, HUD is sending out the Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey (RASS). HUD sends this survey out each year to assess how satisfied public housing residents are with living conditions in their developments across the nation.

A random sampling of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents who live in NYCHA's 324 federally funded developments will be receiving the RASS from approximately December 6, 2005 through February 8, 2006.



The survey includes questions covering maintenance and repair, communication, safety, services and neighborhood appearance.

It was developed with the help of resident leaders, public housing authorities and industry representatives. Residents are randomly chosen using a computer program. All answers will be kept confidential and anonymous. NYCHA will not know who participated in the survey but will only receive the overall score.

The RASS is part of HUD's commitment to monitor the performance of public housing authorities through its annual Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). In addition to assessing customer satisfaction, the PHAS also evaluates the physical condition of the developments, the authority financial health, management, operations, and resident services.

The RASS accounts for 10 out of the 100 points it is possible for a public housing authority to receive under the PHAS. Housing authorities which receive scores over 90 are considered "High Performers" and qualify for additional capital funding. NYCHA earned high performer status based on the results of the last completed PHAS.

## THE CHIEF'S CORNER

# STAY SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

The New York City Police Department wants this holiday season to be a safe and joyous time of the year for all of the residents of the New York City Housing Authority. Because many of us are preoccupied with the details of holiday planning and shopping, everyday safety precautions are sometimes forgotten. As a reminder, the following safety tips are provided to help ensure a safe holiday season.

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals often confront people who are distracted.
- Travel on populated, well-lit streets. If possible, travel with a friend.
- Plan your purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash necessary for the purchase. If you must carry a large sum of money, divide the cash between your purse, pockets and wallet.
- If you are taking the subway, look for the red or green lights outside the entrance to determine if the entrance is open. A red light indicates the entrance is closed, while a green light indicates it is open.
- Carry purses close to the body. Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of your elbow. Never carry a purse by the handle or wrap the strap around your body.
- Place wallets in front pants pockets or an inside jacket pocket.
- Don't wait until you reach your front door to look for your keys. Have them ready ahead of time.
- Don't buzz in someone who rings your bell until you have verified who he or she is. This will help protect both you and your neighbors.

## CON ARTISTS

**It's not only that time of the year for you to go shopping, but also for con artists to start shopping for their next victim. Con artists use a number of ploys to scam you and to steal your property. One common scam involves a couple of cohorts, causing a commotion to divert your attention while the other is picking your pocket. Other scams include but are not limited to posing as utility workers, NYCHA workers or as trades people to gain access into your home. Still others conduct more elaborate scams that may involve as many as seven con artists.**

A general rule to remember is,  
**"IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS."**

*Have A Joyous And Safe Holiday Season!*

## October 1st - May 31st

**Minimum Indoor Temperature  
From 6AM to 10PM**

**68 degrees Fahrenheit  
whenever the outdoor temperature is  
below 55 degrees.**

**Minimum Indoor Temperature  
From 10PM to 6AM**

**55 degrees Fahrenheit  
whenever the outdoor temperature falls  
below 40 degrees.**

# 35th TALENT SHOW

(Continued from page 1)



**2 Hot 2 Handle is the name chosen by these proud young dancers from Bronx River Houses. They won second-place in the very competitive 6-15 Age Category.**

There were heartsick crooners like the wildly popular Courtney Starks from Linden Houses in Brooklyn, who sent a thrill through the audience when he ventured off the stage to greet his fans. Mr. Starks came in first-place in the 16-23 Age Category.

The Cemi Ya Workshop from Campos Plaza, which won the second-place trophy in the 16-23 Category, demonstrated traditional Puerto Rican music and dance. The two young dancers evoked a time long gone as they furled their ruffled muslin dresses to the rhythm of the guitar, bongos, and other percussion instruments in the background. The original dancing by "Original," from Farragut Houses, complete with backbends, flips and splits won a third-place trophy for the girls in the 6-15 Age Category.

Judges for the show included no less than Gloria Gaynor of "Never Can Say Goodbye" fame from the 1980's, along with rapper Baby Sham, Shelah Carpen-

ter and producer Keyboard Money Mike.

Among the special guest performers was the spectacular "Simply Robin," from the Tilden Houses Community Center who sang, "A Change Is Gonna Come," with a beautiful silky voice. And there was the lovely Cherelle Davis, of Brooklyn's Boulevard Houses, who won first-place in NYCHA's 2003 Talent Show in the 14-18 Age Category. Ms. Davis sang a reprise of the song she won with, "If I Could."

There was no hint of exhaustion as all of the performers gathered together for the grand finale, singing the aptly chosen, "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now!" Needless to say, the presentation of awards brought screams and tears of delight.

All of the performers underwent ten weeks of coaching and instruction in voice, stage presence and dramatic delivery. The versatile music of Bobby D. and The Family, whose members

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## BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

and concluded in November. There are six teams on the Lower East Side League from the following Community Centers: Baruch, Campos Plaza, Riis, Rutgers, Seward Park and Two Bridges.

### Queens

Do you remember reading an article in the September *Journal* about long-time Queensbridge resident Selena Blake, who together with co-producer Gregory Larkin was working on a documentary about the nation's largest public housing development? Well, she did it! "Queensbridge: The Other Side" had its New York premiere at the Museum of the Moving Image in Astoria on November 3rd. The red carpet was out for Ms. Blake and many of the development's residents who appeared in the movie and also attended the screening. Though there's been nothing in writing yet, by all accounts the movie got rave reviews. Congratulations!

### Staten Island

The seniors of Cassidy-Lafayette Houses and New Lane Shores hosted an Arts and Crafts Show/Fundraiser at the Cassidy-Lafayette Senior Center on the evening of November 4th. More than a show, it was an evening of fun and celebration, complete with the Senior Choir and refreshments. The work on display was created over the course of eight months of arts-and-crafts classes taught by outside consultants that served approximately 60 seniors. Items on display and for sale included vases, baskets and statues. "The seniors use simple safety pins and beads and make these intricate pieces. They're hard to describe, but everything lights up!" said Borough Administrator Sarah Nanton. Any money from the sale of the items has gone back into the Center for senior programs.

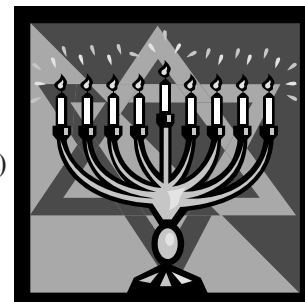
## Winter Fire Safety Tips

"During this holiday season as well as throughout the year, the Fire Department's primary message, first, last and always is prevention. If you remove the fire hazards from your home you can limit the risk to yourself, your family, your neighbors and to firefighters," said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. "Over the last few years, candles have become more and more popular. Sales are up and unfortunately, so are the number of candle fires and candle-related fire deaths. If you must use candles, use them safely. By following a few simple safety procedures New Yorkers can stay safe and enjoy a joyous holiday season."



### The Fire Department Recommends the following winter fire safety tips:

- \* Make sure you have a working smoke detector on every level of your home.
- \* Choose a freshly cut tree. **LIVE TREES NEED WATER!**
- \* Check and refill often.
- \* Cut a few inches off the trunk before placing in water.
- \* When your tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- \* Keep your tree away from heat sources, sparks or flames.
- \* Do not leave Christmas tree lights on while unattended.
- \* Avoid accidents by using wire or cord to secure your tree to the wall or ceiling. (This will prevent it from toppling over by small children or pets).
- \* Check all light sets prior to use. Do not use damaged light sets or extension cords.
- \* Avoid overloading the connections.
- \* Use only Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approved lights on your tree, and **NO CANDLES.**
- \* Promptly remove all discarded packages and wrappings from the home.
- \* Never burn wrappings in the fireplace or wood stove.
- \* Use only non-combustible decorations.
- \* If you use candles, make sure they are in stable holders on a flat stable surface and create a one-foot circle of safety surrounding them.
- \* **NEVER** leave the house with candles burning.
- \* **NEVER** leave children or pets unattended with a lit candle. (The candle can easily be knocked over.)
- \* **NEVER** use candles near combustible materials such as curtains, drapes, bedding and or cabinets.



## 2005 TALENT SHOW WINNERS

	<b>Ages 6 to 15</b>	<b>Ages 16 to 23</b>	<b>Ages 24 to 55</b>	<b>Ages 56 and Up</b>
First Place:	Jem Roper Taft Houses Dancers	Courtney Starks Linden Houses Singer	The Dead Tilden Houses Singers	Sandy McCartney Throggs Neck Singer
Second Place:	2 Hot 2 Handle Bronx River Houses Dancers	Cemi Ya Workshop Campos Plaza Dancers	Helen Flowers Bronx River Houses Singer	Rosemary Wilson Coney Island Houses Singer
Third Place:	Original Farragut Houses Dancers	Jazzmine Shields Cypress Hills Singer	Julius Alford, Jr. Tilden Houses Singer	Ft. Independence Ft. Independence Seniors Singers



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**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF EFFORTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CITY'S 311 CALL CENTER OR VISIT THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT [WWW.NYC.GOV](http://WWW.NYC.GOV).**

**NYCHA MANAGEMENT**



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RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES  
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## Resource Expo

(Continued from page 1)

information tables didn't prevent prospective employees from asking questions and dropping off their resumes.

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Assistant Deputy General Manager Michelle Pinnock, and RES Director Sonia Torruella walked around the Job Fair stopping to assist the NYCHA residents. General Manager Douglas Apple during his opening statement summed it up by expressing how gratifying it was to see everyone on such a rainy day, and the warm smile on Sonia Torruella's face only expressed how happy and pleased she was with the turnout. The day may have been dark and dreary outside but inside the Polytechnic University the light of hope and opportunity shined and a burst of energy made the very first RES 2005 Job Fair Career Resource Info Expo a great success!

In fact, at the time this article was written NYCHA had contacted ten of the employers at the job fair, who had interviewed a total of 34 residents, and nine of those residents have already been hired.

## TALENT SHOW

(Continued from page 5)

have worked with stars like Chaka Khan, P.Diddy and George Benson, kept the spirit alive throughout. Special thanks to Director Michael W. Harley, Stage Manager Christine Davis, Choreographer Zhana Saunders and Vocal Coach Kimberly J. Harley. Also, to NYCHA's Performing Arts Unit Coordinators Susan Unger, Andre Le Cleche and Keir Nelson.

For a full list of the winners, see page 5.

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The 50 apartments in this new building will be exclusively for grandparents, or elderly caregivers, 62 or older, who care for minor grandchildren (under the age of 18) or other relatives. A family relationship such as grandparent-grandchild and a legal care relationship such as adoptive parent or guardian will be required. You may apply, even if you do not currently have a legal care relationship with the minor child or children for whom you are caring. PSS and WSFSSH will assist you regarding the legal care relationship, during the period prior to occupancy. A comprehensive program of supportive services will be available on-site.

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Posted 11/01/05

Approved for posting:  
Dale C. Kutzbach, Director  
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Community Operations  
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Between the ages of 18 and 25 with a High School Diploma or GED and physically able to do the work

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