

HUD SECRETARY VISITS



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson (right) joined New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez and executive staff for a visit to the Grant Houses Senior Center on the morning of December 6th. The Secretary spent some time getting to know residents after touring the Harlem facility. The Grant Houses Senior Center is one of 95 sponsored senior centers on NYCHA property. It provides meals and services to approximately 70-80 seniors daily, including arts and crafts, recreation and field trips. NYCHA also operates an additional 42 senior centers. Shown from left to right are: Grant Houses Resident Association President Sarah Martin, Chairman Hernandez, Drew Hamilton Resident Association President and Manhattan North Council of Presidents Chair Barbara G. Barber and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson.

First Houses' 70th Anniversary



70TH ANNIVERSARY! NYCHA celebrated First Houses' 70th Anniversary in October. In the picture above (left to right) NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. presents a proclamation to long-time First Houses resident, 91-year-old Andrew Hladek, and First Houses Manager Tedric Gamble. Signed by Mayor Bloomberg, the document proclaims October 21, 2006 in the City of New York, "First Houses Day." **See page 5 for the complete story.**

THE NEW USER-FRIENDLY RENT BILL

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) MONTHLY RENT BILL HAS A NEW LOOK! NYCHA has changed the format of the bill to provide public housing residents with more detailed information about transactions recorded to your account. In addition to rent due, the new statement now shows utility fees for the usage of heavy-duty appliances, parking fees and retroactive fees. The statement also shows the most recent payments and credits to your account. "Our purpose is to have a user-friendly statement that shows exactly what residents are being charged for," said Deputy Director Adham Choucri.

NYCHA began sending the new bills out in December, to reflect December payments and January charges. The information sheet to the right of this article will also be included with the new bill. Any resident who still has questions should contact his or her housing assistant.

Monthly Rent Statement

Utility Fees
The charges and payments for the usage of heavy duty appliances (i.e., air conditioners, freezers, dishwashers, washing machines).

Development
Development's name and return address.

Address
Resident's name and address.

Description
This column identifies the charges, credits or payments that were made to your account during the billing period.

Date
Date of transaction

Amount in Parenthesis
The amount in parenthesis represents payments made or credits on the resident's account.

Date Due
This is the payment due date. This will always be the first day of the month.

Remittance Address
Address where resident's payment is mailed.

MARKHAM GARDENS
90 Church Street - 6th Floor
New York, NY 10007

TO: JOHN DOE
123 East 9th Street, 2A
Staten Island, NY 10310

ACCOUNT ACTIVITY for 9/20/06-10/31/06 plus 11/1/06 charges

Date	Description	Rent	Utility Fees	Parking Fees	Retroactive Charges	Sales & Services	Legal & Other Charges	Security Deposit	Amount Due
9/20/06	Opening Balance								0
10/1/06	Oct. Charges Posted	\$400.00	\$4.60	\$16.00					\$420.60
10/5/06	Mailed Payment	(\$400.00)	(\$4.60)	(\$16.00)					(\$420.60)
11/1/06	Nov. Rent Posted	\$400.00							\$400.00
11/1/06	Washing Machine Fee		\$4.60						\$4.60
11/1/06	Parking Fee			\$16.00					\$16.00
Total Amt Due		\$400.00	\$4.60	\$16.00					\$420.60

Please mail your payment with the tear off stub below in the enclosed envelope. Do not send correspondence with your payment.

DATE DUE 11/1/06 **TOTAL DUE** \$420.60 **MINIMUM DUE** \$420.60

WRITE THIS NUMBER ON YOUR CHECK OR MO: 42060

Payment Amount
This is the amount of the resident's payment.

Minimum Due
This is the amount that the resident is required to pay by the due date.

Legal & Other Charges
The charges or payments for any fees associated with court actions and other miscellaneous items.

Message Box
Monthly message from the New York City Housing Authority.

YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER

MONTHLY BILLING STATEMENT for: November, 2006

Amount Due
This is the amount owed at the end of the billing cycle.

Security Deposit
Reflects the amount of security deposit owed and any payments made.

REMITTANCE SLIP

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
MARKHAM GARDENS
P.O. Box 2419
Omaha, NE 68103-2419

Keeping Residents Safe With CCTV

By Eileen Elliott

THERE IS NO QUESTION: THE USE OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CAMERAS, OR CCTVS, HAS HAD A DRAMATIC IMPACT ON CRIME IN THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) DEVELOPMENTS WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED. In a December 14th *New York Times* article, the paper quoted a statement made by NYPD chief spokesperson, Paul J. Browne, in which he refers to the cameras as "a highly effective crime fighting tool." Residents report feeling greater security, and residents who live in developments that do not have the CCTVs have petitioned NYCHA, the NYPD and various elected officials for the systems.

Responding to improvements in CCTV technology which made the systems more affordable, NYCHA and the City Council formed a partnership in 2004 to bring Small-Scale CCTVs to public housing developments. Over the past two years Council Members have allocated approximately \$7 million for the purchase and installation of the

systems in NYCHA developments, and for Fiscal Year 2007 Council Members have already allocated an additional \$5.8 million. Today Small-Scale CCTV systems exist in 21 NYCHA developments. In addition, Large-Scale, or VIPER (video interactive patrol enhanced) systems, which are significantly more expensive to operate, now exist in 15 NYCHA developments.

The cameras are effective not only because they facilitate arrests but also because they act as deterrents. Because the Small-Scale systems were installed relatively recently, NYCHA does not yet have statistics on their effectiveness. However, with regard to the VIPER systems, on average, index crimes (i.e., murder, rape, assault, robbery, burglary and car theft) go down by 25% the first year after cameras are installed, and crime continues to go down in subsequent years.

The Small-Scale CCTV Program

In November 2006, elevator cameras at Hylan Houses in Bush-

wick, Brooklyn captured footage of an armed robbery. The footage was used to create a wanted poster, and because of that poster, officers from PSA #3 were able to recognize and arrest the suspect three days after the crime was committed. This is just one example of how the Small-Scale CCTVs can help facilitate arrests.

Under the Small-Scale CCTV Program, NYCHA installs state-of-the-art high resolution video cameras (Continued on page 4)

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OPEN HOUSES

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Increased Access to Healthy Food



IN MID-NOVEMBER I JOINED CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN AT MELROSE HOUSES IN THE BRONX TO ANNOUNCE A CONCERTED EFFORT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOODS IN LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES BY CREATING A NEW FOOD POLICY TASK FORCE AND THE NEW POSITION OF FOOD POLICY COORDINATOR. This collaboration between my office and the City Council will expand the availability of nutritious, affordable food in underserved communities, enhance the nutritional standards followed by City agencies in feed-

ing clients and staff, and improve access to food support programs.

The City's nutritious foods agenda also includes increasing enrollment in food support programs, such as Food Stamps. Over 1.08 million New York City residents received Food Stamps in July 2006 — a 36% increase since January 2002. Yet despite these gains, there are still many New Yorkers who are eligible for Food Stamps but have not enrolled.

It is now easier than ever for New Yorkers to determine if they are eligible for Food Stamps and a host of other programs. In October, the City launched ACCESS NYC, an online tool that brings 21 different City, State, and federal human service benefit programs — including food stamps — into a single Web site. By entering basic household information into the site (available at www.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC), residents can receive a list of the programs for which they are potentially eligible, print partially-complete application forms and find office locations. If you don't have Internet access, call 311.

At the same press conference, I also announced the expansion of the Healthy Bodegas initiative from 200 bodegas to more than 1,000 in the South Bronx, East and Central Harlem, and Central Brooklyn over the next two years. Expansion of the initiative will also include the launching of the "Green Light" section in bodegas to highlight healthier food items available for purchase, such as 1% milk, diet beverages, fruits and vegetables.

Melrose Houses was chosen as the location for the healthy foods announcement because it is one of two New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments visited twice a month by City Harvest's Mobile Market trailer. The Mobile Market provides free, fresh produce to some 3,200 residents of Melrose Houses and to approximately 1,180 residents of Stapleton Houses in Staten Island.

The lack of affordable and healthy food options in low-income communities can have significant consequences, such as obesity and diabetes, which are epidemic in New York City as well as nationally. Societal changes, such as increasing the availability of healthy food and decreasing the cost, can be an important part of the solution.

Here's to a happy and healthy 2007!

Michael R. Bloomberg

NYCHA: Making a Difference in People's Lives

By Heidi Morales

A LITTLE OVER 70 YEARS AGO, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) WAS CREATED TO DO AWAY WITH TENEMENTS AND SLUMS AND THE OVERALL DEPLORABLE LIVING CONDITIONS FACING THE POOR IN THE 1930s. Although no running water, rooms without windows, outhouses and communal bathrooms are pretty much a thing of the past, there are other factors that today affect the quality of life of many working class families.

Dania and Ricardo Mendoza, new residents of NYCHA's Dyckman Houses can attest to the realities facing many working families in New York: realities such as lack of space, noise pollution, deteriorating buildings and perhaps most devastating for the working poor, higher and higher rents.

Before moving into this northern Manhattan development, the Mendozas lived just three blocks away in a one-bedroom apartment where they said they endured poor living conditions. Mr. Mendoza said the building in which they lived and paid a market-rate rent of close to \$1,000 a month started to look rundown and dirty and added that he couldn't deal with the noisy neighbors who played loud music into the wee hours of the morning. "I work six days a week. I would get up for work after not sleeping all night. I was uncomfortable. I was tense."

The Mendozas and their two daughters — 18 year-old Bessy and 14 year-old Lizzeth — lived cramped up in that one-bedroom apartment for more than a decade, using the living room as the master bedroom and the bed as a dining room table.

But all that has changed. In fact, the Mendozas said moving to NYCHA has been a godsend. "I thought to myself, 'if God is giving us this opportunity we have to take it' and we have come to find a gold mine here. Here [at Dyckman Houses] I sleep well, the neighbors are great, we communicate. That's something we never had before. It's a great environment," Mr. Mendoza said. "We've been blessed. I think this system [public housing] is fantastic. Too bad I came to realize it so late," he added.

It's Never Too Late

The Mendozas admitted that before they became NYCHA residents they knew very little about public housing. "Twenty years ago if people spoke about 'the project's' you felt fear, so we just adjusted to the rent prices around here," Mrs. Mendoza said. But with a daughter planning to enter college they decided to put aside all the negativity and uncertainty they felt



NEW HOME Riccardo and Diana Mendoza are very happy with their new home in Manhattan's Dyckman Houses.

about public housing and decided to apply. That was three years ago.

This past summer the Mendozas were notified about their eligibility for a NYCHA apartment but they had no other choice but to turn it down because they were strapped for cash — they'd been saving money to send their eldest daughter to Mt. Saint Mary College in upstate New York in September.

In this situation an applicant who turns down an apartment is placed back on NYCHA's Tenant Selection and Assignment Plan (TSAP) roster, which was established to ensure that all applicants for public housing are processed and treated under equal terms. It can be months, sometimes years before they are notified about the availability of another apartment. But the Mendozas had luck on their side. "They told us that we would probably have to wait another year but two months later they called us back and here

we are," Mr. Mendoza said with a sigh of relief.

Looking Toward the Future

This humble Honduran family said now the future looks a little more comfortable and relaxed and that's why people should realize how important public housing is and protect it.

"This is heaven. So, what are we supposed to do? Support the system and try to make it better," Mr. Mendoza said. "It's up to us to continue this [public housing]. This system has to continue not just for us but for the ones that come after us," he added.

"This is a great benefit for us. We are getting back on our feet. This is just the beginning but we are headed in the right direction. We have one daughter in college already and we know that the next several years will be a little easier for us," Mrs. Mendoza added.

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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 and 6AM
55 degrees Fahrenheit
whenever the outdoor temperature
falls below 40 degrees.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The Future Of Public Housing



IT'S 2007! JUST AS THE NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES, IT ALSO BRINGS NEW CHALLENGES. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) faced some serious challenges in 2006, and staff and residents worked together to take significant actions. Many of our efforts, so far, have been successful.

Our initiatives were outlined in the "Plan to Preserve Public Housing," which I announced last April. The seven-point plan was designed to ensure the viability of public housing not only for the families who currently live in NYCHA's

344 developments, but for future generations. Key points of the plan included a one-time allocation from Mayor Bloomberg and the City Council of \$120 million, and increased fees for heavy duty appliances and parking. The plan also included increased rents for the 27% of residents who were already at the ceiling rent limits.

Just as we could not have effectively implemented these changes without your cooperation, I ask for your cooperation again as we enter NYCHA's 73rd year, especially with one critical aspect of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing: the transition of 8,400 units of conventional public housing from 21 developments once funded by the City and State, into the Section 8 program.

These developments no longer receive funding from any source and so NYCHA has had to use its already inadequate federal money to pay for their operation. In 2006 operating these buildings accounted for a full half of NYCHA's budget deficit. Allowing the 8,400 units into the Section 8 program will provide a new funding stream and keep rents affordable for all 21,000 families in the 21 developments.

NYCHA held over 200 meetings with residents last spring to explain why the transition is important and what it means. I myself met with City, State and federal elected officials about the transition. I'm happy to say that based on these meetings, resident interest appears strong. As of the writing of this column, NYCHA is still waiting to hear whether or not the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will approve the plan. As part of our strategy we are also seeking resources from the State to support State developments.

To further complicate NYCHA's financial situation, in 2007 housing authorities across the country are slated to receive a 22% budget reduction. That means that despite all of the actions we are taking, the Housing Authority is now looking at a more serious deficit than for Fiscal Year 2006. This is money that is needed to maintain buildings, to pay utility bills, to employ our staff and to keep community centers open.

If we are serious about the future of public housing, housing authorities and residents alike must continue our efforts in the coming year, gather our forces, share our intelligence and make our voices heard. I look forward to working with you to preserve the legacy and the promise to keep public housing alive and well for generations to come.

Tino Hernandez

**New York City Police Department
Toll-Free Terrorism Hotline
Reports May Be Made To:
1-888-NYC-SAFE
1-888-692-7233**

BOROUGH DIGEST

The Bronx:

NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services hosted its second "Empowerment Through Employment Job Fair" for 2006, at Fordham University in the Bronx on October 26th. More than 100 NYCHA residents attended and 21 companies and government entities were on hand screening for potential employees. Represented at the fair were: Avis Rental Car, Commerce Bank, the Bronx Chamber of Commerce, Bronx Workforce One, Coca-Cola, Fresh Direct, Hunts Point Works, Ikon Office Solutions, Jet Blue, Primerica, The New York City Department for the Aging, Starbuck's, Home Depot, Zales, Partners in Care, Neighbors' Home Care, Fed Ex and the U.S. Postal Service.

Brooklyn:

On October 28th in the plaza at Kingsborough Houses, NYCHA executive staff joined representatives from the Groundswell Community Mural Project to thank the sponsors and artists who helped create the mural there: "Weeksville: Past, Present & Future." Nineteen teenage muralists from the Summer Youth Employment Program painted the mural, which is 12 feet high and no less than 85 feet long. It tells the story of the historic 19th Century free black community known as Weeksville, which was where the present day community of Kingsborough is. The mural is painted on the back of a relief by famous Harlem Renaissance artist Richmond Barthé. Groundswell is a New York City based nonprofit organization that brings together professional artists, grassroots organizations and communities to create high quality murals. Other partners in the project were NYCHA, the Weeksville Heritage Center, the Brooklyn Museum and the Independence Community Foundation.

Manhattan:

Ft. Washington Houses Services for the Elderly hosted a groundbreaking on the morning of November 2nd to mark the \$2.2 million renovation of the Senior Center. The renovation of the 5,500 square foot space will include a library, activity rooms, a spa, kitchen, conference room, offices, a reception area, a circular corridor and a handicapped accessible

(Continued on page 5)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



NYCHA Cooks — On November 16, 2006, the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Department of Resident Employment Services (RES) hosted the second Culinary Arts Training Program Graduation Ceremony — this one at the Bronx River Community Center. Ten NYCHA residents were the proud recipients of certificates marking their completion of the six-week course.

Just as Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence promised at the first Culinary Arts Graduation Ceremony in Brooklyn last August, the program is branching out to the five boroughs. "In doing this, NYCHA will provide a way for our residents to be trained locally within their communities," said RES Director Sonia Torruella.

City Council Member Annabel Palmer, a special guest at the graduation, encouraged the members of the class to become master chefs. She pointed out, "NYCHA is seeing to it that our communities receive the kind of training that will provide lifelong skills that will lead to jobs with substantial benefits."

Utilizing the full kitchen at the Bronx River Community Center, each participant met on Mondays through Thursdays, to learn how to cook soups, pastas and a variety of international dishes. "It's quite different from what you do in your kitchen at home," said Rebecca Bonds of McKinley Houses. On Fridays, the participants attended workshops on resume writing, interview techniques and Internet job search techniques.

Nia Evans, a mother of four boys, ages 5, 8, 13 and 15, and a resident of Betances Houses in the Bronx, hopes to one day work as the top chef in a restaurant. Nia's family all agreed that her home cooking is excellent and it makes sense for Nia to use her cooking talent professionally.

Chef and Culinary Arts Instructor Russell Moss of the Consortium for Worker Education remarked, "My students were mature and really smart. I only hope I taught them to be passionate about food." Mr. Moss also said he hopes that his students will continue their education at the Art Institute of New York City, where he teaches a more extensive culinary course slated to begin in January 2007.

All foods served at the graduation ceremony were prepared by the graduates. They included a delectable spread of roast beef, macaroni salad, fresh fruit, assorted cold cuts, and other flavorful dishes.

The Culinary Arts Training Program is a joint initiative between the United Way, NYC Works, The Consortium for Worker Education and its Artisan Baking Center, RES and NYCHA's Community Operations' Bronx Office. Funding for the program was provided through a grant from the New York City Council.

Special Congratulations to Rebecca Barnes, Juan Benhame, Sixmar Cuello, Nia Evans, Maria Gomez, May Johnson, Terri Jones, Lateesha Richardson, Tyler Robinson, and Efigenia Torres—Culinary Arts Graduates of 2006.



THE SENIORS' CORNER

**GET FREE TAX HELP!
Call 311 for the location of FREE
tax assistance sites in your area.
Call now and avoid the rush.**

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. The purpose of publishing this list is 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 October 19 and 26, 2005. **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

**REMEMBER,
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA'S
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.**

Prohibited as of October 19, 2005

Frank Green	Case 7147/05 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 425 105th Street, Wilson Houses, Manhattan.
Joseph Johnson	Case 7148/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 3125 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.
Daniel Still	Case 7168/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 64 South 10th Street, Berry Street Houses, Brooklyn.
Efrain Ruiz Franky Diaz Efrain Diaz	Case 7214/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1132 East 229th Drive South, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Radford Prince, Jr.	Case 7215/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 40 Roxbury Avenue, Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island.
Luis Felicier Jason Serrano Jonathan Serrano Walter Serrano	Case 7216/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 67 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Kelvin Calvin Martinez	Case 7218/05 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 665 Westchester Avenue, St. Mary's Park Houses, the Bronx.
Lamont Reaves	Case 7246/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 82-03 Hammels Boulevard, Hammel Houses, Queens

Prohibited as of October 26, 2005

Ricky Davis	Case 4167/04 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 20 Catherine Slip, Smith Houses, Manhattan.
Paul Askew	Case 5680/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 3475-3485 Bivona Street, Boston-Secor Houses, the Bronx.
Leonard Best	Case 9662/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 5705 Avenue H, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.
Maribel Arroyo	Case 7307/05 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 3135 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.
Jermel Washington	Case 7353/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 620 East 108th Street, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn.
Trevor Williams	Case 7355/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 1153 229th Drive South, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Joshua Yturizaga	Case 2559/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 877 Taylor Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.
Duante Gray	Case 5435/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 60 East 104th Street, Carver Houses, Manhattan.
Joel Figueroa	Case 7348/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 306 Beach 56th Street, Ocean Bay Houses, Queens.
Terry Quattlebaum	Case 7404/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 1167 Stanley Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
Matthew McCree	Case 7424/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 2945-49 West 23rd Street, Carey Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Sedequa Packer	Case 7444/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 30-19 Avenue W, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn.

NYCHA Hosts Borough Domestic Violence Conferences in October

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) HOSTED A SERIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCES — ONE IN EACH BOROUGH — ON THE FOURTH WEEK OF OCTOBER DURING NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. AN ESTIMATED 1,000 RESIDENTS ATTENDED.

The conferences were entitled: "Domestic Violence: A Fe-Male Issue," and focused on men as part of the solution.

"This year's conferences bring us closer to realizing our vision of ending domestic violence in our communities," said NYCHA's Director of Social Services Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, who, along with her staff, organized the annual event. "By including men in this critical dialogue, we recognize that while they are a part of the problem, they can and must also be a part of the solution."

To illustrate that point, the highlight of each of the conferences was a special 50 minute presenta-

tion by actor/comedian and activist Ben Atherton-Zeman, entitled, "Voices of Men." Mr. Atherton-Zeman, a spokesperson for the National Organization for Men Against Sexism, used humor and celebrity male voice impressions to cover topics such as: sexual assault and consent, domestic violence and sexual harassment, in his self-described "educational comedy."

The first conference took place at the Bronx River Community Center on October 23rd. Keynote speaker Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., spoke passionately about the pervasiveness of domestic violence and the ways in which society makes the objectification of women and the violence against them appear to be acceptable.

"Domestic violence is destroying lives — making a lasting impact on families and communities," said the Borough President. "Violence is glorified in every commercial venue in American life. Violence sells... We create the problem, then we try to fix the problem."



NYCHA residents at the Bronx Domestic Violence Workshop.



Bronx Borough President
Adolfo Carrion, Jr.

The keynote speakers at the other conferences were: Center Against Domestic Violence Director Luis Matos, Hunter School of Social Work Professor Samuel Aymer, social worker Rommel Washington of the St. Luke's Crime Victims' Treatment Center, and Richmond County District Attorney Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.

Each conference also featured a panel with representatives from a variety of grassroots and community based organizations, as well as from the NYPD. Resource tables from over 20 entities provided a wealth of helpful material, and NYCHA staff were on hand to address any personal issues raised by residents in the audience. For more information on domestic violence related services, call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-HOPE. As always, call 911 in the case of emergency.

Keeping Residents Safe With CCTV

(Continued from page 1)

in building lobbies, entrances, exits, elevator cabs, playgrounds and parking lots, with guidance from the NYPD on the choice of locations. The cameras record images 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. These images are routinely stored for a set period of time and can be retrieved by staff and the police in the event of an incident. The Small-Scale CCTVs do not require around-the-clock monitoring, as do the original, Large-Scale CCTVs, or VIPER systems.

Where the CCTV Systems Are Located

In 2004, the Small-Scale CCTV systems were installed at Isaacs-Holmes, Two Bridges, Rutgers and Lower East Side I in Manhattan; and Independence Towers and Williams Plaza in Brooklyn, with the help of City Council funding.

Using its own funds, NYCHA also installed a Small-Scale CCTV system at Butler Houses in the Bronx.

As of August 2006, additional systems had also been installed at Atlantic Terminal, Bushwick, Hylan, Haber and Palmetto Gardens in Brooklyn; Fulton, Chelsea, Elliott, De Hostos, LaGuardia and Smith Houses in Manhattan; and Queensbridge Houses in Queens.

In 2006, City Council Members also allocated additional funding for either new Small-Scale CCTV Systems or the addition of cameras or other work related to the CCTVs at: Isaacs-Holmes in

Manhattan; Coney Island, Independence Towers, Pink, Boulevard, Cypress Houses, Hope Gardens and Penn-Wortman in Brooklyn; and Queensbridge in Queens. The work should be completed in the spring.

And, the previously mentioned \$5.8 million the City Council has allocated for Fiscal Year 2007 will be used for the systems at: Riis, Straus, Isaacs-Holmes, LaGuardia, Smith, Rutgers in Manhattan, South Beach and Berry Houses in Staten Island; Wyckoff, Gowanus, Ocean Hill, and Glenwood in Brooklyn, and Boston Road in the Bronx.

Time to throw out your Christmas tree?



Remember, never leave your tree in the elevator, stairway or hallway. Bring it down to a designated tree removal area. If you are not sure of the location, please call your Management Office.

GEARING UP FOR PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS



BUILDING FUTURES Construction Skills 2000 Director Diane Springer addresses residents who are interested in careers in the construction trades at Ravenswood Houses in Queens in November.

By Allan Leicht

NOVEMBER WAS A GOOD MONTH FOR NYCHA RESIDENTS THINKING ABOUT CAREERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, AT COMMUNITY CENTERS IN ALL FIVE BOROUGH, NYCHA'S DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (RES) AND CONSTRUCTION SKILLS 2000, INC. (CS2K) INVITED RESIDENTS TO A SERIES OF SIX OPEN HOUSE PRESENTATIONS THAT INTRODUCED THE SIX-MONTH PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROGRAM, WHICH WILL OFFER TRAINING AND HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN THE VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION TRADES. UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM, RESIDENTS WILL BE GIVEN PREFERRED ACCESS TO JOBS AS PAID TRADE UNION APPRENTICES. THE PROGRAM WILL BE RUN BY CS2K AND WILL BEGIN IN MARCH.

At the Ravenswood Community Center in Queens on the evening of November 15th, RES and CS2K representatives met with over 20 residents. CS2K is a not-for-profit educational corporation that trains and provides services to high school students and adults in the construction field. In partnership with RES, CS2K focuses on meeting the needs of NYCHA residents.

CS2K Director Diane Springer told the Ravenswood group that her organization had placed 699 people in jobs in the building trades over the last several years. These new workers started as trainees and graduated to become union apprentices and then journeymen.

To be eligible to enroll in the CS2K program, residents must have a high school diploma or GED. Interested residents who do not have a high school diploma are referred to the Department of Education.

The first four months in the CS2K program consist of workshops and seminars for three hours a week. In July and August the program becomes full-time. Participants learn about the union hierarchies, as well as what's required of carpenters, plumbers, glaziers, sheet metal workers, etc.

Then it's off to the various job sites to watch the journeymen work.

Once completing the program, graduates are certified to become apprentices and placed directly into the trades as union members. They receive apprenticeship pay and eventually, after a year or a year-and-a-half, they work their way up to the position of journeyman. A journeyman is a tradesman or craftsman who has completed an apprenticeship but is not yet able to set up his or her own workshop as a master.

Said Ms. Springer, "You show up every day, on time and make the commitment and you could be earning \$75 an hour in a union job down the line. Earn while you learn."

Representatives of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 3 and RES Deputy Director Gladys Arciniega answered a variety of questions. The union electricians who spoke to the group, Thomas Carlo and Terrence Da Silva, told them that requirements are high for electricians and plumbers and that the union pays for its members to go to college.

If you are interested in a career in the construction industry, see the ad for Construction Skills 2000 on page 6.

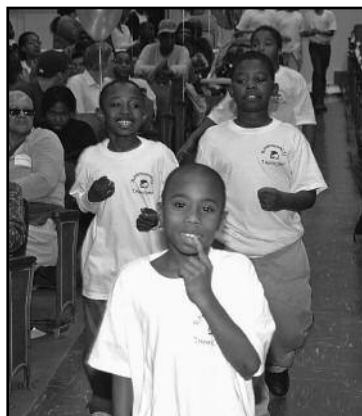
BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

bathroom. Joining seniors at the event were Congress Member Charles Rangel, Assembly Member Adriano Espaillat, City Council Member Robert Jackson, a representative from the Department for the Aging, Ft. Washington Services Executive Director Rebecca Carel and Constantino Sagonas from NYCHA's Capital division.

Queens:

Free after-school mentoring, tutoring through the 12th grade, tuition assistance and friendships for a lifetime — sounds like a dream, doesn't it? That dream is coming true for the 50 third- and fourth-graders from NYCHA's Ravenswood Houses, who were officially adopted into the "I Have A Dream" Ravenswood II Program in a ceremony held at the Dutch Kills School in Long Island City on November 9th. In exchange, the children took the "Dreamer Pledge," promising to stay in school, aim for college and keep dreaming of their goals. Established in 1986, the national "I Have A Dream" Foundation motivates and empowers children from low-income communities to achieve their education and career goals through a long-term program of mentoring, academic and cultural enrichment, and tuition assistance for higher education. The Ravenswood II "I Have A Dream" program is being funded by The Elmezzzi Foundation, which will donate more than \$1.2 million plus college tuition. NYCHA will contribute \$50,000 per year to the 10-year program.



Staten Island:

City Council Member Michael McMahon made an appearance at the Stapleton Houses' City Harvest Mobile Market on December 5th, to announce that he had secured \$10,000 for the program. The Mobile Market visits Stapleton twice a month, providing free fresh fruit and vegetables to more than 300 families from the development.

First Houses' 70th Anniversary

By Eileen Elliott

PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE UNITED STATES WAS BORN ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE OF MANHATTAN 70 YEARS AGO WITH THE OPENING OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) VERY FIRST DEVELOPMENT, FIRST HOUSES. TOGETHER, NYCHA RESIDENTS AND STAFF JOINED ELECTED OFFICIALS AND FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE THAT BIRTH IN A COBBLESTONE COURTYARD NESTLED BEHIND THE DEVELOPMENT'S EIGHT FOUR- AND FIVE-STORY BUILDINGS ON A BRISK OCTOBER 21ST AFTERNOON.

"On December 3, 1935, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, New York State Governor Herbert Lehman and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt stood here in this courtyard and dedicated the opening of NYCHA's First Houses," said NYCHA Secretary Vilma Huertas in her capacity as Mistress of Ceremonies. "Soon after, in 1936, the first families moved into First Houses and that is the event we mark today."

Located between East 2nd and 3rd Streets, and First Avenue and Avenue A, First Houses is among the smallest of NYCHA's 344 public housing developments. Yet, its historical significance looms large. Before First Houses, squalid tenements were often the only available housing to people without means. In fact, First Houses was created by renovating the original tenement buildings that lined the street, and removing every third building so that light and air could reach all of the 122 apartments.

The Speakers

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez expressed the pride he felt as the Housing Authority's 19th Chairman and emphasized the City's commitment to maintaining public housing. "We went from 122 families in Manhattan in 1936, to 187,000 families across the City in 2006," the Chairman said. "We now have a Mayor who is committed to providing housing to low- and moderate-income New Yorkers."

Senator Martin Connor, who represents the neighborhood, commended NYCHA for the work it has done, despite the challenging financial climate. And City Council Member Rosie Mendez recalled a time when she was 11 years old and was forced from her home by a fire. The young Ms. Mendez and her family moved into

NYCHA's Williamsburg Houses. "All my friends wanted to come over to my house to play," she said. "There was always heat and hot water, no rats."

Charlotte Miles, a resident leader from the nearby Lillian Wald Houses, told her story of growing up there; a story of many achievements and happy memories. Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. presented a proclamation to development Manager Tedric Gamble and long-time First Houses resident, 91-year-old Andrew Hladek. Signed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the document proclaimed October 21, 2006, "First Houses Day."

A Call For Support

NYCHA's newest Board Member, Margarita López, a former City Council Member and a long-time Lower East Side resident referred to the financial struggle that NYCHA and other housing authorities are facing. Commissioner López told the crowd, "I'm here to remind every one of us that the job is not yet done; the job is just beginning. Without NYCHA, the anchor that maintains this city will disappear."

Entertainment was provided by NYCHA's Senior and Youth Chorus, and a photo exhibit highlighted the growth of public housing in New York City.

Although public housing may be facing challenges, you would never know it in the festive courtyard at First Houses on October 21st. The speakers left the stage, the children played, and everyone ate hamburgers and hot dogs beneath the towering London Plane trees. The mood echoed Ms. Miles' words, "Being a NYCHA resident has been a wonderful thing for me and my family and I wouldn't have it any other way."



The NYCHA Senior Chorus at First Houses on October 21st.

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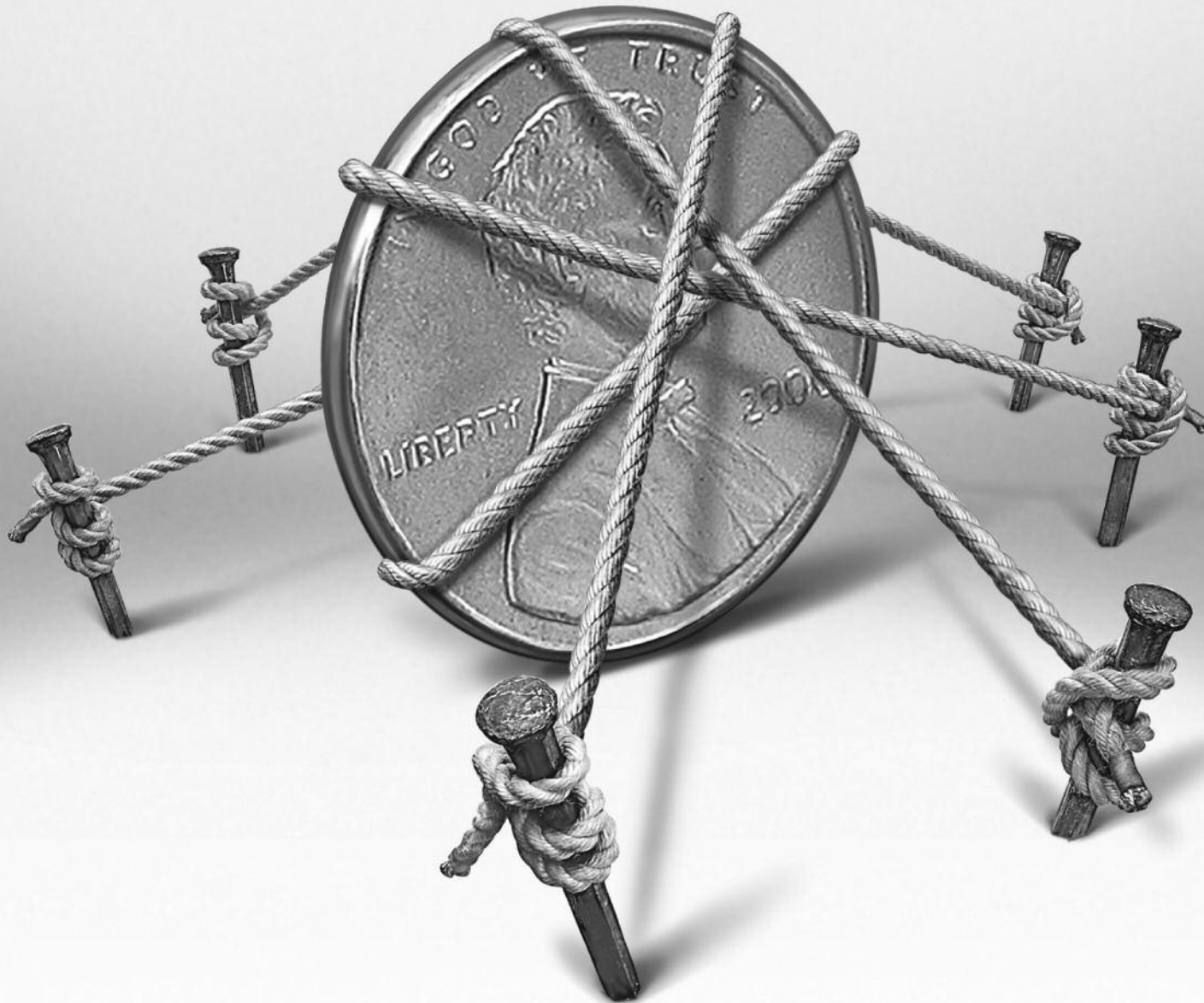
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<p>Queens-Howard Beach December 29, 9:00 AM Cross Bay Diner 160-31 Crossbay Blvd. Btwn. 160th & 161st Ave.</p>	<p>Staten Island December 22, 10:00 AM King's Arms Diner 500 Forest Ave. Cross St./Bard Ave.</p>	<p>Staten Island December 29, 10:00 AM Golden Dove Diner 3281 Richmond Ave. Cross St./Arthur Kill Rd.</p>		

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