



ON BROADWAY NYCHA execs and staff joined elected officials, resident leaders and young residents at the West Brighton Community Center Ribbon Cutting. Shown here (at ribbon, left to right) are: NYCHA Secretary Vilma Huertas, DFTA Assistant Commissioner Jorge Romano, Board Member Margarita López, General Manager Douglas Apple (back row), City Council Member Michael McMahon, Staten Island Borough Management Director Carolyn Jasper (back row), Chairman Tino Hernandez, Assembly Member John LaVelle, Center Director Shirlene Bonner, Staten Island Community Operations Director Carl Billington, and Staten Island Patrol Bureau Captain Richard Gutch. The Community Center is located at 230 Broadway.

WEST BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING IN STATEN ISLAND

By Eileen Elliott

WITH THE TEMPERATURE CLIMBING INTO THE HIGH NINETIES ON THE EARLY AFTERNOON OF JULY 31ST, NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS FROM STATEN ISLAND'S WEST BRIGHTON HOUSES AND THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY SEEMED HAPPY ENOUGH TO CHILL OUT IN THE NEWLY RENOVATED AND EXPANDED WEST BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CENTER. They were joined there by NYCHA executive staff and elected officials to celebrate the Center's jubilant "official" grand opening with a traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony. As Community Operations Staten Island Borough Director Carl Billington told the crowd seated in the airy, new auditorium, "I would like to say we'll be doing great things in the future but we're doing great things now."

Mr. Billington was referring to the fact that the West Brighton Community Center opened unofficially in November 2005. Since then, children, teens and adults have been enjoying a variety of programs at the NYCHA-run Community Center, while seniors have been taking

advantage of programs and activities in the renovated 5,800 square foot Senior Center, which is also located in the building, operated by Staten Island University Hospital.

At 11,800 square feet total, the facility has more than doubled in size with the addition of

the auditorium and surrounding spaces. Highlights of the \$3.85 million project include a new audio-visual production room, a computer lab, ceramic and game rooms, a color video security system and — very important — a state-of-the-art computer controlled heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez commended everyone involved in the Center's three-year renovation process, pointing out in particular NYCHA's General Manager Douglas Apple, without whom, he said, the project would not have moved forward; and long-time West Brighton Resident Association President Rosetta Newcombe. Mr. Hernandez emphasized the

(Continued on page 5)



EVEN BRIGHTER The newly renovated and expanded West Brighton Community Center in Staten Island.

23 RESIDENTS GRADUATE FROM 'STRIVE' CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM

By Heidi Morales

IT WAS A WARM AND BREEZY DAY. A CRISP WHITE TENT FELL OVER THE HEADS OF THE SMARTLY DRESSED MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. The cool breeze created a wave of royal blue fabric — the classic hue used at graduations. Smiling, bright-eyed faces were everywhere. This was a new beginning for many.

On the 20th of July, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg hosted a graduation ceremony for the first class of STRIVE Construction Skills program graduates at Gracie Mansion. Twenty-three NYCHA residents graduated from the program and have moved on to a pre-apprenticeship program sponsored by Construction Skills 2000 (CS2K), where they have been receiving hands-on training in preparation for a full apprenticeship with a construction trades union this fall.

"This is the first of its kind and it's particularly exciting because this group really is so inspiring. That's because so many of you have already faced so much and yet you've made the commitment to strive for more," Mayor Bloomberg said as he addressed the graduates.

The STRIVE Construction Skills program prepares workers for jobs in the construction trades creating a path to unionized jobs. The Mayor's Commission on

Construction Opportunity recommended this program as a way to generate opportunities for people who lack the necessary job skills and/or a high school diploma.

"The future could not be brighter," Mayor Bloomberg said. "You know there are going to be lots of jobs in this industry going forward and you know they're going to be very well-paid jobs."

Francisco Morales

Francisco Morales, 26, of NYCHA's Riis Houses, agrees. He's so enthusiastic about his prospects within the trade that he dedicated all of his time to his preparation at STRIVE and was able to graduate at the top of his class. But Mr. Morales's story hasn't always had a happy ending. When met with obstacles, he's given up in the past but now he has a fresh start.

"I attribute my shortcomings to [lack of] patience. If I would've had more patience I would've been

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CONSTRUCTIVE FUTURES Mayor Bloomberg (center) and NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple join the 54 graduates of the STRIVE Construction Skills program at Gracie Mansion. Twenty-three of the new graduates are NYCHA residents.

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BECOME A NEW YORK CITY FIREFIGHTER

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IMPORTANT SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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SUMMER PHOTO SPREAD



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The FDNY Is Recruiting Firefighters from Diverse Backgrounds



IF YOU ARE A YOUNG PERSON WHO MAY HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED PUBLIC SERVICE, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO ANSWER THE CALL AND BECOME ONE OF NEW YORK'S BRAVEST. On August 7th, the first day of open filing for the New York City firefighter exam, I joined Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta to launch the new FDNY recruitment campaign — "The Best Job in the World Has the Best Benefits in the World." You may already have seen the ads around the City or on television, or heard them on the radio.

Aimed at increasing diversity within the Fire Department, the advertising campaign features FDNY firefighters touting the benefits of joining the Department, including flexible work schedules, generous benefits and the ability to retire after 20 years of service. Coupled with an intensive citywide outreach campaign at career fairs, athletic clubs, colleges, cultural events and churches, the innovative advertising campaign began at the end of August.

The strength of the Fire Department lies in its members and increasing the diversity of the FDNY will strengthen the greatest fire department in the world. Being a firefighter is a great job with great benefits. The flexible work schedules and generous benefits after retirement mean that firefighters have an unusually good opportunity to balance work and family life. Firefighters have lifelong medical coverage, a pension after 20 years and significant growth opportunities. This chance only comes once every four years — so make sure to apply.

The open exam filing period runs from August 7th to October 13th.

The Fire Department will maintain contact with interested candidates to assist them in navigating the application process. The Recruitment Unit has set up a phone bank in Long Island City to answer questions and provide additional information to candidates. The Department will also offer free tutorials in all five boroughs for the written exam. Physical training programs will be offered through a continued partnership with New York Sports Club. Free access to physical training facilities at the Fire Academy on Randall's Island also will be available.

The Department of Citywide Administrative Services offers the firefighter exam once every four years. This year, the pool of candidates is expected to broaden with changes in the educational requirements allowing individuals with 15 college credits, full-time U.S. military service with an honorable discharge, or at least six months of full-time, satisfactory work experience the opportunity to take the exam. As I mentioned, the open filing period will be from August 7th to October 13th. A written exam will be held in January 2007 with a physical exam to follow. Often times, it may take up to one to three years before a candidate is called to join the Department. In an effort to better prepare incoming recruits, the Fire Department will lengthen the 13-week training period at the Academy.

Compared to the previous decade, the Fire Department has tripled its rate of minority hires from 5% to 15%. In 2005 and 2006 alone, that figure increased to nearly 20% of all Probationary Firefighter classes. Most recently, the last class to graduate from the Fire Academy in July was more than 21% minority, with 14% Hispanic, 5% African-American, 2% Asian and one Probationary Firefighter from a Native American background.

Interested applicants should call 311 or (718) 999-FDNY to get information on how to register for the Firefighter exam's open filing. Information is also available on the web at www.nyc.gov/fdny. And don't forget — the filing period ends on October 13th, so act now and take that first step toward becoming one of New York's Bravest!

Michael R. Bloomberg

**BRONX SOUTH COLLEGE-BOUND GRADUATION
NYCHA Residents Utilize Tenant Participation Activity Funds**

By Allan Leicht

THREE BRONX SOUTH NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN LEADING THE WAY IN THE USE OF TENANT PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY (TPA) FUNDS. TPA funds are allocated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) specifically for public housing residents to finance a variety of initiatives to promote community involvement and improvement, self-sufficiency and leadership. Spearheaded by Bronx South Council Of Presidents District Chair and Highbridge Houses Resident Association President Joanne Smitherman, three such programs came to fruition on Sunday, July 30th.

A gala Awards Ceremony and Dinner at the Black National Theater on Fifth Avenue brought residents from three Bronx developments to Manhattan on a steamy summer Sunday to celebrate the outstanding achievements of teenagers who have charted a course to higher education. Over 20 teens, their families and friends gathered for the culmination of three separate 16-week programs, all conducted by the Success Consultancy Group (SCG): the Patterson Houses Youth Leadership Program, the Forest Houses Youth Leadership Program and the Butler/Mill Brook Houses College-Bound Program.

"Today we appreciate you and we are going to show you love," said SCG Vice President Gerald Karikari as he opened the proceedings. "I have been hoping and dreaming for you even before I met you, even before you were born," Mr. Karikari told the teens.

Mill Brook Houses Resident Association President Linda Ballou, who initiated the College-Bound Program, said that her motivation sprang from seeing "too many youngsters pushing baby carriages. I would rather see teenagers carrying a briefcase than carrying a baby. When they are young is the time for education."

While all three programs were rooted in the necessity of an education, the Mill Brook College-Bound Program included sessions focusing specifically on mathematics, reading, poetry, literature and African history, taught by teachers who hold graduate degrees in various fields of scholarship. In addition, students were addressed by professionals, like doctors and attorneys; they were taken to a Broadway play (their first, for each of them) and they visited museums — all of which was intended as a stepping-stone to higher education.



GRADS Desmond Adams (left) and Demetri Winds (right) with SCG Director of Education Akosua Agyeman.

"This is a phenomenal program for young black people to get up and start doing something not only for themselves but for their community also," said student Tynique M. Moore. "But that is not the only thing that inspired me to join; it was also the fact that it was started by a group of proud black successful people. Just that alone makes me so happy and excited to see others like me making it," the teenager said.

The climax of the programs, which began on March 21st, was a four-day tour from July 13th through the 16th of five college campuses. Accompanied by volunteer parents, chaperones and teachers, the teens visited Hampton University and Norfolk State University in Virginia, Howard University and American University in Washington, and Morgan State University in Maryland, traveling by bus and lodging at hotels.

"At Success Consultancy Group we are going back to the 'Old School,'" said SCG President Jacques Le Andre as he described the process by which the programs provided a calculated intervention in the lives of the young people. "Some of our brothers do not make the right choices. That's the time — when you see a person on a street corner — that's the time to go and tap him on the shoulder and turn him in the right direction. And that's the reason these people got up every Saturday morning and came down for these programs."

Mr. Le Andre and Mr. Karikari recalled their own life choices, which brought them together and led them to their mission of improving the lives of teenagers. They then presented awards of appreciation to the Resident Association Presidents: Ms. Ballou of

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**Information About
Registering Your Child for School**



THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) PROVIDES MANY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, BUT NOTHING WE DO CAN COMPARE WITH THE EDUCATION THAT IS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. This year public school begins on Tuesday, September 5th, and since so many NYCHA residents attend public school, or are eligible to attend public school, I thought this would be a good opportunity to provide some practical information about the registration process.

First, who is eligible to register for public school?

Registration is for New York City residents who are age 5 or over, and under age 21, and are new to the New York City public school system or are returning to it. Although kindergarten isn't mandatory in NYC Schools, a child must be age 5 by December 31st of the year he/she will enroll in kindergarten. New York City residents who are 5 or over, and under 21, and have not received a high school diploma are entitled to attend New York City public schools free of charge.

When and where should you register your child for school?

For elementary school register your child at your zoned elementary school, and for middle school register your child at your zoned middle school, beginning September 5th. Your child's zoned school is determined by your home address. If you do not know your zoned school, you may call 311, a Regional Learning Support Center, a local public school, or check the Department of Education's web site at: www.nyc.gov/schools.

High school registration is not conducted at schools. Registration began on August 28th and continues through September 29th. To register, you may visit any of the New Student High School Registration Centers. These Centers will be open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am until 3:00 pm. High school registration will not be conducted at Regional Enrollment Offices or schools during this time. To find the locations call 311 or visit the Department of Education's web site listed above.

What documents do you need to register?

In order for a new student to register into a New York City public school, you and your child must bring the following items when registering:

- Verifiable proof of your home address — utility bill (gas, electric, or water), a deed to a house, or a document from the New York City Housing Authority or the Human Resources Administration. Other proofs of address include a medical or insurance card, or a statement that verifies the address from an employer, a social service agency, community based organization, or a religious institution. Please note: A telephone bill or driver's license is not acceptable proof of address. A lease by itself is not acceptable. If a parent is subletting an apartment or home, or if more than one family shares a living space, you must present an affidavit from the leaseholder or homeowner and attach any of the above acceptable proofs of address, i.e. lease, deed, utility bill;
- Child's birth certificate, passport, or baptismal certificate;
- Child's immunization history;
- Child's transcript or latest report card (recommended not required); and
- Child's Individualized Education Program (IEP), if applicable.

If you have questions and your child is currently enrolled in a New York City public elementary or middle school, please visit your child's current school. If your child is currently enrolled in or assigned to a New York City public high school, please go to your high school beginning September 5th to obtain information and assistance from your child's guidance counselor.

I hope you find this information helpful and have a great school year!

Tino Hernandez

BOROUGH DIGEST

The Bronx:

NYCHA's Social Services Department hosted the Bronx Social Services Street Fair on August 23rd near the Classic Community Center at Melrose Houses. Because many of the residents who are referred to Social Services experience financial difficulties, the focus of the fair was on providing information about available support services which may impact residents' ability to obtain and keep jobs. These services include medical care, mental health treatment and or childcare and afterschool programs. A diverse group of employers from local businesses were also present — Costco, Duane Reade, Rite Aid and Pathmark. Educational institutions were also represented, in particular, the College of New Rochelle and De Hostos Community College, to offer information about certificate and other programs that can help residents get a foot in the door. Most of the residents attending the fair were from Betances, Melrose, Jackson, Mitchel, Mott Haven, Morrisania Air Rights and Patterson Houses. If you live in the South Bronx and are interested in job opportunities, call NYCHA's Bronx Social Services Department at (718) 409-8699 and ask for Administrator Joseph Esheyigba.

Brooklyn:

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on July 27th at the Red Hook West Community Center on Wolcott Street in Brooklyn. It all started three years ago when the furniture maker IKEA, which is building a store in the area, saw the need for the renovation at the Center, which is funded by the New York City Department for the Aging and run by the Spanish Speaking Elderly Council-RAICES (SSEC-RAICES). IKEA approached the Independence Bank for a financial contribution and the Independence Community Foundation came through with \$35,000. IKEA contributed over \$100,000 for renovation and furnishings. The Horticultural Society will also be contributing funding and technical assistance to develop a senior flower, vegetable and herb garden.

Joining NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. at the event was Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, IKEA's Director of Public Affairs Joseph Roth,

(Continued on page 4)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



New uniforms for Explorers — They're called the PSA #4 Explorers — a group of young men and women who have volunteered to be a part of the Law Enforcement Exploring Program at Police Service Area (PSA) #4 on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The career-oriented program is designed to teach youth from the ages of 14-20

about law enforcement. The Explorer Program seeks to instill in participants a sense of discipline, teach them respect for law enforcement and leadership qualities, along with the skills to help them advance in life. The program also serves as a tool to help build and strengthen the relationship between youth and law enforcement officials in their community. The Explorer motto, "A better today for a better tomorrow," says it all.

Since the program began in 2004, membership has risen to 40 participants, 95% of whom reside in various New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments located on the Lower East Side. The program is structured in rank much like that of the NYPD. And just as NYPD recruits receive physical fitness training at the Police Academy, Explorers are no different. At PSA #4 during the weekly Wednesday session from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM, each Explorer undergoes a set of rigorous training activities. They are also taught and drilled on several military stances.

The only thing the Explorers were missing were uniforms to give them a sense of belonging and help others recognize them as a division of the New York City Police Department. Well, no more! NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, in her former role as a City Council Member, was able to secure \$5,000 in funding to purchase the "Bravo" uniform with its long sleeve shirt, white gloves and tie, the "Alpha" uniform with short sleeves and the "Tactical" uniform — polo shirt with combat boots.

"I worked very hard to get those uniforms and all the work was worth it," said Ms. López at NYCHA's Central Office on July 26th, when the Explorers came by to thank her with a special drill performance. Both the Chairman and the Board Member agreed that the drill performance was outstanding and that the Explorers looked great in their new uniforms.

The Law Enforcement Exploring Program at PSA #4 is coordinated through the efforts of Post Advisor Officer Flores, Community Affairs Officer Michael Duran and Officer Alonzo Harris.

Now, fully uniformed, the Explorers walk the community with pride participating in such events as National Night Out Against Crime, Fish Fry Day at Jacob Riis Houses and at various Domestic Violence Program events. Sergeant Charity Mazzola, a resident of Jacob Riis Houses, said she enjoys being an Explorer so much that she encouraged her best friend Captain Angela Stevens, non-resident, to join. Both girls agree that the program creates a sense of loyalty and self-discipline. "Sometimes young people in the neighborhood have different reactions seeing us in our uniforms. They think we are cops and call us snitches, but I don't care because everyone has their own opinion. I know when young people criticize me they do so because they are jealous and have nothing going on with their lives. I like the program and that's all that matters to me," said Sergeant Mazzola. Many of the Explorers are choosing careers in law enforcement or the military. Stacy Moran has decided to join the Marine Corps; Peter Ascolla is entering the Police Academy and others are interested in becoming lawyers or district attorneys.

You guys have my deepest admiration. I am always happy to see young men and woman like you taking charge of your lives. Don't ever let anyone deter you from your goals. Congratulations! I wish you all the best in your career choices.

One hundred years young — NYCHA has a lot to celebrate. It seems that during the month of August two residents turned 100 years young. On August 6, 2006, Ms. Agnes Wilson of Jackie Robinson Houses in Manhattan celebrated her 100th birthday, and Mr. Erasmus Chesconi of Shelton Senior Houses in Queens, under the management of Baisley Park, celebrated his 100th birthday on August 5, 2006.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very special birthday wish to you both. It's not every day a person turns 100 but you did it. You are an inspiration to us all. You are the bedrock of our communities. You have lived and witnessed it all and you hold stories that history is built upon and for that I thank you. I hope you both had very special days. Happy Belated Birthday!

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 August 17, 24 and 31 and September 7, 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 August 17, 2005

Patrick Parris	Case 5566/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 495 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Kevin Parris	
Jerome Ellis	Case 5597/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 385 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Ivan Rivera	Case 5732/05 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 3050 Park Avenue, Jackson Houses, Bronx.
Terrell Rollison	Case 9942/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 85-02 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Hammel Houses, Queens.
Hector Figueroa	Case 5748/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 2839 West 33rd Street, Surfside Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Jose Harris	Case 5751/05 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 40 Amsterdam Avenue, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.
Martin Sommerville	Case 5749/05 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 2926 West 25th Street, Surfside Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Gregory Mathis	Case 5765 formerly associated with the first floor of 175-177 Alexander Avenue, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.
Christopher Smith	Case 5900/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 409 East 146th Street, Betances V Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of August 24, 2005

Kimberly Jones	Case 5246/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2811 Exterior Street, Marble Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Dunmar Steed	Case 6606/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 691 F.D.R. Drive, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
Tyrone Benjamin	Case 5843/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 545 West 126th Street, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.
Pedro Perez	Case 4408/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 177 Nagel Avenue, Dyckman Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of August 31, 2005

Justin Murray	Case 6056/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 159-30 Harlem River Drive, Rangel Houses, Manhattan.
Jacob Tuck	Case 6061/05 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1141 F.D.R. Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan.
Sean Blackman	Case 6105/05 formerly associated with the twenty-second floor of 487 Carlton Avenue, Atlantic Terminal Houses, Brooklyn.
Sean Hood	
David Pardo	Case 6109/05 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 745 East 152nd Street, Adams Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of September 7, 2005

Charles Brown	Case 6167/05 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 3170 Broadway, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
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BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

Independence Bank President Alan Fishman and Executive Director of SSEC-RAICES Jose R. Ortiz Ortiz.



DFTA Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago

Manhattan:

The NYCHA Youth Chorus sang at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on August 23rd at a ceremony for the World Harmony Run, a global relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. As a symbol of harmony, runners carry a flaming torch, passing it from hand to hand between members of thousands of communities, travelling through over 70 nations around the globe. The day before the event, an international team of runners visited the singers at their home base in Taft Houses. The runners visit schools, community groups, running clubs, and local and national government organizations to celebrate the goal of world harmony and recognize people in the community who work for harmony in their own special way. The goal is to strengthen a sense of international brotherhood.

Queens:

If things go as planned, City Council Member John Liu will be joining residents of Bland Houses and the surrounding area for classes in Chinese at the development's Community Center. The class is expected to begin this fall and will run for three months. The Council Member is funding the class.

Staten Island:

Clove Lakes Park was the site for the Housing Authority's fifth annual Kids' Walk, which took place on a beautiful, sunny August 16th. Approximately 1,600 youth from 36 community centers throughout the City converged on the 198 acre park for a 2.5 mile trek to promote exercise as part of a healthy lifestyle. There was an educational puppet show stressing the importance of healthy eating at the end of the walk, an obstacle course, and the ever-popular vegetable relay.

Thinking About Removing Your Air Conditioner?

The summer season is coming to an end and a lot of residents will want to take their air conditioners out of their windows to allow the cool breezes to flow through. When you want to remove your air conditioner, notify your Housing Manager or call the Centralized Call Center (CCC) immediately to request a visit by a maintenance worker. The maintenance worker should be present at the time of the air conditioner's removal so that he or she can immediately install a window guard.

Residents who live in Staten Island, Queens and Manhattan can make this appointment by calling the CCC at (718)707-7771. Residents of the Bronx and Brooklyn should call their Management Office. Please make sure that no window in your apartment is ever without a window guard or a permanently installed air conditioner.

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority is in the process of treating all of the catch basins located in Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These applications will take place between June and October of 2006. The larvicides being used are:

- Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category – "Caution"
- Bactimos Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category – "Caution"

Contact names and numbers for this application are:

New York City Housing Authority:
Jamal Rashid, Coordinator – 718-707-5808
Available from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Luis Ponce, Deputy Director – 718-707-5323
Available from 9:00 am -5:00 pm

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2,
Bureau of Pesticide Management – 718-482-4994

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network–
1-800-858-PEST

Inquiries concerning symptoms of pesticide poisoning should be directed to the Poison Control Center – 1-800-222-1222.

ATTENTION SENIORS

**The New York City Housing Authority
Community Operations
Resident Support Services Department**
In Cooperation with Riverbank State Park &
The North River Community Environmental Review Board Inc.

Is pleased to announce the 2nd annual

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WEST BRIGHTON

(Continued from page 1)

importance of Community Centers to NYCHA residents, and the Authority's commitment to modernizing existing centers and building new ones throughout the City.

Other speakers included City Council Member Michael E. McMahon, whom Mr. Billington introduced as, "a fighter for this community." The Council Member beamed as he told the audience, "It's a great thing when we have good news like this. Let's celebrate it."

Mr. McMahon was followed by State Assembly Member John LaVelle who pointed out that the new computer room will provide children from P.S. 18 across the street with much needed Internet access. He ended on the note that residents should, "enjoy this Community Center for decades to come."

Center Coordinator Shirlene Bonner led children from the nearby P.S. 18 Chorus in a tap-step dance to George Benson's classic, "On Broadway," inspired by West Brighton's location at 230 Broadway (in Staten Island, of course), as well as a heartfelt rendition of the National Anthem.

Representatives for Borough President James P. Molinaro and Congress Member Vito J. Fossella

Boriken Neighborhood Health Center
 In Taino Towers, 2253 Third Avenue (3rd floor) New York, NY 10035
 For appointments please call: (212) 289-6650

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were also present, as was Board Member Margarita López, Community Operations' new Assistant Deputy General Manager Deidra Gilliard and NYCHA's new Staten Island Borough Management Director Carolyn Jasper.

Senior Center President Mae Brown, who has lived in West

Brighton for 32 years and raised six children there, summed up the importance of the Center best. "For some seniors here who are on a fixed income, the breakfast and lunch they serve are the only meals they get," she said. But Ms. Brown was quick to add, "We come here for Bingo games, we laugh, we play."



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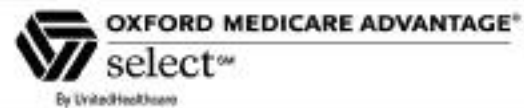
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SOAKING UP THE NYCHA



New Yorkers from all over the City filled the Plaza in front of the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building on 125th Street for the free Calypso Harlem SummerStage Concert on July 27th featuring The Mighty Sparrow and United Sounds Steel Band.



NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez with 830 Amsterdam Houses Resident Association President Idalia Morales in Manhattan at the July 15th Family Day Celebration.



Tug-of-war was just one of the games at the Bronx Sports Education Field Day in Van Cortlandt Park on July 18th.



ABOVE: Three young residents at the Classic Community Center, located at Melrose Houses in the Bronx, on their first day of Summer Camp, July 5th.

LEFT: Young residents from NYCHA's Lacrosse Team went all the way out to Las Vegas for the New York City vs. Las Vegas Friendship Games, to compete against four Las Vegas Teams. NYCHA won one of the games, against the Las Vegas Gators.



The three pictures above were taken at the 34th Annual Ridgewood-Bushwick Senior Picnics, hosted by City Council Member Vito Lopez and held in Sunken Meadow Park on Long Island on July 20th and August 17th. In the first picture, above left, from left to right, are NYCHA Secretary Vilma Huertas, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Council Member Vito Lopez and Chairman Tino Hernandez. The second picture shows many of the NYCHA staff who pitched in to man the grills, and the third picture features the main course being cooked by Deputy General Manager (DGM) Hugh Spence (far right) with DGM Bobby Podmore supervising.

A SUMMER FUN IN 2006



These young Partners In Reading (PIR) came to the Madd Fun Indoor Amusement Park in Brooklyn on June 30th for the literacy program's Closing Ceremony Celebration.



ABOVE: City Council Member Gale Brewer (center) joined NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez and the NYCHA Youth Chorus at the Wise Towers Family Day in Manhattan on July 15th. BELOW: Board Member Margarita López leads the dance line at Smith Houses Family Day.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the newly renovated Red Hook Houses Senior Center was cause for celebration on July 27th. The renovation was funded by the IKEA furniture store and the Independence Community Foundation.



NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez and Smith Houses Resident Association President Nikki Azure cut up the rug at the Manhattan development's Family Day Celebration on July 15th.



More fun for young Partners In Reading at the program's Closing Ceremony, held at the Madd Fun Indoor Park in Brooklyn on June 30th. Partners In Reading is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, NYCHA and the Department of Education with the goal of improving literacy skills in children who are in the first, second and third grades.

'STRIVE' GRADUATION CEREMONY

(Continued from page 1)



FRANCISCO MORALES

able to finish school, but I wanted to drop out when I was 18," Mr. Morales said. Thanks to YouthBuild, a national nonprofit program NYCHA has collaborated with in the past, Mr. Morales was able to get back on track. "I went to YouthBuild when I was 19 and got my GED," he said, appearing satisfied with his accomplishment. "But I'm sure there was a better way," he added.

And there was. Mr. Morales geared up to get his life back on track and for the past several years has sought out training programs and classes. This included training in the Department of Housing Preservation and Development's (HPD's) Building Maintenance Program where he received superintendent certification. He also worked at a lighting company where he developed an interest in the electrical trade. Now, Mr. Morales said he is focused, determined and satisfied.

Mr. Morales recently took an exam to obtain his electrician's license and once he successfully completes the CS2K training will move on to become a full-time, paid, apprentice for Local 3—the labor union for electricians.

Daniel Montero

Another triumphant young man, thanks to STRIVE, is Daniel Montero. Mr. Montero is 28 years old and a resident of Webster/Morrisania Houses in the Bronx. He said he was enthusiastic about the program from the start. "It was tiring but fun. We brushed up on our skills in math, our attitude, the way we dress and our communications skills."

A big part of the STRIVE program is to teach students job readiness skills and to foster a positive attitude towards work, authority and themselves.

Mr. Montero plans to become an apprentice for the painter's union. After an arduous three-year apprenticeship, Mr. Montero hopes to become what is referred to as a journeyman—and will earn top wages and benefits.

Mr. Montero also shared his story of delayed success. "I made a lot of bad decisions. I got in trouble with the law a couple of times; but now I realize it's not worth it. I want to go to school, get a job and take care of my family. I'm an only child; it's just my mother and me, so now I can really help her out," Mr. Montero said.



DANIEL MONTERO

Amanda Benitez

Perhaps one of the most impressive stories is that of Amanda Benitez, 24, of Ocean Bay Houses in Queens. This petite, young woman has found her path and this time, she says she won't stray.



AMANDA BENITEZ

Ms. Benitez's story is that of a young person given the responsibility of a job without having prior knowledge of what it takes to be successful; without appropriate communications skills or even the right attitude necessary to keep a job and excel in a place of employment.

Ms. Benitez also attended an HPD program which prepared her for a job in painting but poor choices led her to lose her job. "I made a bad decision—to get comfortable at my job. I thought, 'Oh, they're not going to fire me.' But now I have a chance to make a good decision, a positive decision," she said. And, she did make a positive decision by joining STRIVE.

Ms. Benitez said that the fact that these jobs aren't traditionally for women excites her. "They say it's only 12% women. I think another woman isn't bad. And, I feel I can do the same work a man can do," she added.

Although Ms. Benitez has already had training in painting she said she would like to get an apprenticeship in carpentry. "Carpentry pays more money than painting and its more math, so it'll be something I have to push myself to learn," she said.

A total of 54 graduates (including the 23 NYCHA residents) completed the STRIVE work readiness program and those who did not already have high school diplomas were able to obtain their GEDs.

The Mayor's Commission on Construction Opportunity was formed in March 2005, and was charged with exploring strategies and setting goals for ensuring that all New Yorkers, particularly minorities, women, returning veterans and recent high school graduates are well-prepared and have the opportunity to gain access to new permanent jobs in construction.

These graduates, as Mayor Bloomberg put it, "strived, survived and thrived."

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COLLEGE-BOUND (Continued from page 2)

Mill Brook Houses, Wallace Hassan of Patterson Houses and Richard Moore of Butler Houses. Parents who served as volunteer chaperones on the college tour were cited for special thanks, but none were more applauded than the students themselves who were embraced and awarded by SCG Director of Education Ms. Akosua Agyeman.

Ms. Agyeman, herself a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, recalled the words of George Washington Carver, who described education as "the key to unlock the doors of freedom." "We have given you the key," Ms. Agyeman told her students, "the rest is up to you."

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