

Youth Instrumental Ensemble

By Tischelle George

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL-AGED NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME PIONEERING MEMBERS OF THE NYCHA YOUTH INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE. The Housing Authority is hiring professional music instructors to teach NYCHA residents between the ages of nine and 13 how to play a musical instrument and be part of an orchestra.

Participation in the NYCHA Youth Instrumental Ensemble is free of charge, but students will need to work hard and parents will need to lend their support to make this new endeavor work, said NYCHA's Citywide Programs Deputy Director Ukah Busgith. "Since participants will come from all over the city, parents may need to escort them to the center and pick them up." The lessons will be held at the Straus Community Center, located in mid-town Manhattan.

Both parents and students will be interviewed for consideration for one of the 50 spots in the Youth Instrumental Ensemble. Interested students are required to complete an application, submit a 100 word essay explaining their desire to join the Youth Instrumental Ensemble, and obtain one letter of recommendation from a teacher, guidance

counselor or NYCHA Community Center director.

In addition to learning how to play brass, string or percussion instruments, students will also learn how to read sheet music and work together. Participants must exhibit maturity and dedication as they commit to attend weekly scheduled lessons. Students will also be held responsible for maintaining the condition of the new instruments they will be allowed to borrow so they can practice at home.

Even though it may take several months for the gifted members of the Youth Instrumental Ensemble to gain enough experience to perform in front of an audience, NYCHA is confident that the new orchestra will become as popular as the NYCHA Youth Chorus, which is in high demand

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EQUAL TREATMENT Senator Charles Schumer (center) with (left to right) NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Congress Member Nydia Velázquez and Chairman Tino Hernandez at the Jacob Riis Community Center in Manhattan, announcing The Public Housing Equal Treatment Act of 2007. At left, Chairman Hernandez speaks with some of the Resident Association presidents from the 21 State and City developments that would be affected by the bill.

NYCHA's 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program

NYCHA is seeking youth between the ages of 14 and 21 for the 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The 2007 program will run from July 2, 2007 through August 18, 2007. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is not required to qualify for the program.

NYCHA's SYEP participants gain valuable employment experience working in Community Centers as Counselors-in-Training (16 and 17 year olds only), or on NYCHA development grounds. Starting April 1st, interested youth will be able to apply online or download an application from the City's Website: www.nyc.gov/dycd. Starting April 2nd, SYEP applications will also be available at NYCHA Development Management Offices, Community Centers and at the Department of Resident Employment Services, located at 350 Livingston Street in Brooklyn. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA Development Management Office. Applications must be returned by May 18th.

For more information about SYEP, please visit DYCD's Website or contact NYCHA's SYEP Program Coordinator, Frances Rodriguez at 212-306-3985.

BILL TO FUND 21 STATE AND CITY DEVELOPMENTS

By Eileen Elliott

NEW YORK CITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING MAY BE GETTING SOME OF THE HELP IT NEEDS. ON FEBRUARY 20TH, SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER JOINED CONGRESS MEMBER NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ AT JACOB RIIS HOUSES ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE TO INTRODUCE THE PUBLIC HOUSING EQUAL TREATMENT ACT OF 2007. If the bill becomes law, the 21 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments that were once funded by the City and State but have received no funding from either for many years, would begin receiving funding from the federal government in 2008.

Senator Schumer told the crowd, "The federal government left NYCHA to pick up the tab. The fact remains that these buildings deserve federal funding... This should have been done a long time ago."

Operating costs for the 21 State and City developments accounted for approximately half of NYCHA's budget deficit for Fiscal Year 2006. NYCHA continues to face a deficit in 2007, caused by the accumulated results of declining federal resources, the 21 unfunded

developments, and rising non-discretionary costs such as collective bargaining agreements with unions, and increasing health and pension costs.

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez met briefly with many of the Resident Association presidents of the 21 developments just before the press conference, to thank them for their support. "Starting in 2008, we may be in a position to get the money we deserve," the Chairman said. "We see this as a defining moment."

Recalling how a previous victory to federalize the 21 developments was repealed by a Republican Congress in 2000, Senator Schumer confidently stated, "I am now head of the Housing Subcommittee, and Congress Member Nydia Velázquez, *La Luchadora*, (the wrestler) is the most senior New York member on the Subcommittee on Housing of the House Financial Services Committee... We will get the federal government to live up to the promise it made

(Continued on page 3)

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Taking Steps To Protect New York's Most Vulnerable Children



APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH. Over the last year, the City's Administration for Children's Services (ACS) caseworkers investigated roughly 70,000 reports of abuse and neglect—an average of one every eight minutes.

Earlier this year, I joined ACS Commissioner John Mattingly at John Jay College of Criminal Justice to preside over the graduation of 230 new caseworkers, a 44% net increase in the number of caseworkers on staff since the death of seven-year-old Nixzmary Brown last January. ACS continues to

hire an average of 80 new caseworkers a month.

While congratulating these new graduates and their families, I challenged our legislators in Albany to change the law to allow ACS caseworkers to check and compare criminal records of adults in households where credible child abuse allegations have been reported. Currently, ACS workers who learn of allegations of criminal activity by an adult can only ask about that specific allegation, and cannot check computer records for any other criminal history. They have no easy way of finding out if a parent is a sex offender, has committed a felony assault, or has a history of domestic violence. If this legislation is passed, frontline caseworkers will have the ability to run "rap sheets" on parents accused of abusing or neglecting their children.

At the same graduation, I also promised that my office will work hard to make assaulting a social worker a felony crime. Teachers, police officers and transit workers already have this protection. To further protect the most vulnerable children, the City has revamped the Instant Response Teams so that police officers and caseworkers collaborate more efficiently on the most severe cases of abuse. In addition, ACS successfully rolled out "ChildStat"—based on the NYPD's highly successful CompStat—to measure and improve its effectiveness in protecting children, and to train medical providers to better recognize and report the warning signs of abuse or neglect. Later this year, ACS will expand that training to child care providers, too.

Together with ACS, this Administration is doing everything possible to plug gaps in the child welfare system and significantly reduce the chances that any child could fall through the cracks again. You can help: Reports of child abuse and neglect can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling the New York State Central Register (SCR) Child Abuse and Maltreatment Hotline at 1-800-342-3720. All calls are confidential. The SCR relays calls to ACS to begin an investigation when appropriate. If you believe a child is being abused, or is in immediate danger, call 911.

Michael R. Bloomberg

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All In The Family: Dentistry At Ravenswood

By Allan Leicht

THE LATE DR. HERBERT BLUMENTHAL HOLDS A UNIQUE PLACE IN NEW YORK CITY HISTORY. According to his sons, Dr. Blumenthal was the first health care professional to rent office space from a City agency.

Dr. Blumenthal, a dentist, established his practice in 1958 at a street-level suite of offices at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Ravenswood Houses on 21st Street in Long Island City. Dr. Blumenthal is gone now, but his sons, Drs. Cary and Peter Blumenthal, carry on his practice at the same address, where they estimate that 60% to 70% of their patients are NYCHA residents.

"There are about 20 patients who have been coming here since 1958," says Dr. Cary Blumenthal. "And now we're treating the grandchildren of some of the original patients. I would say that at the beginning about 95% of Dad's patients were residents here who moved away."

The elder Dr. Blumenthal, who passed away in 1998, began his practice in Brooklyn before relocating to Ravenswood. There he looked after the dental health of the neighborhood until his retirement in 1992, leaving the practice to his sons.

"Many of the people here have been so great," said Dr. Cary Blumenthal. "There is one lady who lives at Ravenswood Houses, Frieda Chuck, she comes by every holiday with decorations. We don't have to decorate the office, Ms. Chuck does it," the doctor said.

The Drs. Blumenthal live on Long Island—Cary in Valley Stream and Peter in Oceanside—and commute to Long Island City by car to their blue-and-white-canopied entrance that has the feeling of a small town dental office. Their waiting room, in clean, neat, 1960s style, is replete with the traditional collection of magazines, oral hygiene reminders and also with a television set quietly spinning out the latest soap opera. Television screens also hover above the dental chairs in the Blumenthals' examining rooms, giving patients a welcome distraction.

Both Doctors Blumenthal are graduates of New York University: Cary graduated in 1981 and Peter in 1982. Continuing their father's legacy, the doctors make allowances for their unique practice, accepting, for example, a lot of insurance that other dentists would not accept.

They are an institution in Ravenswood and Long Island City as they continue a family medical tradition.



DEEP ROOTS Dr. Peter Blumenthal standing outside the dental practice his father Herbert established in 1958 at the Ravenswood Houses in Queens. Herbert left the practice to his sons, Peter and Cary, in 1992.

NYCHA leases nearly 200 commercial spaces in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx, housing businesses that provide a wide range of goods and services to residents and the broader community. Typical businesses include delis, beauty salons and barber shops, laundries/dry cleaners, pharmacies, supermarkets and medical offices.

NYCHA offers market competitive rents, negotiable terms and attractive incentives for substantial renovations. Stores vary in size from 400 to 10,000 square feet, and opportunities may exist for combining smaller stores to meet a specific need. For more information on leasing commercial space from NYCHA, visit our website at nyc.gov/nycha.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Where We Stand Now



LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME, ALONG WITH MY COLLEAGUES ON THE BOARD, I HAD JUST ANNOUNCED THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) SEVEN POINT PLAN TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HOUSING. In addition to filling a \$168 million budget gap for Fiscal Year 2006, the Plan introduced initiatives that would provide structural balance to the Authority's budget over the long-term.

NYCHA was successful in balancing its 2006 budget. This is thanks largely to a one-time transitional allocation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of \$100 million and a \$20 million allocation

from the City Council, as well as our efforts to reduce head count and spending on energy and other areas. The residents of public housing have also stepped up and done their share, under the elements of The Plan that included a targeted rent increase and increases in fees and charges.

Fiscal Year 2007

Unfortunately, because parts of The Plan are still pending and because of additional cuts in our federal subsidy, in Fiscal Year 2007 NYCHA is facing a deficit of \$225 million. This deficit is the result of a number of factors. Much of the deficit is caused by the operating costs for 21 developments that were built by the City and State but do not receive operating subsidies from any government source. This has forced NYCHA to use the limited federal dollars it does receive to keep these units operational. Other reasons for the deficit include declining federal resources, rising costs such as collective bargaining agreements with unions, and increasing health, pension and fuel costs.

Actions We're Taking

We are doing everything we can to address the Fiscal Year 2007 deficit. NYCHA has been advocating aggressively for the State to renew its commitment to public housing. We are requesting that the State provide \$62 million in funding annually to maintain the 15 developments it built throughout the City between 1958 and 1974.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank the 26 members of the State Senate and Assembly who have written to Governor Eliot Spitzer expressing support, as well as to the housing advocates and resident leaders who have lobbied on this issue. I also thank the City Council for introducing an important resolution calling on the State to fund these developments.

NYCHA is still awaiting approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on a proposal to use Section 8 vouchers to subsidize 8,400 units in the 21 City and State developments. I am hopeful that we will receive this critical funding.

I hope you had a chance to read the front page article on the new legislation that is being championed by Senator Charles Schumer and Congress Member Nydia Velázquez, called the "Public Housing Equal Treatment Act of 2007." If enacted, this bill will bring the 21 State and City developments into the federal fold, making them eligible to receive \$100 million in operating and capital funds, beginning in 2008.

What We've Accomplished So Far...

NYCHA has cut more than \$500 million in spending since 2003. From 2002 to 2006 we reduced head count by almost 2,000. We lowered spending on utilities, cut overtime, and reduced administrative, maintenance and operational costs. An additional \$45.5 million in savings has been identified this year.

NYCHA continues to work diligently to deliver the highest quality of service to residents. Stay tuned in the coming months as we report our progress on our effort to get the funding we deserve so that the nation's premier housing authority will continue to provide decent homes to New Yorkers for generations to come.

Tino Hernandez

STATE AND CITY

(Continued from page 1)

30 years ago to fund these developments so they stay a decent place to live."

The Chair mentioned that NYCHA is currently awaiting a decision from HUD on the transition of 8,400 units from the 21 State and Federal developments into the Section 8 Program, which would provide enough funding to cover the operating costs of all 21 developments. He said he is also attacking the problem by creating a strong presence in Albany. "We feel the State has a moral obligation to provide money for State developments."

"We are all in this together," said Congress Member Velázquez. "This is a fight we can win but we've got to keep the pressure on. Go to Albany and make the case... The legislation we are introducing today will restore stability and protect vital services for residents."

Assembly Member Brian Kavanaugh also emphasized the State's responsibility. "What's missing is a State agreement that it is our responsibility as well," the Assembly Member said.

"Hopefully," said Anna Matos, a long-time resident of the nearby Lillian Wald Houses, which is also one of the "21" "our voices will be heard today."

Visit the Residents' Corner

on NYCHA's website at www.nyc.gov/nycha

The Residents' Corner will keep you informed of the many activities, events, programs and services taking place at NYCHA.

The Residents' Corner has information on Community Center activities, senior activities, health services, employment opportunities, and much much more.

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Health Alert—There may be a Health Navigator in your development... that is if you live in Gowanus Houses or Wyckoff Gardens in Brooklyn. You may recall that the February 2007 issue of the *NYCHA Journal* featured an article on the new "Healthy Families" pilot program at Gowanus and Wyckoff. The objective of

the program is to determine what the obstacles are that prevent residents from getting the health care they need, then finding ways to overcome those obstacles. Eleven of the 12 NYCHA residents who began their training in February as Community Health Navigators, graduated on March 15, 2007, at Long Island College Hospital. If all goes well with this pilot, Healthy Families will expand to include other sites in Brooklyn. Congratulations to Lillian Collazo, Beverly Corban, Janice Dean, LaToya Floyd, Tanya Hairston, Patricia Herbert, Marguerite Scott, Darlene Stokes, Celeste Turner, Edith White and Lydia Zavala. **You can make this program a success. Congratulations!**

Teen Explosion—Two NYCHA youth who are members of the NYCHA Performing Arts Program are exploding with talent all over the NYCHA entertainment world.

Elani Rodriguez of Baruch Houses in Manhattan, and Michael Crayton, formerly of Metro North Consolidated in the Bronx and now a resident of Taft Houses in Manhattan, have performed at a number of venues as dancers with the troupe, "Dance Factory." These include the NYCHA Talent Show, "Hip Hop Story," and most recently the musical, "Teen Explosion," that was held at the Fashion Institute of Technology on March 29th and 30th. I just named a few of their credits, but

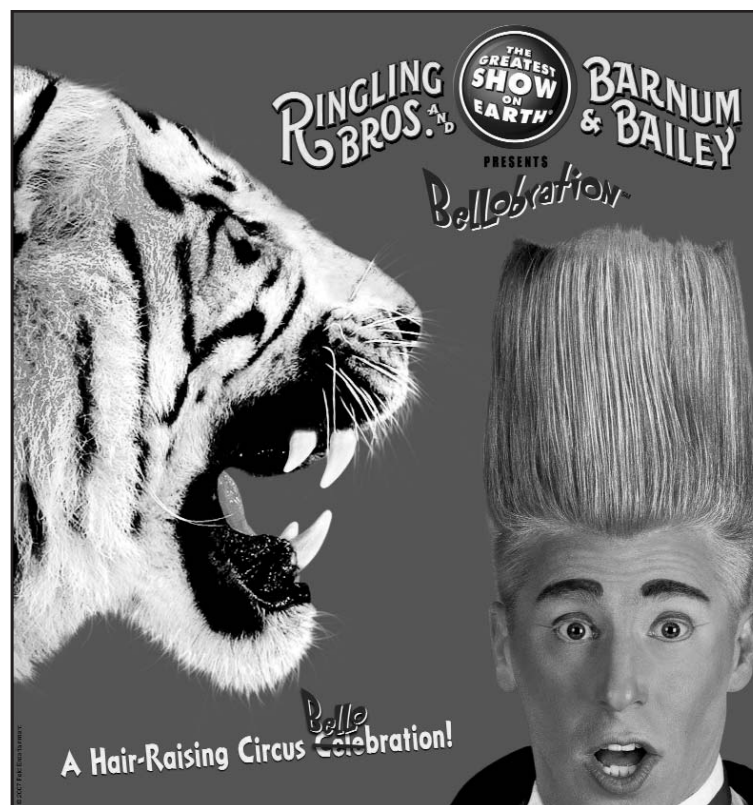


Elani Rodriguez

the list goes on and on since Elani and Michael have been members of the NYCHA Performing Arts Program since it began about five years ago. What sets these two teens apart, according to Citywide Programs Community Coordinator Andre LeClech, is the "dedication to their performance." You see it's not just a hobby for Elani and Michael, it's a career choice. **Well, I must say you guys have made quite an impression. What a great springboard for professional careers in the performing arts. I hope that your experience here with NYCHA's Performing Arts Unit will launch you to stardom!**



Michael Crayton



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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 January 4, 11, 18 and 25, and February 1, 2006. **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 January 4, 2006

- William Luke Case 8894/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 159-20 Harlem River Dr., Rangel Houses, Manhattan.
- Victor Porter Case 8982/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 543 East 108th Street, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 11, 2006

- Harold Crawford Case 7906/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 790 Astor Avenue, Pelham Parkway Houses, the Bronx.
- Jamar Holloway Case 8829/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 1147 229th Drive North, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
- Alberto Mattei Case 294/04 formerly associated with the first floor of 140 Moore Street, Bushwick/
Adrian Maldonado
Edwin Mattei Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 18, 2006

- Jeffrey Stewart Case 9052/05 formerly associated with the twenty-sixth floor of 2999 8th Avenue, Polo Grounds Houses, Manhattan.
- Douglas Joyner Case 14/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 415 Lafayette Avenue, Lafayette Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
- Tevis King Case 32/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 442 East 105th Street, East River Houses, Manhattan.
- Khiran Brown Case 57/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1715 Randall Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.
- Jachin Gregory Case 6/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
- Tony Robinson Cases 9/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 1115 Prospect Avenue, Union Avenue Consolidated Houses, the Bronx.
- John Zayas Case 102/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 624 Clinton Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 25, 2006

- Joaquim Pointer Case 6594/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 65-22 Parsons Boulevard, Pomonok Houses, Flushing.
- Michael Rosendary Case 144/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1259 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
- Christian Santiago Case 150/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 877 Taylor Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of February 1, 2006

- Demetrius Simmons Case 158/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2125 Randall Avenue, Castle Hil Houses, the Bronx.

TAX DEADLINE IS APRIL 17TH

Don't Forget the EITC!

THE INCOME TAX DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING. WHEN FILING YOUR TAXES THIS YEAR, DON'T FORGET TO CHECK TO SEE IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC). If you make less than \$38,000 a year you might qualify for as much as \$6,000 from the EITC, just by filing your taxes. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) estimates that approximately 30,000 NYCHA residents are eligible to file for the EITC.

To make it easy, the New York City EITC Coalition partners will prepare your taxes for free at locations throughout the City. Call 311 for the location nearest to you.

What It Is

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) returns federal, state, and in New York City, local government dollars to qualifying working families and individuals through either a credit on taxes or as cash refunds. This income helps people cover basic expenses.

The EITC will not change other benefits such as food stamps and housing vouchers. And if you didn't claim the EITC in the past, you can file your taxes for three previous years which could triple your refund. So, if you worked in 2002 and didn't file taxes, you could file a return now and claim this credit. If you were eligible for the maximum refund each year, that could mean more than \$15,000 for you and your family. To see if you are eligible, refer to the chart at the right of this article.



THE CHIEF'S CORNER

Expanding the Trespass Notice Program into Manhattan and the Bronx



**Housing Bureau Police
Chief Joanne Jaffe**

THE NYPD AND THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) WOULD LIKE TO SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO DRUG DEALERS WHO UTILIZE PUBLIC HOUSING AS A PLACE TO PLY THEIR TRADE: YOU ARE NOT WELCOME HERE. We will arrest you and you will be prosecuted.

While this message is not new, there is something that has been added to our arsenal to reduce drug sales in public housing. It is the expansion of the NYCHA Trespass Notice Program. This program has been developed as part of Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing, an ongoing effort to reduce violence within NYCHA developments. The Trespass Notice Program gives us the tools we need to keep drug dealers off NYCHA property by effectively banning individuals arrested on NYCHA property for selling drugs. In other words, drug dealers will no longer have access to the "turf" they need to conduct business.

The program first went into effect in Queens in January 2005, and was expanded to include Brooklyn in August 2005. In February 2007 the Trespass Notice Program became operational in Manhattan and it is slated to expand to the Bronx in May.

Under the Trespass Notice Program, non-resident suspects arrested for drug dealing on public housing grounds receive a notice that says they are banned from NYCHA property anywhere in the City and will be arrested if they return. If the suspected drug dealer is a NYCHA resident, an eviction proceeding will commence and when completed, the dealer will be forced to leave their apartment.

The Trespass Notice Program provides an opportunity for any banned individual to challenge the exclusion. Banned persons may apply for an exemption granting limited access to NYCHA property.

Since the program first went into effect there have been a total of 873 Trespass Notices issued in Queens and Brooklyn and 182 persons have been arrested for Criminal Trespass.

Visit NYCHA's website at www.nyc.gov/nycha to view a copy of the Trespass Policy and learn more about Operation Safe Housing.

Thank you.

Joanne Jaffe

Earned Income Tax Credit Eligibility Requirements and Credit Amounts Tax Year 2006 Returns

	Maximum Combined Credit	Maximum Federal Credit	Maximum State Credit	Maximum City Credit	Maximum Income
Families with more than one qualifying child	\$6,122	\$4,536	\$1,360	\$226	\$36,348 (\$38,348 MFJ*)
Families with one qualifying child	\$3,708	\$2,747	\$824	\$137	\$32,001 (\$34,001 MFJ*)
Individuals	\$555	\$412	\$123	\$20	\$12,120 (\$14,120 MFJ*)
*Married Filing Jointly					

New Access-A-Ride Application Procedure

SENIOR NEWS



Access-A-Ride provides transportation for people with disabilities who are unable to use public transportation. As of March 5, 2007, new applicants and those being recertified must go to an assessment center to establish eligibility. Call 877-337-2017 for more information and to apply.

**NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
FAIR HOUSING
NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

It is the policy of the New York City Housing Authority to provide equal housing opportunities for all qualified applicants and residents. In the selection of families and in the provision of services, there shall be no discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, familial status, marital status, partnership status, military status, disability, lawful occupation, alienage or citizenship status. This policy also prohibits retaliation.

This policy is in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the New York State and City Human Rights Laws.

Any resident or applicant who wishes to report housing discrimination or retaliation MAY FILE A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT (NYCHA 036.024) by contacting the Department of Equal Opportunity from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday or their development management office between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM:

**New York City Housing Authority
Department of Equal Opportunity
250 Broadway, 27th floor
New York, NY 10007
Telephone (212) 306-4468
Fax: (212) 306-4439
TTY: (212) 306-4845**

Or by contacting any of the following federal, state or city human rights agencies listed below:

**New York City Commission on Human Rights
40 Rector Street, 9th floor
New York, NY 10006
(212) 306-7500**

**New York State Division of Human Rights
20 Exchange Place, 2nd floor
New York, New York 10005
(212) 480-2522**

**United States Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3532
New York, New York 10278
(212) 264-1290 Extension 7534**

TPA PROGRAMS FOR MANHATTAN NORTH

ON FEBRUARY 7, 2007 MANHATTAN NORTH DISTRICT CHAIR BARBARA G. BARBER SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) WITH THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) ALLOCATING OVER \$2 MILLION IN FEDERAL MONEY FOR TENANT PARTICIPATION ACTIVITY (TPA) PROGRAMS IN HER DISTRICT. The MOA describes the requirements for the resident organizations that are eligible for funding, and the types of programs that are eligible to be funded with TPA money, and a two-year timeframe.

What Is TPA?

Based on federal regulations, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that the Housing Authority designate funding from its operating budget for Tenant Participation Activities or "TPA" programs.

A broad range of programs are eligible for TPA funding. These include programs to promote community involvement, leadership development, and educational and cultural enrichment programs. TPA funds can also be used for outreach to promote resident participation on issues and operations related to public housing.

The Process

In consultation with residents, Resident Associations determine the kinds of programs that would be most helpful. The Resident Associations then prepare proposals for consideration by the District Council of Presidents (COP), a body of Resident Association Presidents representing one of nine districts throughout the City. The COP then submits its recommendations to the Housing Authority for final review and approval.

So Far

So far, several MOAs for TPA funding have been executed. The Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP), which is composed of representatives from all nine COP districts, and NYCHA signed an MOA in July 2006, allocating \$2.2 million. The money will be used to support TPA programs at 114 community centers and 40 senior centers throughout the five boroughs.

In February of last year, an MOA was signed by the Bronx South District Council and NYCHA for \$1.4 million to fund 80 TPA programs. Examples of



**Manhattan North Council of Presidents District Chair
Barbara G. Barber**

TPA programs that have already been implemented in the Bronx South district include a Youth Leadership Program at Forest Houses, a program to introduce young residents to college, called the Butler/Mill Brook College Bound program, and an Emergency Preparedness Program that provided training and supplies.

Two Resident Associations from Manhattan North have already submitted proposals to the District: The Grant Houses' Resident Association

(Continued on page 7)

Health Matters...

Spring is a good time to quit smoking. Below are some helpful hints from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) that will help you quit and remain smoke-free.

The most important step in quitting smoking is planning your quit day. You'll need to do the following:

1. Write down at least 5 reasons why you want to stop smoking.
2. Take a few days and observe your smoking habits; write down the time of day that you smoke, the number of cigarettes smoked, your location, whom you are with, why you wanted to smoke, etc.
3. Devise an alternative action or behavior or plan for the above times that you normally want to smoke (drink water, for example).
4. Pick your quit date. Be sure to select a date that isn't too hectic.
5. Tell all of your friends and family about your decision and ask that they support you.

There are many methods available today to assist you in your decision to quit smoking. It is best to consult with your doctor or pharmacist for dosing recommendations:

- Nicotine Patch—This is available in many strengths to accommodate the different levels of addiction. The patch is put on your arm and the nicotine is slowly absorbed into your body. You proceed with lowering your dosage until you no longer need any help. You can buy this without a prescription.
- Nicotine Gum—This is available in two strengths to accommodate the different levels of addiction. The gum is chewed briefly and parked in your mouth to let the nicotine absorb into your body. You can buy this without a prescription.
- Nicotine Nasal Spray—This is available in one strength and is used by spraying into the nose. One dose is equal to a spray into each nostril. The nicotine is absorbed into the nasal cavity. You need a prescription from your doctor in order to use this.
- Inhaler—This is available in one strength and is used by puffing on the mouthpiece continuously for 20 minutes. The nicotine is absorbed into the lining of your mouth. You need to get a prescription from your doctor in order to use this.
- Zyban—This is a medication that does not contain nicotine. This method works by reducing your cravings for nicotine and helping you with withdrawal symptoms.
- Counseling—Your physician or pharmacist might be able to assist you in quitting by helping you create a plan and prepare for a quitting day as well as focus.
- Cold Turkey—Although many people have quit this way, the above methods have been proven relatively more successful.

Remember, it is never too late to stop. If you have any questions or want to find a local quitting program, call 311. To find out more about smoking and quitting log onto nyc.gov/health.



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Actual benefits depend upon which plan you choose for 2007. Healthfirst is a health maintenance organization that has a Medicare Advantage contract with the Federal government and is available in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Nassau. Not all plans available in all counties.

Lacrosse Team Road Trip!



THE NYCHA LACROSSE TEAM headed out to the Hewlett Athletic Field in Hewlett, Long Island, on Saturday, March 3rd, to see the first of two high profile Lacrosse games for the day. Two nationally ranked NCAA Division 1 Men's Lacrosse Teams, Notre Dame's Fighting Irish and Cornell University's Big Red, battled it out in an exciting game that ended with a 13 to 8 Cornell victory. After the game the 26-member NYCHA Lacrosse Team was greeted with words of encouragement by Notre Dame's Head Coach Kevin Corrigan—that's Coach Corrigan in the center of the photo. Coach Corrigan also generously gave the players Fighting Irish jerseys. From Hewlett Field it was back to Manhattan and Madison Square Garden to cheer on the NY Titans as they battled the Toronto Rock in a regular season professional lacrosse game. The NY Titans were victorious in their match and the NYCHA Lacrosse participants were more than thrilled to take part in such an exciting day of events. Any resident interested in joining NYCHA's Lacrosse team can call the Education Through Sports Unit at (212) 306-3388. The program will begin again on April 23rd at Manhattanville Houses in Manhattan, Pink and Van Dyke Houses in Brooklyn, Redfern Houses in Queens, and South Beach Houses in Staten Island.

Youth Instrumental Ensemble

(Continued from page 1)

to perform at various venues throughout the city.

Busgith says she would like to see the young members of the NYCHA Youth Instrumental Ensemble excel and gain exposure for their musical talents. "They will play Family Days, special NYCHA events, and individuals may also compete in NYCHA's annual talent show."

To obtain an application for the NYCHA Youth Instrumental Ensemble visit the "What's Happening" page of the Residents' Corner on the NYCHA website at www.nyc.gov/nycha, or call: 212-306-3527 for an application. Lessons will be held on either Tuesday or Thursday nights, from 5:30 to 6:30, and on Saturdays from 10:30AM to 12:30PM.

MAN. NORTH PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 5)

has proposed a Computer and Educational Enhancement Program, and the Jackie Robinson Resident Association has proposed a Computer and Social Skills Training Program.

"We see the programs implemented in Bronx and Manhattan as the beginning of a strong collaboration that we look forward to spreading across the City in the coming months," said NYCHA's General Manager Douglas Apple.


SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General (IG) at 212-306-3355.

The IG is supervised by the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI).

Although the DOI and IG initiate and develop their own investigations, they encourage and rely upon NYCHA employees, residents, people who do business with NYCHA, and the public at large, to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear.

To report fraud and corruption call the IG at 212-306-3355, or the DOI at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.



\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS for NYCHA Residents

If you are a NYCHA resident attending a City University of New York (CUNY) Community or Senior College, you may be eligible to receive a \$1,000.00 NYCHA Resident Scholarship.


To qualify for the scholarship you must:

- Be enrolled full time in an Associate or Baccalaureate degree program at any CUNY, Senior or Community College.
- Be an authorized New York City Housing Authority resident.
- Be a sophomore, junior, senior.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Major in film, broadcasting, dance, drama, fashion, marketing/merchandising, journalism, music, photography, literature or fine and/or performing arts, public administration, public affairs, business.

Apply by filling out the NYCHA Resident Scholarship Application available at www.cuny.edu/nychascholarship (must be typed in lower case).


The application deadline is April 27, 2007.

Scholarships will be available for a limited time.



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“My manager stressed the importance of going to school and getting my education.”

*Yoseli Delgado,
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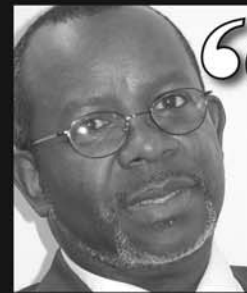
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GARDEN AND GREENING PROGRAM

Community Operations
Department of Administration and Citywide Programs
Open to all NYCHA Residents
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For additional information, please call
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NEW WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY HOURS FOR MAINTENANCE STAFF

In an effort to address NYCHA's current budget shortfalls, the Housing Authority has reduced the hours worked by development maintenance staff by one hour during weekends and holidays. The new weekend and holiday schedule for maintenance staff is: 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM with no lunch break.

"By restructuring the weekend maintenance schedule, NYCHA will help reduce the budget shortfall without compromising services to residents," said NYCHA's Deputy General Manager Robert Podmore.

Maintenance workers will continue to perform all of the same tasks. They will walk the buildings, remove all bulk debris, check for hazardous conditions, check hoppers, elevators, elevator doors and lobbies, and sweep and mop where necessary.

Managerial staff will conduct weekend inspections at each development to ensure that residents receive quality maintenance services. The new hours became effective on March 3rd.

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