



NYCHA Youth Chorus Premiere at Tribeca Family Festival

By Tischelle George

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) YOUTH CHORUS GAVE ITS PREMIERE PERFORMANCE AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE WORLD RENOWNED TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL LAST MONTH. The organizers of the annual festival, which celebrates film, music and culture, invited the Youth Chorus to entertain children and families at the Tribeca Family Festival in Lower Manhattan. It was a great success.

The Family Festival Street Fair was packed with throngs of participants who came out to enjoy food, games, crafts and performances on the warm, sunny Saturday afternoon. "A lot of people came over to see what was going on when they heard us sing," said NYCHA Youth Chorus Director Larry Matthew. "It was truly an honor to perform at the Tribeca Family Festival."

The NYCHA Youth Chorus performed one 20 minute set that included four positive and uplifting songs.

Founded in 2002 by actor Robert De Niro and his partners Jane Rosenthal and Craig Hatkoff, the Tribeca Film Festival was created to foster the economic and cultural revitalization of Lower Manhattan after the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York City's World Trade Center. Over the past six years, the festival has successfully promoted New York City as a major

filmmaking center, and has helped filmmakers to reach a broad audience.

The NYCHA Youth Chorus was created to provide an opportunity for young people who live in public housing to develop and showcase their talents. At the same time, the program seeks to impart confidence, poise, discipline and self-esteem in participants.

The demanding performance schedule brings the accomplishments of NYCHA's youth to many communities. This includes a recent performance at the Dance Theatre of Harlem's Open House, in Harlem.

More than 800 chorus members and thousands of other youth have participated since the Chorus began. If you are between the ages of 12 and 19 and want to find out more, please call (212) 427-6648 or (212) 427-8603 for an audition. Auditions are held at Taft Houses, located at 1385 Fifth Avenue, in Manhattan.

Instantaneous Hot Water Heaters Will Save Millions and Improve Service

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS IMPLEMENTING A \$64 MILLION PROGRAM THAT WILL SAVE MILLIONS MORE IN THE LONG RUN, WHILE PROVIDING BETTER SERVICE TO RESIDENTS. The Hot Water Storage Tank Replacement Program, a collaboration between NYCHA and the New York Power Authority (NYPA), replaces conventional 1,500, 2,000 and 3,000 gallon hot water tanks with energy-saving instantaneous hot water heaters.

Rather than storing gallons of hot water for resident use, the new system heats water instantly, the minute a resident turns on the hot water faucet. This results in huge utility and cost savings and there are other important benefits as well.

"NYCHA's Energy Department and our hardworking partners from the Power Authority are thrilled to bring this new technology to public housing buildings across the City," said Energy Director Lloyd Kass.

As of last month, the new heaters were installed in 205 buildings, and if all goes according to plan, by the time the current phase of the program is completed in 2008, the tanks will be installed in a total of 560 buildings in 55 developments. The total projected saving in energy costs alone is nearly \$7 million annually.

But there's more good news. Conventional hot water tanks require an annual inspection and cleaning. The tanks have to be drained and cooled, so that one of NYCHA's Heating Plant Technicians can climb in and perform the necessary maintenance. This translates into a disruption of hot water service for approximately 12 hours.

The new tanks require only minimum maintenance, and because each system is "redundant"—meaning each heater has a back-up unit which can support everybody's hot water needs—residents may never notice if a unit malfunctions. This means no disruption in service to residents.

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GOING GREEN NYCHA Board Member Margarita López and Heating Plant Technician Raymond Horn with one of the new instantaneous hot water heaters at Baruch Houses. The new heaters will significantly reduce carbon dioxide emissions while providing improved service.

NYCHA's Annual Spelling Bee



HOW DO YOU SPELL VICTORY? Just ask any one of these proud winners of NYCHA's Second Annual Spelling Bee. In addition to trophies, first-place winners also took home \$500 savings bonds, courtesy of Amerigroup Community Care. Left to right, back row, the winners are: Mecca Snipe, first place, 6th grade, Sumner Community Center, Brooklyn; Janea Fall, first place, 4th grade, St. Nicholas Community Center, Manhattan; Neseemah Coleman, first place, 5th grade, Boulevard Community Center, Brooklyn; and runners-up Precious Williamson, 6th grade, Cypress Hills Community Center, Brooklyn and (front row) Tiyanne Evans, 5th grade, Ravenswood Community Center, Queens, and Eddie Jones, 4th grade, Ocean Bay Community Center, Queens.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

New Program Trains Letter Carriers to Spot Distress Among the Elderly or Disabled



NEW YORK CITY'S NEW CARRIER ALERT PROGRAM TRAINS UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE LETTER CARRIERS TO IDENTIFY SIGNS OF DISTRESS AMONG SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND QUICKLY CONNECT THEM WITH SOCIAL SERVICES THROUGH THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING. The program, which triggers the use of 311 or 911 when signs of distress are identified, provides seniors and people with disabilities with a special identification sticker or magnet to be placed inside their mailbox. Letter carriers will now be trained on the Carrier

Alert protocol, using an instructional video created by the United States Postal Service.

Nobody knows our neighborhoods better than the letter carriers who visit the homes of seniors and people with disabilities every day. The Carrier Alert Program will allow us to stay connected with our elderly, homebound and disabled New Yorkers. Letter carriers, who in many cases are the first people to recognize signs of distress, will now be empowered to act at the first signs of trouble. Through the use of 311, we can revive this common sense program and make it more accessible to New Yorkers.

Though the idea of a carrier alert program was conceived in New York City in the mid-1970s, the National Carrier Alert Program was created in 1982 under President Ronald Reagan. Long dormant in New York City, it began as a cooperative community service program to monitor the well-being of elderly and disabled mail patrons. As one of the few—and some days only—points of human contact for home-bound patrons, letter carriers are particularly attuned to signs of a possible accident or illness.

Participation in the program is voluntary and seniors and people with disabilities are encouraged to sign up. Eligible Carrier Alert applicants must have an external mailbox or an apartment building mail bank where a USPS letter carrier deposits mail. To participate in the program, seniors and people with disabilities should call 311 or download a registration kit available online at www.nyc.gov. Upon completion of the application, participants will receive a sticker or a magnet for the interior of their mailbox. Participants must cover the sticker if they are to be away from the home for an extended period of time for a vacation or hospital stay.

Earlier this year, the United States Postal Service produced a training video for each of the City's post office branches to introduce letter carriers to the program. The video, in conjunction with other training material, teaches the carriers the signs and symptoms of potential distress. For example, signs of distress in an apartment building could include an overabundance of mail. Letter carriers who suspect a problem with the carrier alert participant will contact their supervisors who will contact the Department for the Aging (DFTA) via 311. DFTA will then telephone the emergency contact person identified by the participant. Letter carriers are instructed to call 911 in the event of an emergency.

The Carrier Alert Program builds on the City's efforts to address the needs of socially isolated seniors and people with disabilities. The Carrier Alert Program and other initiatives demonstrate the City's commitment to helping older New Yorkers live a healthy and engaged lifestyle.

Michael R. Bloomberg

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THE FACES OF PUBLIC HOUSING

From Public Housing to the Halls of Justice

By Heidi Morales

LILLIAN "LEE" LLABELIS IS CONSIDERED ONE OF THE MOST PROMINENT LAWYERS IN NEW YORK STATE. She's been called a tireless advocate for "under-represented" communities, a determined fighter against injustice and a "champion of civil rights." She is also a former resident of the Mott Haven Houses in the South Bronx.



"Public housing at that point in time [1960s and 1970s] was really the stable housing of the community. Literally there were blocks and blocks of burnt down buildings, so, public housing in a very real sense was where you could actually have decent affordable housing," Ms. Llambelis said in a recent interview. According to Ms. Llambelis it was more than bricks and mortar that made Mott Haven and the surrounding area a home. "I have warm feelings about growing up in the community. It's definitely the community that nurtured me."

Ms. Llambelis' parents migrated from Puerto Rico in the 1950s, like many, in search of the American dream. Her father worked as a freight elevator operator and her mother worked in the sweat shops of the garment district. They taught her and her older sister not only the importance of an education but to always give back to their community. "They stressed to my sister and me the need to study hard, dream big, to always be a voice against injustice and to make it our business to open doors for others. My sister has an MBA in hospital management and I am a lawyer. We were both first generation to graduate from high school, college and professional school and there definitely was the sense that you could do anything you wanted to do as long as you stayed in school and did all the right things," she said.

Ms. Llambelis said she also grew up in an activist church—St. Jerome's Parish. She reminisced about taking part in demonstrations and said she looks forward to taking her daughter to

different kinds of rallies so that she understands that individuals can make a difference.

Beginnings in Public Service

Ms. Llambelis earned her Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University but once she graduated she decided to work in another field—journalism. Ms. Llambelis worked for ABC's Sunday morning talk show, "This Week with David Brinkley" as a production assistant. "It was really funny; you would see me on television, over his shoulder, so, I would call my mother when the show was going on and say, 'Mami you see me; I'm wearing the pink.'"

Ms. Llambelis later won a Public Policy Fellowship from the Coro Foundation, which took her to San Francisco where she floated through a series of graduate internships in media, government, and not-for-profit organizations. She then moved back to the Big Apple and began working as a spokesperson for City Hall. Three years later, perhaps following her true calling, Ms. Llambelis found herself back at Georgetown pursuing the legal education that has enabled her to make such positive changes in our society both through major impact legislation (e.g., civil rights, enforcement of labor laws, discrimination) and in the lives of everyday citizens who just want an equal shot at the American dream.

"I actually went to law school to be a defense attorney and when I was graduating a friend of mine pulled me aside and said, 'You

know you should really think about being a prosecutor.'" As a prosecutor, Ms. Llambelis explained, she would have "the ability to assess a case and dismiss it if you don't think it's something that should go further. You also have the ability to seek alternative sentencing—send a kid not to jail but to a program where they can be rehabilitated," she added.

After ten years as a prosecutor for the Manhattan District Attorney's Office, Ms. Llambelis' career continued "blossoming" at the New York Botanical Garden as Director of Intergovernmental Relations. She later worked as General Counsel for the Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion.

Just seven months ago while working as Legal Director for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund—a not-for-profit organization that advocates for and protects the rights and civil liberties of Latinos and other minori-



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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to All Graduates!



I WANT TO CONGRATULATE ALL NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS WHO ARE GRADUATING THIS SPRING. Some residents have already graduated from colleges and universities across the country and have reached the highest levels of education. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, which should never be taken for granted. NYCHA's college graduates and their families are to be highly commended and admired for setting a shining example. We wish you great success in all your future endeavors.

Likewise, NYCHA's high school graduates are excellent role models. In some ways, high school graduation marks an even more crucial achievement than college because the temptations and distractions are even greater for young teenagers. In high school, it is all too easy to take a path of least resistance, to avoid the classes that get more demanding in the upper grades, the harder tests, the longer hours of study. There is a lot of diversion out there, outside the classroom, outside the study hall, to lure us away from schoolwork. It takes real motivation to stick with it. It takes intelligence and a good environment, good friends and mentors, but it also takes a lot of will power. You have applied yourselves and this year's high school graduates should wear their caps and gowns with pride. Whichever direction you go from here, whether to higher education or into the world of work, take that pride and will power with you.

And to the young people who are graduating from the elementary grades, for those of you reading this, look around, look up at your role models, at your brothers and sisters, your cousins and neighbors who are graduating from high school and college. They are deserving of your admiration. They are the people you want to try to be like. It's fine to be entertained by idols on the screen or on CDs and DVDs, or to cheer the great feats of the champions on the athletic fields and courts, but keep in mind the everyday heroes, your friends and families, and the high school and college graduates. They are heroes who are nearest you. You have also learned and achieved a great deal in your first years of education and we at NYCHA join in celebrating your wonderful work.

Finally, to the parents and families of all the graduates, our warm congratulations on jobs well done. None of the above achievements could have been possible without the support and encouragement you have given your graduates. You have every reason to share in their accomplishments. Congratulations!

Tino Hernandez

BOROUGH DIGEST

The Bronx:

Approximately 50 NYCHA seniors from Pelham Houses attended the "NORC Humor Day" this spring at the Sue Ginsberg Center. Through a partnership with the City's Department For the Aging (DFTA), the United Hospital Fund and local community service providers, NYCHA's NORC programs provide comprehensive supportive services for seniors so that they can "age in place." (NORC stands for Naturally Occurring Retirement Community.) It was an afternoon of light refreshments, live music, dancing, and lots of jokes, all in honor of the elected officials who helped DFTA obtain funding to keep the program going. The electeds themselves couldn't make it, but representatives from the offices of City Council Member James Vacca, Congress Member Joseph Crowley, and Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. were among the guests. Pelham is one of ten NORC sites. The program at Pelham serves an estimated 800 seniors aged 62 or over.

Brooklyn:

NYCHA Resident Association leaders representing over 72,000 residents in 49 developments of the tenth Congressional District came to Applebee's Restaurant on Fulton Street in Brooklyn this spring for a luncheon hosted by Congress Member Edolphus Towns. The luncheon was also attended by NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez who thanked the Congress Member for his strong support of public housing and thanked the residents for their lobbying efforts in both Albany and Washington. The Chairman told the residents that NYCHA was in the process of making a tremendous investment in the community, with nearly \$600 million in modernization projects planned, in progress, or completed.

Manhattan:

The digital divide is narrowing for seniors who live in the Fred Samuels development in Harlem. Thanks to the vision of Resident Association President Carnetta Clark (who is also president of the local chapter of the AARP, or the American Association for Retired Persons), and funding from Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) and City Council Member Inez Dickens, Fred Samuels has a new computer lab. All seven rehabilitated computers

(Continued on page 4)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



College Tour a Success— With hundreds of colleges and universities to choose from, selecting the right one can be a daunting task. To help make the decision easier, this spring, 27 youth from a variety of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments in the Bronx, and one in Manhattan, took a trip to Georgia to visit some campuses. Colleges and universities visited included: Morehouse College, Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University, Morris Brown College, Emory University, Georgia Technical College, Georgia State University, and The Art Institute of Atlanta, Georgia. Participants also visited the World of Coca-Cola, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center and the theme park, Six Flags Over Georgia.

To qualify for the tour, residents had to write a 1,000 word essay, and attend 10 workshops (with a parent accompanying at three of the workshops). "The workshops are a very important component of the college tour because the participants received information on financial aid, completing financial aid and admission applications, information on scholarships, public speaking and group dynamics," said Bronx Borough Community Operations Program Director Mario Hamblin.

Each participant brought their high school transcript, SAT scores, Grade Point Average and letters of recommendation with them, so they could take advantage of a very special perk. They were able to apply to the colleges in the tour without paying an application fee.

This year's tour proved to be especially beneficial for high school senior Egypt Buie of Sackwern Houses, who was accepted on the spot at Morris Brown College. "You can't do anything with just a high school diploma. You need a college education," said Egypt, who wants to become a guidance counselor or a therapist. Since the college tour, Egypt has also been accepted to seven additional colleges here in New York, and has received acceptance letters from two out-of-state colleges.

"My mother wants me to weigh all my options and not select a school that all my friends are planning to attend. She is very active in the college selection process. She is what I call a 'pusher' because she pushes me to go to school and to do the right thing. But ultimately, the decision on which college to attend will have a lot to do with the financial aid and the school's tuition cost."



EGYPT BUIE

"I participated in this tour because it allowed me to see the entire school. Before the tour the only way I saw a college was on T.V. or in a brochure and that's not the same as actually being on the campus," said Egypt's cousin, high school junior Dione Jalen Buie. Both Dione and Egypt agreed that participating in the College tour was the best thing they have done.



DIONE JALEN BUIE

The trip was organized by the Department of Community Operations' Bronx Borough Office in collaboration with the Bronx North and Bronx South Council of Presidents districts, led by Gerri Lamb and Joanne Smitherman, respectively. Additional funding was provided by City Council Member Anabel Palma.

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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 February 15, and 22, and March 1, and 8, 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 February 15, 2006

Tyrone Eley Case 225/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 106 Kramer Street, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of February 22, 2006

Guy Savall Case 210 formerly associated with the third floor of West 230th Street, Marble Hill Houses, Bronx.

Shamar Robinson Case 9043/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 82-03 Hammel Boulevard, Hammel Houses, Queens.

Darryl Leget Case 705/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 41-12 Vernon Boulevard, Queensbridge South Houses, Queens.

Glenn Williams Case 760/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1891 Schieffelin Place, Baychester Houses, the Bronx.

Michael Ortega Case 790/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 482 Sheffield Avenue, Long Island Baptist Houses, Brooklyn.

Rashul Warren Case 9018/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 140 Columbia Street, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.

Michael Robinson Case 8074/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 15870 East 102nd Street, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.

Tony Miller Case 5260/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 1762 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Angel Millan Case 894/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 602 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of March 1, 2006

Jose Millan Case 824/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 295 Osborne Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.

Glen Jones Case 111/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 815 East 167th Street, Union Avenue Consolidated Houses, the Bronx.

Ricardo Torres Case 828/06 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 200 West 143rd Street, Drew-Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.

Yomaira Torres Case 880/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1851 Third Avenue, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan.

Hector Montijo Case 897/06 formerly associated with the twenty-sixth floor of 240 West 65th Street, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of March 8, 2006

David McKay Case 1023/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 333 Georgia Avenue, Unity Plaza, Brooklyn.

Tyshawn Davis Case 1104/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1810 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.

Vera Davis Case 1104/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1810 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.

BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

in the lab have Internet access. The computers were donated by NYCHA's Asset Management department. Ms. Clark said it took a total of about 18 months of work to make the lab a reality. It all paid off this spring with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new lab. Staff from OATS are conducting two classes, each of which meets twice a week for ten weeks, to teach seniors computer and Internet basics. "We had our first class the very same day as the ribbon-cutting," said Ms. Clark proudly.

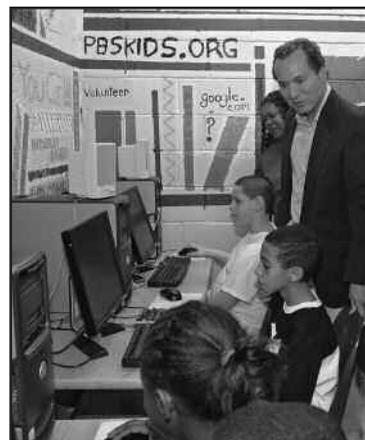
Queens:

Community leaders gathered together at the Astoria Houses Community Center to celebrate the opening of a new computer lab with five new computers. Months of work went into transforming what had been a storage closet into the lab. The room was wired for high-speed Internet access and beautiful murals were painted on the walls by students from the East River Development Alliance (ERDA) college prep program. The lab was renovated with proceeds from a \$28,000 City Council grant that was secured by Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr. last year, for ERDA to continue its work of providing NYCHA residents with the resources to achieve economic mobility and self-sufficiency. NYCHA, Homework Helpers—a non-profit which sets up fully equipped computer labs in community centers—and ERDA also partnered to provide new computers and a renovated lab for the Woodside Houses Community Center.

Staten Island:

Getting healthy will be easier than ever for residents of Stapleton Houses, Berry Houses and the surrounding communities, who are invited to attend health fairs on the developments' grounds on June 9th

(Continued on page 5)



City Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr. with young residents at the new computer lab.

THE CHIEF'S CORNER

Have A Happy and Safe Fourth of July!

Next month we will come together to celebrate our nation's independence. The NYPD Housing Bureau encourages all residents to fully enjoy the festivities and celebrations associated with our national birthday.

However, it is also important to recognize the danger posed to our communities through the unsafe handling of illegal fireworks.

Unfortunately, every year at this time a number of individuals who play with fireworks are injured, many seriously so. Injuries include severe burns, permanent disfigurement, and even the loss of eyes, fingers and hands. Often those injured are young people. A presentation entitled, "4th of July Fireworks Safety Initiative," will be shown at community meetings. In addition, you may contact the local Police Service Area for information and details.

If you are aware of any information regarding the sale, delivery, or storage of illegal explosives or fireworks, I urge you to call 311. A reward of up to \$1000 is available for infor-



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

mation leading to the arrest and conviction of persons possessing or distributing fireworks.

As always, we rely on our strong partnership with the residents of the New York City Housing Authority to help us fight crime, address quality of life concerns and enhance public safety. Your assistance in this matter can help save a child from being seriously injured this holiday.

Have a HAPPY and SAFE Fourth of July.

Chief Joanne Jaffe



REWARD



Up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons possessing or distributing fireworks.

Fireworks are Illegal

The New York City Police Department
urges you to celebrate safely on July 4th

If you use fireworks, you or someone else can get seriously hurt. If you have fireworks we can ARREST YOU, your car can be confiscated or your business can be closed.

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BOROUGH DIGEST
(Continued from page 4)

and June 23rd, respectively. City Council funds are paying for the fairs, which will be hosted by the developments' Resident Associations. Residents can be tested for high blood pressure and diabetes, enroll in the HealthPlus low-cost health care program, and even sign up for direct deposit.

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Hot Water Heaters
(Continued from page 1)

The new instantaneous hot water heaters also maintain water temperature at a steady 120 degrees, protecting residents from possible scalding by overheated water.

"It's a different way of providing hot water," said Energy Operations Chief Frank Romano on a recent visit to Baruch Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side to see the new tanks in action. "We have these operating at Atlantic Terminal [in Brooklyn], in 30-story buildings."

The instantaneous hot water heaters also contribute to a better environment. NYPA estimates that once all of NYCHA's new tanks are installed, there will be a carbon dioxide reduction of more than 53 million pounds per year! Green-

house gases like carbon dioxide, or CO₂, caused by industry, agriculture and transportation, are attributed as the main cause of global warming. The 53 million pound reduction is the equivalent of 5,202 passenger cars not being driven for one year or the contribution of 20,000 acres of pine forest to the atmosphere!

"This is a grand slam for NYCHA," said Board Member Margarita López enthusiastically on the trip to Baruch. "The instantaneous hot water heaters are saving the Housing Authority money and energy, giving residents better service, and helping the environment. People should know that NYCHA is making this contribution to a better City."

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NOTICE
New York City Housing Authority Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2008

In accordance with Section 5A of the Housing Act of 1937 as amended, the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") has developed a *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2008*.

Availability of the Draft Agency Annual Plan for Public Inspection
The public is advised that the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2008* will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, Reception Area, New York, NY, from May 21, 2007 through August 1, 2007, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2008* will also be available at the following locations:

- On NYCHA's webpage, which is located on <http://www.nyc.gov/nycha>
- At the Management Office of each NYCHA public housing development during regular business hours.
- At the Community Centers/site listed below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

Campos Plaza Community Center 611 East 13 th Street New York, New York	Fort Independence Community Center 3350 Bailey Avenue Bronx, New York	Atlantic Terminal Community Center 501 Carlton Avenue Brooklyn, New York
King Towers Community Center 2 West 115 th Street New York, New York	Bland Community Center 133-36 Roosevelt Avenue Flushing, New York	Breukelen Community Center 715 East 105 th Street Brooklyn, New York
Classic Center at Melrose 286 East 156 th Street Bronx, New York	Ocean Bay/Bayside Community Center 57-10 Beach Channel Drive Far Rockaway, New York	Staten Island Community Operations Borough Office 140 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, New York

Public Comment
The public is invited to attend any of the five scheduled Town Hall meetings at which the public may raise questions regarding the *Draft Annual Plan for FY 2008*. These meetings will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the dates and locations shown below:

<i>Tuesday, June 5, 2007</i> Staten Island IS 49 Dreyfus Intermediate School 101 Warren Street at Gordon Street Staten Island, New York	<i>Wednesday, June 6, 2007</i> Brooklyn New York College of Technology Klitgord Auditorium 285 Jay Street at Tillary Street Brooklyn, New York
<i>Tuesday, June 12, 2007</i> Queens Elechester Industrial Center 67-35 Parsons Blvd at Jewel Ave Flushing, New York	<i>Monday, June 18, 2007</i> Manhattan Fashion Institute of Technology Haft Auditorium 7 th Avenue & 27 th Street New York, New York
<i>Thursday, June 21, 2007</i> Bronx Classic Center at Melrose 286 E. 156 at Morris Avenue Bronx, New York	

The public is also invited to comment on the *Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2008* at a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at

The Manhattan Center
Grand Ballroom
311 West 34th Street
New York, New York

Each location listed above is both handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation.

Written comments regarding the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2008 are encouraged. To be considered, **submissions must be received via United States Postal mail no later than August 1, 2007**. Faxed submissions will **not** be accepted. Comments may be sent to the following address:

New York City Housing Authority
Public Housing Agency Plan Comments
Church Street Station
P.O. Box 3422
New York, New York 10008-3422

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor Tino Hernandez, Chairman

✓ REMINDER

Never let anyone claiming to be a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) employee, or a representative from any public or private entity into your apartment without first seeing photo identification.

MAYOR MEETS CONLON RESIDENT



Mayor Bloomberg invited 86-year-old Solange Elize (above) of Conlon LIHFE Towers in Queens, to City Hall for a brief meeting about one month after the senior was mugged in what have become known as the "granny attacks." Rose Morat, who is 101 years old, was mugged approximately half-an-hour before Ms. Elize. Joining Ms. Elize and Ms. Morat were NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez Santiago. Completed in 1973, Conlon LIHFE is home to over 200 seniors.

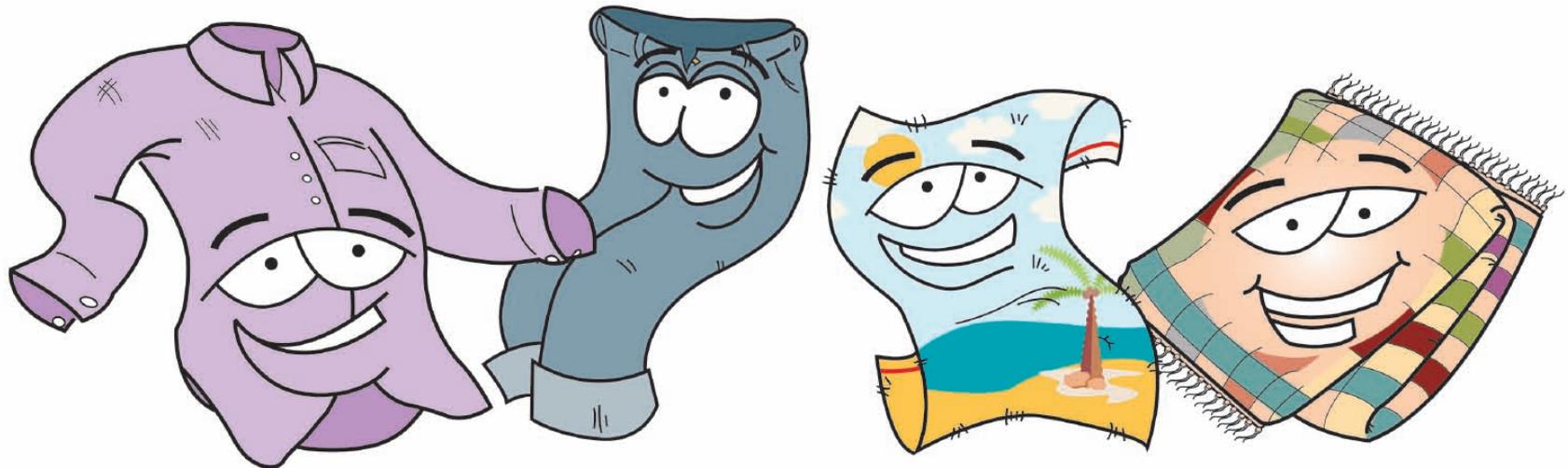
Your Mailman And Your Safety

When your mailman sees that your mail is not being picked up, a phone call is made to the emergency contact person you choose. Call 311 to sign up for this free safety program. Ask for the "Carrier Alert Program."

SENIOR NEWS

Clothing Donation Events

Drop off your gently used clothing and linens for donation



CLOTHING: pants, dresses, shirts, sweaters, shoes, handbags & belts

LINENS: blankets, towels, sheets, curtains & tablecloths

What is Accepted: Only donate clean, gently used clothing and linens.

Place donated items in plastic bags and tie securely to avoid moisture contamination.

Tax-deduction receipts will be available from Goodwill upon request.

When and Where: All events are from 10 am to 4 pm — rain or shine

Saturday, June 2

Linden Houses — Brooklyn

In front of flagpole on Wortman Ave.

Mid-block between Vermont St. and Van Siclen Ave.

Saturday, June 9

Ravenswood Houses — Queens

Parking lot on 21st St. across from the Ravenswood Library

Saturday, June 16

Castle Hill Houses — Bronx

Randall Ave. in front of the community center

Event Sponsors:

The NYC Department of Sanitation's Bureau of Waste Prevention, Reuse and Recycling is sponsoring and organizing these events with assistance from the New York City Housing Authority and Goodwill Industries.

Discarded clothing and linens make up roughly 7% (over 190,000 tons or 380 million pounds per year) of New York City's waste stream. To encourage New Yorkers to donate these items instead of trashing them, the NYC Department of Sanitation is teaming up with the NYC Housing Authority and Goodwill Industries to hold pilot donation drives in areas that lack easy access to donation outlets.

For more info about donation opportunities in NYC, visit www.nyc.gov/nycwasteless/donate.



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor, City of New York
John J. Doherty, Commissioner, Department of Sanitation
Tino Hernandez, Chairman, New York City Housing Authority



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Coming Soon to NYCHA Employees City-Wide

Group Advantage Banking from Amalgamated Bank

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New York City Housing Authority has partnered with Amalgamated Bank to bring a comprehensive package of free and discounted retail banking services directly to NYCHA employees.

Group Advantage products and services include:

- ❖ Free checking with direct deposit
- ❖ Savings accounts with no minimum balance requirements
- ❖ Reduced rates on personal and auto loans*
- ❖ Residential mortgages*
- ❖ No-fee access to over 32,000 Amalgamated Bank and Allpoint Network ATMs nationwide
- ❖ 24/7 internet banking and online bill payment
- ❖ Free seminars on financial planning and money management topics

Amalgamated Bankers will visit designated sites to help you sign up and choose the Group Advantage Plan that best suits your needs. They will also visit these locations on a regular basis to answer your questions and help you with your ongoing banking needs. So when you are ready for an auto loan, a first mortgage* or a better rate on your savings, Amalgamated Bank will be there to help.

Amalgamated Bank is a full-service banking institution offering a wide range of personal banking services to help busy working people manage their finances, fulfill their dreams and save for the future.

Contact your HR department for detailed information concerning the time and place of Group Advantage Enrollment and Banking events.



*Offer limited to qualified applicants who meet applicable credit criteria



Health Matters...

The West Nile Virus

Now that the warmer weather is here it's important to do everything you can to protect yourself and your loved ones from the West Nile Virus (WNV). The information in this column, from the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH's) website, tells you what you need to know to stay safe, and help the City in its efforts to minimize outbreak.

What It Is

West Nile is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord).

How It Is Spread

It is spread to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito becomes infected when it bites a bird that carries the virus. You or your child cannot get West Nile Virus from a person who has the disease. It is not spread by person-to-person contact such as touching, kissing, or caring for someone who is infected.

Report Dead Bird Sightings

DOHMH encourages New York City residents to report all dead bird sightings within NYC, especially crows and blue jays. This will assist the City in its efforts to monitor possible WNV activity. You can report dead birds by calling 311 or filling out the appropriate form at the DOHMH's web site: nyc.gov/health/wnv

How to Avoid West Nile Virus

During the mosquito season (June through October):

Protect yourself

If outside at dusk or dawn, when mosquitoes are the most active:

- Cover up. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and socks.
- Use an insect repellent with DEET. Always follow product label directions.

Protect your home

- Get rid of standing water, where mosquitoes can breed.
- Clean pet water bowls and bird baths frequently.
- Use screens. Make sure screens on your windows. Fix or replace broken screens.

Who Is at Risk?

- Anyone can be infected with WNV, though most people will have no symptoms or only a mild illness.
- People infected with WNV who are over 50 (especially those 65 and older) and people who are immunocompromised have the highest risk of severe disease.

To minimize threat of the WNV, the New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located in NYCHA developments with larvicide.

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) will be treating all of the catch basins located in NYCHA developments to reduce the mosquito population and minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These applications will take place between June and October of 2007. 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 these applications are:

- NYC 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 am-5 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.

Citywide Drum Festival At Bronx River Houses



Young drummers at NYCHA's First Citywide Drum Festival, DrumFest 2007, held in the Bronx.

— By Deborah Williams —

THE NEXT TITO PUENTE OR ELVIN JONES MAY BE RIGHT IN YOUR VERY OWN NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) DEVELOPMENT! More than 100 young NYCHA residents performed at the first citywide DrumFest 2007, held in the courtyard of the Bronx River Community Center on a sunny but brisk spring day. The festival showcased the talents cultivated by NYCHA's Drumming Workshops held at 11 Community Centers.

"Music is universal and a great connector," said Community Coordinator and Mistress of Ceremonies Susan Unger, in her opening remarks. Ms. Unger commented that when NYCHA's Performing Arts Unit began offering the Drumming Workshops in 2003, "The participants practiced on red buckets because they didn't have any drums. Since then, the program has acquired timbales, bongos, congas, guiros, blast blocks, maracas, snare drums, and whole drum or trap sets."

All of those instruments were put to good use as the festival featured drum lines composed of residents from Bland, Astoria and Woodside Houses in Queens, African/Latin Drumming by residents from the Bronx River Community Center in the Bronx, African Storytelling (with accompaniment) by residents from the Davidson and Classic Community Centers in the Bronx, African Drumming by residents from the Sumner Houses Community Center in Brooklyn, and the DeHostos and St. Nicholas Houses Community Centers in Manhattan, and African/Latin Dance by residents from the King Towers, Wagner Houses and Lehman Houses Community Centers in Manhattan.

Rat-ta-tat-tat was the beat that drew the residents out into the courtyard filled with spectators, family and friends. Among them was Bianca Rosario, of Bland Houses, who could barely contain her joy as she watched her daughter, Chloe, play the snare drum.

"I was so glad that the Drumming Workshop came to the Bland Community Center," Ms. Rosario said. "I wanted Chloe to be in a program that would help round her out culturally." The Queens resident continued, "I expect a lot of

musicians will come out of these workshops because they bring out skills that the children probably didn't know they had, as well as build self-esteem."

For more information, please call: (212) 306-3479.

Public Housing To the Halls of Justice

(Continued from page 2)

ties, Ms. Llambelis helped win a case for Latino workers in Mamaroneck who were being systematically discriminated against.

"I represented day laborers when I worked at PRLDEF and I have never found a more fulfilling case. It really is incredible to know that the case that you've tried and hopefully you've won also has national implications," she said.

Ms. Llambelis added that she was proud of the triumph but nothing beats the heart-warming thank-you's she personally received from the laborers.

"It takes a tremendous amount of courage to be a poor person, to be someone who is not sophisticated in the law, to go into a federal court and tell a judge that you have been wronged, that you are essentially being a spokesperson for your



Ms. Llambelis has won numerous awards including the New York County Lawyers Association Public Service Award and *El Diario/La Prensa's* Women's History Month Leadership and Community Service Award among others. In April she was featured in the Spanish daily newspaper *El Diario/La Prensa* as an "Outstanding Woman of 2007" (*Mujer Destacada del 2007*) for her personal and professional accomplishments but mostly for her commitment to the Hispanic and other under-represented communities.

"I get these awards and they are more for my parents, it's their hard work that made it possible."

Ms. Llambelis was recently named Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Office of New York State Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo where she continues to use her legal experience to help New Yorkers in need.

Ms. Llambelis' advice to young people: "Work hard and don't let those who say you can't get in your way. Seek out mentors, join groups that focus on your areas of interest, seek out internships, and make sure that when you have an opportunity to do so, you open doors for others."



community because you don't want your children to go through what you've gone through. Our clients were incredibly hardworking, decent, committed individuals and I have a tremendous amount of respect for them," she said.