



AFFORDABILITY The above rendering, submitted as part of the initial proposal by the Atlantic Development Group, depicts the mixed-income apartments to be built at Harborview Terrace at West 55th Street in Manhattan, in a NYCHA/HPD collaboration.

NYCHA AND HPD COLLABORATE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN CHELSEA AND HUDSON YARDS

MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS COMING TO MANHATTAN, THANKS TO A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) AND THE CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD). On September 26th, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez joined HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan to announce that development teams have been chosen to build 400 units of affordable housing on NYCHA properties in West Chelsea and the Hudson Yards on Manhattan's West Side. Artimus Construction will be the lead developer of new affordable apartments at two sites within the Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea Houses, and a joint venture composed of the Atlantic Development Group and the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty will be the developer of new mixed-income apartments near Harborview Terrace on the West Side of Manhattan. The new housing will bring the Housing Authority an estimated \$20 million in revenue to help preserve public housing.

"By making underutilized property available, the Housing Authority is continuing to contribute to this unprecedented period of affordable housing development initiated by Mayor Bloomberg," said Chairman Hernandez. "The construction of these affordable units will enhance this vibrant community while also creatively bringing NYCHA much-needed revenue, vital to the preservation of public housing in New York City."

Two of the three sites where the construction will take place are currently parking lots for the Fulton and Elliott-Chelsea complexes.

The third site serves as a parking lot and basketball court for Harborview Terrace. Replacement parking areas will be provided to serve current residents of the complexes.

"As the City's population grows, and the need for affordable housing increases, one thing that remains fixed is the supply of available land," said HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan.

"In an era where more New Yorkers are struggling to meet the rising cost of housing, we need to take every opportunity we have to make housing more affordable."

(Continued on page 5)

HUNDREDS OF SENIORS ATTEND 3RD ANNUAL BENEFIT FAIR

By Eileen Elliott

EIGHTY-TWO-YEAR-OLD DOROTHY POINDEXTER OF ST. NICHOLAS HOUSES IN MANHATTAN CAME TO GET HER BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKED. Seventy-six-year-old Hattie Blaine of the Douglass Houses, also in Manhattan, came to have her hearing tested; and 86-year-old Jean Cauch of Pelham Parkway in the Bronx came for one of the most popular services, to get her Senior I.D. replaced.

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) fastest growing population—seniors age 62 or older—came by the bus load to Riverbank State Park in Harlem on the morning of October 4th to take advantage of the Housing Authority's Third Annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair.

They were met there by approximately 32 service providers eager to share a wealth of information on topics health-related and otherwise. This year's fair was especially

(Continued on page 6)



Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott spoke at the Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair on October 4th.

Rich Harvest at the 45th Annual Garden Awards Ceremony in Brooklyn



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? It's hard work by NYCHA residents that makes the beautiful gardens entered into the Garden and Greening Program what they are. Above, Citywide Vegetable Winner Marion Dolphus, who has won many times, joins NYCHA's Board and staff, along with a representative from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz's office, Italia Guerrero, second from right.

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) AND THE RESIDENTS OF NYCHA'S 343 PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN KEEPING NEW YORK CITY GREEN SINCE 1962. That's the year NYCHA started the Citywide Resident Garden Competition. The concept was simple: provide the resources—soil, seeds and bulbs, gardening tips and technical support—and see who could grow the best gardens in the City. Now in its 45th year, the NYCHA Garden and Greening Program is stronger than ever. Winners for each borough in the "Flower," "Vegetable" and "Children's Theme" categories, along with Citywide winners, gathered together in the beautifully decorated Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn on September 27th to be recognized for the flowers, vegetables and fruits of their labor.

Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence thanked all of the gardeners and NYCHA staff at the start of the program. "It's hard work," he said. "You put a lot of time in and I know that many of you spend a lot of your own money to make these gardens as beautiful as they are." Mr. Spence also thanked the judges and the NYCHA Board, without whose support, he said, "This program would not be possible."

Chairman Tino Hernandez echoed Mr. Spence's thanks and praise, telling the gardeners they are pioneers. "It looks like the whole world is following the

example you set back in 1962," the Chairman said. "Now everyone's into greening." The Chair concluded, "You give beauty and we appreciate that."

Also present were Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Board Member Margarita López, whom the Mayor had recently appointed "Environmental Coordinator" to spearhead environmental initiatives at the Housing Authority.

Seventy-six-year-old Marion Dolphus of South Jamaica Houses in Queens wasn't exactly sure how many times she'd won first place in the Citywide Vegetable category, but guessed that her win this year

(Continued on page 5)

PAGE 2
NOVEMBER IS DIABETES
AWARENESS MONTH

PAGE 3
NYCHA AWARDS SCHOLAR-
SHIPS TO CUNY STUDENTS

PAGES 10 AND 11
SEE THIS YEAR'S CITYWIDE
GARDEN WINNERS

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

November Is National Diabetes Month



NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH, A MONTH THAT IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT FOR NEW YORKERS. Why? Because, unfortunately, a report released by the City's Health Department shows that the diabetes epidemic is continuing to take a large and growing toll on New York City. Death rates, debilitating complications, and hospitalization costs continue to soar. Some 500,000 New Yorkers—one out of eight adults—have been diagnosed with diabetes. Another 200,000 have diabetes but don't yet know it. The death rate from diabetes rose by 71% between 1990 and 2003.

The report also exposes unacceptable disparities among neighborhoods and racial/ethnic groups. New Yorkers in East Harlem, Williamsburg, Bushwick and certain parts of the South Bronx are hospitalized for diabetes at ten times the rate of people living on the Upper East Side.

Residents in the most affected areas also die from diabetes at seven times the rate of New Yorkers in the least affected neighborhoods. Among racial/ethnic groups, black New Yorkers have the highest death rate from diabetes, dying at three times the rate of white New Yorkers.

To quote New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, "Tragically, [diabetes] is hurting our low-income communities much more than others. With good management, we can prevent devastating complications of diabetes, such as heart disease, blindness, leg amputations and kidney failure." New Yorkers with diabetes are now hospitalized at a rate nearly 80% higher than the national rate.

Diabetes Management is Key

Many diabetes hospitalizations and deaths can be prevented by better management of the disease. People with diabetes can live long and healthy lives if they carefully manage their blood sugar, blood pressure and bad cholesterol—and quit smoking. To learn more, visit www.nyc.gov/health.

Michael R. Bloomberg



SONYMA, New York State's mortgage agency, is starting a new **Refinancing Program** called "Keep the Dream" to help at-risk families avoid foreclosure and keep their homes.

"Keep the Dream" is designed for homeowners with adjustable rate, interest-only or other unconventional mortgages where the interest rate has just increased or is about to increase—creating a financial hardship.

- Owner-occupied single-family homes, including condos and coops, are eligible.
- Homeowner education and counseling is required.
- Competitive fixed-rate mortgages for 30-year or 40-year terms are available.
- "Keep the Dream" loans can be as high as \$417,000.

For more information, call
1-800-382-HOME (4663)
or visit www.nyhomes.org



THE FACES OF NYCHA

Meet Chico Garcia, 'The Messenger'

By Heidi Morales

ANTONIO "CHICO" GARCIA WAS PATIENTLY WAITING OUTSIDE IN FRONT OF ONE OF HIS MURALS AT THE STRAUS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER. He's a pro at this. He's been interviewed so many times that he no longer has to be persuaded to open up and tell his story. His shy yet playful demeanor makes it easy to talk to him and he seems to keep his creative genius bottled up until he finds the appropriate space to let his thoughts and emotions run wild—in his case it's a white or defaced wall.

Antonio "Chico" Garcia is a former graffiti artist turned muralist. His work is displayed all over the City, especially on the Lower East Side where he grew up and began creating a name for himself. Numerous newspaper articles have been written about him. He's been profiled in *Vogue*; he's been referenced in many books about urban culture and art; and his work has even appeared in big Hollywood flicks like "The Super" and "I Like It Like That." He is called "The Messenger" on the streets of New York City. Here at NYCHA, since he's one of our own, we just call him Chico.

Chico is a Community Associate and "resident artist" for the New York City Housing Authority's Department of Community Operations. He is also a long-time public housing resident. He grew up in Riis Houses and despite his "celebrity" currently lives in NYCHA's Wald Houses.

Chico began working at NYCHA in 1979 as a seasonal caretaker, all the while creating masterpieces in his spare time. "I've been working since then doing outdoors, indoors, canvases, ceilings, kids' rooms, backdrops."

In the late '80s, Chico was the first "aerosol artist" who created "memorial walls" on the Lower East Side to celebrate the lives of those who had passed, most due to street violence. He said the tragic death of a young girl touched him so deeply that he decided to paint a memorial wall in her honor.

"A few days before [her death], she approached me and said, 'Chico can you do my bedroom ceiling for me with clouds. I just want to wake up and feel like I'm in heaven.' That was two days before she was killed. She was the first person [memorial] I painted."

Chico has also paid homage through spray paint to icons that are beloved by the Latino community of "Loisaida" like the Pope, salsa singer Celia Cruz and slain Tejano singer Selena. In no time at all painting memorial walls



COMEDY AND TRAGEDY Chico Garcia got his start painting memorial walls on the Lower East Side. Here, he stands in front of a mural he painted of the dramatic masks at Straus Performing Arts Center on East 27th Street in Manhattan.

became a tradition in neighborhoods across the City.

Word got around and Chico was being sought after from all over the five boroughs and as far away as London where he created a memorial wall in Piccadilly Circus commemorating the 20th anniversary of Jimi Hendrix's death. He's trav-

eled around the world as an ambassador for this genre of art. He's painted walls in Italy, Holland and Japan. Thanks to Chico, for more than a decade, memorial paintings on the walls of abandoned buildings, bodegas, empty lots and playgrounds became solemn places for

(Continued on page 9)

DIVORCE \$250*
* Plus Court Fees
Discount for people receiving PA, SSI or SSD

- Spouses' Signature Not Required!
- Payment Plans Available!

We also offer People Search & Name Change

Se Habla Español! (718)292-4235
606 Melrose Ave 2nd Fl, Bronx, NY 10455
www.1on1divorce.com

The Housing Authority Journal

73
years
of Public Housing
in New York City

ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority
Department of Communications
250 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007
Tel (212) 306-3322 • Fax (212) 577-1358
nyc.gov/nycha

Michael R. Bloomberg Mayor

Tino Hernandez Chairman
Earl Andrews, Jr. Vice-Chairman
Margarita López Board Member
Wilma Huertas Secretary
Douglas Apple General Manager
Sheila Greene Director, Department of Communications
Eileen Elliott Editor
Heidi Morales Editor, Spanish Edition
Tischelle George Online News Editor
Allan Leicht Staff Writer
Deborah Williams Staff Writer
Peter Mikoleski, Kevin Devoe Photography

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the *Journal*, please call our marketing representatives in Marketing and Revenue Operations at (212) 306-6616. The inclusion of any advertisement in this *Journal* does not constitute any endorsement by the Housing Authority of the advertiser or its products or services or any other representation by the Housing Authority with respect to such products or services.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Giving Thanks for Another Year



ANOTHER YEAR IS NEARLY OVER AND THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) HAS MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR. NYCHA staff and residents have worked together to maintain the Housing Authority's 343 public housing developments throughout the City in the best possible condition for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers; this is the core of NYCHA's mission. We

have accomplished this despite the fact that funding from Washington continues to fall far short of what is needed to cover NYCHA's operating expenses.

We have also had some significant victories. As I mentioned in the September column, a broad coalition of supporters for public housing, including elected officials, advocates and residents, came together to send the message loud and clear that the State must share the responsibility of ensuring NYCHA's future. Governor Eliot Spitzer heard the message and signed the Shelter Allowance bill into law, increasing the funds that NYCHA receives to cover rent for those residents on public assistance. Although this is by no means an answer to NYCHA's financial challenges, passage of the bill means up to \$47 million in additional funding for the Housing Authority once it is fully phased in. The additional money will allow NYCHA to hire critical development-based staff who most directly affect the quality of life of residents.

Over the past year, NYCHA has continued to successfully implement a number of "smart technology" initiatives to bring residents the best and most efficient service available. Foremost among our successes in this area has been the Centralized Call Center (CCC). As I'm sure most of you know, the CCC allows residents to call a single telephone number: (718) 707-7771, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to schedule all maintenance repairs. NYCHA Customer Service Representatives schedule appointments at residents' convenience, and follow up to make sure the work was completed satisfactorily. Brooklyn came on board this year, joining Staten Island, Queens and Manhattan. Before the year is over, the CCC will also be fully operational in the Bronx.

Other technologies that are improving service and saving money include the Computerized Heating Automated System (CHAS), which allows development managers and staff to remotely monitor heating systems so that problems can be averted.

In 2006, I announced the "Plan To Preserve Public Housing," which incorporates the accomplishments mentioned above. We have worked hard to turn the various elements of the plan into reality. Though we have been successful in some respects, we are still working on others. For example, NYCHA is currently working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to transition 8,400 units of public housing into the Section 8 program to preserve the 21 City and State-built developments which do not receive a federal subsidy. In addition, NYCHA will continue its efforts to prevent further erosion of our financial stability by pursuing legislative action in Washington and Albany.

Because this is the last issue of the *NYCHA Journal* this year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, staff and residents alike, for working together to make public housing in New York City what it is today. With your help, the Housing Authority will continue its tradition of excellence into the New Year. Please accept my best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, as well as the rest of the upcoming holidays.

Tino Hernandez

BOROUGH DIGEST

The Bronx: Last month's *Journal* announced that Brooklyn was the newest borough to join the Housing Authority's Centralized Call Center (CCC) network. Now, the last remaining borough, the Bronx, is slated to go live by mid-November. That means that before the end of this year, all of NYCHA's more than 400,000 residents will be able to call a single num (718) 707-7771, to schedule appointments for maintenance visits and repairs. Lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with Customer Service Representatives ready to help. Congratulations to NYCHA's great staff for making it happen.

Brooklyn: Coney Island Houses, located at the birthplace of the famed American amusement park, celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year. In a proclamation presented to the development, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg called the anniversary "a testament to the quality of NYCHA developments in all parts of our City." The original Coney Island Houses, completed in 1957, had 534 apartments. Three additional buildings were constructed in the early 1970s. Today, over 3,400 New Yorkers make their homes at this seaside development.



(left to right) Brooklyn Borough Deputy Director Marie Hershkowitz, Borough Director Marguerite Mann, Deputy General Manager Robert Podmore and Coney Island Houses Resident Association President Rosia Wyche with Mayoral proclamation commemorating the development's 50th anniversary.

Manhattan: Thanks to a new pilot program made possible by a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Washington National Opera, the New York City Opera and the

(Continued on page 6)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Money for College—There's no escaping the fact that college costs are rising and many students are finding themselves short of cash. But if you're a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident there's help on the way. In 2005, NYCHA, in collaboration with the City University of New York (CUNY), established a scholarship program with donations made by production companies that filmed motion pictures on NYCHA property. The NYCHA/CUNY Scholarship program awards \$1000 scholarships to qualifying NYCHA residents attending a CUNY college.

"It's a way to alleviate some of the financial burden associated with tuition costs," said Chairman Tino Hernandez. In addition to the funding from filming, additional generous donations have been made by corporate, private and public sector donors. Teresa Mann, a former NYCHA employee, annually donates \$1,800; JPMorgan Chase made an inaugural donation of \$1,000 in March 2007; and this year NYCHA made a commitment to donate \$2,000 annually.

On September 18, 2007 in the NYCHA Board Room, Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr, Board Member Margarita López and CUNY Vice-Chancellor for Student Affairs Garrie Moore presented ten NYCHA residents with the \$1,000 scholarships. Kimberly Golden, a junior at York College majoring in business administration and a resident of South Jamaica Houses, said that being a recipient of the scholarship "is more than an accomplishment," that it gives her a "sense of worth." Kimberly said she wouldn't have been able to buy her books or attend the winter session had it not been for the scholarship. She also said that winning the scholarship put everything into perspective and made her struggle raising two boys, attending college full-time, and working a full-time job all worthwhile.

Kit Hing Lam, a resident of Lillian Wald Houses attending Hunter College, said she has never won anything before and considers it an honor to have been chosen as a scholarship winner. Kit doesn't see herself as a trendsetter but said she hopes to start a trend for other Asian-American residents to apply not only for the NYCHA/CUNY Scholarship but other NYCHA opportunities.

To qualify, you must be a resident of NYCHA and a sophomore, junior or senior attending a CUNY college with a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher, majoring in broadcasting, business, dance, drama, fashion, film, fine or performing arts, journalism, literature, marketing/merchandising, music, photography, public affairs, or public administration. So, if you need money for college, and can demonstrate that need, do what these winners did — stop by your college financial aid office and inquire about the NYCHA/CUNY Scholarship program. Visit NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha and click on Residents' Corner.

CUNY Vice-Chancellor Garrie W. Moore congratulated the winners saying, "This scholarship is a token of recognition for your hard work and scholastic achievement."

Congratulations to you all! Winning this scholarship means you



Front Row (left to right): CUNY scholarship winners Kit Hing Lam of Lillian Wald Houses, Vanessa Paula of Stanley Isaacs Houses, Johanna Sierra of Unity Plaza, Kimberly Golden of South Jamaica Houses and Racquel Redman of Bronxdale Houses. Back Row (left to right): NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., scholarship winner Katherine Shimanovsky of Vladeck Houses, Board Member Margarita López, Chairman Tino Hernandez, CUNY Vice-Chancellor Garrie W. Moore and Director of Student Advocacy Roberta Nord. Other winners this year, not shown here are: Joshua Buckins of Ocean Bay Houses, Christine Camacho of St. Mary's Park, Paul Rittenhouse of Nostrand Houses and Jolisa Robinson of Queensbridge.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

(Part Time – Full Time)

HOME HEALTH AIDES

HHA's/PCA's/CNA's/LIVE-INS

Benefits & Bonuses

FREE HOME HEALTH AIDE TRAINING

Call for Class Dates

Queens - (718)-429-5221 Brooklyn - (718)-246-9233

Bronx - (718)-239-0010 Manhattan -(212)-423-1177

UTOPIA HOME CARE, INC.

www.utopiahomecare.com

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 May 17 and June 7, 14, 21, and 28, and July 5, 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 May 17, 2006

Edwin Rodriguez	Case 2922/06 formerly associated with the twenty-sixth floor of 3125 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.
Colin Werts	Case 3025/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 23-02 34th Street, Ravenswood Houses, Long Island City.
Darrell Rice	Case 208/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 291 East 143rd Street, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.
Kawan Mack	Case 3102/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1570 East 102nd Street, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of June 7, 2006

Kwane Dower Jamal Dower	Case 3651/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 3042 Avenue V, Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn.
Sharif McMillian Sharif McMillian	Case 6657/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 117 West 144th Street, Frederick E. Samuel Houses, Manhattan.
Michael Johnson	Case 3693/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 545 Dumont Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Anwar Amari	Case 3483/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 360 Williams Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Kervin Cameron	Case 3736/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 521 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of June 14, 2006

Darrell Lester	Case 5316/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 264 West 10th Avenue, Elliott-Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.
Gregory Parker	Case 3849/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 3-06 Astoria Boulevard, Astoria Houses, Long Island City.
Kaheem Asep	Case 10636/04 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 77 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Anthony Davis Anthony Thompson	Case 5721/02 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 1840 Lexington Avenue, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
Ishmel Morgan	Case 3936/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 1805 Bruckner Boulevard, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of June 21, 2006

Laquantes Bluett	Case 3979/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 434 East 105th Street, East River Houses, Manhattan.
Gary Dickens	Case 4058/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2140 Seward Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Geraldo Decarmen	Case 4028/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 120 Humboldt Street, Borinquen Plaza, Brooklyn.
Rafael Roman Byron Nevels	Case 4063/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1726 Richmond Road, Berry Houses, Staten Island.
Robert Basora	Case 4087/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 375 Blake Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.

(Continued on page 7)

THE CHIEF'S CORNER

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holiday season upon us, most people are preoccupied with the details of holiday planning and shopping. Unfortunately, the safety precautions we normally take can be forgotten as the excitement of the season causes us to let our guard down. The NYPD wants this to be a safe holiday season for all, so we remind you to follow these simple tips. Enjoy the City and the season!

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals often target people who are distracted.
- Whether driving, walking or taking public transportation, plan the trip in advance. Know how to get to your destination by the most direct and safest route.
- If possible, stay in designated waiting areas or in view of the station booth clerk while awaiting your train. Never walk or stand near the edge of the subway platform.
- Travel on populated, well lit streets. If possible, travel with a friend.
- When driving, keep your doors locked and the windows closed. Make sure the gas tank is full. Maintain your car in good working order to avoid breakdowns.
- Always lock your car. Before getting into your car, check the back seat to make sure no one is hiding there.
- Avoid leaving valuables in your car. Whenever possible, place items out of sight in the trunk of your vehicle prior to reaching your destination. Never leave packages in the passenger compartment unattended.
- Plan your purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash or number of credit cards necessary to make the purchase. If you must carry a large sum of money, divide the cash between your purse, pockets and wallet.
- Cancel credit cards you don't use and keep a record of the account numbers for each credit card you possess. This will facilitate reporting the theft or loss of the cards.
- Carry your purse close to your body. Place one end of the purse in the palm of your hand and the other in the bend of your elbow. Never wrap the strap around your body.
- If you are carrying a wallet, carry it in the breast pocket of your jacket or in your side pants pocket. The rear pants pocket is the easiest to pick.
- When in a restaurant, don't leave your handbag over the back of your chair or on the floor.
- Don't leave belongings unattended.
- Don't wait until you have reached your front door to look for your keys. Have them ready in your hand. If a stranger is standing near your door, it may be a good idea not to go in until the situation feels safer.
- Lock your front door immediately upon entering your home.
- If you live in an apartment building, don't buzz in someone who rings your bell until you have verified who they are. This will help protect both you and your neighbors.
- If you have elderly family members or neighbors, please remember to check in on them.
- Remind children to be wary of strangers, including those on the Internet.
- Be wary of con artists. Con artists use a number of ploys to trick you and steal your property. Some divert your attention while another picks your pocket; some pose as utility workers or as a trades person to gain access to the inside of your home, while others conduct scams that are more elaborate involving several con artists.
- Be wary of telephone and e-mail solicitations asking for personal information about your accounts, passwords or social security number.
- As a consumer you should avoid illegal vendors selling goods on the street. Purchase merchandise only from licensed vendors or reputable stores. Follow your instincts. Remember, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably is."



**Housing Bureau Police Chief
Joanne Jaffe**

PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE, DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!
In case of emergency, dial 911
(Non-emergency, dial 311)

**Help us fight terrorism. Report suspicious activity to the
COUNTER TERRORISM HOTLINE:
1-888-NYC-SAFE
(1-888-692-7233)**

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Period Reminder

Seniors with Medicare Part D (Prescription Drug Benefit) can switch their Prescription Drug Plans from November 15th until December 31st. If you choose to switch, it is recommended that you do so before December 8th to ensure that you will receive the prescriptions you need on January 1st. Seniors not enrolled in Medicare Part D may enroll during this annual "Open Enrollment Period." For more information and answers to questions on Medicare, call 1-800-633-4227. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Say "Agent" to speak to a live person.

If you were unable to attend our Senior Benefit & Entitlement Fair on October 4th, you may request a copy of the Program Brochure containing contact information on all participating agencies. Call the following number at any time: (212) 306-8443.

Notice of HUD Inspections

Dear Residents:

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be conducting a physical inspection of NYCHA Federal developments within the next few weeks (State and City developments will not be included). The system that HUD developed for these inspections is called the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). As part of this process, a certain number of residents' apartments will be inspected.

You can assist us by reviewing the following items:

Electricity

- Your circuit breaker or fuse panel should not have any missing breakers or fuses. (You should not see any of the wiring or parts inside the breaker or fuse panel.)
- All light switches and outlets should operate properly and have cover plates over them.
- In apartments with Call for Aide units, switches and pull cords should operate properly with pull cord hanging down.
- Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) outlets should test properly when pushing the Test button.

Smoke Detectors/Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Detectors should be installed. There should not be empty brackets with missing detectors.
- Detectors should test properly (beep) when the Test button is pressed.

Stove/Oven

- Check each burner. Each burner should light individually by turning the knob. The oven should work.

Refrigerator

- The refrigerator door should close all the way. Door gaskets should not be cracked or broken. Lights should work.

Doors

- Bathrooms, Bedrooms and Closets—Doors should close and latch properly. Door knobs and latches should be in good working order. Doors should be free of holes or damage.

Windows

- Windows should work properly, staying up when opened. Window glass should not be cracked or broken.

Faucets

- Faucets and their parts should not leak when either on or off. You should have rubber stoppers for the sinks and tub.

Exterminator

- You should not have any type of infestation condition.

If any of the above items are not in good order, contact your Management Office if you live in the Bronx or a NYCHA development managed by a private management company. If you live in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens or Staten Island, call the Call Center at (718) 707-7771 to schedule an appointment to have those items repaired.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

Mayor Appoints Margarita López as NYC Housing Authority's Environmental Coordinator

MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG JOINED NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ ON SEPTEMBER 24TH TO ANNOUNCE THE APPOINTMENT OF NYCHA BOARD MEMBER MARGARITA LÓPEZ AS THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR.

In her expanded role, Commissioner López will guide NYCHA in setting aggressive goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving energy and providing more efficient service. These new initiatives will further advance PlaNYC, the City's strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and make New York a greener, healthier, safer city by the year 2030.

"With 2,653 residential buildings across the City, the Housing Authority can play a vital role in

achieving our efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Mayor Bloomberg. "With her dedication and intelligence, I can think of no better person than Margarita to lead NYCHA in this important effort."

Commissioner López will lead a NYCHA team that will develop and implement a series of environmental programs aimed at making NYCHA a leader in green initiatives for public housing agencies across the country.

Annual Garden Awards

(Continued from page 1)

brought the number to 10 or 11. "I am so blessed and happy," said Ms. Dolphus before the start of the ceremony. "Everybody comes from all over to look at my garden." Among the vegetables in this fantastic urban oasis are okra, sweet potatoes, eggplant, lima beans, string beans, and cabbage.

Benny Diaz of Patterson Houses in the Bronx, together with his brothers-in-law, Jorge Rivera and Juan Lozada, tied for first place in the City-wide Flower category with their Rain Forest Garden. Mr. Diaz said he and his brothers-in-law took the garden over after his mother became ill. And how did they feel when they found out they'd tied for first place? "Oh my God, we were delighted," Mr. Diaz said. "My mother lived for that garden so we created it for her. We put a lot of effort into it; a lot of love."

After accepting the trophy, Mr. Diaz dedicated the garden to his mother and expressed his thanks to the Housing Authority and the grounds crew at his development. "They gave us whatever we needed," he said. "We love you!"

For a complete list of all of the garden winners, as well as photos of the winning Citywide gardens, turn to pages 10 and 11 of this *Journal*.



CITYWIDE FLOWER WINNERS Juan Lozada (left) and Benny Diaz (right) pose with their trophy surrounded by NYCHA Board and staff.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Continued from page 1)



Rendering by Artimus Construction included in the initial proposal of the apartments slated to be built at Elliott-Chelsea Houses in Chelsea.

said Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn. "With the majority of these units remaining permanently affordable, we will help more people climb the economic ladder for decades to come." The Council speaker thanked Chairman Hernandez for his ongoing dedication to the modernization and preservation of public housing.

The winning proposal from Atlantic Development Group, LLC and Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty (Met Council) will provide a total of 259 units in two buildings for the Harborview Terrace site, including a 113-unit building for seniors with income up to 80% AMI (\$39,700 for one person and \$45,350 for a two-person household); and a 146-unit mixed-income building containing 48 units for households with incomes between 80% and 165% of AMI (\$56,700 to \$117,000 for a family of four) and 98 units to be rented at market rates. Met Council will be involved in marketing and managing of the senior building as well as providing supportive services for senior residents.

All of the units at the Fulton Houses and Elliott-Chelsea complex will be permanently affordable to families of four earning between \$56,700 and \$117,000 or to single households earning between \$39,700 and \$81,900.

This new housing will be the product of an ongoing collaboration between NYCHA and HPD, where underutilized NYCHA sites are being identified for the expansion of affordable housing in the City. This initiative plays a key role in the Mayor's \$7.5 billion New Housing Marketplace Plan, which will provide housing for 500,000 New Yorkers over ten years.

BENEFIT FAIR

(Continued from page 1)

notable because of the number of health screenings available on the spot for diseases such as: high blood pressure, diabetes, glaucoma, Hepatitis C and prostate and foot problems. There were even free flu shots.

"The theme for today's fair is 'Taking Charge Of Your Health,' said NYCHA's Resident Support Services Director Richard Greene, speaking to the 1,200 seniors gathered in the enormous outdoor skating rink at the start of the program. "Today, we're going to work with you to try to accomplish this task." Mr. Greene thanked the NYCHA Board for their support, as well as a long list of sponsors whose contributions covered the entire cost of the fair.

"What a great crowd," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "One third of our households are headed by seniors. We think it's important to provide you with services."

Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott brought greetings from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and vowed that the City would preserve and expand senior services.

The Deputy Mayor was followed by Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago, whom the Chairman introduced as a "tremendous leader." DFTA operates over 100 senior centers on NYCHA property, and collaborates with the Authority on senior housing initiatives.

Other speakers included City Council Member Robert Jackson, Dr. Nilsa Gutierrez from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, and President & CEO of North River Community Environmental Review Board Ann Rocker. But it was Rachael Gordon, from the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation, who best expressed the objective of the fair, with a quote from Abraham Lincoln: "In the end it's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years."



A senior has her blood pressure taken at the Benefit Fair.

BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), 70 young NYCHA residents enjoyed a live simulcast of the Washington National Opera's performance of Giacomo Puccini's "La Bohème" on Sunday, September 23rd, at the Rutgers Community Center on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The program was designed to spark an interest in careers in opera and the arts for young public housing residents. Residents also attended workshops before and after the simulcast, led by teaching artists from the New York City Opera. The workshop before the simulcast focused on the love story and the workshop after the simulcast focused on internship and apprenticeship opportunities offered by opera companies. The opera was performed in Italian with English subtitles.

Queens: The "Stop the Violence" basketball tournament started up again the last weekend in September at the Hammel Houses Community Center in the Rockaways. Sixteen teams from Queens and four from Brooklyn, with a total of 240 youngsters aged 8 to 14, are competing. This collaboration with the NYPD requires each team to participate in a workshop on gangs, drugs, and violence prevention. The 100th Precinct monitors the tournament and a Youth Officer conducts the workshops. The tournament will run until the beginning of December.



Staten Island: On October 2nd, Council Member James Oddo held a press conference at Berry Houses to announce that his office has secured \$1.6 million for the installation of small scale Closed Circuit TVs (CCTVs) at Berry and South Beach Houses. Wiring is currently being done at Berry Houses for installation of cameras in the lobbies, elevators and building entrances. The first phase of camera installation will be completed this month. Work at South Beach Houses will begin in December.

Succoth Celebration in Brooklyn

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ JOINED ELECTED OFFICIALS, STAFF, AND RESIDENTS OF WILLIAMS PLAZA, INDEPENDENCE TOWERS AND TAYLOR-WYTHE HOUSES IN THE WILLIAMSBURG SECTION OF BROOKLYN ON OCTOBER 1ST FOR THE ANNUAL SUCCOTH HOLIDAY CELEBRATION. ALSO KNOWN AS FEAST OF THE TABERNACLES, OR FEAST OF THE BOOTHS, SUCCOTH COMMEMORATES THE YEARS THE JEWISH PEOPLE SPENT IN THE DESERT ON THEIR WAY TO CANAAN, THE PROMISED LAND, NOW ISRAEL.

The succah is an open air structure with a roof of branches and leaves. Its use is set down in the Hebrew Bible, "You shall dwell in booths seven days, that your generation shall know I made the children of Israel to dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt."



FESTIVAL OF BOOTHS Chairman Tino Hernandez (Center) with Williams Plaza Resident Association President Michael Babad (right) and Taylor-Wythe Resident Association President Sheldon Klein. **Below**, explaining the meaning of the ritual citron fruit and the palm, myrtle and willow branches.



NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez extended his greetings to the crowd gathered together in a succah at Williams Plaza.

"The sense of community here serves as a model not only for NYCHA communities, but for communities everywhere," the Chairman said.

Many speakers talked about the strong sense of community and cooperation between residents in the area and the developments' management staff, as

well as emphasizing the values of the holiday.

Speakers included Assembly Member Joseph R. Lentol, a representative for State Senator Martin Connor, and Congress Member Edolphus Towns.

"We broke bread, ate, explained the meaning of Succoth," said Williams Plaza Resident Association President Michael Babad, who hosted the event. "It was a very pleasant, very relaxing atmosphere."



Title: ACCESS NYC: Benefit Information in One Place

Have you ever wondered what benefit programs are out there, and which ones you might be eligible for? Do you need assistance from the government, but are not sure where to go for help? ACCESS NYC may be the answer for you!

New York City government agencies now offer information about benefit programs in one place at www.nyc.gov/ACCESSNYC. By answering simple questions you can find out which programs may be available for you and your family.

There are 35 programs in ACCESS NYC including Food Stamps, Public Assistance, Medicaid, Child Care, Nurse-Family Partnership, and many, many more. There are special programs for children, new mothers, working parents, the disabled, and the elderly. **And now you can find use ACCESS NYC to also find out about NYCHA's Resident Employment Services, a workforce development program available only to residents of public housing.**

ACCESS NYC is free, simple to use, and anonymous. You can use it anywhere the internet is available at www.nyc.gov/accessnyc. Get started today!

Go Online

Visit www.nyc.gov/accessnyc and choose from seven different languages – English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, and Haitian Creole.

Answer Questions

You will be asked questions about income, resources, expenses, employment, and housing. Your information is kept private and will only be seen by you. ACCESS NYC uses your answers to figure out if you might qualify for benefits.

Take Action

Once you know which programs you and your family are interested in, ACCESS NYC gives you the tools and information to:

- Learn how to apply for each program
- Find out what documents you need to apply
- Print application forms and instructions
- Search for phone numbers and office locations near you

For more information go online to www.nyc.gov/accessnyc, or call 311 and ask for ACCESS NYC.

KNOW SOMEONE STRUGGLING WITH ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS?

The ALBERT EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DIVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE has confidential treatment programs that can provide medication and counseling to help you take the next steps towards health and wellness. Now offering special interventions for abuse of methamphetamine ("Crystal Meth"). We are here for you, your family and community.

**CALL US AT (718) 993-3397
 YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE.**



PARKING SPACES AVAILABLE ON NYCHA PROPERTY. CONTACT DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT OFFICE FOR DETAILS.

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Board Meeting Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, NY. The remaining schedule for Calendar Year 2007 is as follows, unless otherwise noted:

- November 14, 2007
- November 28, 2007
- December 12, 2007
- December 26, 2007

Any changes to the above mentioned schedule will be posted on the NYCHA website at nyc.gov/nycha and in the NYCHA Journal to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

(Continued from page 4)

Danny Molban	Case 5746/06 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 735 East 163rd Street, Forest Houses, the Bronx.
Glen Bowman, Sr. Anthony Rodriguez	Case 4132/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1125 University Avenue, Highbridge Gardens Houses, the Bronx.
Prohibited as of June 28, 2006	
Jermel Broadhurst	Case 232/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 50 Debevoise Avenue, Cooper Park Houses, Brooklyn.
James Felton	Case 4259/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1145 University Avenue, Highbridge Gardens, the Bronx.
Victor Rivera	Case 4418/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 423 Baltic Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
Prohibited as of July 5, 2006	
Kevin Fisher	Case 4305/06 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 405 East 105th Street, Wilson Houses, Manhattan.
Davina Johnson	Case 4309/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 70 Lenox Avenue, King Towers, Manhattan.
Ali Fray	Case 4337/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 241 Hoyt Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
Jaquan Vaughn	Case 4435/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 505 East 120th Street, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Javier Landin Jose Landin	Case 4493/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 293 Eighth Avenue, Polo Grounds Towers, Manhattan.
Tyrone Castes Walter Johnson Jamel Castes Walter Cates	Case 4302/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 4030 Laconia Avenue, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Rashwan Sharp	Case 4644/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 162 Troy Avenue, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.
Desmond Edwards	Case 4647/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1372 Washington Avenue, Morris Houses, the Bronx.



YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON QUALITY HEALTH CARE. SO WE DIDN'T.

Family Health Plus and Child Health Plus. If you think you can't afford quality health care for your family, think again. With HIP, thousands of deserving New Yorkers may qualify for free or low-cost health care that includes a full range of physician services, inpatient and outpatient hospital care, even eye and dental care. FHPlus members pay no monthly premiums, but some members are subject to copayments for certain services. FHPlus is for adults aged 19 through 64. There's no longer any excuse for not having health care. Call today for more information.

Call to reserve a seat at one of our enrollment sites.

Call to find out if you qualify: **1-888-290-0774**
 (TDD: 1-888-447-4833)

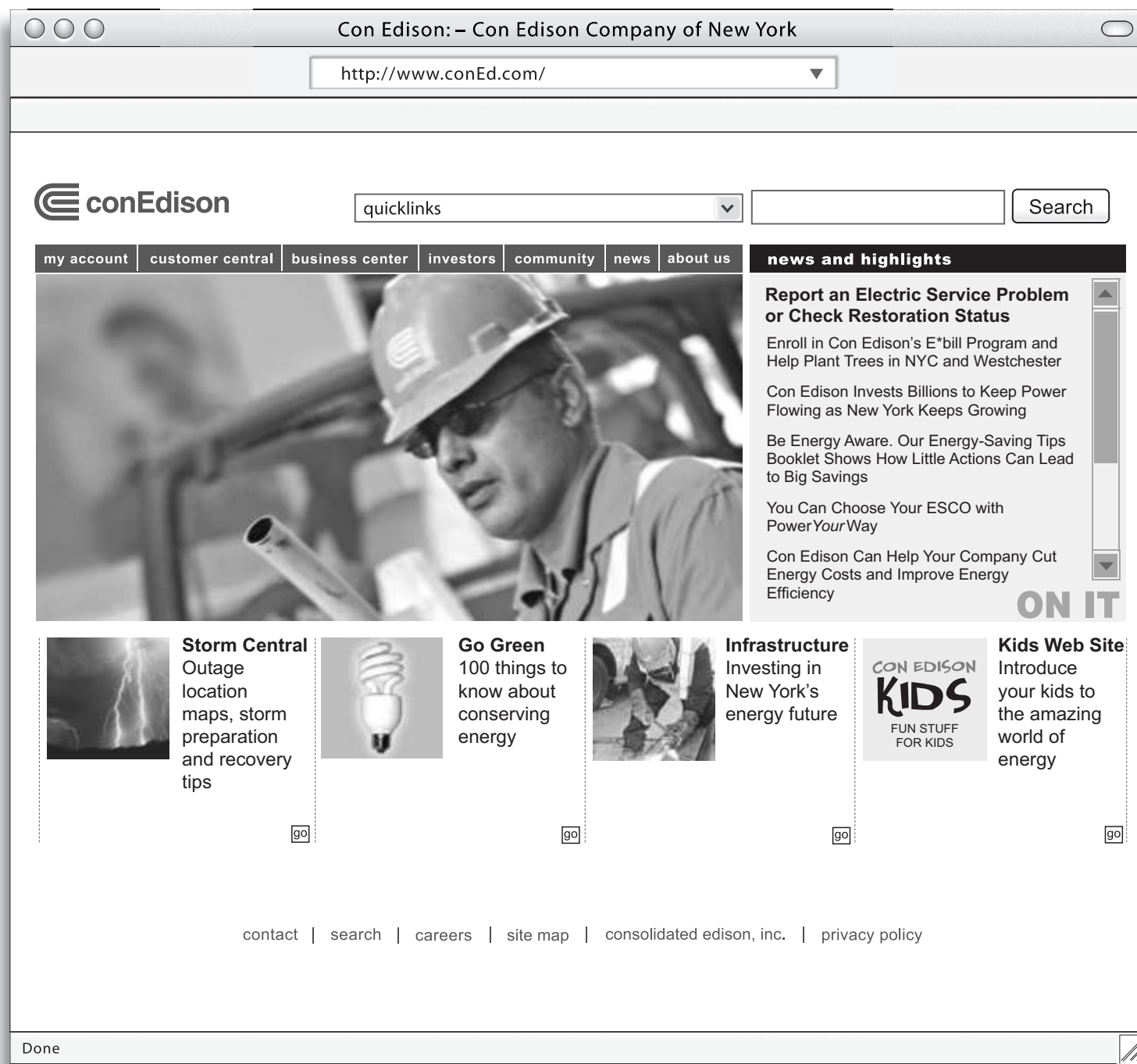
**Montefiore Medical Group
 Bronx East Center**
 2300 Westchester Ave., Section C1
 Bronx, NY 10462
 Monday to Friday, 9 am - 4 pm
 Saturday, 9 am - 11 am
 (1st & 2nd Saturdays of the month)

**Montefiore Medical Group
 Grand Concourse Center**
 2532 Grand Concourse, 1st FL, Rm 8
 Bronx, NY 10458
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday,
 9 am - 4 pm
 Thursday, 9 am - 12 pm
 Saturday, 9 am - 11 am
 (1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month)

Jamaica Estates Medical Offices
 180-05 Hillside Ave., 2nd FL.
 Jamaica, NY 11432
 Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 9 am - 4 pm
 Tuesday, 9 am - 6 pm
 Thursday, 9 am - 5 pm
 Saturday, 9 am - 12 pm

**Central Brooklyn Medical Group
 Bay Ridge Center**
 740 64th St., 1st FL.
 Brooklyn, NY 11220
 Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 9 am - 4:30 pm
 Monday & Wednesday,
 9 am - 4 pm





At conEd.com, knowledge is power.

At Con Edison, we're always working to improve the ways we can serve New York. And that includes our Web site, now better than ever and easier to use. When you log on to www.conEd.com you'll find a wealth of energy information for your home or business. So check out www.conEd.com next time you're online. You'll be glad you did.

- Now you can report electric service problems online as well as check the status of service restoration in your area.
- When severe weather is on the horizon, check out Con Edison's Storm Central for tips on how to prepare for storms and what to do if your power goes out.
- You'll also find 100 Things to Know About Conserving Energy, electric and gas safety tips, and much more.

Day Care Council of New York, Inc.

Our professionally trained Phone Counselors can offer you **FREE** child care referral information on:



- The Location of Child Care Programs
- Infant/Toddler Programs
- Licensed and Registered Family and Group Family Child Care
- After-School programs
- Nanny Services
- Nursery Schools
- Summer Camps
- Head Start Programs
- Becoming a Child Care Provider
- The New NYS Medication Regulations

Offering child care information and technical assistance to the five boroughs since 1952

12 West 21st Street, 3rd Floor
New York, NY 10010
www.dcnyninc.org

212-206-7818
(M-F 8:30 am - 5:30 pm)

CHICO GARCIA, 'THE MESSENGER'

(Continued from page 2)

prayers, vigils and congregation for communities everywhere.

By 1991 Chico's name was well known in what many would consider a tight "underground" art world but he wanted to take his skills to the next level and in the process acquire the all-around recognition that he now enjoys. (You really can't walk ten steps in "Loisaida" without people stopping to hug him, shake his hand or call out his name from across the street.) Chico decided to leave NYCHA to travel and dedicate himself full-time to his art.

The Rise of 'The Messenger'

Chico remembers being seven years old and scratching up the walls in his house. "During math class I would sketch the teacher, how she talked, how she moved. That's really when I realized there was something 'wrong' with me," he said in between chuckles. "I had to pursue it."

Chico proudly stated that he taught himself how to draw and paint. "I would go home and sketch how I felt, especially if we had family problems. I would look at magazines and try to learn how to do shadows to bring a picture alive. I trained my own hands." It was in the seventh grade when a former teacher asked him to create his very first mural—a picture of the Wright brothers and several airplanes on the walls of P.S. 134's auditorium. Who knows, it might still be there!

Overall, Chico has painted about 8,000 murals in his lifetime, including over 1,000 memorial

walls for families and communities that have lost a loved one and look to Chico to immortalize their spirit with aerosol images.

He has taken part in countless neighborhood beautification projects, including an inviting mural in front of "La Bodega de la Familia," a non-profit organization, and last month he lended an artistic hand to give the Manhattan School for Career Development in the East Village a much needed colorful and imaginative face-lift. Truly, his work seems to be displayed in every nook and cranny of the Lower East Side.

On average it costs Chico anywhere from \$100 to \$300 in materials to create one of his masterpieces. "It takes me anywhere from six to eight hours [to paint a mural]. If I really want to impress you then I take about two days," he said.

Chico strives to convey anti-drug and anti-violence messages in his murals, which he foots the bill for; but he's sought after for commercial work too. From time to time business owners hire him to create big, colorful murals or advertisements in front of their establishments. Hey, everyone's got to eat, right? But although tough economic times have pushed Chico to create "commercial art," he tries to stay away from that type of work. "[The walls] are for the community. It's like a message wall."

The influx of trendy businesses like boutiques and bars, higher earning residents and market rate apartment complexes on the Lower East Side have created something

FREE or LOW-COST health coverage from Fidelis Care.

Family Health Plus, Child Health Plus and Medicaid are New York State-sponsored health insurance programs offered by Fidelis Care.

- Choose your own network doctor or pediatrician
- Quality care from hospitals and specialists
- Emergency services, eye care, dental care and more

Health insurance from **Fidelis Care** provides the benefits of quality healthcare, and the security of knowing your family is protected. So if you're a New York State resident and don't have health insurance, or need coverage for your child, call **Fidelis Care** today and see how we can help.



FIDELIS CARE™



Adults ages 19-64



1-888-FIDELIS (1-888-343-3547)

or 1-800-505-5678 for New York Medicaid CHOICE

Proof of age, income and address necessary to enroll.

of an obstacle for Chico. It's gotten harder for him to find a "canvas" to work on. He says at times he has to pay the landlords to put up his work.

"I don't do this to get recognized. I do it to bring a message out, to leave a message in the community. This talent that I have is what God gave me. I'm not a musician or a computer expert, all I know is how to use my hands and my eyes. Whatever God puts in my

mind he puts it through my hands and I'm able to create it."

Chico said he came back to NYCHA because he wanted to continue to give back. "There are a lot of kids out there that can benefit from my work." Chico dreams of one day teaching youth on a regular basis. "I want to have a program where I can teach kids how to do murals so we can go around the neighborhoods and beautify the City. I want to take these kids

to the next level; some of these kids are getting arrested every day. They need someone they can look up to, somebody to show them the way and work with them."

In the meantime, the 44-year-old Chico will be preparing for a show in January 2008 where he will display his artwork and celebrate his 30 year career. "I'm a true artist. I believe in what I do and I love what I do. I do it all for the love of art and my community."

2007 GARDEN & GREENING COMPETITION AWARDS

CITYWIDE WINNERS:

FLOWER: Rain Forest Garden, Patterson Houses, Bronx

FLOWER: 911 Memorial Garden, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan

VEGETABLE: Garden of Venus, South Jamaica Houses, Queens

CHILDREN'S/THEME: Grannie Bloomers Garden, Astoria Houses, Queens

BRONX FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: In Memory of Pipon Garden, Union Ave. Consolidation
2nd Prize: Love & Peace Garden #1, Boston Secor Houses
3rd Prize: Rodriguez & McKay's Sunrise Garden, Patterson Houses

BRONX VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Union Avenue Vegetable Garden,
Union Avenue Consolidation
2nd Prize: 402 Union Garden Consolidation,
Union Avenue Consolidation

BRONX CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Liberty Garden, Throgs Neck Houses
2nd Prize: Nana's Tranquility Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
3rd Prize: Garden of Paradise, Bronx River Houses
Honorable Mention: Butterfly Garden, Parkside Community Center

MANHATTAN FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Garden of Unity, Straus Houses
2nd Prize: Heavenly Scent Serenity Garden, Isaacs Houses
3rd Prize: Tenant's Garden, Wald Houses

MANHATTAN VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Troche's Garden, Wald Houses
2nd Prize: Polo Grounds Senior Center Garden,
Polo Grounds Senior Center

MANHATTAN CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Tenant Garden, Wald Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Renew Your Spirit Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
2nd Prize: Shining Light Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Bayview Vegetable Garden, Bayview Houses
2nd Prize: Green House Garden, Marlboro Houses
3rd Prize: Minnie's Vegetable Garden, Marlboro Houses
Honorable Mention: Barbara & Minnie's Vegetable Garden,
Marlboro Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Beauty at the Bay Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
2nd Prize: Flowers of Faith Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Sugar Plum Garden, Red Hook East Houses

WEST BROOKLYN FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses
2nd Prize: Gowanus' Garden, Gowanus Houses
3rd Prize: Sunshine Garden, 572-574 Warren Street/Wyckoff Gardens
Honorable Mention: Naya & Kelis' Garden, Gowanus Houses

WEST BROOKLYN VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Bengie's Vegetable Garden, Sumner Houses

2nd Prize: Sunshine Vegetable Garden, Wyckoff Gardens
3rd Prize: The Cabbage Patch Garden, Walt Whitman Houses

WEST BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Butterfly Garden, Sumner Houses

EAST BROOKLYN FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Puerto Rican Dreams Garden, Hope Gardens
2nd Prize: Mayda's Children's Garden of Peace, Boulevard Houses
3rd Prize: Lea's Garden Bello Amanecer, Hope Gardens
Honorable Mention: Circle of Life Garden, Boulevard Houses
Honorable Mention: Unique One's Garden, Saratoga Square

EAST BROOKLYN VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: The Mini Plantation, Louis H. Pink Houses
2nd Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Louis H. Pink Houses
3rd Prize: Bountiful Garden, Tilden Houses
Honorable Mention: T.S. Swinton's Garden, Hope Gardens

EAST BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S/THEME WINNERS:

1st Prize: Rosas y Tulipanes de la Milagrosa, Hope Gardens

QUEENS FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses
2nd Prize: Georgia Breaker's Tabernacle Flower Garden,
South Jamaica Houses
3rd Prize: Flower Garden of Love & Peace, South Jamaica Houses
Honorable Mention: Happy Acres Garden, Conlon-Lihfe Towers

QUEENS VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Hawaiian Kitchen Garden, South Jamaica Houses
2nd Prize: Garden of Joy, South Jamaica Houses
3rd Prize: I Did It! Garden, South Jamaica Houses
Honorable Mention: Garden of Eat'n, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Garden by the Sea 1, Ocean Bay Apartments

STATEN ISLAND FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Green Thumb #1 Garden, Mariner's Harbor
2nd Prize: A Gift of Beauty Garden, New Lane Shores
3rd Prize: The Garden of Happiness, New Lane Shores
Honorable Mention: Venus, Isis, & Taurus' Garden,
Berry Houses

STATEN ISLAND VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Dina's Garden, Berry Houses
2nd Prize: Charlie's Place Garden, New Lane Shores
3rd Prize: Little Italy Garden, Berry Houses
Honorable Mention: Veggie Heaven Garden, New Lane Shores

STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN'S/THEME GARDEN WINNERS:

1st Prize: Children's Place 218 Garden, Stapleton Houses
2nd Prize: Our Secret Garden, Stapleton Community Center

*Citywide
Flower Winner*

**9/11 Memorial
Garden**

**Vladeck Houses,
Manhattan**



*Citywide
Flower Winner*

Rain Forest Garden

**Patterson Houses,
the Bronx**



*Citywide
Vegetable
Winner*

**Garden of
Venus**

**South Jamaica
Houses,
Queens**



*Citywide
Children's
Theme Winner*

**Grannie
Bloomers
Garden**

**Astoria Houses,
Queens**

