

NYCHA Hosts Sixth Annual Kids Walk in Staten Island

By Eileen Elliott

SOMETIMES LIFE REALLY IS A WALK IN THE PARK. AT LEAST IT WAS FOR 1,850 YOUNG NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS WHO CAME FROM 44 COMMUNITY CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE CITY TO STATEN ISLAND'S CLOVE LAKES PARK ON AUGUST 14TH FOR THE SIXTH ANNUAL KIDS WALK. The two-and-a-half mile walkathon was designed to emphasize the importance of exercise in the fight against obesity. The day included information on healthy eating and lots of fun activities for the walkers.

The weather couldn't have been more cooperative with bright sunshine, a light breeze and a high of 80 degrees Fahrenheit.

Participants from each Community Center gathered at the start line under the brightly colored banners they created to hear a brief pep talk from NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "It's important to exercise and to eat right," the Chairman said. "Have a great time and stay healthy."

Board Member Margarita López was there to cheer the walkers on with her trademark enthusiasm. Words of encouragement were also offered by Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, and "Harry," a ten-and-a-half-foot tall clown (on stilts) from the Big Apple Circus.

A number of sponsors helped make the event possible, including: Affinity Health Plan, Community

Health Action of Staten Island, Maramont Corporation, Snapple and the Staten Island University Hospital.

Eleven-year-old Omorefe Slayton from Richmond Terrace Community Center in Staten Island didn't seem fazed at all by the two-and-a-half mile walk. "It's not hard to do," she said. Maybe that's because Omorefe was walking for the third year in a row, and, she said, she already gets lots of exercise during the week playing basketball.

"I would like all the children in the City to follow the example of the children who live in public housing, with good nutrition and exercise," said Board Member López.

The walkers, ages 6-12, are all participants in NYCHA's Summer Camp program. NYCHA runs 114 day camps throughout the City.



HEALTHY START Youth joined together in groups by their Community Center before heading off on the two-and-a-half mile walk at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island. That's "Harry" on the right.

New Heating System Will Save Millions

By Eileen Elliott

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY IS KEY TO THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) NEED TO "DO MORE WITH LESS" AND "WORK SMART" DURING THESE CHALLENGING FINANCIAL TIMES. One such innovation is the Computerized Heating Automated System, or "CHAS."

When this computer software application is fully implemented, it will allow staff to monitor and manage all of the Authority's 210 major central heating plants from remote locations. CHAS gives development managers, superintendents and other staff in each borough a computerized "boiler plant dashboard" they can use to identify potential problems and regulate fuel consumption. To access this information, all they have to do is log on.

As of the writing of this article, CHAS has been implemented at 175 NYCHA heating plants. Once CHAS is operational at all sites, which should be by April of next year — it is estimated that the total savings in fuel will approach \$20 million annually.

That's not all. In keeping with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's PlaNYC to create a safer, greener, more environmentally sound New York City by the year 2030, less fuel consumption means less dangerous greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that CHAS will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 89,000 metric tons a year — that's the equivalent of 19,000 passenger cars being removed from the road for one year!

According to NYCHA's Energy Director Lloyd Kass, there are three main features of CHAS that make it so valuable. The first feature is that CHAS allows staff to view boiler control panels from a remote location; the second is that CHAS monitors zone valves, which control the amount of steam going into individual buildings to provide heat;

(Continued on page 3)



QUALITY ASSURANCE A Customer Service Representative at NYCHA's Centralized Call Center in Long Island City, Queens.

Centralized Call Center Goes Live in Brooklyn!

THE BOROUGH WITH THE MOST NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) APARTMENTS (58,393) — BROOKLYN — IS THE LATEST TO JOIN NYCHA'S CENTRALIZED CALL CENTER NETWORK. Now, just as residents in Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island can call a single number to schedule maintenance visits and repairs, so too can Brooklyn residents. That number is: (718) 707-7771. The Brooklyn rollout took place in two phases this September.

First implemented in the borough of Staten Island in 2005, the Centralized Call Center allows NYCHA residents to call a single number to schedule all maintenance requests. NYCHA Customer Service Representatives are available to answer

calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. What's even better is that residents who request repairs are given appointments to fit their schedules. A resident who has made an appointment for a repair will receive a

(Continued on page 3)

It's Heating Season!

October 1st – May 31st

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From 6AM to 10PM

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

You Can Make a Difference in the Life of a Foster Child: Volunteer on New York City's 'Day of the Child'



THE NEW YORK CITY DAY OF THE CHILD IS A SPECIAL DAY DESIGNED TO GIVE NEW YORKERS A SENSE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO MENTOR A YOUNG PERSON BETWEEN THE AGES OF 7 AND 18 WHO IS EITHER IN FOSTER CARE OR ON A WAITING LIST FOR A MENTOR. The hope is that participants will then become mentors on an ongoing basis. The event also aims to raise overall awareness about the role of the Administration for Children's Services as the City's agency charged with protecting children and strengthening families.

Where, When and What to Expect

The New York City Day of the Child 2007 will be held on Saturday, November 10th, from 1:00 to 6:00 PM at The National Track & Field Armory, located at 216 Fort Washington Avenue and West 168th Street in Upper Manhattan.

By participating in the Day of the Child, you will have a fun-filled experience with wonderful young people which will give you a sense of what a mentoring relationship could be like. Children participating in the Day of the Child range from ages 7 to 18, and their needs cover every spectrum of life, from academics to cultural identity to basic life skills. Adult volunteers are not matched one-to-one with a child but instead are clustered in groups.

If You Want to Volunteer

Adult volunteers MUST be 21 years or older, complete a volunteer application, undergo a background screening and attend a training session in advance of the event. **You can download the volunteer application at www.nyc.gov/acs or have a copy sent to you by calling 311. The deadline for returning a completed application is October 26th.**

Please note that although every volunteer is important, there is a particular need for male volunteers, who are often underrepresented in these efforts. Help spread the word by letting friends, family and others — with a particular emphasis on husbands, boyfriends, brothers, sons and other men — and please let them know about this worthwhile opportunity. There are many sports activities available at the National Track & Field Armory, plus face painting, arts and crafts, photo booths, air hockey tables, live entertainment and dance competitions.

The first Day of the Child celebration was held by the nonprofit organization Children Uniting Nations (CUN) in Los Angeles nine years ago. In 2002, CUN brought the event to New York City to expand mentoring opportunities for youth in foster care and raise awareness about the challenges faced by these young people.

Sponsors of past Day of the Child events have included Casey Family Programs, Citigroup, Channel CW11-NY, *The Daily News*, Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, ENYCE Clothing Company, McDonald's, NYC Sports Commission, Pepsi-Cola and Toys R Us Times Square. Supporting organizations include Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City, Mentoring Partnership of New York and Mentoring USA.

Michael R. Bloomberg

THE FACES OF NYCHA

Bringing Spirit and Hope to Young Girls



DIAMONDS is the name for this young cheerleading team, coached by Tracy Dickerson (far right), better known as 'Ms. Tracy' of Farragut Houses in Brooklyn.

By Heidi Morales

ON ANY GIVEN DAY YOU CAN CATCH TRACY DICKERSON, OR MS. TRACY AS SHE'S KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY, RUSHING TO WORK, RUNNING TO ATTEND ONE OF HER SON'S BASKETBALL GAMES, HURRYING TO COOK A HOT MEAL FOR HER FAMILY AND CHECK HOMEWORK, OR SPRINTING TO LEAD HER CHEERLEADING TEAMS TO YET ANOTHER VICTORY.

Ms. Tracy grew up in the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Farragut Houses in Brooklyn, where she has been raising her own five children ranging in ages from 10 to 25. She has also coached two cheerleading teams for 13 years; ten of those years solely on a volunteer basis. It all started when her oldest daughter begged her to volunteer her time and train the then group of sixth-graders who wanted so desperately to cheer. No one would take on the job but Ms. Tracy did with no pay and no prior experience. "Now my daughter is 25, has graduated college and I'm still doing it. I took over two weeks before competition and we started working. We placed third and I think that got me going."

The cheerleading teams composed of female students of P.S. 307 and junior high school Satellite West in Brooklyn are part of Ms. Tracy's "Holding On to Our Jewels" program, which aims to foster academic excellence, discipline, teamwork, and a positive attitude in girls in the fourth through the eighth grades. "Before this there was really nothing in this community for girls," Ms. Tracy explained.

Meanwhile, Ms. Tracy was working full-time at New York University (NYU) Medical Center — a job she held for over 10 years and one she decided to leave to tend to the needs of her chronically asthmatic child and her other four children. "I had to make a choice; it was either be there for my child or work at NYU so I left the job."

She eventually started volunteering at P.S. 307 to keep busy and "once my youngest son went into day care I felt like 'what am I doing now?' I felt I needed to do more but I also felt I needed to go back to school and come in at a better position."

Ms. Tracy decided to study early childhood education at the Borough of Manhattan Commu-

nity College. She graduated in 1997 and has been working as a teacher's assistant at P.S. 307 ever since.

The Precious Jewels

Ms. Tracy holds the girls on the teams — the Emeralds and Diamonds — to high standards not only as athletes and performers but as students and as

(Continued on page 6)

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

**Domestic Violence: Its Effect
On Children and Youth**



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH. EACH YEAR THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) hosts a series of conferences in October, which are designed to raise residents' awareness of this painful topic. This year's conferences are entitled, "Domestic Violence: Its Effect on Children and Youth." One conference will be held in a NYCHA Community Center in each borough on consecutive evenings, the week of October 22nd. I urge all interested residents to

attend. Please see the ad on page 5 to see how you can register.

Exposure to domestic violence has significant negative repercussions on children's social, emotional and academic development; the traumatic effects have been widely reported and studied. The child does not even need to experience the violence directly to be affected, just witnessing it is enough to cause harm.

This year's conferences are especially child-friendly and so I invite all of you to bring your children. Along with the special activities planned for children, the evening will include panel discussions and presentations, a short play by the nonprofit acting troupe "FACES," a buffet dinner, and tables full of pamphlets, brochures and other valuable resource information. If you are struggling with a domestic violence issue, this is a great opportunity to find out how you can get the help you need.

Please take this opportunity to find out how you can help put an end to the devastating cycle of domestic violence. Once again, see page 5.

And remember, NYCHA provides essential assistance to victims of domestic violence and their families in a number of ways including: the Emergency Transfer Program, which relocates victims; the Domestic Violence Aftercare Program which assists newly relocated families with counseling, case-management, safety planning, day care and after-school programs; the Domestic Violence Intervention, Education and Prevention Program, which uses case managers from Safe Horizon, the nation's leading nonprofit victim assistance, advocacy and violence prevention organization, and NYPD Housing Bureau's Domestic Violence officers, who conduct outreach and assistance for victims of domestic violence who reside in NYCHA developments.

For more information on any of these programs, call 311 or Safe Horizon at 1-800-621-HOPE, or check out NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha.

Tino Hernandez

Heating System

(Continued from page 1) and the third, is CHAS's alarm function which alerts supervisors as well as NYCHA's Emergency Services Department, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to potential emergency conditions such as flooding, power loss or abnormally low steam pressure.

In short, CHAS allows NYCHA staff to identify and address potential heat and hot water problems more quickly, resulting in more efficient repairs and better service to residents. In addition, CHAS gives NYCHA managers a great tool that allows them to more easily identify historical trends and more effectively manage fuel consumption.

"The most important thing is that CHAS is a really powerful tool for making sure that service is maximized while fuel consumption is minimized," Kass said.

Call Center

(Continued from page 1) telephone call the day before the appointment to confirm. Customer Service Representatives also follow up after the work is completed for feedback.

The CCC is just one of a number of initiatives the Housing Authority is in the process of implementing that streamline operations, improve service, and save the Housing Authority money. Based on all of the surveys received so far, customer satisfaction with the CCC is high.

"NYCHA is really proud of the CCC," said Deputy General Manager for Operations Bobby Podmore. "The number of 'Tenant Not Home' tickets has dropped dramatically, residents appear to be very happy with the program based on all of the feedback we've received, and what's more, we've been able to hire a number of residents to work as Customer Service Representatives."

The CCC had its one-millionth call on June 11, 2007. The last remaining borough, the Bronx, is expected to go online by the end of the year.

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DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



He Aced that Exam—Bradrick Booker of Morrisania Houses in the Bronx has his head in the sky these days because he has passed one of the toughest union apprentice exams, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 3 apprenticeship exam. "It wasn't as tough as I thought it would be," Bradrick said. "I pictured it being more of an aptitude test.

Instead it covered reading comprehension, literacy, writing and math." Bradrick said a single flyer hanging on the lobby wall of his development announcing the Construction Skills 2000 course changed his life. Once without any future prospects, Bradrick has now been trained through the International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades, District 9, in electrical repair, carpentry, plumbing, and painting. On September 11th, he began an algebra class at LaGuardia Community College that will help him meet the qualifications to become a member of the Electrical Workers Local 3. In addition, Bradrick has received eight specialized certificates through the Minorities Worker Training (MWT) program in lead asbestos removal, mold, CPR and First Aid, and hazardous waste removal. Bradrick said his family is very proud of his accomplishments. "This is a start for me," he said. "Sometimes I am not sure I am heading in the right direction but I do know that I owe a lot to the New York City Housing Authority's Department of Resident Employment Services. Maybe when I get a job I will know for sure that I am doing the right thing." **Well Mr. Booker I can reassure you that you are doing the right thing. Improving yourself can only make you a better person and educating yourself can open the door to many opportunities. So keep doing what you are doing and that job you want will be within reach. Congratulations on passing the exam and on all your additional achievements. Remember keep that job search going strong!**

Basketball Genius—The young people in Anton Dickerson's neighborhood know firsthand that he's got game and the word traveling around Farragut Houses in Brooklyn is that he's an upcoming star. But if neighborhood gossip isn't enough to convince you of his talents just stop by Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn and take a look at six feet and 150 pounds of pure basketball genius. According to a July 1st *Daily News* article, Boys and Girls' junior varsity coach Elmer Anderson wasn't quite convinced at first sight that Anton was basketball material, but later dismissed those thoughts when he saw Anton "...put the ball on the floor and it was like, ohh...my...goodness! We got ourselves a baller." Anton, at age 15, has the dream of becoming an NBA player, and with an average of 25.2 points per game he is already making a name for himself on the basketball court. "He's just a natural scorer, and could easily score 24 points without even warming up. Our feeling is he is going to leave here being one of the most prolific scorers; that's why we spent two years grooming him," said coach Anderson in the article. Anton has played ball with many community organizations and in events like the Public School Athletic League's Championship Game last season, the W. 4th Street Tournament in Manhattan, and the Bronx Tournament at Fordham University, during which his performance had the audience bouncing in their seats. This year Anton will try out for the varsity team at Boys and Girls High School where there's some strong competition, but he welcomes the challenge. Anton told reporter Mark Lelinwalla, "I like that I have to work for what I want here," and Anton plans to be the best player that he can be. **Anton, it seems folks have recognized your abilities and you have become a prodigy with your own fan club. Keep that ball bouncing and remember, you can make that 3-point shot on the court and in the classroom!**

Special Note—I'd like to extend my congratulations to Reginald Allen of Douglass Houses in Manhattan who was recently promoted to the rank of Colonel in the U.S. Army. **Colonel Allen, I salute you and congratulate you on your success. I am sure it is well deserved!**

If you have good news you would like to share with your neighbors, drop me a few lines care of The NYCHA Journal/ 250 Broadway, 12th Floor/New York, New York 10007 or by fax at (212)577-1358, or better yet, you can e-mail me at: williamd3@nycha.nyc.gov. Or hey, make it personal! Give me a call at (212)306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it, but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.

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 April 26 and May 3, 10 and 17, 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 April 26, 2006

Gregory Massey	Case 2531/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 90 Amsterdam Avenue, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.
Leron Bracy Chad Bracy	Case 1974/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 427 West 26th Street, Elliott-Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.
Frank Betts	Case 2558/06 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 1430 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of May 3, 2006

Ralph Raysor	Case 2586/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 37-16 Tenth Avenue, Dyckman Houses, Manhattan.
Carlos Diaz	Case 9251/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 41-07 10th Street, Queensbridge South Houses, Long Island City.
Swails McFadden	Case 2583/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1435 Harrod Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Malik Washington	Case 796/06 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 75 La Salle Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Marvin Sanders Mackema Jordan Romale Felder	Case 2583/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1435 Harrod Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Andrew Seymour, Jr.	Case 1491/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 31-84 51st Street, Woodside Houses, Woodside.
Michael Diggins	Case 2664/06 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 2225 Lacombe Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of May 10, 2006

James Outlaw	Case 2785/06 formerly associated with the ground floor of 555 FDR Drive, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.
Mark Williams	Case 2763/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 353 Kingsborough Walk, Kingsborough Houses, Brooklyn.
Chicarl Balkon a.k.a. Shicarl Balkom, Christopher Balkom	Case 2789/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1348 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.
Lleny Cabrera	Case 2892/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 785 Courtlandt Avenue, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of May 17, 2006

Nekeya Brown	Case 2906/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 21 West 112th Street, King Towers, Manhattan.
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THE CHIEF'S CORNER

Trick Or Treat: Safety Tips For Halloween

The New York City Police Department wants to remind you that Halloween is one of the most enjoyable days of the year for children but parents should be aware of the potential risks that can affect children who are not supervised properly. Trick-or-treaters should always have adult supervision even if they are traveling in a group of friends, to ensure that the only scary experiences children have are those associated with the spirit of Halloween. The following recommendations are for parents and guardians.

- An adult should always examine Halloween treats before children eat them. Never eat opened or unwrapped Halloween foods.
- Costumes should be flame-retardant and should allow children to walk freely without tripping. Children's ability to see, hear and move should not be impaired by unwieldy masks.
- Make certain that any face paint or make-up used on skin or costumes is non-toxic.
- Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark.
- Emergency identification information should be placed discreetly inside clothing of small children, in case of accidental separation.
- Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry, which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them.
- As always, children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly lit areas and homes of people they do not know.
- Halloween treats should be consumed only if they are packaged appropriately. Parents can help protect their children by making sure that treats are wrapped in their original, unbroken packages — no loose candy, open glasses or bottles, fresh fruit, or homemade goods.

If after eating a Halloween treat there is evidence that it may have been tampered with, or it has a strange taste, or if a child feels sick, parents or guardians can call the NYC Health Department's Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, for emergencies and advice at (212) POISONS (764-7667), (212) VENENOS (836-3667) for Spanish language speakers, or (212) 689-9014 for TDD users. The National toll free number, 1-800-222-1222, connects to the nearest poison control center. In case of emergency, dial 911.



Housing Bureau Police Chief
Joanne Jaffe

Keep the Dream

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.

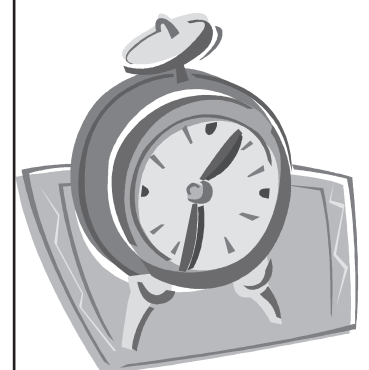
- Owner-occupied single-family homes, including condos and coops, are eligible.
- Homeowner education and counseling is required.
- Competitive fixed-rate mortgages for 30-year or 40-year terms are available.
- "Keep the Dream" loans can be as high as \$417,000.

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

SONYMA
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Daylight Saving Time Ends!

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour at 2:00 a.m. on **November 4th, the first Sunday of November, when Daylight Saving Time ends.** It's a good time to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors too!



**PARKING SPACES
AVAILABLE ON NYCHA
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Assemblyman Lopez' 5th Annual Leadership Lunch



RECOGNIZING RESIDENT LEADERS (left to right) NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez joined Assembly Member Vito Lopez and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at the 5th Annual Leadership Recognition Lunch in Chinatown where they celebrated the passage of the Shelter Allowance bill into law.

— By Deborah Williams —

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG JOINED NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ, STATE ASSEMBLY MEMBER VITO LOPEZ AND OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 29TH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO BROOKLYN RESIDENT LEADERS AT THE 5TH ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RECOGNITION LUNCHEON. The lunch, which Assembly Member Lopez hosts each year for the resident leaders in his district, served as the perfect opportunity to celebrate the successful passage into law of the Shelter Allowance bill, which was spearheaded by the Assembly Member and State Senator Andrew Lanza. Hundreds of NYCHA residents from Hope Gardens, Palmetto, Sumner, Taylor Wythe, Williamsburg, Marcy, Tompkins and Bushwick Houses gathered at the Jing Fong Restaurant in Chinatown to celebrate.

"We are putting \$2 billion into public housing when other cities are shutting their doors on public housing," said Mayor Bloomberg triumphantly. The Mayor praised Assembly Member Lopez for his perseverance and dedication to public housing.

Chairman Hernandez commended the elected officials present for their commitment to public housing. Pointing to the dais where the Assembly Member was seated with Senator Martin Maláve Dilan, and Council Members Erik Martin Dilan and Rosie Mendez, the Chairman commented, "These people don't just talk the talk, they walk the walk."

He also thanked the resident leaders for their support and tireless efforts, which included a trip to Albany and a postcard cam-

paign on behalf of public housing.

Senator Dilan commented, "When the state refused to give the Housing Authority support we fought very hard under Vito Lopez to defeat them and made sure, on the Senate end, that the Governor signed this legislation."

The mood was festive as everyone dined on a delicious meal of Chinese food while chatting with the Chairman, who stopped at each table to personally thank each resident leader.

The new Shelter Allowance law raises the amount of money public housing authorities receive for residents who receive public assistance, to an amount equal to that received by private landlords. It will bring millions in additional funding to the Housing Authority.



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- ◆ The **Bridge Program**— assists participants in gaining employment and offers Fire Guard Safety and Security Officer Training (including Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS)).

For more information, please call 212-961-4400



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*All prospective students must meet New York State income guidelines

Administered by Borough of Manhattan Community College

Bringing Spirit and Hope

(Continued from page 2)

ladies. She said the junior high school girls need to have a minimum 75 grade average coming into the team and their academic progress is checked throughout the year. "I expect to see growth and I monitor it. I am strict when it comes to grades and how you carry yourself," she said.

Keeping up grades has not been the only challenge for the young girls on the Diamonds and Emeralds teams. Ms. Tracy explained that some young ladies face financial difficulties which prevent them from trying out for the team. "[For the parents] if it's a choice between rent and cheerleading, the girls are going to be out of the program."

The school just recently started providing funding for transportation. "Before we were on the train; it was me and 30 girls." Ms. Tracy added that the team misses out on a lot of competitions because they just don't have the funds for travel or uniforms. In order to compete in the spring, "I start them out on a payment plan in October so that when April rolls around they're ready. Not everyone can just write a check or two for \$250," Ms. Tracy added.

The expenses can run from \$250 to \$500 per cheerleader for uniforms, sweat suits, competition fees and the variety of accessories like pom-poms, special shoes, dance clothing, bags and the like. And, according to Ms. Tracy, this is nowhere near what the average cost burden can be to a family. "It may seem like a lot but it's nothing compared to what some teams are paying. I try to keep it affordable."

In the summer the girls attend

cheer camp, which is also a great expense. However, this year Ms. Tracy was able to get the United Cheerleading Association (UCA) to come to P.S. 307 and offer a three-day camp for the girls where they learned stunt moves, dance routines and cheers. "It's cheaper. It worked out to \$150 per girl. I told them in May and they were able to pay in installments."

But the biggest hurdle is raising enough funds to take the girls to the national cheerleading competition in Florida. "We are ready to go to nationals but we can't afford it." Plus, the girls need work in areas such as gymnastics, and that type of training Ms. Tracy said, can be as much as \$300 a week for each cheerleader. "We don't even have the right type of mats in our school. Gymnastics mats can cost close to \$5,000."

Overall, Ms. Tracy said she's just doing what comes from the heart but hopes it inspires others to take action in their communities.

"I started in cheerleading because my daughter wanted to do this so you can do this too. We learned by watching tapes. I took them to college games, high school games. If I can do it with nothing, no resources, no pay, you can do it and we can get so many girls off the streets and get them into something positive after school," Ms. Tracy said.

"I just want to say to parents in general just how important it is to be involved with your children. Come out to the school; get to know your kids' teachers. As an educator I know how important the connection between school and home is. When that happens nothing can stop these kids."



TROPHY MOM Tracy Dickerson at home with some of the trophies the cheerleading teams she coaches has won.

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SENIOR  NEWS

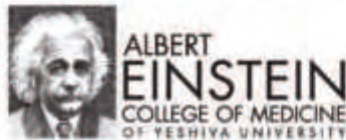
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Training takes place in the spring over ten weeks for three hours a week at the Consortium for Worker Education in Long Island City. A four-week hands-on training summer session follows for those who have demonstrated full participation in the spring semester.

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- ▶ Painters & Allied Trades District Council # 9
- ▶ Plumbers Local # 1
- ▶ Laborers- Local #78 and Local #79
- ▶ Concrete Workers District Council # 16
- ▶ Steamfitters Local # 638
- ▶ Heat and Frost Insulators Local # 12
- ▶ Ornamental Iron Workers Local #580
- ▶ Cement Masons Local # 780
- ▶ Structural Iron Workers Locals # 40/361
- ▶ Operating Engineers Locals # 14 and # 15
- ▶ Electricians Local # 3
- ▶ Elevator Constructors #1
- ▶ Sheet Metal Workers Local # 28
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- ▶ Roofers & Waterproofers Local #8

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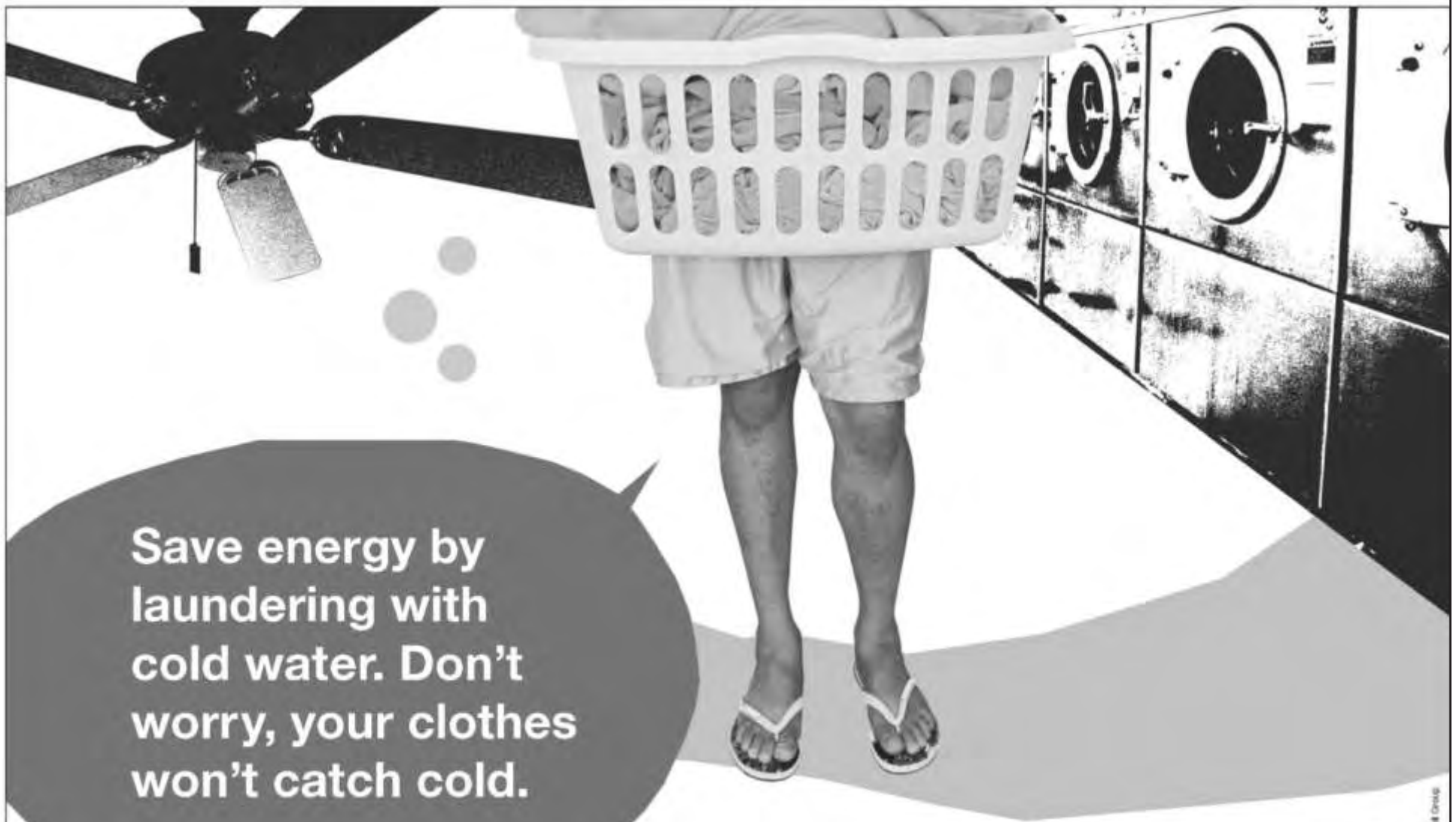
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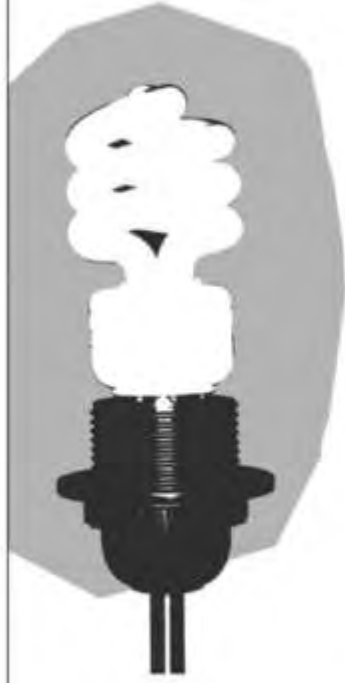
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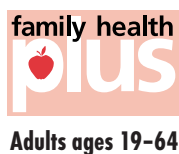
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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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:

- October 2, 2007 (Tuesday)
- October 17, 2007
- October 31, 2007
- 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.

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