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LEADING THE WAY (left to right) U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Alphonso Jackson, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and former President Bill Clinton at the Eastchester Community Center in the Bronx announce a partnership between NYCHA, the Clinton Climate Initiative and HUD that will allow NYCHA to become a leader in "green" initiatives among housing authorities nationwide.

Former President Clinton's Climate Initiative Partners with the Housing Authority for a Greener Future

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS LEADING THE WAY FOR PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES NATIONWIDE WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING CHANGES THAT WILL HELP THE ENVIRONMENT. FORMER U.S. PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON JOINED MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIRMAN TINO HERNANDEZ, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) SECRETARY ALPHONSO JACKSON AND CONGRESSMAN ELIOT ENGEL AT THE EASTCHESTER COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE BRONX ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 7TH TO ANNOUNCE A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY, NYCHA, THE CLINTON CLIMATE INITIATIVE AND HUD THAT WILL ALLOW NYCHA TO BECOME MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT, AND REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY BUYING ENERGY-EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES AT LOWER PRICES.

Standing at a podium in the gymnasium, the former president spoke passionately about the impact cities have on global warming, praising the Mayor for his PlaNYC 2030, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially in New York City by the year 2030.

"The Mayor found out that in this city 80% of emissions are from buildings; 20% from transportation. We're trying to work with NYCHA, the largest housing authority in America, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way you can 'just say yes' to," Mr. Clinton said.

"These energy-saving measures will help the Authority save money, and the environmental

impact of these measures will result in cleaner, healthier air for the residents living in public housing," added Mayor Bloomberg.

Thanking all partners, Chairman Hernandez emphasized the unique position NYCHA is in, as the largest public housing authority in North America and the largest landlord in New York City. "The size of NYCHA's housing stock, 2,600 buildings, makes it imperative that we do all we can to reduce the carbon footprint. This new initiative will help preserve public housing for future generations and also help NYCHA play a big role in the Mayor's PlaNYC sustainability goals."

HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson spoke specifically

about some of the initiatives at NYCHA. "We've been able to replace aging hot water tanks and boilers and install energy-efficient light bulbs in hundreds of building across the City," he said. "Now we must step it up. We are not just retrofitting buildings for today, we are writing new blueprints for tomorrow."

Mayor Bloomberg joined Chairman Hernandez in October to name Board Member Margarita López as the Housing Authority's Environmental Coordinator to spearhead "green" initiatives at NYCHA. See the *Mayor's Column* on page 2 and the "RelightNY" story on page 6 for more.

Stipend for State Developments' Tenant Patrol Volunteers

By Eileen Elliott

THANKS TO A \$1.5 MILLION STATE ALLOCATION SECURED BY ASSEMBLY SPEAKER SHELDON SILVER AND ASSEMBLY HOUSING COMMITTEE CHAIR VITO LOPEZ, RESIDENTS OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) 15 STATE-CONSTRUCTED DEVELOPMENTS ARE NOW ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY STIPEND OF \$45 FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE TENANT PATROL PROGRAM, OR VOLUNTEERING AT SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTERS FOR A MINIMUM OF TEN HOURS EACH MONTH.

On December 4th, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez joined Speaker Silver and Assemblyman Lopez, State Senator Martin Connor, Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe and resident leaders and tenant patrol supervisors from the 15 developments at Rutgers Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side to announce the "Public Housing Community Improvement Program."

"NYCHA is grateful to Speaker Silver and Assemblyman Lopez for this \$1.5 million allocation," said Chairman Hernandez. "It is an excellent incentive for NYCHA residents to get involved in their communities."

The Chairman went on to thank the Speaker and Assemblyman for their work getting the Shelter Allowance Bill signed into law by

Governor Eliot Spitzer. The new Shelter Allowance Law raises the subsidy NYCHA receives for residents on public assistance so that it is equal to that received by private landlords.

"The goal of the program is very simple," said Speaker Silver, "to keep residents safe. While law enforcement in the City has done a remarkable job reducing crime, the police can't be in all places at all times. New York is blessed with many civic-minded citizens. We need those citizens who care about their communities to step up and join us to make the City an even better place to live."

"This program will serve as reinforcement to the people who are already there out of the goodness of their hearts, as well as stimulate more volunteerism," said Assemblyman Lopez.

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COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT (left to right) State Senator Martin Connor, Assemblyman Vito Lopez, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez at the Rutgers Houses Community Center on the Lower East Side after announcing the availability of stipends for residents of State-built developments who participate in the tenant patrol program.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

New Collaboration Allows NYCHA to Become More Energy Efficient and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I'M SURE THAT MOST OF YOU HAVE READ THE ARTICLE ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THIS JOURNAL ABOUT THE EXCITING NEW COLLABORATION AMONG MY OFFICE, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA), THE CLINTON CLIMATE INITIATIVE (CCI) AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD). It was my pleasure to join NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, former President Bill Clinton and HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson at the Eastchester Community Center last month to make the announcement.

The new partnership will allow NYCHA to become more energy efficient and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, helping to fulfill the goals of PlaNYC, my long-term plan to ensure a sustainable quality of life for all New Yorkers. These measures will help the Housing Authority save money, and the environmental impact will result in cleaner, healthier air for the residents of public housing.

NYCHA's comprehensive plan includes building retrofits as well as boiler and heating systems modernizations that will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gases. The Housing Authority has already been able to replace aging hot water tanks and boilers and install energy-efficient light bulbs in hundreds of buildings across the City. Now the Housing Authority can step up the progress of ongoing initiatives such as these, as well as develop new ones.

The CCI will help NYCHA gain access to energy-saving technology and resources at reduced prices. The CCI will also work with NYCHA to develop and launch new programs to curb the output of carbon emissions, as well as providing technical assistance.

It was my pleasure to join Chairman Hernandez late last year to announce the appointment of Board Member Margarita López as NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator. In her expanded role, Commissioner López will guide NYCHA in setting goals to improve sustainability and ensure that those goals are met through new operational and administrative programs.

Together we will build a greener, greater New York while saving money for taxpayers and residents at the same time. The initiatives will demonstrate NYCHA's leadership in green technology and policy for public housing authorities nationwide. Visit nyc.gov/nycha to learn more.

Michael R. Bloomberg

HUD'S CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SATISFACTION SURVEY

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has begun sending out its annual Customer Service and Satisfaction Survey this month to gather information about resident satisfaction with living conditions in public housing developments across the nation.

The Customer Service and Satisfaction Survey is part of HUD's commitment to monitor the performance of public housing authorities through its annual Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). In addition to assessing customer satisfaction, the PHAS also evaluates the physical condition of the developments, the Authorities' financial health, management, operations and resident services.

The survey includes questions covering maintenance and repair, communication, safety, services and neighborhood appearance. It will be sent to a random sampling of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents who live in NYCHA's 322 federally funded developments. All answers will be kept confidential and anonymous. NYCHA will not know who participated in the survey but will only receive the scores. The survey accounts for 10 out of the 100 points it is possible for a public housing authority to receive under the PHAS. Housing authorities which receive scores over 90 on the PHAS are considered "High Performers" and qualify for additional capital funding.

NYCHA urges all residents who receive the survey to complete it.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Lower East Side Affordable Housing

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) WAS JOINED BY THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (HPD), THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HDC), AND PHIPPS HOUSES FOR A GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY ON THE LOWER EAST SIDE LATE IN NOVEMBER, FOR FABRIA HOUSES WHICH WILL PRODUCE 65 NEW UNITS OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

"Once again NYCHA has shown that even old buildings can get a new life," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "What we are doing at Fabria Houses demonstrates that NYCHA and our sister City-housing agencies—the Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the Housing Development Corporation—can create much needed affordable housing by partnering with the private sector."

NYCHA Board Member Margarita López also spoke. As Chairman Hernandez commented, he and Ms. López met when he first became Chairman for the Housing Authority six years earlier, and she was the City Councilwoman for the district, to come up with a plan for Fabria. "Today, Margarita's relationship with this project has come full circle."

"This is an historical agreement," said Board Member López, "because it will give these units a 99-year commitment of affordability."

The work will consist of rehabilitation of three existing buildings and construction of two new buildings on two vacant City-owned sites. Forty-eight of the new apartments will be one-bedroom units and 17 will be two-bedroom units.

The existing five-story buildings are located on East 11th Street and the new buildings will be located on East 7th and East 9th Streets in Manhattan. This rehabilitation and new construction is part of an innovative interagency partnership between HPD, NYCHA and HDC to produce 6,000 units of affordable housing, a key element of Mayor Bloomberg's 165,000-unit affordable housing initiative.

The Chairman and NYCHA staff were joined by Borough President Scott Stringer, Congress Member Nydia Velázquez, Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, and representatives from partners Citibank and Richmond Housing Resources. The total development cost is \$21.4 million. NYCHA is providing a 99-year ground lease to the developer, Phipps Houses.

(Continued on page 6)



DIGGING IN (left to right) Phipps Houses' President Adam Weinstein (back row), NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Citibank's Marc Jahr, City Assemblyman Brian Kavanagh, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Board Member Margarita López, Phipps Houses' Chairwoman Ronay Menschel, HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan, and Richmond Housing Resources Bill Traylor break ground for new affordable housing on the Lower East Side.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Don't Forget to File For the Earned Income Tax Credit in the New Year



OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS, MORE THAN \$5 BILLION HAS BEEN ADDED TO NEW YORK CITY'S ECONOMY THANKS TO THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (EITC). Yet, each year, thousands of New York City residents fail to claim the EITC when filing their income tax forms. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) estimates that there are approximately 30,000 NYCHA residents who are eligible for this tax benefit.

The EITC returns Federal, State, and New York City tax

dollars to qualifying families and individuals to help cover basic expenses. Working families earning less than \$40,000 could be eligible for as much as \$6,000.

In order to claim the EITC, eligible taxpayers must have earned income and must file a tax return. New York City's EITC Coalition is here to help qualifying New Yorkers file at free tax preparation sites Citywide. And when you're having your taxes prepared, don't forget to ask about the City's new Child Care Tax Credit.

Will the Earned Income Tax Credit Affect Your Eligibility for Other Benefits in New York City?

Different benefit programs allow you to have different amounts of resources. Resources or assets can be money in a savings or checking account or money in a retirement account. If you are receiving the year-end EITC, before your next re-certification for Welfare, Food Stamps, public housing, Supplemental Security Income, Section 8, or Medicaid, below are some things you need to know to continue receiving assistance.

- The EITC (monthly or at the end of the year) does not count as income or as a resource for public assistance.
- The State and Federal EITC do not count as a resource as long as they are "identifiable."
- The EITC does not count as income when determining initial income eligibility, and it is not counted for purposes of determining rent payments for public housing or Section 8.
- If the EITC is deposited into an interest-bearing account (e.g., savings account), this will result in an increase in your income from assets and may, therefore, affect your rent or eligibility if you have more than \$5,000 in assets.
- If you are receiving Medicaid or FHP, the EITC does not count as a resource in the month received and the following month. There are no asset tests for pregnant women, and for certain certified disabled individuals the EITC will not count in the month received and the following nine months.
- With regard to Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the EITC does not count as a resource for nine months.
- Child Health Plus A & B have no resource restrictions, so the EITC does not affect your eligibility.

Dial 311 and ask for the nearest EITC Assistance Site, or log onto the City's Department of Consumer Affairs Web site at: nyc.gov/consumers for more information.

And have a great New Year!

Tino Hernandez

BOROUGH DIGEST

THE BRONX: A new computer lab at Eastchester Gardens Community Center opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on the evening of November 16th. The lab was funded with \$100,000 allocated by City Council Member Larry Seabrook, who was present at the opening ceremony. It features 15 new computers with "top notch software," said Resident Association President Keith Ramsey.



City Council Member Larry Seabrook tries out one of the new computers at Eastchester.

BROOKLYN: The "New Lin's Garden Kitchen" opened this month in Red Hook East Houses, at 590 Clinton Street. This establishment, serving Chinese cuisine, offers both take out and delivery, and is the new home of the "Lin's Garden," formerly located on the Columbia Street side of the development.

MANHATTAN: New York City Housing Authority residents can now pay their rents at a Carver Federal Savings Bank located in the Pathmark supermarket at 300 W. 145th Street in Harlem. This makes Carver the first bank ever to accept NYCHA rent payments. "It is our hope that residents combine the rent payment with other personal banking transactions, which will save them time and money," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. Currently, residents pay their monthly rents via mail to NYCHA's rent payment processing center known as "Lockbox" or at authorized check cashing locations. NYCHA also has a payroll rent deduction program for those residents who are employees of the City of New York. Carver Federal Savings Bank will process NYCHA rent payments for \$1.50, which will be charged to the resident. This is the same fee charged by check cashing merchants authorized to process NYCHA rent payments.

(Continued on page 7)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



A Family Affair Called College—On November 3, 2007, the East River Development Alliance (ERDA) hosted a college tour for residents of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Queensbridge Houses. Usually college tours target high school youth, but ERDA decided to extend the opportunity to children between the ages of 6 and 14.

ERDA hopes that by providing families with information about the value of college they will begin to see how important a college education is. ERDA believes that discussions about college should be a family affair, beginning as early as possible. The point is to plant a seed so that attending college provides an extra incentive for youth to make it through high school. Because parents play such a vital role in encouraging higher education, they are also invited to join the tours.

On the November 3rd college tour, 40 children and their parents from Queensbridge Houses visited Yale University, the Yale Peabody Museum's Great Hall of Dinosaurs, the State University of New York College at Old Westbury in Long Island, and Princeton University.

An eight-year-old resident of Queensbridge Houses was thrilled to learn that attending college gives you the option of living away from home. When a tour guide from Yale provided incorrect information about the age of one of the buildings on the campus, it was Carl, a nine-year-old Queensbridge resident who proudly corrected him. Thirteen-year-old Megan was also won over by Yale and she is going to work very hard to get there.

If you are interested in attending the next college tour, contact ERDA by calling Kristen at 718-784-0877.

First I want to congratulate all of the NYCHA residents who attended the tour. For all the youngsters out there—be persistent and always remember—college isn't a dream; it's the beginning of a new life!

United for the Holidays—It was called the United Senior Volunteer Holiday Party and for good reason. On December 7, 2007, residents in the Union Avenue Resident Association, Tenant Patrol, Senior Companion Program and Floor Captains joined with the Davidson Senior Center Volunteers to celebrate their very first annual holiday party at 950 Union Avenue in the Bronx. The volunteers, who range in age from 69 to 87, take the time during the year to help the senior residents at 950 Union Avenue.

"Many of our volunteers go above and beyond the call of duty. The volunteers provide senior residents with companionship by taking them out to the movies, walking with them or just by becoming a friend. I remember when one of the senior volunteers made drapes for a senior resident who didn't have any," said Coordinator Edna Thomas. Actions such as this exemplify the volunteers' dedication and altruistic spirit. Ms. Thomas continued, "It was an honor to bring everyone together for the holidays. It was my way of saying 'thank you' and commending not only the volunteers for their support but the participating organizations as well."

Over 300 senior volunteers attended the festive occasion where gifts were distributed, donated by the Visiting Nurse Service (VNS), HouseCalls (a physician service that provides medical care in the home), and Con Ed. The holiday party was filled with music, poetry readings in English and Spanish, and a fashion show, all performed by the volunteers themselves. As Ms. Thomas said, "The work that these seniors do is unparalleled and I believe it should be recognized."

Oh, absolutely! I agree with you. It is comforting to know that these able-bodied seniors are compelled to help seniors who need a little extra assistance. I hope everyone had a wonderful time. Congratulations to everyone who helps improve the quality of life at 950 Union Ave. I hope you had a Happy New Year!



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THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on July 12, 19 and 26, and August 2, 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 July 12, 2006

Babie Simpson	Case 4466/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 680 Balcom Avenue, Throggs Neck Houses, Bronx.
Jessica Tirado	Case 4467/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 3020 Surf Avenue, Coney Island Houses, Brooklyn.
Laurence Austin Larry Austin	Case 4595/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 5705 Avenue H, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.
Butchie Middleton	Case 4599/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 230 Osborne Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
Patrick Marmer	Case 4588/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 919 FDR Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan.
Alexander Dunker	Case 4665/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 485 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
William Fleming	Case 6884/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 520 Osborne Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
Gary Evans	Case 8085/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 26 West 91st Street, Wise Towers, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of July 19, 2006

Alexander Lewis	Case 4719/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 115 East 122nd Street, Jackie Robinson Houses, Manhattan.
Marcos Padilla	Case 4720/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 275 Jackson Avenue, Cooper Park Houses, Brooklyn.
Nequan Butts	Case 4736/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 1191 Park Place, Albany Houses/Weeksville Gardens, Brooklyn.
Rafael Pion Luis Rodriguez	Case 4744/06 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 505 Havemeyer Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Carlton Fearon	Case 4824/06 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 2950 West 33rd Street, O'Dwyer Gardens, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of July 26, 2006

Elimelech Rodriguez	Case 4933/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 20 Catherine Slip, Smith Houses, Manhattan.
Jose Sanchez	Case 4943/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 745 East 152 Street, Adams Houses, the Bronx.
Saquan Jackson	Case 4946/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 181 Gordon Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Donnell Gravette	Case 5004/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 14-30 Redfern Avenue, Redfern Houses, Queens.
Devone Fludd	Case 5047/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 312 Osborne Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of August 2, 2006

Julio Marquez	Case 5150/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 414 Baltic Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrell Walker Kurtizz Farris	Case 4915/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1010 Soundview Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.
Latasha Hester	Case 5147/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2630 Linden Boulevard, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
Mark King	Case 5149/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 295 Jackson Street, Cooper Park Houses, Brooklyn.
Lorenzo Walters	Case 5151/06 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 195 Hoyt Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
Wendell Bazemore	Case 5099/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1248 Clay Avenue, Claremont Consolidated Houses, the Bronx.

BRONXDALE COMMUNITY CENTER GRAND OPENING



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE (left to right) NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, State Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., Council Member Annabel Palma, Assembly Member Ruben Diaz, Jr., NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Board Member Margarita López, Assistant Deputy General Manager for Capital Yianna Pavlakos, and Bronx Community Operations Director Iliia Figueroa cut the ribbon for Bronxdale Community Center.

By Eileen Elliott

"A BEACON OF LIGHT OVERLOOKING THE BRUCKNER EXPRESSWAY," IS HOW THE NEW BRONXDALE COMMUNITY CENTER IN THE SOUNDVIEW SECTION OF THE BRONX WAS DESCRIBED AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY COMMEMORATING ITS GRAND OPENING ON NOVEMBER 19TH. New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) executive staff joined elected officials and residents to celebrate. As Community Operations Bronx Borough Director Iliia Figueroa commented in her opening remarks, it was a gray and rainy Monday afternoon, but the ugly weather didn't dampen anyone's spirits.

At a cost of just under \$10 million, the 23,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, built on the site of a parking lot, has been filled (unofficially) since the doors first opened, about one year ago. Its highlight is easily the gymnasium with its glass curtain wall reaching up to the 35-foot-high ceiling, and the NBA-regulation-size basketball court. The gym attracts residents not only from Bronxdale, but from Soundview, Sackwern and Monroe Houses as well.

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez thanked all of the elected officials, residents and NYCHA staff involved, saying the new center was one more affirmation of NYCHA's commitment to the Bronx.

"NYCHA operates 98 developments in the Bronx, serving over 105,000 residents," the Chairman said. He then mentioned a number of affordable housing initiatives that will bring 1,000 new units of affordable housing to the borough.

"NYCHA is committed to affordable housing in the Bronx."

"Let's celebrate with confidence," added NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, "knowing that we are going to fight the good fight to keep public housing here for generations to come."

Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence thanked NYCHA's leadership for making the center possible and promised that NYCHA will open ten more similar centers over the course of the year.

NYCHA Residents Participate In New York XPO For Business 2007

THANKS TO NYCHA'S DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (RES) BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, A NUMBER OF NYCHA RESIDENT-OWNED BUSINESSES AND PARTNERS PARTICIPATED IN THE *NEW YORK XPO FOR BUSINESS 2007* ON NOVEMBER 28TH AT THE JACOB JAVITS CONVENTION CENTER IN MANHATTAN, FREE OF CHARGE.

Produced by Event Management, *New York XPO for Business 2007* provided the opportunity for business-to-business networking for no less than 600 exhibitors. The day-long event included 50 top leaders from five educational disciplines (business growth, strategies, sales and sales management, advertising and marketing, commercial real estate and human resources), roundtables and seminars, keynote speakers, and experts offering innovative business strategies.

The participating partners, all of which collaborate with RES to assist resident businesses, included: The Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation, The East Harlem Business Capital Corporation, Kitchen For Hire,

Business Outreach Centers Network, Project Enterprise, and Workshops In Business Opportunities. In addition, the nonprofit, New York City Housing Entrepreneurs, Inc., or NYCHE, pronounced "niche," as in a business niche, also participated. NYCHE is made up of NYCHA resident businesses and, in the words of NYCHA Business Development Coordinator Michael Jacock, serves as a kind of "chamber of commerce" for NYCHA businesses.

Participating businesses within NYCHE included general contractors, health consultants, employment consultants, a caterer, a web designer, and even a fashion designer.



RUNWAY TO SUCCESS NYCHA residents served as models for a fashion show at the NY XPO for Business. They were trained by Shenia Enterprise, founded by Twin Parks Consolidated resident Shenia Rudolph, pictured above, who is also the CEO. In addition to training models, Shenia Enterprise offers talent development and event planning, and produces fashion shows.

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RelightNY Brings CFLs to NYCHA Residents



BRIGHT IDEAS (left to right) The RelightNY team accepts a \$90,000 check from HSBC Executive Vice President Kevin Martin for energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to be used at New Lane Houses in Staten Island, with NYCHA Board Member and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López, and Deputy General Managers Hugh Spence and Felix Lam.

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS COLLABORATING WITH A TEEN-LED ENERGY CONSERVATION GROUP TO PUT NEW YORK CITY'S PUBLIC HOUSING IN THE BEST LIGHT.

RelightNY raises funds for energy-saving compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) that it then donates to low-income households. This coincides perfectly with NYCHA's mission to reduce energy consumption, thereby reducing carbon emissions and their impact on global warming, in accordance with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's PlaNYC.

On October 23rd, representatives from NYCHA, RelightNY, HSBC Bank, and the nonprofit Public Energy Solutions came to the seniors-only New Lane Houses in Staten Island to kick off the bulb changing program there. New Lane's back patio, with its beautiful view of New York Harbor and the Verrazano Bridge, couldn't have been a more perfect venue for illustrating the importance of conservation.

"HSBC has been supporting environmental issues for 30 years. Switching to compact fluorescent lamps is one easy way we can all work together to slow the rate of global climate change," said HSBC's Executive Vice President Kevin Martin before presenting a \$90,000 check to RelightNY's 15-year-old founder, Avery Hairston.

The money was used, in part, to provide CFLs to the residents of New Lane's 277 apartments. CFLs will help the seniors save electricity and money on their electric bills and they will also reduce the amount of carbon dioxide released into the environment. Carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, is largely believed to be a major contributor to global warming.

"By our estimates, these funds can help us save families in need \$315,000 and eliminate

4.5 million pounds of carbon emissions," Mr. Hairston said. He estimated that the donation would buy approximately 45,000 CFLs.

"This initiative clearly demonstrates the awareness that is building for the need to find partner-based solutions to our energy needs," said NYCHA Board Member Margarita López.

Commissioner Margarita "Kill-a-Watt" López (as she was introduced by Mr. Hairston) had recently been named Environmental Coordinator for the Housing Authority by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and as such will guide NYCHA in setting aggressive environmental goals.

"The key issue is that saving the environment is not the electric company's responsibility; it is not RelightNY's responsibility; it is not NYCHA's responsibility; it is your responsibility. Every time you flick a switch; let's make this planet safe for generations to come," she said.

Public Energy Solutions (PES) President Keith S. Hartman also spoke briefly. "We've been partnering with NYCHA over the past six months and will be approaching 100,000 bulbs by the end of the year," he said, referring to a bulb replacement initiative the energy services company is participating in in Brooklyn. Staff from PES volunteered to help replace the bulbs at New Lane.

CFL installation began immediately after the press conference by NYCHA staff and the 11 or so RelightNY teens on hand, as well as PES staff.

RelightNY has also obtained funding from Citi (formerly Citibank) for CFLs at NYCHA's Queensbridge South Houses in Queens.

Patrol Stipends

(Continued from page 1)

Rutgers Resident Association President Michael Steele also thanked the Speaker and Assemblyman, saying, "This \$1.5 million will help make public housing safer. We look forward to working with every one of you."

Also present at the press conference were Bushwick Houses' Tenant Patrol Supervisors Eloise Thompson and Rosa Quintana, who have a total of 180 tenant patrol volunteers covering the eight buildings in the Brooklyn development. Said Ms. Thompson, who has been participating in the tenant patrol at the development for 35 years, "We see the good and the bad. It gets rough sometimes, so we pray a little harder."

NYCHA's Tenant Patrol program was started in 1968. There are currently 136 NYCHA developments with tenant patrols, consisting of 3,946 volunteers. Tenant patrol volunteers sit in the lobbies of buildings to serve as "the eyes and ears" of the police, thereby deterring crime. Part-time paid NYCHA employees serve as Tenant Patrol Supervisors and are responsible for scheduling shifts.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

(Continued from page 2)

Phipps Houses Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Phipps Houses, will manage the property. Financing for the development will be provided from a mixture of public and private sources.

All of the units will be affordable to households earning 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI) which is equivalent to \$42,540 for a family of four or \$29,760 for a single person. Households will receive tenant-based NYCHA Section 8 vouchers. Twenty percent of the units will be set aside for households earning up to 40% of the AMI which is equivalent to \$28,360 for a family of four or \$19,840 for a single household.

The 39 residents of Fabria Houses who were temporarily relocated to facilitate the redevelopment will have the first option of returning to the redeveloped buildings. Remaining units will be made available to eligible households from NYCHA's Section 8 waiting list.

Notice of HUD Inspections

Dear Residents,

The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be conducting a physical inspection of your development. 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.

If any of the items below are not in good order – contact the Call Center at (718) 707 - 7771 to schedule an appointment to have those items repaired.

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.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation.

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The Department for the Aging's Foster Grandparent Program is a volunteer program that offers seniors age 60 and older a paid non-taxable stipend to serve as mentors, tutors and caregivers for children with special needs.

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BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

QUEENS: Queensbridge South Houses residents are the latest to get on board with the "greening" of NYCHA. A collaboration between NYCHA, a local teen-led energy awareness group named RelightNY, and Citibank is bringing nearly 10,000 energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to the City's largest housing development. The CFLs last much longer than conventional light bulbs and use up to 80% less electricity, all of which adds up to less carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and a healthier atmosphere. The estimated savings in electricity is nearly one million kilowatt hours per year. RelightNY also collaborated with NYCHA at a bulb replacement project at New Lane Houses in Staten Island last year. (See page 6.)

STATEN ISLAND: Keep an eye out for the grand opening of the 22,000-square-foot Stapleton Community Center in 2008. The new facility features a gymnasium with a stage and five program rooms.

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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The meeting for Calendar Year 2008 is as follows:

- January 9, 2008
- January 23, 2008
- February 6, 2008
- February 20, 2008
- March 5, 2008
- March 19, 2008
- April 2, 2008
- April 16, 2008
- April 30, 2008
- May 14, 2008
- May 28, 2008
- June 11, 2008
- June 25, 2008
- July 9, 2008
- July 23, 2008
- August 6, 2008
- August 20, 2008
- September 3, 2008
- September 17, 2008
- October 2, 2008 (Thursday)
- October 16, 2008 (Thursday)
- October 29, 2008
- November 12, 2008
- November 26, 2008
- December 10, 2008
- December 24, 2008



Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's 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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