



## NYCHA Board Member López Joins Sotomayor's Confirmation Celebration

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) BOARD MEMBER MARGARITA LÓPEZ REPRESENTED MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG AND THE 403,000 RESIDENTS AS WELL AS THE STAFF OF THE NATION'S LARGEST PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY AT THE WHITE HOUSE RECEPTION ON AUGUST 12TH CELEBRATING THE CONFIRMATION OF JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR'S APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. Justice Sotomayor, who grew up in Bronxdale Houses, is the first Latina and first NYCHA resident, and the third woman to hold this honor.

"It was an honor to have been invited to this special event. I am proud to represent our collective belief that public housing creates great leaders and productive members of our society," said Commissioner López.

At the reception, "Both President Barack Obama and Justice Sotomayor spoke about the future of the nation and how every child, no matter where they grow up, what background they come from, deserves to have opportunities," added the Commissioner. She also mentioned that both Justice Sotomayor and the President, spoke about "how our country is moving to the future with a clear path of inclusion."

As Justice Sotomayor was preparing to leave, Commissioner López called out to her,

"Say goodbye to the people of public housing!" With great enthusiasm, the Commissioner said, "Justice Sotomayor turned around and said, 'I will never say goodbye to the people of public housing!'"

Commissioner López concluded by saying, "I told the Justice, there wasn't a single resident or employee of public housing that didn't experience her triumph as their own."

Despite humble beginnings, Justice Sotomayor went on to blaze trails at two Ivy League universities, served as a prosecutor and corporate lawyer, and then 17 years as a district and appeals court judge. When she was confirmed by the

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**CONFIRMED** Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor (center) with NYCHA Board Member Margarita López (right) and Representative Nydia Velázquez at the White House.



**PRIDE** NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea (top) with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at NYCHA's 75th Anniversary celebration held at Gracie Mansion on Manhattan's Upper East Side. More than 1,000 guests attended, including these ladies from the Douglass Houses Senior Center in upper Manhattan.



## 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AT GRACIE

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) WAS CREATED BY MAYOR FIORELLO LA GUARDIA IN 1934, WITH THE MISSION OF REPLACING CRAMPED, DIRTY TENEMENTS WITH DECENT, SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Seventy-five years later, NYCHA continues to fulfill its mission, currently providing homes for over 403,000 low- and moderate income New Yorkers in 338 conventional public housing developments throughout the five boroughs. To celebrate this historic achievement, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg hosted a barbecue on the grounds of Gracie Mansion on a sultry August 3rd evening, for more than 1,000 NYCHA residents, employees, government, private and nonprofit partners, as well as elected officials who have helped to support the cause.

"Millions have grown up in our public housing. Millions of others have grown old in our public housing," the Mayor said to the crowd which fanned out beneath a tent onto the mansion's rolling green lawn. "And they all share the same thing: the sense of pride that comes from living in the greatest public housing system in the nation!"

That pride was evident everywhere as guests sipped their drinks and enjoyed the summer fare with the Robert F. Kennedy Bridge spanning the East River in the background beneath a stunning blue sky.

Citing NYCHA's \$423 million share of federal stimulus funding, the Mayor introduced NYCHA's 21st Chair, John B. Rhea, stressing the Housing Authority's need for "innovative and accountable leadership to ensure that these vital resources are put to the best possible use."

Chair Rhea, who began his tenure on June 1st, thanked the Mayor for his strong support of public housing and reminded the celebrants that NYCHA has been recognized throughout the country for its leadership and vision.

"Since First Houses opened its doors in 1936, NYCHA has provided a path to a brighter future for its residents, just as it has evolved to meet the challenges of our changing city." In particular,

the Chair mentioned NYCHA's contribution to the Mayor's PlaNYC2030 to create a greener, more sustainable city by the year 2030.

A cheer went up when the Chair mentioned NYCHA Board Member and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López, and her work with residents forming "Green Committees" in NYCHA's developments to raise awareness

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NYCHA CELEBRATES SUMMER 2009**



**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**100,000 Coupons for Fresh Produce  
During 2009 Health Bucks Season**



BUYING FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES AT NEW YORK CITY'S FARMERS' MARKETS IS EASIER THAN EVER. That's because the Health Department and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) is in the process of disbursing some 100,000 Health Bucks this summer and fall, up from 15,000 two years ago.

Health Bucks are \$2 coupons that can be redeemed for fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets. The Health Department and HRA

are making Health Bucks available through participating farmers' markets to help Food Stamp recipients enjoy the benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables.

For every \$5 in Food Stamps spent by a customer at a participating farmers' market, she or he will receive a free \$2 Health Buck, while supplies last. This year 49 farmers' markets will participate in the Health Bucks program. **You can find a list of participating markets by visiting [www.nyc.gov/healthbucks](http://www.nyc.gov/healthbucks).** A smaller number of Health Bucks will also be distributed by more than 170 community organizations targeting neighborhoods with high rates of poverty and chronic disease and low rates of fruit-and-vegetable consumption.

The Health Bucks program is one of the many ways the City is working to help make New Yorkers' everyday environments more conducive to good health. Besides being delicious, fresh fruits and vegetables can improve your health and reduce your risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

The Health Bucks program helps the City achieve three important food policy objectives: Health Bucks provide low-income families with additional resources to purchase food; they encourage families to spend their Food Stamp dollars on fresh produce; and they support farmers' markets in neighborhoods that are underserved by fresh food retailers. HRA Commissioner Robert Doar reports that last year, Health Bucks resulted in the tripling of Food Stamp use at participating farmers' markets.

**About Health Bucks**

The Health Bucks program started in 2005 as a pilot program in the Bronx and expanded in 2006 to all three District Public Health Office areas – the South Bronx, East and Central Harlem, and North and Central Brooklyn. The Health Department works in collaboration with the Human Resources Administration, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, and community-based farmers' markets and organizations on the Health Bucks program.

Health Bucks are tracked through unique serial numbers that can be traced back to the originating farmers' market, community-based organization, or site. Participating farmers' market vendors and community groups are trained to collect and redeem Health Bucks, and the Health Department monitors all participating sites throughout the season to ensure program compliance.

For more information or a list of participating farmers' markets, visit [www.nyc.gov/healthbucks](http://www.nyc.gov/healthbucks). Most farmers' markets are open from July through mid-November.

**About the City's Food Stamp Program**

More than 1.5 million New York City residents participate in the federal Food Stamp Program. The Food Stamp Program provides food support to low-income New Yorkers including working families, the elderly and the disabled to increase their ability to purchase food. To receive Food Stamp benefits a household must qualify under eligibility rules set by the federal government. **To find out more about food stamps, visit [nyc.gov/html/hra](http://nyc.gov/html/hra) or call 1-800-342-3009 or 311.**

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**CITY AND HUD ALLOCATE \$28M TO  
CASTLE HILL 'GREEN' INITIATIVES**



**SETTING THE BAR** (left to right) HUD Representative Mirza Negron Morales, resident and "green collar" employee Matthew Mendez, NYPA Senior Vice-President Angelo Esposito, NYCHA Chair John Rhea, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, NYCHA Environmental Coordinator and Board Member Margarita López, City Council Member Annabel Palma and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. announce retrofit program at Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx.

By Eileen Elliott

ON AUGUST 5TH, MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) CASTLE HILL HOUSES IN THE BRONX TO ANNOUNCE AN ALLOCATION OF \$28 MILLION FROM THE CITY AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) TO SUPPORT "GREEN" INITIATIVES AT THE 2,025-UNIT DEVELOPMENT. Once all of the elements in the plan are in place—including new energy-efficient boilers, instantaneous hot water heaters, and the replacement of conventional light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)—Castle Hill is expected to save NYCHA more than \$1.2 million a year, reducing its carbon footprint by 4,900 tons annually. Joining the Mayor for the announcement in the development's Community Center, were NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea, NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator Margarita López, Bronx Borough President Ruben Díaz, Jr., City Council Member Annabel Palma and New York Power Authority (NYPA) Senior Vice-President Angelo Esposito.

"Two years ago we announced a major initiative to make our public housing developments the greenest in the country," said the Mayor, referring to NYCHA's partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative. "This effort is now underway—and blazing a trail for every other housing authority in the country to follow."

Castle Hill, which consists of 14 buildings, houses over 4,900 residents and was completed in 1960, was chosen for the demonstration project for two reasons: first, because overall utility costs at the development are \$51 higher than average per NYCHA household, at \$289 a month; also, because Castle Hill was built by the State—it does not receive any dedicated Federal funding. "Any savings must come from within," the Mayor said. "That's why we've launched a \$28 million retrofit project."

"NYCHA is honored to be in the position to make such a valuable contribution to the Mayor's PlaNYC2030 initiative to create a greener, more sustainable New York City," said Chair Rhea. The Chair thanked both the City Council and HUD, which are responsible for 60% and 40%, respectively, of the funding for the project.

"As we celebrate our 75th, we believe we are setting the bar for

housing authorities across the country, just as Mayor Bloomberg is setting the bar for cities across the country," the Chair said.

**What We've Done So Far**

In April of 2007, Mayor Bloomberg appointed NYCHA Board Member Margarita López

as NYCHA's first Environmental Coordinator, charged with implementing the Housing Authority's green agenda.

"Since the Spring of 2007, the greening of public housing has come a long way," Board Member López commented.

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**The Housing Authority  
Journal**



**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](http://nyc.gov/nycha)

Michael R. Bloomberg.....Mayor

- John B. Rhea.....Chair
- Earl Andrews, Jr.....Vice-Chair
- Margarita López.....Board Member
- Vilma Huertas.....Secretary
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- Ashley Grosso.....Summer Intern

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**CHAIR'S MESSAGE**

**LET'S MAKE SECTION 3 WORK!**

THE OLD SAYING GOES: "GIVE A MAN A FISH AND HE'LL EAT FOR A DAY...TEACH A MAN TO FISH AND HE'LL EAT FOR A LIFETIME." I've always interpreted this saying to mean the best thing one can do to help a person care for their family is to help them get a job. Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 was created to do just that; it requires that certain projects funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) meet, "to the greatest extent feasible," specific goals for contracting, hiring and training low-income people. The current high levels of unemployment created by the flagging economy make the Section 3 requirement more important than ever.

Over the summer I had the opportunity to testify before the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity in support of legislation introduced by Representative Nydia Velázquez that, if passed into law, would help make the Section 3 requirement more effective. Foremost among the suggestions I made was that HUD provide adequate funding for the program so housing authorities around the country have the resources they need to implement Section 3 successfully. Because NYCHA doesn't receive funding to support its Section 3 programs, money must come from our already inadequate operating funds, thereby reducing services to the very residents Section 3 is intended to assist. Although this is a tough trade-off in the short-term, employed residents strengthen NYCHA communities over time and increase the rents NYCHA families can comfortably afford to pay. So despite a lack of funding, NYCHA has shown a commitment to make Section 3 work because it is a sound policy.

**NYCHA's Section 3 Programs**

NYCHA maintains a Department of Resident Employment Services (RES) to oversee the Authority's Section 3 efforts. In fact, RES implements one of the most extensive Section 3 efforts in the country. NYCHA requires that all new construction and modernization and maintenance contracts enforce Section 3 requirements. Recently the program expanded to include non-construction contracts given it is a sizeable component of NYCHA's total annual spending. NYCHA departments that bid contracts are required to ensure that all bids, with certain exceptions, include a Section 3 hiring plan. RES is responsible for approving both the plan and monitoring compliance. RES not only monitors contracts, but it also provides contractors with viable employment candidates.

In addition to the federal target that to the greatest extent feasible, 30% of all new hires must be Section 3 residents; NYCHA has set a target that 15% of a contractor's total labor costs must go towards employing or training NYCHA residents where the contract is valued at \$500,000 or more. To create additional employment opportunities, NYCHA is partnering with providers who offer job skills training for residents. Most training providers also offer job placement for students who successfully complete training. In 2008, RES programs resulted in 317 job placements and as of July 31, 2009, RES programs resulted in 322 job placements. Also, NYCHA directly hired 856 residents in 2008; of which 103 were hired as full-time employees, making NYCHA a leader in providing economic opportunities to our residents. Currently, a full 25% of NYCHA employees are NYCHA residents, accounting for over \$176 million in annual salary and benefits.

Beyond these efforts, NYCHA partners with the New York City Human Resources Administration to provide a Back to Work ("BTW") employment initiative for Authority residents who are Food Stamp recipients. BTW offers job seekers career counseling and a network of employment opportunities. RES also works with a network of training providers to prepare residents for the world of work and industry-specific employment. Despite these extensive programs, NYCHA is committed to doing even more. As a result, I recently established the Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability reporting directly to the Vice Chairman of the Board. This office is charged with enhancing economic prospects for our residents by creating employment opportunities through public/private partnerships, extensive targeted training efforts in growth industries and development of financial literacy

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NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea with (left to right) Representatives Maxine Waters, Nydia Velázquez and Carolyn Maloney at a House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity Field Hearing in July in New York City.

**CM SANDERS, JR. ANNOUNCES \$2.5 MILLION FOR CCTV at QUEENS' HAMMEL HOUSES**

By Ashley Grosso

CITY COUNCIL MEMBER JAMES SANDERS, JR. ANNOUNCED AN ALLOCATION OF \$2.5 MILLION FOR A CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) SYSTEM AT THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) HAMMEL HOUSES IN FAR ROCKAWAY, QUEENS ON AUGUST 5TH.



**Council Member James Sanders, Jr. (left) and NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple**

The Council Member was joined by NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, the development's Resident Association President Peggy Thomas, and resident Nathaniel Darby, whose granddaughter, Melissa Williams was shot at the development in April.

"The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing," the Council Member said, stressing that the CCTV is only one part of making Hammel a safer, better place. "The residents, elected officials, police and the Housing Authority must also work together."

Lieutenant James Marron of the 100th Precinct Special Operations Unit was on hand to represent the Police Department.

Alma Hunter, a resident of Hammel for the past 13 years, said, "Thank you so much Council Member Sanders because the cameras will help make it safe enough to spend time outside and enjoy the beautiful ocean."

Mr. Apple, who has visited

*(Continued on page 4)*

**DEBORAH'S DIARY**

By Deborah Williams



*Happy Days* — On July 25, 2009, residents of 131 Saint Nicholas Avenue in Harlem held their 'Family Day'—a celebration turned into tradition that is set aside for residents to celebrate each other by barbecuing, enjoying each others company, and experiencing a day filled with fun activities. "Our Family Day was blessed with good weather and good friends," said Resident Association President Gloria Wright. Ms. Wright told me that this year the residents of 131 St. Nicholas Avenue have more than their Family Day to boast about because their building is home to five high school graduates and one middle school graduate. "I'm so very proud of the graduates. They worked hard and it paid off," said Ms. Wright. Here is a list of the graduates: Ruth J. Fomba graduated from the Manhattan Occupation Training Center High School; Unique Nettle graduated from Bread & Roses Integrated Arts High School with a Nursing Regents Diploma and Leadership Award and will be attending Sullivan College in the fall; William Jenkins graduated from the High School of Graphic Communication with an Arts Regents Diploma and will be attending John Jay College where he is planning to major in forensic science; Deltasha Clyburn graduated from Frederick Douglass Academy II High School and will be the proud recipient of the Salutatorian Award. She will attend Hunter College this fall. Donneshia Ann Marie Steele graduated from Pace University High School with a Pace High School and a New York State Diploma. She was also the proud recipient of the S.A.G.E. Leadership Award, and the Outstanding Leadership Award. She was accepted by ten universities and six colleges and will be attending Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. Randel Clyburn graduated from Frederick Douglass Academy II Middle School where he received the Excellence in Science Award.

Ms. Wright also extends a belated birthday wish to Taft Houses resident Mrs. Alelia Murphy who turned 103 years young on July 6, 2009. According to Ms. Wright, "Ms. Murphy is still going strong. We went to New Jersey several weeks ago and she had a great time." Ms. Murphy celebrated her birthday with family and close friends. It was a day to remember.

*To the graduates — It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, "One must remember that intelligence is not enough — intelligence plus character—that it the true goal of education. I want you to remember this quote, analyze it and let it become the driving force that helps you build your character. Graduates you are on your way to greater futures. Congratulations and I wish you well on your future endeavors. To the birthday girl — Happy Belated Birthday! I wish you lots of happiness.*

*New Businesses Emerge near Queensbridge Houses* — Robert James and his uncle, Carl Alston, have something in common these days. In fact, they share the same aspirations — to become small business owners. For Robert James, a resident of Queensbridge Houses, that aspiration has come true. In March of 2009 Robert James opened the Queensboro Cutz — You Got Hair, We Got Cutz—salon located on 40th Avenue directly opposite Queensbridge Houses. According to an article in the *New York Times* Mr. James poured all of his savings into opening the business. Mr. James has faith that the business will do well. He told the *New York Times*, "I am from Queensbridge and I know that people are going to support me" and the soul food restaurant that his uncle plans to open soon. The restaurant, to be named, "Sonny's," after Mr. Alston's father (also from Queensbridge Houses) will sell fish and chips. Mr. Alston told City Room reporter Anne Barnard that, "I have my father's hat," while pointing to a fedora tacked to the wall. "That's his spirit over there. That was his last hat and that's what will help."

*Hey guys, with that type of confidence I know you will become great entrepreneurs. It sounds like you have great clientele lined up. Queensbridge Houses North and South combined have a total of 6,907 residents. If the community supports you, as you say, I know you both will have a booming business in no time. My congratulations to you both and I hope your business is everything you hope it will be!*

## 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. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The meetings for the remainder of the Calendar Year 2009 are as follows:

September 2, 2009	November 10, 2009
September 16, 2009	(Tuesday)
September 30, 2009	November 25, 2009
October 14, 2009	December 9, 2009
October 28, 2009	December 23, 2009

Please note that these dates are subject to change. Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's Website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) and in the *NYCHA Journal* to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting. These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration of speakers is required. Those who wish to register must do so at least forty-five (45) minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments are limited to the items on the agenda. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration. Speaking time will be limited to three (3) minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of thirty (30) minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first. For Board Meeting dates and times, and/or additional information, please visit our Website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) or contact us at (212) 306-6088. Copies of the agenda can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3 P.M. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five (5) business days before the Board Meeting.

## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing efforts 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. What follows is a partial list of the people excluded after hearings were held on May 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2009. For a full list of the "Not Wanted" visit NYCHA's website at [nyc.gov/residentscorner](http://nyc.gov/residentscorner). 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 6, 2009

Jorge Garcia	Case 3098/09 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 1851 Third Avenue, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan
Manuel Portorreal	Case 3030/09 formerly associated with the twentieth floor of 383 East 143rd Street, Mott Haven Houses, the Bronx
English Minus	Case 3086/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 296 Sutter Avenue, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of May 13, 2009

John Urena	Case 3108/09 formerly associated with the first floor of 650 Water Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan
Arius Richardson	Case 2016/09 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 154-156 Broome Street, Gompers Houses, Manhattan

For a full list of the "Not Wanted" visit NYCHA's website at [nyc.gov/residentscorner](http://nyc.gov/residentscorner).



**NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
AUTUMN IS HERE...  
REMEMBER THESE SAFETY TIPS!

## WINDOW GUARDS & AIR CONDITIONERS

Window guards save children's lives. Because the safety of children is of utmost importance, NYCHA provides, installs and maintains window guards in all residential apartments and public hallway windows. NYCHA will install apartment window guards at no cost to you.

**PLEASE CALL THE CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTER (CCC) AT (718) 707-7771 TO REQUEST IMMEDIATE INSTALLATION OR REPAIR OF WINDOW GUARDS**

- Window guards must by law be installed in the your building's public spaces and your apartment if a child under the age of 11 lives in your apartment. Even if you live on the first floor, you must have window guards if a child under age 11 lives with you. Every window in the apartment must have a window guard except windows leading to fire escapes. In buildings with fire escapes, window guards must be left off one window in each ground-floor apartment so that the window can be used as an emergency exit. All public hallway windows must have window guards, too. In addition, it is NYCHA's policy to encourage the installation of window guards in all NYCHA apartments.
- For the safety of residents, staff will **not** remove window guards.
- Window guards are required no matter what floor you live on. A child can be seriously injured falling from a first floor window.
- Screens are not a substitute for window guards; they are only for keeping insects out. They will not protect your child.

**CONTACT THE CUSTOMER CONTACT CENTER (CCC) AT (718) 707-7771 IMMEDIATELY IF THESE CONDITIONS EXIST:**

- A window guard is loose – it could fall out when a child leans against it or climbs on it.
- The L-shaped stops that keep the bottom windows from being opened too high are not there. It's against the law to take the L-shaped stops out.
- An unguarded window opening that exceeds 4.5 inches in any direction. That means the window guard has not been installed properly. When the L-shaped stops are properly installed, there should be no opening large enough for a baby's head to fit through.
- NEW** You intend to remove any air conditioner from any window. You cannot remove any air conditioner from any window unless a NYCHA maintenance worker is present to immediately replace the air conditioner with a window guard. You must contact the CCC or notify Management to arrange for an appointment before you can remove your air conditioner.

**AIR CONDITIONERS**

- Do not use bricks, wood, cans, telephone books or any other object to support or level the air conditioner unit. To prevent accidents, all air conditioners must be properly braced and installed according to manufacturer's installation specifications.
- If you observe an air conditioner that appears to be improperly installed call the Customer Contact Center (CCC) at (718) 707-7771.
- During your annual apartment inspection, NYCHA staff are required to determine if all required window guards are properly installed. This includes a check of any air conditioner to determine if the installation is permanent and the window is secured.

**PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN FROM WINDOW FALLS**

- Never leave your child alone in a room where there are open windows that do not have window guards
- If your window guards aren't installed yet, keep your bottom windows closed.
- Furniture that children can climb on should not be near windows. Some babies can climb up on furniture and crawl through open windows even before they can walk.

**Never let your child play:**


- in halls with windows that do not have window guards
- on fire escapes
- on roofs
- near elevator shafts
- near steps and stairs

Call the Health Department's Window Falls Prevention Program at (212) 676-2162 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. if you want a copy of New York City's laws on window guards or want more information.

This **TIPS** flyer was developed in collaboration with the **Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP)**.

A translation of this document is available in Spanish, Chinese and Russian at your management office and on NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha).  
可到您的公房管理辦事處索取這份文件的中文翻譯本和在 NYCHA 網站下載 [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha).

La traducción de este documento está disponible en español en su oficina de administración y en el sitio web de NYCHA en [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha).  
Перевод этого документа на русский язык находится в офисе вашего жилищного комплекса и на вебсайте Жилищного управления города Нью-Йорка [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha).




Resident Association President Peggy Thomas

## \$2.5M FOR CCTV

(Continued from page 3)

other developments with CCTV said, "I've seen the transforming impact these cameras have." Both Mr. Apple and Council Member Sanders praised Ms. Hunter's persistence in advocating for CCTV at the development.

The CCTV system will have special gunshot technology to pinpoint a gunshot in seconds. The cameras will be in lobbies and elevators as well as around the exterior perimeter of buildings and on the roofs.

Earlier this year, Council Member Sanders announced the allocation of \$2 million for CCTVs at the nearby Redfern Houses. Installation of the cameras began in August and is expected to be completed by August 2010.

Since 1997, over 5,500 CCTV cameras have been installed in 425 buildings in 75 NYCHA developments. In the next two years NYCHA will be putting cameras in another 150 buildings.



## ATTENTION SENIORS

The New York City Housing Authority  
 Community Operations  
 Resident Support Services Department

is pleased to announce the 5th annual  
**SENIOR BENEFIT + ENTITLEMENT FAIR**

*This year's theme:*  
**"Health and Financial Fitness II"**

**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2009  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Riverbank State Park  
 679 Riverside Drive at 145th Street, Manhattan

- Health Screenings & Information
- Food/Transportation Benefits
- Financial Fitness Workshops
- Medicare Advantage Plans (HMOs)
- Senior Advocacy Organizations

Call (212) 306-8443 for  
 more information



## CASTLE HILL

(Continued from page <None>)

She noted NYCHA's progress on its "Seven-point Green Plan," so far. This includes the installation of 500 instantaneous hot water heaters at various NYCHA developments, replacing aging domestic hot water tanks. The instantaneous hot water heaters provide safer and more reliable service while reducing fuel consumption.

Progress has also been significant in the replacement of conventional light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). More than 170,000 conventional light bulbs have been replaced with CFLs in 30,000 NYCHA apartments throughout the City. The CFLs use less than one quarter the electricity of conventional bulbs and last ten times longer. NYCHA is partnering with ConEdison and NYPA to install CFLs in apartments and common areas at Castle Hill.

In addition, NYCHA's state-of-the-art Computerized Heating Automated System (CHAS) technology has been implemented in more than 200 boiler rooms Citywide, allowing for remote monitoring of NYCHA's central heating plants.

Other plans include the installation of 56,000 energy-efficient refrigerators in 53 developments. One in every three NYCHA apartments will receive a new stove or refrigerator.

### Resident Involvement

"No partnership is more important than the one with

residents in our developments," said Board Member López. "In NYCHA's green agenda we have entrusted resident leaders with teaching the value of energy efficiency."

As of July, 29 Green Committees have been formed in NYCHA developments around the City. Development Green Committees are charged with taking the lead in teaching residents about the benefits of adopting behaviors that support energy conservation in their apartments as well as their developments.

Resident employment leading to lasting careers in "green collar" jobs is another aspect of NYCHA's Seven-point Plan. The Castle Hill project will create a dozen new jobs for residents.

Matthew Mendez, a resident of Castle Hill who was hired by Maric Mechanical to work as a laborer at the development for \$31 an hour, was on hand to say a few words. "This opportunity is fantastic," he told the assembled group, thanking NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services.

"This is the way we must live our lives," concluded Board Member López. "By making sure that New York City becomes green we are going to become the best, most wonderful City in the world."

Any resident interested in obtaining employment through NYCHA, should contact RES at (718) 250-5904. Please see the advertisement on page 8.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME 2009



All over New York City, at all nine Police Service Areas (PSAs) and throughout the country, community residents joined local law enforcement on the evening of August 4th, to take back the streets during the 26th Annual National Night Out Against Crime. **New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chair John B. Rhea (center, back row) joined Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe (to the Chair's left) and Captain Elvio Capocci for the PSA #5 Night Out Celebration held at East River Houses in East Harlem.** Also shown in the photo above, along with a number of young residents, is **Officer McGruff (center, front row)**, the crime fighting dog of the Housing Bureau's Crime Prevention Section. (Lucky for him he's under 25 pounds!) Not only is McGruff mobile, he is happy to answer any questions about crime prevention with the help of a nearby officer hooked up to a microphone.

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) first introduced Night Out Against Crime in 1984, and the event, complete with information tables provided by a variety of community resources, barbecues and face painting, continues to be held each year on the first Tuesday in August. The goals of Night Out are to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

"National Night Out Against Crime is one of the most visible examples of police officers, NYCHA residents and their neighbors working together to keep communities safe," said Chair Rhea. "All around the country, as well as all around the City, communities are banding together this night to send a clear message: We are organized and fighting back. Criminals are not wanted!"

After East River Houses, the Chair made his way across town to PSA #6's Night Out Celebration at the Frederick Douglass Houses in Harlem. He was joined there by Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott. NYCHA Executive Staff covered Night Out events at the rest of the PSAs including PSA #1 at Coffey Park, near Red Hook Houses, PSA #2 at Albany Houses, and PSA #3 at Ingersoll Houses, all in Brooklyn, PSA #4 on East Sixth Street and Avenue D in Manhattan, PSA #7 at Moore Houses and PSA #8 at Castle Hill Houses, both in the Bronx, and PSA #9 at Ravenswood Houses in Queens.

New York City is still the safest large city in America, and for the first six months of 2009, crime has decreased by 18.69% at NYCHA developments as compared to the first six months of 2008.

### CHAIR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 3)

initiatives. We are confident these enhancements will produce even better results for our Section 3 efforts.

These are just some of NYCHA's programs aimed to facilitate resident employment. Check out the RES ad on page 8 of this Journal and give RES a call at (718) 250-5904 if you are interested in the positions listed. Section 3 is a win-win for everyone. Let's continue to work together to make sure that NYCHA residents get the jobs that keep NYCHA going.

John B. Rhea

### Sotomayor Confirmation Celebration

(Continued from page 1)

Senate, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea noted, "Justice Sotomayor's life story is not just a NYCHA success story, but a true American one. Justice Sotomayor is a role model for all of NYCHA's youth and her appointment demonstrates that there are no limits to their future success."

Chair Rhea and the NYCHA Board expressed immense pride for Justice Sotomayor and are grateful to her for holding the NYCHA name up high.



# 2009 ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

The New York City Housing Authority would like to thank all of the residents who responded to our call for essays expressing how public housing has impacted your lives. All of the essays had merit, but the difficult choice of choosing a winner was resolved when the committee agreed that 53-year-old Sharron Clemons of Stapleton Houses in Staten Island, submitted the essay that best captures NYCHA's mission. "Housing is so important," Ms. Clemons said. "In the 1970s I was a case manager for the Human Resources Association and my clients who lived in public housing had really good services. That's how I knew to apply for public housing [after I became disabled.]"

## What Does It Mean to Live in Public Housing?

By Sharron Clemons  
Stapleton Houses, Staten Island

*Living in public housing means that I am able to live in my own safe apartment, an apartment that I can afford with my disability income. A few years ago, I was a social worker, employed as a director of social services at a Citywide not-for-profit. I had worked in social work for over 20 years, and had earned my Master's Degree in Social Work from Hunter College School of Social Work. I was living a comfortable life, with high expectations for the future. Then I was severely injured and permanently disabled in the 9-11-01 attack on New York City.*

*There is a long waiting list for public housing. Even for those on disability who have lost their working income. Words cannot describe my tremendous relief when I was called for my apartment. Moving to my apartment meant never again having to fear becoming homeless because of my limited circumstances.*

*After moving into public housing, I found much more than a great, well-maintained apartment. I found a vibrant, caring community with*

*resident programs and organizations, social services, and friendly helpful housing staff members. I am much more active now than I was in my former long-time neighborhood. My development complex is beautifully landscaped with trees, playgrounds and wonderful benches for relaxing and visiting with neighbors.*

*I now feel that I have so much more to look forward to; and have tremendous resources to assist me in building a terrific rest of my life.*

# ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(Continued from page 1)

about personal responsibility and energy conservation.

"I know that with the support of all of our stakeholders, 75 years from now, another Chair will be standing before another generation of residents, employees, and elected officials, celebrating 150 years of public housing in New York City!"

In his role as Master of Ceremonies, the Mayor listed a number of NYCHA residents who have risen to prominence, eliciting a single exuberant outburst from the crowd when he mentioned the former Bronxdale Houses resident, "a judge whose name has been in the news lately, Sonia Sotomayor!"

The Mayor then introduced the evening's special guest, Mel Davis. Mr. Davis, who lived in Brooklyn's Farragut Houses, is a former Knick and Net, and holds two Master's Degrees.

Davis drove the message of NYCHA pride home when he said, "I've walked with kings; I've walked with prime ministers; I've walked with mayors; and when they ask where I'm from, with a stern handshake and a look in the eye, I say, 'I'm from public housing in Bedford Stuyvesant.'"

I asked 59-year-old Caryn Rodriguez, who is Third Vice-President for Brooklyn's Independence Towers Resident Association, if she was feeling proud of NYCHA.

"I've been at Independence since 1965, 44 years," she said. "I


moved in when I was 15 with my white dress, the day I graduated from junior high school. We were one of the first families in the building. Yeah, I'm proud."

Another guest, Bronx Borough President Deputy Chief of Staff Camella Pinkney-Price, who grew up in Bronxdale Houses, said of the anniversary celebration, "This is the stuff that keeps you grounded. These are the people who raised me. Mrs. J looked out her window and told my parents when I was bad. There's a negative stigma around public housing but now, especially with Judge Sonia Sotomayor as a nominee for the Supreme Court, and with everyone here, it's clear, you can be whatever you want to be."

Musical selections for the event were provided by a special 16-piece 75th Anniversary Band, and members of the NYCHA Youth Chorus. Other resident contributions included the display of a 75th Anniversary commemorative quilt that was created by seniors from Frederick Douglass and East River Houses in Manhattan and Surfside Gardens in Brooklyn. There were also 75th Anniversary ceramic vases created by residents from the Campos Plaza Community Center on Manhattan's Lower East Side, which served as centerpiece.



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# Celebrating 75 Years of Public Housing

As the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) celebrates its 75th year, we take special note of development anniversaries. Baruch Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side, recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The historical photos and captions below are courtesy of the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives.



## Bernard Baruch Houses' 50th Anniversary



This 1954 panoramic view along the East River from the Williamsburg Bridge to East 14th Street, shows Baruch Houses (still under construction), Wald and Riis Houses, running north to the Con-Edison Power Plant (top right). East River Park is in the foreground.



NYCHA Chair Philip J. Cruise speaks at the dedication ceremonies for the first phase of Baruch Houses on August 19, 1953. Seated from left are: New York State Governor Thomas Dewey, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bernard Baruch, the financier and adviser to presidents, Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, and Mayor Vincent Impellitteri.



Bound by the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Drive, Columbia Street, and East Houston and East Delancey Streets, Baruch Houses has provided affordable housing for five decades to residents of Manhattan's Lower East Side. The development's namesake, Bernard M. Baruch, made his fortune on Wall Street then served his country as an economic advisor during both World War I and II and as a confidante to six presidents. The development was originally named for Baruch's father, Dr. Simon Baruch, a public health pioneer who built the first public baths in the U.S. in 1901 on the site of Baruch Houses.

The 27-acre Baruch Houses is the largest NYCHA development in Manhattan with 17 buildings providing homes for 5,359 residents in 2,194 apartments.

The Baruch Houses development is part of a superblock of planned open space. The buildings once covered only 12 percent of the development's land, with lawns, paths, benches, and playgrounds making up the rest of the tract. Baruch Houses Addition, completed in 1977, houses an additional 226 residents in 197 apartments.

Residents of Baruch Houses help build a stronger community through participating in the tenant association and on-site programs such as computer and cooking classes. The community center at Baruch Houses is sponsored by Grand Street Settlement, a social service institution founded in 1916. Grand Street Settlement's services include early childhood care, youth recreation, family counseling and support, and programs for seniors.

Baruch Houses is part of the movement to "go green" and help the environment, from the instantaneous hot water heaters that reduce energy consumption and carbon dioxide production to resident participation in NYCHA's Annual Garden and Greening Competition and tree planting efforts with MillionTreesNYC.

In the photo at left, Baruch Houses Manager Anita Lal and Resident Association President Roberto Napoleon hold a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg declaring August 6th, "Baruch Houses Day." Also in the photo, from left to right are: NYCHA Assistant Deputy General Manager Brian Clarke, City Council Member Rosie Mendez, NYCHA First Deputy General Manager Natalie Rivers, Manhattan Borough Administrator Joseph Porcelli (between Ms. Lal and Mr. Napoleon) Baruch Superintendent Gaspar Stellato and Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Hugh Spence.

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- Mason Tenders district Council (Laborers Locals 78 & 79)
- Metal Lathers & Reinforcing Iron workers Local 46
- NYC District Council of carpenters
- Operating Engineers Local 14
- Operating Engineers Local 15
- Ornamental Iron workers Local 580
- Painters and Allied Trades District Council 9
- Plumbers Local 1
- Roofers & Waterproofers Local 8
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See the Advertisement on page 5 for NYCHA's SENIOR BENEFIT AND ENTITLEMENT FAIR, September 24th at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan.

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# NYCHA CELEBRATES



Lining up for cotton candy at Clinton Towers Family Day in Manhattan (above) and taking off at NYCHA's Education Through Sports Track and Field Event (below, left). More Family Day fun (below, right).



Above, NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea with members of the Annual Night Out Against Crime on August 4th in Harlem and manning the grills at the Johnson Houses Family Day



NYCHA Board Member (and former City Council Member) Margarita López (left) and City Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito (right) at NYCHA's 75th Anniversary Celebration, which was held at Gracie Mansion on August 3rd.



Congress Member Charles B. Rangel (above, center) joins residents at King Towers Family Day in Manhattan. (Right) NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea at the Assembly Member's Annual Picnic

# KIDS SUMMER 2009



Vice-Chair Earl Andrews Jr. and Highbridge Gardens Resident Association Vice-President Joanne Smitherman at the Highbridge Gardens Family Day in the Bronx. And (at right) a dance contest at Johnson Houses Family Day in Harlem.



Eastchester Gardens Resident Patrol at the 26th Annual Community Day in Harlem. And, (far right), doll-making out of corn cobs, in Harlem.



City Council Member Inez Dickens and young Assembly Member Vito Lopez with NYCHA staff at a clinic in Long Island's Sunken Meadow Park.



Cooling off at Highbridge Gardens Family Day.



Above, approximately 1,500 young NYCHA residents from over 44 Community Center participated in NYCHA's 2.5-mile Eighth Annual Kids Walk at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island on August 11th.



**HOUSE CALL** From left to right: NYC Council Member Letitia James, NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, HUD Assistant Secretary Sandra Henriquez, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, Ingersoll Houses Resident Association President Ed Brown, and NYCHA Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr. at Whitman and Ingersoll Houses.

## HUD Ass't Sec'y Visits Whitman/Ingersoll

By Ashley Grosso

ON JULY 20TH U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING SANDRA HENRIQUEZ JOINED NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIRMAN JOHN B. RHEA FOR A TOUR OF WHITMAN AND INGERSOLL HOUSES IN BROOKLYN. Earlier that day, they testified at a Congressional Field Hearing at City Hall before the House Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity.

Also attending the tour of the developments were City Council Member Letitia James, NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, Ingersoll Houses Resident Association President Ed Brown, and NYCHA Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr. The group had the opportunity to see a model apartment as part of the capital improvements taking place there, and visit the community center.

The capital work at Whitman and Ingersoll Houses

includes upgrades and renovations to 2,569 apartments, and 93 elevators, and interior stair replacement. The total projected cost of the renovation is of these developments, which were built in 1944, is \$246 million, of which an expected \$108 million will be from Stimulus funds.

So far, 61 elevators have been replaced, and 598 apartments have been renovated. The anticipated completion date for the

rest of the upgrades is June 30, 2010.

In addition to the physical improvements at the developments, this project is creating new jobs for residents. The construction management firm AFG Group, Inc. has hired residents in positions such as project assistant and receptionist. These new hires will have the opportunity to advance their skills with computer training programs while employed with AFG.

## MAYOR JOINS YOUTH AT SO. JAMAICA HOUSES FOR SUMMER OF SERVICE

MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG JOINED NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CHAIR JOHN RHEA AT SOUTH JAMAICA HOUSES IN QUEENS ON AUGUST 7TH TO WORK WITH VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATING IN A NYC SERVICE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM CALLED THE "SUMMER OF SERVICE." The program brought 1,000 youth from the City's Summer Youth Employment Program to NYCHA developments and parks throughout the City to dedicate two days of volunteer service. The Mayor joined volunteers at the South Jamaica Houses, where approximately 335 volunteers were creating planter boxes, adding plants to existing beds, composting, mulching, and weeding.

"The young people working today are demonstrating their love for our City, love for their neighborhoods and a love of serving. It's all a part of our new, pioneering campaign NYC Service, which is tapping the power of New Yorkers who want to serve to address the challenges faced by our communities," the Mayor said.

"The youth participating in this program are truly helping to make NYCHA a greener and better place for our residents, while also learning the true spirit of service to the community," added Chair Rhea. "They are to be commended."

The Department of Youth and Community Development, the New York City Housing Authority, the Department of Parks and Recreation and New York Cares collaborated to organize a total of ten service projects – one in each borough – on July 24th and August 7th for the Summer of Service participants. The projects feature sustainability improvements such as building planter boxes, enhancing existing green spaces, watering trees, and cleaning up beaches.



**SERVICE** Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg with a young Summer of Service volunteer at South Jamaica Houses in Queens.

2009 PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING NYCHA'S 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

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<b>BROOKLYN EAST</b>	<b>TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22</b> 3:00pm - 7:00pm	<b>VAN DYKE</b> COMMUNITY CENTER	<b>392 BLAKE AVE.</b> BROOKLYN, NY 11212
<b>STATEN ISLAND</b>	<b>FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25</b> 3:00pm - 7:00pm	<b>WEST BRIGHTON</b> COMMUNITY CENTER	<b>230 BROADWAY</b> STATEN ISLAND, NY 10310
<b>QUEENS</b>	<b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26</b> 1:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>HAMMEL</b> COMMUNITY CENTER	<b>81-14 ROCKAWAY BEACH BLVD.</b> QUEENS, NY 11693
<b>BRONX</b>	<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17</b> 1:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>BRONXDALE</b> COMMUNITY CENTER	<b>1000 ROSEDALE AVE.</b> BRONX, NY 10472
<b>MANHATTAN</b>	<b>SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24</b> 1:00pm - 5:00pm	<b>CAMPOS</b> COMMUNITY CENTER	<b>611 EAST 13 ST.</b> NEW YORK, NY 10009

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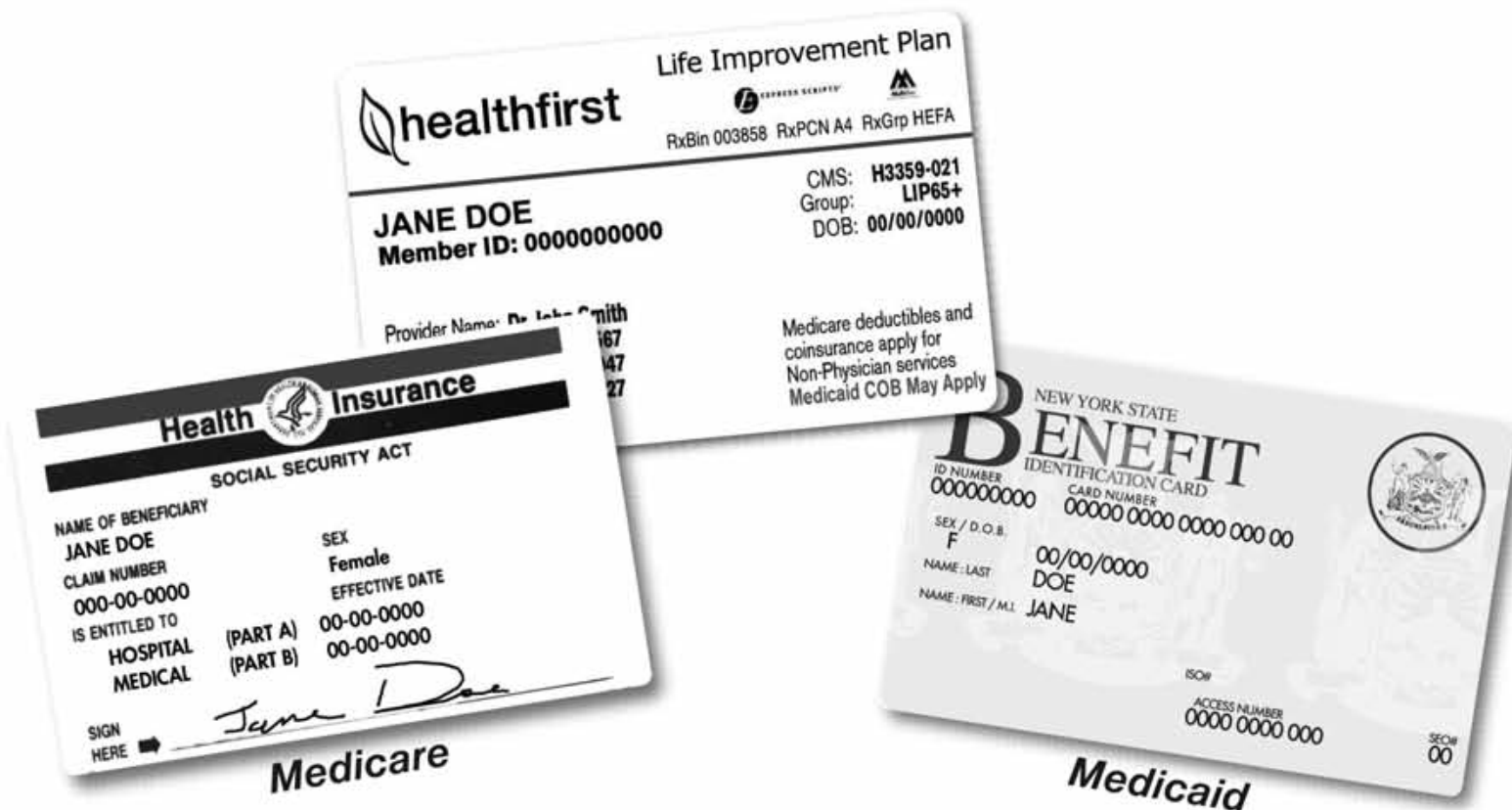
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If you smell gas, leave the area at once, and call **1-800-75-CONED**. Don't light matches or use any electrical device.



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