



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Journal

First-Class
U.S. Postage
Paid
New York, NY
Permit No. 4119

Vol. 40 No. 6

www.nyc.gov/nycha

August 2010

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NEW RESIDENT WATCH

PROMOTES Safety & Security at Developments » read more on **page 4**



RESIDENTS EXPRESS THEMSELVES

THROUGH Painting, Sculpture, Photos » read more on **page 6**

NBA Champion and All-Star Ron Artest (top center) returned to Queensbridge Houses where he grew up, on July 15, 2010. Mr. Artest received a Community Recognition Award from Queensbridge residents and the East River Development Alliance.



FAST FACTS

The first NYCHA Tenant Patrol (now Resident Watch) was created in June 1968.

390 residents representing 55 developments had art work on display in the NYCHA Annual Resident Art Show.

6,500 Section 8 Vouchers Saved

A cooperative plan among New York City, New York State and the federal government has resulted in Section 8 rental vouchers being restored or retained for 6,500 families. In 2009 and 2010, falling tenant contributions and lower than normal attrition rates led to a budget shortfall in the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Section 8 program and at housing authorities nationwide. In New York City, that caused approximately 2,500 rental vouchers to be withdrawn and put 4,000 families already using the vouchers at risk of losing them.

However on July 1, a plan was announced to save all of the vouchers. For the 2,500 families that had vouchers withdrawn, 750 of them will be issued Section 8 vouchers by the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), and another 750 will get the HPD subsidy equivalent to Section 8. These vouchers and subsidies will be issued to applicants in a priority order agreed upon by NYCHA and HPD. The other 1,000 families will receive Section 8 vouchers from NYCHA in 2011.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) agreed to transfer nearly 2,000 existing



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (far right) stands with Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (far left) and officials from the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development at an affordable housing groundbreaking in the Bronx.

NYCHA Section 8 participants in danger of losing their vouchers to HPD, allowing HPD to use its budget reserves to relieve NYCHA of the cost of maintaining these vouchers.

"Mayor Bloomberg has continued to show tremendous leadership in challenging agencies to work together to craft innovative solutions to the increasing demand for housing assistance," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea in a news release that announced the plan. "NYCHA is pleased to be part of a solution that" *continued on page 2* ▶



Sean Weston of Ralph J. Rangel Houses in Manhattan properly displays the signal for a touchdown at the New York Giants' training facility in the Meadowlands as part of the NYCHA-NFL Officiating Academy.

NYCHA Residents Train to Earn Their Stripes

New NYCHA-NFL Officiating Academy Offers Lessons and Skills On and Off the Field

By Christian Nwachukwu

Public housing residents now can exercise their Monday morning quarterbacking skills – for real. The new opportunity is afoot through a partnership between the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the National Football League (NFL). They have teamed up to create the Football Officiating Academy for young New Yorkers interested in learning the rules of the game. The co-ed

continued on page 2 ▶

The Mayor's Message

One of the most impressive qualities about this city is New Yorkers' commitment to helping their neighbors. So when President Obama called for a new era of service in our nation, we knew we had to answer the call. And we did by launching NYC Service, the first coordinated effort by any American city to channel volunteers to meet local needs.

In its first year of operation, NYC Service engaged New Yorkers in a wide range of volunteer activities. For example, earlier this summer, volunteers spent time at NYCHA developments, planting vegetables and flowers in community gardens. Through NYC Service, volunteers have trained more than 50,000 New Yorkers in CPR; educated more than 4,000 students on emergency preparedness; sent more than 3,000 care packages to New Yorkers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan; and painted 225,000 square feet of rooftop with reflective paint to help buildings lower their energy costs.

The NYC Civic Corps is the centerpiece program of NYC Service. A first-of-its-kind program, NYC Civic Corps recruits people through the Americorps VISTA program to work at nonprofits and public agencies so they can help those organizations use more volunteers – and use them more effectively – to assist New Yorkers in need.

During the first year of the program, Civic Corps members expanded the volunteer capacity at more than 50 organizations throughout the city. This includes NYCHA, where a program was created and expanded for resident volunteers to make housing complexes more sustainable. The Civic Corps

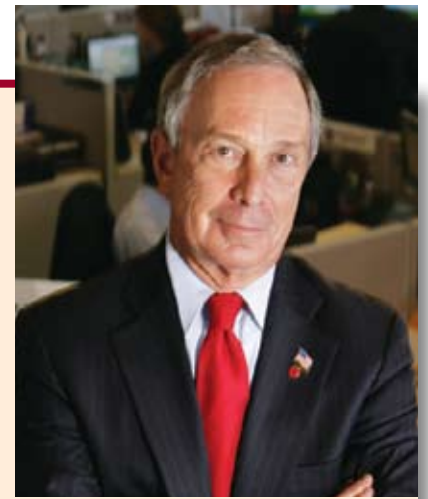
members helped organize more than 35 Resident Green Committees (RGCs), which have attracted more than 800 volunteers. These RGCs work with public housing residents to improve energy awareness and on the importance of recycling and maintaining green spaces. Five RGCs even have received grants for beautification projects that will help clean and green public housing facilities.

In total, the efforts of NYC Civic Corps have led to 60,000 new volunteers being recruited, who went on to help more than 700,000 people. We will be adding thousands more people to this effort in the coming months.

After launching NYC Service, we heard from cities and nonprofits across the country who wanted us to share our model. So last year, we met with mayors from 16 other cities and formed a new coalition, Cities of Service, and signed a pledge to work together to make volunteering a priority.

Cities of Service now has grown to 100 members, and together we represent more than 46 million Americans. I encourage all of you to be a part of this growing volunteerism movement. To find more than 1,000 opportunities to serve your community and make a difference, go to www.nyc.gov, or call 311.


Michael R. Bloomberg



◀ continued from page 1

6,500 Section 8 Vouchers Saved

allows a record number of families to receive assistance from New York City's combined Section 8 programs."

NYCHA's citywide Section 8 voucher program is the largest in the nation, with more than 100,000 tenants and more than 33,000 landlords. Participants in the Section 8 program, also known as the Housing Choice Voucher program, pay a

reasonable share of their income in rent each month to a participating landlord, and NYCHA makes up the difference. The subsidy paid to the landlord usually is between 30% of the household income and the contract rent.

While the plan saved these 6,000 vouchers, the Housing Authority is not accepting any new Section 8 applications.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.



ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

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

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NYCHA Residents Train to Earn Their Stripes

Academy is for youths ages 17-24, and the majority of the 65 participants must (and do) live in a NYCHA development.

The Academy, the first of its kind in the nation, runs for eight weeks and prepares participants for jobs as community league officials. At the end of the program, the aspiring officials will take a certification test and have the opportunity to referee local recreational and high school games. NYCHA's Office of Public-Private Partnerships and Department of Community Operations closely worked with the NFL to establish this unique training effort.

"I was interested in officiating before I ever found out about the program," said Nate Howard, 21, who lives in Hammel Houses in Queens. "My plan was to officiate Pop Warner [a youth football league], so I think this program will put me in a good position to do that."

"This academy is a no brainer, because it lays the groundwork for younger officials and lets them know the basics of officiating," said NFL executive Terrell Canton. "The ideal starting age for an official is 25, so these kids

will have a major head start."

The NFL employs 119 officials in what essentially is a high-octane, seasonal job (July through January). Wayne S. Mackie, Director of Operations for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), just completed his third season with the NFL as a Head Linesman. Mr. Mackie, the only current NFL official from New York City and a former resident of Brooklyn's Linden Houses, began his officiating career in the local community and high school leagues the Academy's graduates will enter. The fee an official can earn at the lower levels varies depending on the players' age group, competitive level and what state they are in. It can be \$10 for youth games and \$45 for competitive high school varsity games.

"Most of our officials worked their way up from Pee Wee and college," Mr. Mackie said. "This is somewhat of a turtle race, but there's a light at the end of this tunnel if you're passionate and dedicated. If you complete this, you start to learn that commitment leads to success. We preach the five C's – confidence, commitment,

the courage to compete and conflict resolution."

NFL referees earn between \$40,000 and \$100,000 per year. However, the league considers refereeing a part-time career and seeks officials who are successful in other aspects of their lives.

Beyond the life lessons and career opportunities inherent in the Academy's program, representatives from NYCHA and the NFL also stressed its networking and mentorship possibilities. Both organizations are discussing providing internships at the NFL's headquarters, as well as bringing the Academy's top performers to the Pro Bowl. Most of the NFL's officials are experienced professionals off the field who could serve as valuable role models and mentors for the program's youth.

"If I can stay committed, it shouldn't be a problem to be really good at this program and good at the officiating when it's time for me to do that," said Mr. Howard, of Hammel Houses. "It's really serious here and the guys are trying to teach us a lot and I appreciate that."

Brent Grier contributed reporting for this article.



Photo Credit: Spencer T. Tucker

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (left) joined local father Francisco Gonzalez, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and actor Malik Yoba to kick off the Mayor's citywide fatherhood initiative in June.

bonding and teamwork and enhance their overall quality of life. Held monthly over the course of one year, there will be separate programs for children ages six–12 and for teenagers.

In addition, NFI will host on-site support stations, operated by NYCHA Social Services, to create a supportive network for fathers and foster an environment where fathers will support not only their children, but also each other. NYCHA Resident Employment Services will offer education and job skill training and assist with job placement opportunities.

Working with CUNY, NFI also will offer workshops and pre-college courses for teenagers and young fathers, enabling the participants to potentially acquire transferrable college credits, with the goal of increasing admission and graduation rates at CUNY colleges. Classroom study will be supplemented with one-on-one and group social and recreational activities.

As a member of the White House Fatherhood Initiative, I recognize that under-engaged and absent fathers is a national problem. The leadership we are taking right here in New York City not only dramatically will improve the lives of so many children – and their fathers as well – but also can serve as a model to help millions across the country.

As a father, I personally take special pride in this pledge to reclaim the fathers of New York City; to engage them in the great consequence of their role as both parents and caregivers; and to empower them to, in turn, empower and inspire their own children.

NYCHA pledges to do our part to help fathers reconnect and re-engage with their children so that they can play the unique and fundamental role that is so vital in the grand dream of their children's lives.

Anyone interested in getting more information about NFI can contact NYCHA's Brooklyn Community Operations office at 718-453-1296.

For information about parenting and resources for fathers other than NFI, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov.

Message from the Chairman

I am very proud of one of the newest programs we launched recently at NYCHA. Under the leadership of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, NYCHA joins more than one dozen other City agencies in a citywide effort to strengthen local families by helping fathers be active in their children's lives.

After Mayor Bloomberg announced the creation of the NYC Fatherhood Initiative in his State of the City address, the NYCHA Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) was developed in partnership with the Office of the Mayor, the City University of New York (CUNY), the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the Human Resources Administration (HRA) and the Department of Education (DOE). Other agencies are expected to join the effort as well. NFI seeks to foster a supportive atmosphere of father-child engagement while educating fathers in sustainable parenting and life and child development skills through various cultural, educational, recreational and social programs and events.

NFI builds on the existing services and platforms in our community centers to create a new network where fathers and their children will be supported and provided the tools they need to build strong relationships. NFI is in progress at the Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn, and is working with partner agencies to develop and roll out similar programs in NYCHA communities over the next year.

Through NFI, free programming will be offered at designated community centers for fathers and their children in structured activities that foster parental

NYCHA Kids Go 'Green'

By Heidi Morales

"When I hear the word 'green' to me it means we must save the environment by pleading to take a stand for our earth and its living inhabitants." So writes 16-year old Sabrina Golding of Queensbridge Houses. Sabrina recently won an essay contest for youths to express the importance of "Living Green at NYCHA," held by the Resident Green Committees (RGCs) at Astoria, Queensbridge and Ravenswood Houses in Queens.

The contest was part of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) efforts to expose children to environmental education, with the goal of shaping their values and awareness about the environment and how they interact with it. The eco-education of its young residents is a focal point of NYCHA's Green Agenda.

Sabrina, for one, understands the importance. And her mother, Shanton Brown, said she is very proud of her daughter. "Sabrina tries to give back to the community. She is multitalented and gifted; anything that's educational and engaging, she'll partake in it."

The Authority has issued

a directive requiring that all Community Centers have a garden and that youth be involved in the planting and tending of the gardens. The purpose, said NYCHA Board Member and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López, is to start a dialogue with the youngsters about environmental issues such as the role of trees and plants in ridding our air of greenhouse gas emissions. "The curriculum at all NYCHA-run Community Centers has been changed to include the Green Agenda," said Commissioner

López. "During Summer Camps, NYCHA's Community Operations introduces an educational component of awareness and empowerment to change the way they [kids] use energy in their apartments and teach them to live a healthier life."

For the past year, NYCHA, with the help of eight AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers,

Sabrina Golding proudly displays her winning essay, titled "Living Green."



Get your kids involved...

Make water conservation fun by turning it into a game! Keep a timer in the bathroom and see who in your family can get their showers down to three minutes.

has created 37 volunteer-based RGCs that are leading the charge at the development level to achieve the Authority's sustainability goals. Each RGC member signs a Green Pledge committing to embrace a responsible, low-carbon lifestyle by switching to CFL light bulbs in their home, recycling, conserving water and taking care of newly planted trees. To date, more than 800 residents have signed a pledge.

And building on their success, many RGCs are branching out to include young residents in their efforts as well.

"The youth at NYCHA have been very receptive to the Green Agenda and the RGCs," said VISTA Volunteer Maria Moquete. "Now that school is no longer in session, hopefully, we will see more of NYCHA's youth participating."

Sabrina Golding, who won a \$100 savings bond donated by a local attorney for her essay, hopes to be an example for other young people, and that her essay drives home the message that we all play a part in maintaining our environment and our homes. "I hope they become more involved. It would be great if they would volunteer more and take care of their environment instead of vandalizing it."

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 February 17 and 24, 2010.

Prohibited as of February 17, 2010

Robert Harrison Case 761/10 formerly associated with the 2nd Fl., 27-10 8th Street, Astoria Houses, Queens

Joseph Caputo Case 4107/09 formerly associated with the 3 Fl., 1718 Richmond Road, Berry Houses, Staten Island

Christopher Robinson a/k/a Michael Robinson Case 9064/06 formerly associated with the 16 Fl., 671 Westchester Avenue, Tompkins Houses, Bronx

David Jenkins Case 917/10 formerly associated with the 21 Fl., 1330-1332 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, Bronx

Kevin Bowman Case 912/10 formerly associated with the 14 Fl., 55 LaSalle Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan

William Sease Case 750/10 formerly associated with the 6th Fl., 113 Nostrand Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn

Shabia Johnakin Case 751/10 formerly associated with the 7th Fl., 1305 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn

Andrew Spalding Case 785/10 formerly associated with the 8th Fl., 930 Halsey Street, Ocean Hill Houses, Brooklyn

Devon Johnson Case 3088/09 formerly associated with the 14th Fl., 3353 Fort Independence Street, Ft. Independence Houses, Bronx

Jimenez Torres Case 804/10 formerly associated with the 1st Fl., 40 Gouverneur Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan

Lewis Clarke Case 524/10 formerly associated with the 2nd Fl., 370 Morris Avenue, Patterson Houses, Bronx

Ty-Meem Johnson Case 851/10 formerly associated with the 2nd Fl., 5705 Avenue H, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn

Ernest Brown, Leon Wallace Case 3550/08 formerly associated with the 13th Fl., 1400 East New York Avenue, Marcus Garvey Houses, Brooklyn

Vernon Thomas Case 885/10 formerly associated with the 4th Fl., 574 Warren Street, Wyckoff Houses, Brooklyn

Jose Rodriguez Case 6550/09 formerly associated with the 3rd Fl., Dwight Ford 108-39 Flatland Avenue, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn

Prohibited as of February 24, 2010

John Bush Case 479/10 formerly associated with 11th Fl., 85 Taylor Street, Taylor-Wythe Houses, Brooklyn

Jose Reyes Case 968/10 formerly associated with OG Fl., 130 Columbia Street, Baruch Houses, Manhattan

Victor Barrow Case 4271/08 formerly associated with the 8th Fl., 5210 Broadway, Marble Hill Houses, Manhattan

Henry Perkins, Jaret Perkins Case 5943/06 formerly associated with the 3rd Fl., 81 North Portland Avenue, Whitman Houses, Brooklyn

Harry Reyes Case 965/10 formerly associated with the 5th Fl., 41-07 10th Street, Queensbridge South, Long Island City

Joseph Rozier Case 1042/10 formerly associated with the 6th Fl., 24 Humboldt Street, Bushwick Houses, Brooklyn

John Brown Case 877/10 formerly associated with the 6th Fl., 113 Nostrand Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn

Lukel Hall Case 1013/10 formerly associated with the 1st Fl., 701 Willoughby Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn

Peter Lance Case 938/10 formerly associated with the 2nd Fl., 370 Morris Avenue, Patterson Houses, Bronx

New Resident Watch Keeps Their Eyes on Safety Tenants' Goal is to Reduce Crime and Increase Security

By Brent Grier

In a Queens catering hall on June 29, 2010, more than 600 people gathered to celebrate the culmination of not only a great deal of safety planning, but also its continued promise. The launch of Resident Watch was the latest result to come out of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Safety and Security Task Force. Resident Watch is a response to residents' requests to improve collaboration among them, NYCHA and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and to develop plans to reduce crime in public housing.

"They have set it up so that any prudent resident can be an asset concerning public safety, just by observation," said Gun Hill Houses (Bronx) Tenant Association President Robert Hall. "The hallmark of this initiative is a combination of grassroots and a collaboration of the different agencies to make this thing successful. That creates a 'can't miss' effect."

Although Resident Watch is new in its current form, residents have been volunteering their time for more than 40 years to enhance the safety and security of their communities through the former Tenant



The new Resident Watch logo was unveiled at the ceremony.

Patrol program. Resident volunteers will provide patrols throughout their developments and report and discourage any negative behavior using their best judgment possible. To help in this effort, volunteers will receive training with the NYPD and NYCHA in techniques specifically tailored to Resident Watch.

During the kickoff ceremony, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea expressed his satisfaction with the Resident Watch effort so far, but emphasized that the work only has just begun. "It is an enduring commitment to make our homes safer; to have neighbors helping one another; to take responsibility for our communities and to hold each other responsible in turn; and to realize that the future of NYCHA belongs to us," said Chairman Rhea. "The power to make our communities stronger, safer and more secure is in our hands."

The volunteer presence can

serve as a deterrent for loitering, vandalism and other criminal activity. Resident Watch will conduct surveys and make recommendations based on the results. The initiative also provides residents the ability to be more effective in contributing to the safety and security of their own buildings and communities in a more direct manner. "Resident Watch is something that serves to give honest, hardworking people living in NYCHA developments a real chance at a safer and more secure life," said Wise Towers (Manhattan) Tenant Association President Victor Antonio Gonzalez.

Additionally, Resident Watch volunteers positively can influence their neighbors' quality of life. Volunteers know they must be courteous and fair to those they watch over on a daily basis. Good judgment and patience also are important traits for a successful volunteer.

Each development has a Resident Watch Supervisor, who also serves as a part-time NYCHA employee. The Supervisor is responsible for coordinating volunteer schedules. To sign up for Resident Watch, contact your development's Management Office.



NYCHA recognized 12 Tenant Patrol Building Captains at the Resident Watch kickoff ceremony for their overall performance and professionalism in dealing with situations that arise in performing their duties. Also receiving honors was William Byrd, considered to be the 'Grandfather' of the Tenant Patrol Program, whose widow, Ethel Byrd, accepted on his behalf. The other honorees were:

- Bea Berson**, Pomonok Houses
- Juanita Boyd**, Moore Houses
- Lucinder Canty**, Polo Grounds Towers
- Sydell Cook**, Carleton Manor
- Elnora Doe**, Whitman Houses
- Gloria Garcia**, Cooper Park
- Margie Harris**, Pelham Parkway
- Katherine Hawkins**, Manhattanville Houses
- Dorothy Holohan**, Wise Towers
- Leon Oliver**, Edenwald Houses
- Gloria Phillips**, Richmond Terrace
- Caroline Thunder**, Pink Houses

Georgeanne Martin, the Tenant Patrol Captain at Cooper Park in Queens, opened the Resident Watch Kickoff by singing the National Anthem.



Former Prospect Plaza residents, members of the community and NYCHA staff discuss the plans for revitalizing Prospect Plaza at a workshop held earlier this summer.

Prospect Plaza Plan Pushes Forward

By Brent Grier

Joseph Hayes, 65, still recalls when he and his family lived comfortably in an eighth-floor apartment in a Prospect Plaza building. A resident from 1985 until 2000, Hayes was one of more than 1,000 who once called Prospect Plaza home, but had to adjust to a different lifestyle when the development closed for renovations in 2003. Built originally in 1974 by a private developer, Prospect Plaza fell on hard times due to deterioration from poor construction and lack of maintenance. He and his former neighbors had the opportunity to weigh in on the development's future at the Re-Vision Prospect Plaza workshop in June. The new Prospect Plaza will include Prospect Place North, Prospect Place South and Saratoga Park.

Mr. Hayes, who currently lives in Bay View Houses in Brooklyn, was pleased to have the chance to discuss the future of Prospect Plaza with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). "This has been a long process. They're saying that this is a new administration and things are going to get moving but they got to stick to that and we'll have to see if they are really serious about moving this thing forward," said Hayes.

Safety will be a top priority in the revitalization. The buildings will be between four and six stories high, as studies show that taller buildings can be more vulnerable to criminal activity. The smaller scale will usher Prospect Plaza into a more modern system of architecture, with some of the design attending to the needs of seniors and large families.

"This has been a long process. They're saying that this is a new administration and things are going to get moving but they got to stick to that and we'll have to see if they are really serious about moving this thing forward."

More than 360 apartment units will be built, with 12,500 square feet of community space included. The plan includes numerous options for retail space, including allocating 20,000 square feet for a supermarket. Other possibilities include space for banks, dry cleaners and cafés.

Green space is expected to have a large role on the sites, where there will be backyards and parks, including a 3,000-square foot open space

recreational area. Attendees at the workshop suggested that there also be smaller spaces at each site for quiet recreation. In line with NYCHA's commitment to its Green Agenda, proposals call for the use of sustainable materials in the construction of the new Prospect Plaza.

Phase I of the project was completed in August 2005, a joint initiative between NYCHA and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, the project was suspended in 2007 after it was determined that the project in its current form was not feasible financially, and Phases II and III never were completed.

NYCHA and project stakeholders will continue to go over designs at more meetings throughout the year. NYCHA is scheduled to issue a Request for Proposals in winter 2011, and select a development team by fall 2011. The first phase of construction potentially would start by October 2012.

NYCHA Board Meetings

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2010 are as follows:

August 18, 2010	October 27, 2010
September 1, 2010	November 10, 2010
September 15, 2010	November 24, 2010
September 28, 2010 (Tuesday)	December 8, 2010
October 13, 2010	December 22, 2010

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at www.wnyc.gov/nycha 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 Calendar. 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.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3:00 pm on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition are also available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary no earlier than 3:00 pm on the Thursday after the 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. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call (212) 306-6088.

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Next Stop: The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Art can take many different forms – a painting, a sculpture, a photograph, a drawing, a collage – the only limits are what an artist’s mind can dream up. And hundreds of artists displayed those

dreams at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Annual Resident Art Show in June.

If you ever wondered where artists’ inspiration can come from, you don’t need to look any further than just

everyday life, as one resident whose work was shown in the art show can demonstrate. “I basically started looking at NOVA, PBS on Channel 13, and looking at the stars and the asteroids and the

meteorites and I just said, ‘Well, let me try to draw this, let me try to put it on paper,’” said Joseph Falero in the exhibit’s program. Joseph had several paintings with a space theme on display.



Nine-year old Jonah Velez, from Wagner Houses in Manhattan, used magic markers to create his drawing, titled “Bear.”



Natalie Skalka of Independence Towers in Brooklyn, proudly displays her painting titled “Multiboxes.”

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Residents in All Five Boroughs Now Can Pay Rent at Local Banks

Residents of Staten Island public housing have joined residents in the other four boroughs in having the ability to pay their monthly rent at area banks. The joint venture between the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and Victory State Bank marks the first time Staten Island residents directly will benefit from NYCHA's

collaboration with financial institutions to provide efficient service. The processing fee to pay rent at Victory State Bank and all other banks that participate in the program is only \$1.

NYCHA residents still have the options to pay their monthly rents by mail, online through the Housing Authority's

e-payment system or at authorized check-cashing locations. For NYCHA employees who live in developments, there also is a payroll rent-deduction program.

To see the full list of banks that take NYCHA rental payments, go to the "Residents' Corner" section of NYCHA's website at www.nyc.gov/nycha.



Residents Weigh In On NYCHA Draft Annual Plan

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) held a public hearing on its Draft Annual Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2011 on June 30, 2010. The hearing gave residents a chance to comment on the Authority's plans for the coming year. Residents previously were able to comment also at town hall meetings held in each borough in May and June. **While the public comment period for the Draft Annual Agency Plan has closed, it can be viewed on NYCHA's website at www.nyc.gov/nycha in the 'Resources' section.**



Angel Seda, who lives in Johnson Houses in Manhattan, speaks at the public hearing for NYCHA's Draft Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2011 on June 30, 2010, at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.



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For more information about Medicaid Managed Care and Family Health Plus programs, call New York Medicaid CHOICE at 1-800-505-5678.

For more information about Child Health Plus, call 1-800-698-4543.

SENIOR NEWS

Avoid the West Nile Virus

The West Nile Virus is spread to people by infected mosquitoes. It can cause encephalitis or a more moderate flu-like illness. In people older than 50, it can cause serious or fatal illness.

Mosquitoes in New York City have tested positive for West Nile Virus. All residents are advised to do the following to avoid infection:

- Wear an approved insect repellent when outdoors
- Cover your arms and legs when outside at dusk or dawn
- Make sure window screens are properly in place and not torn

If you have questions call 311 and ask for information on West Nile Virus.

Free Fun Events

This year there are hundreds of free events throughout New York City. These fun events include concerts, outdoor movie screenings and fitness classes. To view a list of the top picks of NYC & Company go to www.nycgo.com/free. To see the complete calendar of events, go to www.nycgovparks.org/events/2010. You also can call 311 and ask about upcoming free events in your area.

NYCHA Celebrates Senior Volunteers

More than 800 residents generously give their time every year to help their fellow senior citizens living in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, and the Authority held its 30th annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon on June 28 to recognize them. The luncheon allows NYCHA to extol the unselfish virtue of volunteering. The volunteers help improve the quality of life, promote independent living, monitor the health and well-being and meet the special needs of the elderly and non-elderly disabled residents in NYCHA housing.

"Day after day, year after year, our Senior Volunteer Floor Captains give of themselves so that their neighbors will have a listening ear to call, a watchful eye to trust, a good neighbor to turn to and a better life to call their own,"



Woodside Houses (Queens) residents Grace Carrion (far left), Elmira Bean (2nd from right) and Christine Leale (far right) and Woodside Houses Service Coordinator Judith Mitchell (2nd from left) cut loose at NYCHA's 30th annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon.

said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea during the event.

Senior Volunteer Floor Captains give their time in one of several ways: the Senior Resident Advisor / Service Coordinator Program which delivers supportive services, such as accessing public entitlements or advocating with

service providers; the Elderly Safe at Home Program that offers crime prevention services and crime victim assistance in the South Bronx; and the Senior Companion Program, which provides home visits for socially isolated elderly residents in more than one dozen developments across the city.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

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The Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group has awarded a \$250,000,

News from the Office of Public-Private Partnerships

Jobs Plus Program Receives Grant from Goldman Sachs

one-year grant to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to expand the Jobs Plus program at Jefferson Houses in Manhattan. Jobs Plus provides job training and work

experience for low and moderate income families living in public housing. Jobs Plus enhances employment opportunities, so residents can earn more income and enhance their

long-term job growth potential. The job training, in addition to access to long-range services, allows Jobs Plus participants to use a short-term, paid job as a stepping stone to unsubsidized,

sustained employment. The program is a partnership among NYCHA, The Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City and the New York City Center for Economic Opportunity.

Getting Physical at Independence Towers with Shape Up NYC



NYCHA residents stretch their muscles – but not their budgets – at a free Shape Up NYC class at Independence Towers Senior Center in Brooklyn.

By Heidi Morales

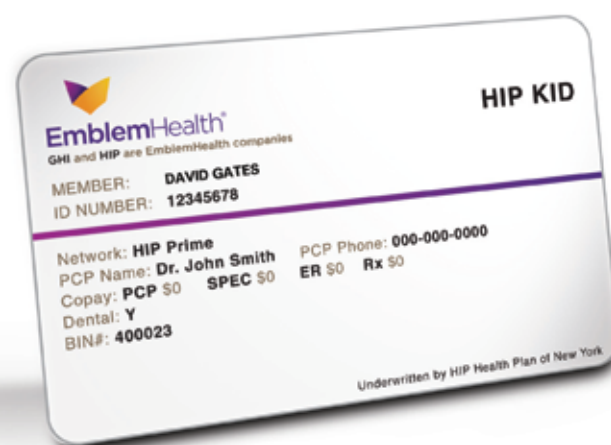
Summers are notorious for last-minute total body makeovers to fit into swimsuits or drop some extra pounds before a wedding, but a group of seniors at NYCHA's Independence Towers in Brooklyn is concerned with more long-term results. More than 40 seniors participate twice a week in an exercise class offered through Shape Up NYC, run by the City's Department of Parks and Recreation.

"This is the best. When this class started I was one of the first," said Carmen Hernandez, who is in her 80s. "This is going to help me lose some weight and keep me healthy. I come here two times a week. I exercise in my house and I do my walking and so far I've lost ten pounds."

Shape Up NYC offers classes in all five boroughs, and all classes are free and available to people of all ages. The program encourages children, adults and seniors to get into a new habit of fitness. The classes are taught by expert instructors from Equinox fitness clubs and include aerobics, yoga, pilates and the latest sensation in the exercise world – zumba – a dance fitness program that fuses Latin rhythms like salsa and merengue.

To find out more information and for class times and locations, visit www.nyc.gov/parks.

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Ceiling fans can help you save energy:

- A. in the summer
- B. in the winter
- C. in both summer and winter



ANSWER: C

Which statement is true?

- A. microwaves use less than half the power of traditional ovens
- B. traditional ovens use less than half the power of microwaves



ANSWER: A

What's the correct way to handle the following safety issues?

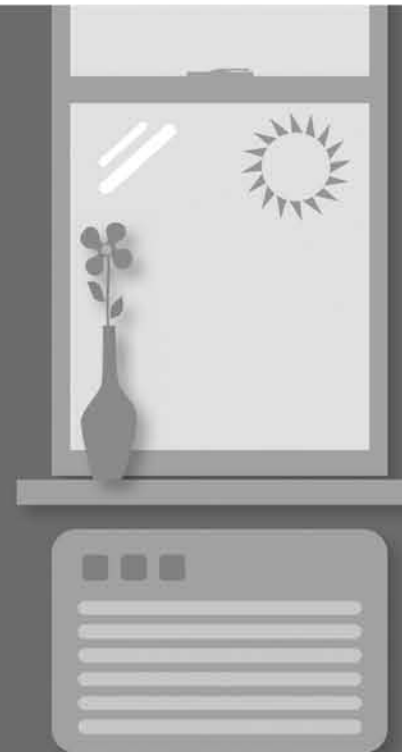
- A. report electric power problems online at conEd.com or by cell phone
- B. report power problems by calling 1-800-75-CONED
- C. call 1-800-75-CONED if you see steam on New York City streets
- D. all of the above



ANSWER: D

A good rule of thumb for air conditioner use is to:

- A. open windows and turn off A/C when it's 70° or cooler outside
- B. run your A/C for one hour then close windows to trap the cool air
- C. run your A/C and leave windows closed until cold fall weather returns



ANSWER: A

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