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## FAST FACTS

Senior citizens make up more than 18% of NYCHA's total population.

The development with the most entries in NYCHA's 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden and Greening Competition was Beach 41st Street Houses in Queens with 29 entries.

## New Affordable Housing Options on NYCHA Property to be Available for Residents

It may be the fall, but new residences have begun to rise on two NYCHA properties. Groundbreakings were held in mid-October for low-income senior housing at Pomonok Houses in Queens and for affordable housing at Elliott-Chelsea Houses in Manhattan. Although the residences will not be operated by NYCHA, some units will be made available to public housing residents.

Covering 25,000 square feet of land, what once was a parking lot at Pomonok was transferred to the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Property (Met Council). The land will be the site of Council Towers VI, an eight-story building with 78 one-bedroom units with green features and supportive services for low-income senior citizens who are able to live independently, as part of the federal Supportive Housing for the Elderly Program.

For the first time ever in this type of housing development, seniors residing in NYCHA's public housing will receive preference for 19 of the units. Priority first will be given to Pomonok residents and next to seniors living in other NYCHA developments. Once the seniors move out of public housing and into Council Towers VI, there will be a ripple effect on NYCHA's waiting list, particularly large families. A number of seniors live in multi-bedroom units that can accommodate larger families.

"I am so proud to be with you today, as we reaffirm



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (center) prepares to break ground at the site of a former NYCHA parking lot in Queens at Council Towers VI, an eight-story, 78-unit residence for low-income senior citizens run by the Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, on October 14, 2010.

New York City's commitment to stand with our seniors," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea during the ground-breaking ceremony on October 14. "Council Towers VI not only will be a new home for several of NYCHA's seniors, but it will allow us to offer the benefit of housing to another generation of New Yorkers, as well."

Met Council will provide replacement parking spaces for Pomonok residents to make up for the ones lost to construction.

In Manhattan, sections of land from *continued on page 2*

## Queens Residents Get Assistance to Achieve Financial Independence

NYCHA, the United Way of New York City and the East River Development Alliance (ERDA) have created a joint program to help public housing residents who are behind on rental payments become more financially stable. Financial Independence

Today (FIT) plans to provide money management services to at least 2,000 households in Western Queens during its first two years.

FIT will operate in six housing developments – Astoria, Baisley Park, Pomonok, Queensbridge,

Ravenswood and Woodside. Residents will be able to access ERDA's financial counseling and education services, ranging from short-term financial crisis counseling and financial education workshops, to longer-term one-on-one financial counseling focused on asset building. The initiative also will work to connect un-banked and under-banked residents to mainstream financial services to help them avoid high-priced check cashing companies and predatory lenders.

"We believe that what we learn in Western Queens will have citywide and national significance," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "NYCHA is hopeful that not only will ERDA succeed in providing financial counseling so residents can achieve economic independence, but that NYCHA will increase revenue by securing more timely rental payments and holding fewer rental arrear delinquency proceedings."

FIT was announced on September 27 *continued on page 2*



Miriam Booth from Astoria Houses discusses financial planning with Jeremy Reiss, Vice President for Strategy Organizing and External Affairs at the Financial Independence Today (FIT) Center in Queens, on September 27, 2010.

## NYCHA Celebrates 5th Annual Resident Scholarship Winners



The 10 winners of the 2010 NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship stand with NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (center) at the program's reception on September 30, 2010.

By Heidi Morales

Ebony Alston always has loved art. At a young age, her mother encouraged her to develop her artistic talents, and she spent endless hours in museums and art galleries. But her dream of getting a higher education and becoming an artist became difficult when her mother and grandmother passed away, leaving her to care for her younger brother and support the household. However, she pressed on and now is enrolled in the City University of New York's (CUNY) New York City College of Technology. The 25-year-old resident of Morris Houses in the Bronx also is one of 10 public housing residents awarded \$1,000 to continue her studies.

The NYCHA-CUNY

Resident Scholarship Program, established in 2005, awards scholarships to public housing residents who are enrolled in a CUNY school, maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and major in a variety of concentrations.

"I know there is much more work for me to do. I am just getting started," said Ms. Alston. "I know my mom and grandmother are very proud. I nearly cried when my little brother texted me 'I love you big sis. I am so proud of you.'"

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea encouraged the students to keep their dreams alive in the face of hardships and disappointments. "This is just one of many steps on your road to success," he said. "With each step you take, may you be reminded that we believe in you,

that we want the best for you and that we are counting on you to use your education to leave your community better than you found it."

Joshua Carter, a 20-year old resident of Van Dyke Houses in Brooklyn and a student at Medgar Evers College, is a perfect example of a person who has transformed life's challenges into victories. Mr. Carter has Proteus Syndrome, which enlarges the right side of his body causing other illnesses, such as cystic lung disease and the curving of his spine making it difficult to walk. In honor of his will and unwavering strength of character, Mr. Carter was awarded the first Regina Figueroa Memorial Scholarship. Ms. Figueroa was an employee of NYCHA's Department of Communications for 10 years, and also was a resident of

public housing and attended John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She spent most of her life in a wheelchair, but that did not stop her from advocating for the rights of the disabled and from living her life to the fullest.

The other 2010 NYCHA/CUNY Resident Scholarship Winners are Lilian Almanzar, Melrose Houses (Bronx); Dioselina Bohorquez-Leon, Marcy Houses (Brooklyn); Bineta Diouf, James Weldon Johnson Houses (Manhattan); Elizabeth Harrison, Breukelen Houses (Brooklyn); Chanell Johnson, Lillian Wald Houses (Manhattan); Maritza Maldonado, Polo Grounds Towers (Manhattan); Maritza McGinn, Pelham Parkway Houses (Bronx); and Juan Nivel, Queensbridge South Houses (Queens).

◀ continued from page 1

### Queens Residents Get Assistance to Achieve Financial Independence

at the grand opening of ERDA's Astoria Houses office, which received capital support from City Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr.

"I am so excited to have the FIT program and the ERDA Astoria office in my community," said Astoria Houses Tenant Association President Claudia Coger. "ERDA's work truly is innovative and I know the work we are doing with the rental arrears population will have a major impact here, and become a model which can be replicated citywide."

## News from the Office of Public-Private Partnerships

### Access Control Makeover at Mott Haven

Mott Haven Houses in the Bronx is getting new building entrance door locks and a new wireless intercom system to help improve safety and security in the development's eight buildings. The new equipment will come thanks to a \$250,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). "Residents are going to be so happy when they learn about this," said John Johnson, Mott Haven's Resident Association President. "We need these improvements so badly."

The front entrances at Mott Haven repeatedly are vandalized, allowing anyone to enter the buildings. But after installation, traditional keys and locks will be obsolete, and residents will enter their building with a programmable key card that can be activated or deactivated in an instant. The card readers are Kevlar-coated and bulletproof to prevent tampering. Malfunctioning components and compromised doors will be monitored electronically – if a door remains open for an extended period, an alarm will be sent to NYCHA's security operations center.

The wireless intercom system will have the ability to call landline and cell phones, eliminating the reliance on local phone company service. The intercoms will be encased in stainless steel and have a custom protective coating to prevent vandalism. They can be programmed for multiple languages and will be integrated fully into the closed circuit television system.

In 2009, there was an increase in arrests for felonies, misdemeanors and narcotics at Mott Haven of more than 50 percent. The increase in criminal activity was related directly to breaches in building security. The equipment that will be installed thanks to the HUD grant targets the crucial need for heightened security and safety systems in the development.

◀ continued from page 1


### New Affordable Housing Options on NYCHA Property to be Available for Residents

Elliott and Chelsea Houses will be home to a new 22-story rental apartment building. The units will be available to households with earnings ranging from 40% to 195% of the median income of the area. Consisting of 168 apartments, 34 of the units will be reserved for income-eligible NYCHA residents, with priority

to residents of Elliott and Chelsea. The project will include 30 replacement parking spaces for residents at the developments and NYCHA employees, and more than 7,000 square feet of retail space on the ground level.

"This exemplifies our commitment to facilitate affordable housing production on suitable sites within NYCHA developments," said Chairman Rhea at the groundbreaking ceremony on October 26. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by 2012.

The Inside this Issue: Green Photo is Courtesy of Samuel Lahoz Photography.



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

# Journal

**76**  
years  
of Public Housing  
in New York City

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## Message from the Chairman

With an eye toward the future, the New York City Housing Authority is undergoing an ambitious and transformative planning process to ensure the preservation and growth of public and affordable housing in New York City – the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Through the Plan, we will

address the challenges we face today, clarify our vision and lay the groundwork for future generations in the City. It is the most important initiative the Authority is undertaking in the coming months.

The Plan to Preserve Public Housing will set NYCHA's goals for 2011–2015. It will focus on six priorities – balancing our budget and ensuring long-term fiscal stability; using our valuable resources to preserve public housing and increase the number of affordable housing units; improving quality of life and enhancing self-sufficiency for public housing residents and Section 8 participants; promoting environmental sustainability in our workplaces and communities; increasing safety and security in our communities; and ensuring productive and customer-focused workplaces.

When I was named Chairman in 2009, Mayor Michael Bloomberg gave me a clear direction to address NYCHA's financial situation, improve the quality of life of residents and make the Authority more transparent and open to partnering. By working with our residents, community partners and other stakeholders to create this plan, we are doing this in a comprehensive way.

If NYCHA cannot fix its financial situation, we cannot preserve public housing. We have to find creative and innovative ways to bring in more money to the Authority. We are looking at new funding sources, as well as opportunities to partner with the private sector such as our recent efforts in the federalization of 21

developments. And we will take a long look at how we use our scarce resources. We need to use our dollars effectively to ensure the highest quality of service. We then will look for opportunities to streamline bureaucracy, eliminate unnecessary paperwork and processes and enhance delivery of frontline services to customers.

One of the most important measures of the success for this Plan will be its impact on our residents. We will define what it means to enhance the quality of life of NYCHA residents – securing jobs, enhancing educational outcomes, being safe and secure. We will bring the most impactful programs and services to our communities, and will measure our efforts so we can determine what works.

NYCHA will seek to engage both public housing and Section 8 residents throughout the process of creating the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. We cannot do this alone – we need your opinions and ideas. This does not mean that we can make every idea happen. Not every resident is going to agree with every outcome. But while there may be disagreement on policies, we will have an open process with you. You will know how we made decisions, why we chose what we chose, how items will be implemented and the effects they will have on your day-to-day life.

The Authority already has begun to collaborate with highly effective external partners, including the Harlem Children's Zone, Robin Hood Foundation and the United Way to name a few. These collaborations are leading to real results for our residents in education, employment and financial opportunities.

If you are interested in finding out more about how you can participate in the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, please call **212-306-6093** or email [plan@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:plan@nycha.nyc.gov).

You can expect to hear a lot more about the Plan to Preserve Public Housing during the coming months. And I look forward to working with you to shape NYCHA for not just the next five years, but the next 75 years.

## Green is Cool!

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has proven to be a valued partner in the fight against global warming. The Authority has helped Mayor Michael Bloomberg reach a significant milestone by participating in the coating of the one millionth square foot of rooftop as a part of the NYC CoolRoofs Program. On the morning of October 13, Mayor Bloomberg, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and NYCHA Environmental Coordinator Margarita López celebrated this accomplishment at Dr. Ramon E. Betances Houses in the South Bronx, wielding paint rollers and wearing bright orange t-shirts.

By adding a white, reflective coating to one million square feet of rooftop, which includes more than 100,000 square feet of rooftop on NYCHA facilities, the NYC CoolRoofs Program is helping landlords reduce cooling costs, energy usage and curb buildings' carbon dioxide emissions. The program is one of the original initiatives of NYC Service and will support the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 percent by 2030, a principal goal of PlaNYC, the City's comprehensive sustainability plan.

As part of the CoolRoofs Program, the roofs of 105 public, private and non-profit buildings were coated white. The reflective white coating can reduce rooftop temperatures by up to 60 degrees, which leads to reduced cooling costs and reduced carbon emissions into the environment. A cool roof also absorbs 80 percent less heat than traditional dark colored roofs and



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (far right) and Commissioner Margarita López (second from right) join Mayor Michael Bloomberg (center) at Betances Houses in the Bronx to coat the one millionth square foot of rooftop white by the NYC Service Cool Roof Initiative.

can lower indoor temperatures by up to 20 degrees on hot days. The decrease in temperature reduces the need for air conditioning, lowering electric bills and reducing energy consumption. The white reflective coating also can extend the life of a roof by five to 10 years by reducing the stress caused by extreme heat.

Several corporate partners support NYCHA in their cool roof efforts, including Bloomberg LP, Disney, Ernst & Young LLP and Moody's. Nearly 300 employees volunteered to coat the roofs with materials donated by the companies.

NYCHA not only has been recognized as a valued partner in sustainability efforts, but also for promoting its Green Agenda. On October 6, NYCHA was recognized at the American Institute for Architects – New York / Center for Architecture's Heritage Ball for its achievements in energy efficiency and greening in partnership with the Clinton Climate Initiative, a foundation established by former president Bill Clinton. This annual award given by the Center for Architecture Foundation recognizes an individual or organization that improves the built environment through education and community involvement. It was presented to the Clinton Climate Initiative for its work on energy efficiency in buildings in New York City and around the world. NYCHA's Green Agenda was one of the featured projects, with special emphasis on the energy improvements at Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx, which include new boilers and replacing incandescent light bulbs and existing hot water tanks with instantaneous hot water heaters.

## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been excluded permanently 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 April 14 and 21, 2010.

### Prohibited as of April 14, 2010

**Javier Anglin** case 2443/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 2926 W. 25th Street, Edenwald Houses, Brooklyn

**Quintin Lowther** case 2484/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 1135 E. 229th Street, Edenwald Houses, Bronx

**Daren Porter** case 2497/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 233 Sands Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn

**Felix Sanabria** case 9047/09 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 250 Clinton Street, LaGuardia, Manhattan

**Leon Santiago** case 2452/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 674 E. 149th Street, St. Mary's Park Houses, Bronx

**Ainsley Waddell** case 2486/10 formerly associated with the 9th fl., 393 Dumont Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of April 21, 2010

**Kevin Grant** case 2591/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 11 Lorraine Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn

**Angel Gonzalez** case 2597/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 50-41 Newton Road, Woodside House, Brooklyn

**Kevin Harris** case 2624/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 2-04 Astoria Blvd. Astoria Houses, Long Island City

**Jermaine Wright** case 2626/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 10 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan

**Edwin a/k/a Eddie Pedraja** case 2733/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 70 Palidino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan

**Ronald Rowson** case 2040/10 formerly associated with the 10th fl., 2991 8th Avenue, Polo Ground Towers, Manhattan

**Aaron Jack** case 1875/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 2304 West 8th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn

**Tracy Campbell** case 1912/10 formerly associated with the 6th fl., 141 Norway Avenue, South Beach Houses, Staten Island

**Mark Netterville** case 6579/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 2745 Schley Avenue, Throggs Neck Houses, Bronx

**Nigel Cooper** case 2297/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 80 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan

**Sean Brown** case 2782/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 110 East 99th Street, Washington/Lexington Houses, Manhattan

**Joseph Jackson** case 2758/10 formerly associated with the 6th fl., 67-31 Kissena Boulevard, Pomonok Houses, Queens

**Jose Berrios** case 2498/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 50 Columbia Street, Baruch Houses, Manhattan

**David Shurland** case 1158/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 426 West 27th Drive, Elliott Houses, Manhattan

**Emilio Osorio** case 2603/10 formerly associated with the 11th fl., 296 Delancey Street, Baruch Houses, Manhattan

**Anthony Lloyd** case 2632/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 3246 Bayview Avenue, Gravesend Houses, Brooklyn

**David R. Stallings** case 2719/10 formerly associated with the 16th fl., 3080 Park Avenue, Jackson Houses, Bronx

**Akeem King** case 2385/10 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 370 Bushwick Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn

## The Chief's Corner

### Holiday Safety Tips

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



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

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

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY,  
DIAL 911  
(NON-EMERGENCY,  
DIAL 311)**

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

## Help Out Your Neighbors!

Are you a resident and a NYCHA employee who also is bilingual? NYCHA needs your assistance! In last month's issue of the *Journal*, we told you about the Language Services Unit, which provides assistance in 37 languages to ensure that residents who are Limited English Proficient have meaningful access to NYCHA's programs, services and activities. The Authority could not provide this service without the more than 230 employee volunteers who provide oral interpretation and written translation. If you are a NYCHA resident who also works for the Authority, you can join NYCHA's Language Bank and help your neighbors who are Limited English Proficient. To volunteer or find out more information, please send an email to [LanguageServices@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:LanguageServices@nycha.nyc.gov).

**jbfs** KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM All services are free of charge.

### ARE YOU CARING FOR A RELATIVE'S CHILD ?

**We have many services including:**  
Financial Advocacy  
Support for Caregivers and Children

For a complete list of services and to learn more call:  
Diana Masri 718.676.4319 x417 or John Watkins 718.676.4251

Comments? Questions? E-mail [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).



## Have Questions about Turning 65 or the Annual Enrollment Period?

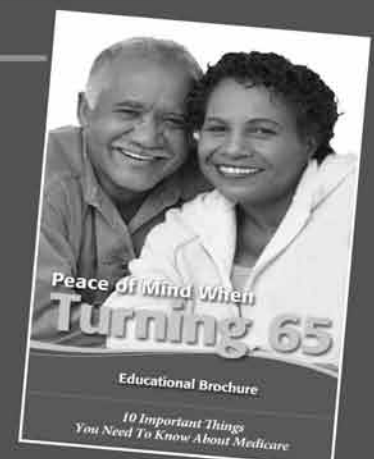
*Healthfirst Medicare Plan is Here to Help!*

**We can answer your  
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- When does Medicare start?
- How much will it cost?
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To learn more about Healthfirst Medicare Plan in 2011  
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Turning 65 - 10 Important Things You Need to Know About Medicare  
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(for the hearing or speech impaired)  
Monday through Friday 8:00AM – 6:00 PM

Healthfirst Medicare Plan is a Federally-Qualified HMO with a Medicare contract.  
Healthfirst Medicare Plan's service area includes the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Nassau  
and Westchester Counties. Plans may vary by county.



## Public Housing Residents Recognize NYCHA Staff for their Outstanding Customer Service

During the first week of October, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), along with service providers across the nation, celebrated National Customer Service Week. This annual event is devoted to recognizing the importance of customer service excellence. NYCHA spoke with residents about the staff members who they feel provide exemplary service. For more details, go to the "Residents' Corner" page on NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha).



**Staff member:**  
Efrain Diaz,

Housing Manager, Isaacs Houses

**Resident:** Rose Bergin, Manhattan South District Chair, Isaacs Houses

"Efrain always is the first to arrive at work and the last to leave. There are no weekends

or evenings where Mr. Diaz is unreachable," said Ms. Bergin.



**Staff member:**  
Gloria Finkelman,

Deputy General Manager of Operations

**Resident:** Rosia Wyche, Brooklyn South District Chair, Coney Island Houses

"Gloria is hands on and never says she doesn't have enough time. Even if it's past time for her to go home, she stays to work with residents to try to address their concerns, because she really cares about them," said Ms. Wyche.



**Staff member:**  
Joyce Harrison,

Deputy for Resident Relations, Department of Community Operations

**Resident:** Reginald Bowman, Brooklyn East District Chair and President of the Citywide Council of Presidents, Seth Low Houses

"Joyce's dedicated service as a resident relations professional is the foundation of smooth coordination and keeping communications running between all NYCHA departments, the Citywide Council of Presidents and the resident leadership of NYCHA," said Mr. Bowman.



**Staff member:**  
Diane Lewis-

Hinton, Community Coordinator, Department of Community Operations

**Resident:** John Johnson, Bronx South District Chair, Mott Haven Houses

"Ms. Lewis-Hinton helped save his life after a severe food allergy." Diane joked, she

## NYCHA Social Worker Honored by Mayor



As part of Customer Service Week, Mayor Michael Bloomberg recognizes one employee from every City agency. NYCHA's honoree for 2010 was Saron Mullings, a Social Worker in Brooklyn in the Department of Social Services. Ms. Mullings works with residents who have a history of mental impairment, and often are not able to advocate for themselves. "A lot of residents value someone taking an interest in them and understanding what they need," she said. "I offer a listening ear and assist them by making the necessary referrals."

laughed, she called my family. She kept my mind off of what was happening," said Mr. Johnson.



**Staff member:**  
Carol Tannenbaum,

Assistant Director,

Risk Finance Division Woodside Houses

**Resident:** Omari Lee, Ms. Tannenbaum helped set up a summer basketball tournament. "Ms. Tannenbaum handled everything within one week. Everyone else said it couldn't be done.

But she said, 'Yes, it can be done,'" said Mr. Lee.



**Staff member:**  
Luis Soler,

Deputy Director of Bronx Community Operations, Department of Community Operations

**Resident:** Herma Williams, Bronx North District Chair, Pelham Parkway Houses

"He helped us when the Resident Association first started, and still is instrumental in giving his time and talents to me," said Ms. Williams.

Comments? Questions? E-mail [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).

# Protect Your Right to Choose!

Soon, all Social Security and SSI recipients will automatically be issued the government's prepaid debit card.

**DON'T WORRY, YOU HAVE A BETTER CHOICE!**

**Get your Benefits money your way!**

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and peace of mind, Fidelis Care is faithful.

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quality, affordable health insurance coverage,  
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(TTY: 1-800-421-1220) • [fideliscare.org](http://fideliscare.org)

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## 2010 NYCHA Garden and Greening Competition Awards

Below is a list of all First Prize winners in each category. For the full list that includes Second Prize, Third Prize and Honorable Mention winners, please go to NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha).

**FLOWER** Morning Glory Garden, Breukelen Houses

**VEGETABLE** Green Thumb #1 Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

**CHILDREN'S THEME** Twinkle, Twinkle Little Stars Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation

**BRONX FLOWER** Rain Forest Garden, Patterson Houses

**BRONX VEGETABLE** Maria's Garden Vegetable Mix, Union Avenue Consolidation

**BRONX CHILDREN'S THEME** "NAUTICA" Garden, McKinley Houses

**MANHATTAN FLOWER** Sweet Success Garden, Manhattanville Houses

**MANHATTAN VEGETABLE** Polo Grounds Senior Center Vegetable Garden, Polo Grounds Senior Center

*Morning Glory Garden in Breukelen Houses, the citywide winner in the Flower category, adds vibrant color to the building entrance.*

**MANHATTAN CHILDREN'S THEME** Mrs. Potts' Garden, Isaacs Houses

**BROOKLYN SOUTH FLOWER** Breukelen Sight Garden, Breukelen Houses

**BROOKLYN SOUTH VEGETABLE** Paradise Garden, Marlboro Houses

**BROOKLYN WEST FLOWER** Red Rose Buster Garden, Walt Whitman Houses

**BROOKLYN WEST VEGETABLE** Bengie's Vegetable Garden, Sumner Houses

**BROOKLYN WEST CHILDREN'S THEME** Ebony's Garden, Marcy Houses

**BROOKLYN EAST FLOWER** Bundles of Love Garden, Tilden Houses

**BROOKLYN EAST VEGETABLE** Green Thumb Garden, Pink Houses

**BROOKLYN EAST CHILDREN'S THEME** Lea's Garden – Mi Bello Amanecer, Hope Gardens

**QUEENS FLOWER** Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses

**QUEENS VEGETABLE** Garden of Venus, South Jamaica Houses

**QUEENS CHILDREN'S THEME** Grannie Bloomers Garden, Astoria Houses

**STATEN ISLAND FLOWER** Flowers of Happiness, New Lane Shores

**STATEN ISLAND VEGETABLE** Dina's Garden, Berry Houses

**STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN'S THEME** Hands in Nature Garden, Todt Hill Community Center



## NYCHA Board Meetings

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

November 10, 2010	December 8, 2010
November 24, 2010	December 22, 2010

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at [www.wnyc.gov/nycha](http://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, NY, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition also are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. 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**.

## HIGH QUALITY FREE CHILDCARE IN HARLEM FOR HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

**Living for the Young Family through Education (LYFE)**

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22 East 128th Street, New York, NY 10035  
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The LYFE program supports pregnant and parenting students enrolled in any NYC Department of Education school by providing free childcare and referral services.

The Harlem Renaissance High School site has a modern childcare center for students' young children and is linked to a social services and health referral network developed by the on site LYFE Social Worker. The LYFE childcare centers are under the direction of a licensed Early Childhood Teacher, assisted by a team of qualified Care Givers who provide a safe and healthy learning environment that invites active exploration and play for the optimum growth and development of all infants and toddlers.

Children can be enrolled in LYFE soon as they are fully immunized (at the earliest, 8 weeks old) and can remain in the LYFE until the end of the school year in which they turn three years old.





## Senior Residents “Expand Their World” at Annual Benefit & Entitlement Fair

By Eric Deutsch

More than 1,500 senior citizens living in public housing enjoyed a beautiful day at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan on September 21 at NYCHA’s Sixth Annual Benefit and Entitlement Fair. Focusing on the theme of “Expand Your World,” the Authority placed special emphasis this year on the role new technologies can play in improving the quality of life for seniors.

Margaret Wells, from



A NYCHA senior resident has her blood pressure checked during NYCHA’s Sixth Annual Benefit and Entitlement Fair on September 21, 2010.

Manhattanville Houses in Manhattan, made sure she got information about iPads and iPhones. “When you go to a store, the staff never has patience for novices, so it’s hard to talk to someone to learn about these new products,” she said. “Elderly people don’t get out as much, so this fair brings information to us and there are people here who can answer our questions.”


Louis Perez, from Pelham Parkway Houses in the Bronx, enjoyed some of the leisure computer activities set up around the fair, although he said playing in front of a crowd may have affected his perfor-

mance. “I played Wii bowling. But I do feel more relaxed when playing it at home!”

In addition to providing access to new technology, there also were workshops on preventing identity theft, using social networking websites, shopping on-line and digital photography. Other stations at the fair included financial counseling, social services, crime safety, MTA Access-a-Ride, Social Security, volunteering and NYCHA’s gardening program. The fair also continued its traditional focus on health services, including screenings for blood pressure, glaucoma and glucose and foot care.

### NYCHA Benefits from Fete de Swifty Fundraiser

Fete de Swifty, the annual fundraiser of the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City, took place on September 29, 2010. The event, which grossed more than \$650,000, raises money to support New York City’s Family Justice Center, and for the first time, NYCHA also was selected as a recipient. NYCHA’s proceeds will be used to enhance educational programs for young residents. From left to right are syndicated columnist and event founder Liz Smith, Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez and NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.



**SENIOR NEWS**

### Medicare Part D Open Enrollment Period Begins on Nov. 15

### Get Your Flu Shots

Seasonal flu shots now are available. These are the shots that normally are offered each year to prevent the flu. The New York City Department of Health recommends all seniors should get this vaccine. For more information call your doctor or health professional. You also can call **311** to find out where flu shots are available.

If you are not satisfied with your current health plan, you may change plans during the Open Enrollment Period, which runs from November 15, 2010, to December 31, 2010. If you have Medicare and have not signed up for the prescription drug coverage (Part D), we encourage you to do so during the Open Enrollment Period. Call **1-800-633-4227** to sign up, to change your plan or for general information. To speak to a live person, say “Agent.” This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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## NYCHA Domestic Violence Resource Conference Highlights Causes, Prevention

By Howard Silver

Public housing residents and NYCHA staff recently received an intensive education on a chronic problem – domestic violence. NYCHA's Social Services Department's ninth Annual Domestic Violence Resource Conference on October 9 provided more than 700 attendees with a day-long training on how to recognize, prevent and overcome domestic violence.

Farragut Houses (Brooklyn)

resident Florine Bruce had a specific topic she wanted to learn about. "I want to know what I can do to help protect older people where I live. I want to do something better for the community," she said.

The Executive Director of the Foundation for the Advancement of Women Now (FFAWN), Madeline Nelson-Small, was the keynote speaker. FFAWN is an organization founded by recording artist Mary J. Blige and record

executive Steve Stoute that works to empower and inspire women. Ms. Nelson-Small frequently had attendees rising to their feet and responding to her moving message. In an exercise on self-reflection, she asked the audience to look at themselves in an imaginary mirror. "Do you see a reflection worthy of love and respect?" she asked. "If not, scrape off impurities until you can see them. You must see someone worthy of love."

Several dozen organizations offered information, such as the Brain Injury Association and local Districts Attorney offices, and 13 workshops offered topics such as the effects of domestic violence on children and how substance abuse affects domestic violence. In addition, counselors were available on

site for anyone who needed someone to talk to, easily identifiable by bright yellow vests.

Residents wanting assistance with domestic violence issues may contact NYCHA's Social Services Department at **212-306-3378**, or New York City's Domestic Violence Hotline at **800-621-HOPE (4673)**.

### NYCHA Seniors Act, Sing & Dance at Annual Talent Show



From left to right, Frances Braxton, Henrietta Bryant, Myna Majors, Lois Credle and Al Jones draw laughs from the crowd during NYCHA's 33rd Annual Senior Show on September 16 and 17, 2010. The original musical theater production, titled "Show Me The Green!," focused on the Authority's commitment to green initiatives and environmental responsibility. To learn more about the Senior Show or to ask about future auditions, call **212-306-2864**.



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For more information, call **1-800-382-HOME (4663)** or visit [www.housing.ny.gov](http://www.housing.ny.gov)



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