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FAST FACTS

For the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, NYCHA will hold 16 resident focus groups and will survey 1,600 residents.

Volunteers in NYCHA's Language Services Unit collectively speak 37 different languages.

Residents Have Opportunities to Shape NYCHA's Future



NYCHA staff participate in a focus group on the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Residents are taking part in similar focus groups around the city throughout the fall.

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is planning for its future, and residents can play a significant role. The Authority is in the middle of a year-long process to produce the next Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Under the leadership of Chairman John B. Rhea and the NYCHA Board, the Plan will set forth the agency's vision for the future, establish ambitious goals for

2011-2015 and will ensure the preservation of public and affordable housing in New York City. The previous Plan was adopted in 2006.

NYCHA cannot and will not do this alone. The Authority will engage staff, residents and partners across the city and the country to solicit ideas and seek guidance as it develops a roadmap *continued on page 5* ▶

Separating Fact from Fiction: Health & Human Services Official Discusses How New Federal Health Care Policy Affects Seniors



Dr. Garth Graham, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, speaks to NYCHA seniors about the recent federal health care reform.

By Brent Grier

Senior citizens living in Vladeck Houses in Manhattan received an education recently on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), the Obama

Administration's overhaul of the health care system, from one of the leading experts on the topic. Dr. Garth Graham, the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health in the U.S. Department of Health and

Human Services, addressed the confusion many of the attendees at the Vladeck Senior Center expressed about the plan. "A lot is being said about what this means for seniors," said Dr. Graham. "There is a lot of information and a lot more misinformation. I'm here to separate fact from fiction."

In his position, Dr. Graham is charged with developing policies that protect the health of racial and ethnic minority populations, who made up a majority of the people in attendance. Vladeck Houses resident Fernando Matthew was pleased that someone took the time to explain PPACA. "You hear different things from different people and offices so it's good to hear from someone big and know that they mean it," said Mr. Matthew. *continued on page 6* ▶

Plug Into Safety and Prevent Apartment Fires

A Message from the New York City Fire Department



A quick look around the average NYCHA apartment finds many electrical devices that greatly improve the quality of life – computers, televisions, air conditioners, stereos, portable heaters, microwaves. However, having a home that makes use of all of these items comes with a responsibility to think about safety always. Using too many devices at the same time, or using devices that are not safe, can cause an overload of an apartment’s electrical system, which can lead to overheating and an electrical fire.

By simply taking it easy on an apartment’s electrical power system, electrical fires can be prevented. This can be done by using these safety measures:

- Use bulbs with the appropriate wattage for the size of the light fixture. Too-high wattage may lead to overheating and fire.
- Purchase electrical devices with the **UL** or **FM** mark. The marks show that the product has been safety tested.
- Inspect devices regularly. If a device begins to operate with a weird smell or sound, and/or feels too warm to touch, unplug it and discontinue use.
- Never use a device with a frayed or worn cord. The rubber insulation is meant to cut down on heat output. If it is worn or missing, the risk of fire increases significantly.
- Give televisions, stereos and computers plenty of space around them to prevent overheating.
- Never plug more than two appliances into an outlet at once or “piggyback” extra appliances on extension cords or wall outlets.
- Make sure plugs fit snugly into an outlet. Loose plugs may cause sparks.
- Unplug devices such as toaster ovens, hair dryers, flat irons and coffee pots when not in use.
- Avoid plugging large appliances that use high wattage, such as air conditioners, refrigerators, irons, microwave ovens, dishwashers and deep fryers into the same outlet or circuit.
- Limit the use of power strips. They do not provide more power, just more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit. Use extension cords for temporary use only. And NEVER use an extension cord with large appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, clothes dryers or space heaters. These large current appliances generate increased heat in the cord, causing it to overheat, melt or ignite.
- Pay attention to the number of devices plugged in at one time. Make it a habit of unplugging devices not in use and unplugging one device when plugging in another.

For more information on how to keep apartments safe from electrical fires and other fire hazards, go to the ‘Fire Safety Brochures’ page on the New York City Fire Department’s website at www.nyc.gov/fdny.

It’s Heating Season!

October 1 – May 31

As required by New York City law, tenants must be provided with a minimum level of heat during heating season.

Between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., the indoor heat must be at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is less than 55 degrees.

Between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., the indoor heat must be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is less than 40 degrees.

Here are some tips to keep your apartment warmer during heating season, and reduce utility costs.

- Keep windows closed
- Open curtains to let the sun provide heat
- Keep radiator areas clear
- Seal leaks (Tenants who think they have an air leak and do not how to fix it can call the Customer Contact Center at **718-707-7771**.)
- Use blankets
- Dress warm while inside

DO YOU HAVE A DAUGHTER AGE 11-13? ARE YOU A NYCHA RESIDENT?

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This research project is conducted by Columbia University School of Social Work and funded by the National Institutes of Health.

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



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FASHION WEEK

As detailed in this issue’s Chairman’s Message, leaders in the fashion industry passed on their expertise to about 120 NYCHA youth on August 25 as a kickoff event to Fashion Week. The panel included, from left to right, fashion journalist Lisa Marsh (who served as moderator), *Teen Vogue* Fashion News Director Jane Keltner de Valle, BCBGMaxAzriaGroup Vice President Patrick McGregor, Designer Rachel Roy and The Ground Crew Founder and CEO Audrey Smaltz.





Message from the Chairman

Great things are happening at NYCHA. All across the Authority, from empowering fathers through our recently launched Fatherhood Initiative to strengthening communities with Resident Watch teams to improving security with our Safety and Security Task Force, NYCHA is investing in our residents.

Because our most valuable partners and the heart of the Authority are NYCHA families, I believe strongly that securing the future of public housing begins with helping you secure your future. That's why our Offices of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability and Public/Private Partnerships work so hard to create new opportunities for NYCHA residents. As the economic and employment landscape changes, we want to make sure our residents have the skills and training to take advantage of those evolving opportunities.

As you may know, for the first time this year, Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week was held at Lincoln Center, just steps from historic Amsterdam Houses. With Fashion Week literally in our back yard, we couldn't pass on the opportunity to connect our residents with industry leaders who could not only share career wisdom, but also help open doors for them. This is why I partnered with Reynold Levy, the President of Lincoln Center, to have NYCHA join with the Lincoln Center Collaborative – an association of private, academic and non-profit organizations located on Manhattan's Upper West Side – to create a "fashion connection" for our NYCHA teens and young adults.

On August 25, more than 120 of NYCHA's young men and women with an interest in fashion attended a panel discussion at Lincoln Center's David Rubenstein Atrium. Sponsored by the Council of Fashion Designers of America and featuring Designer Rachel Roy; former Harlem River Houses resident and Founder and CEO of The Ground Crew Audrey Smaltz; *Teen Vogue's* Jane Keltner de Valle; and BCBGMaxAzaria's Vice President Patrick McGregor, attendees gained valuable insight into the fashion industry's many faces. Designers and models may be the industry's most visible members, but directors, producers, stylists and writers – for magazines, newspapers and online blogs – are just a few of the other careers panelists discussed.

I was proud to see so many of our young people prepared with questions and ready to take advantage of this great opportunity. Rachel Roy invited them to the debut of her fall line; and Audrey Smaltz invited them to apply for internships with The Ground Crew, which provides backstage services at fashion shows.

This is only the beginning. NYCHA's partnership with the Lincoln Center Collaborative, which is committed to developing a neighborhood-based model to generate employment, training and education opportunities for local public housing residents through each of its member organizations, will continue to open doors for NYCHA residents – not only in fashion, but in many other areas, as well.

The beauty of creating new opportunities for NYCHA's teens and young adults lies in broadening their horizons and educating them on how to pursue a career path that engages and inspires them. It is my hope that NYCHA's Fashion Week Panel did just that. And I fully expect to see some of them on this panel in the future.

It Takes a Village to Go Green

By Heidi Morales

More and more people are looking at ways to reduce their carbon footprint. And although individual efforts to go Green are important, a collective effort among neighborhoods, local schools, churches and community organizations is needed to make a palpable difference in the movement toward environmental awareness.

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) understands the importance of such partnerships in accomplishing its sustainability goals. This is why NYCHA will continue to work with the NYC Civic Corps volunteers, a group of AmeriCorps members assigned to work at non-profit and public organizations to build infrastructure and programs that will enhance volunteerism. They will educate residents about how to organize sustainable Resident Green Committees (RGCs) to reduce energy consumption, reverse the effects of climate change and preserve public housing.

NYCHA values partners like NYC Civic Corps and relies on the support of others like Citizens Committee for New York City to provide funding for innovative programming at the development level and keep residents engaged with the Green Agenda and with their neighbors and community at large. Earlier this year, Citizens Committee awarded \$500 to five RGCs as part of a "Love Your Block" grant to assist them in beautifying their communities. The

groups have used the funds to organize cleanup days, purchase flowers for community gardens, build tree guards and conduct workshops.

Material for the Arts is another non-profit organization that has provided support and assistance to NYCHA in its efforts to get residents to go Green. Material for the Arts receives donations of goods and supplies from corporate partners, which are passed on to non-profit organizations and City agencies. Some RGCs have received paint and fabric for banners, while some Community Centers have received chairs, tools and books.

Another important partner in NYCHA's Green movement is the Mayor's Fund for NYC, which has donated 280 Tree Care Tool Kits to RGC members who commit to caring for or adopting trees at their development.

"We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish with the help of our Civic Corps volunteers and other partners," said NYCHA Environmental Coordinator Margarita López. "The resident participation has

been outstanding and the programs we've been able to develop have been innovative, timely and well-received. NYCHA residents have really made a difference and we hope that this year we can build on our past success and add more members to our RGCs."

The Civic Corps volunteers, who started on August 30, have very ambitious goals for the next 10 months. The group of eight has been assigned to strengthen the work of existing RGCs. In addition, they will work with residents to create 25 new RGCs at developments throughout the five boroughs.



Residents of Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn join an NYC Civic Corps volunteer as they use some of the equipment donated to them through one of NYCHA's partners.

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 March 24, April 1 and April 7, 2010.

Prohibited as of March 24, 2010

Frederick Boyd case 1740/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 340 Morris Avenue, Patterson Houses, Bronx

Edward Wright case 1748/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 383-385 East 141st Street, Mott Haven Houses, Bronx

Raymond Hecker case 1762/10 formerly associated with the 6th fl., 315 Saint James Place, Smith Houses, Manhattan

Jaquan Davis case 1739/10 formerly associated with the 16th fl., 301 East 156th Street, Jackson Houses, Bronx

Alvin Summers / Marcus Glaud case 755/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 233 Sands Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn

Prohibited as of April 1, 2010

Namel Lovelace case 1978/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 295 Jackson Street, Cooper Park Houses, Brooklyn

Javon Owens case 2033/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 111 East 128th Street, Jackie Robinson Houses, Manhattan

John Green case 2032/10 formerly associated with the 11th fl., 2832 West 23rd Street, Carey Gardens Houses, Brooklyn

James Penson case 1913/10 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 1239 Stanley Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn

Dalavone Thomas case 1977/10 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 720 Westchester Avenue, Adams Houses, Bronx

Johnny Montedeoca case 1873/10 formerly associated with the 7th fl., 595 Trinity Avenue, Saint Mary's Park Houses, Bronx

Anthony Logan case 2044/10 formerly associated with the 3rd fl., 1670 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, Bronx

Brian Hamilton case 6347/99 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 68 Cumberland Walk, Whitman Houses, Brooklyn

Chance Ham case 2071/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 601 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn

Prohibited as of April 7, 2010

Monique Mills case 2161/10 formerly associated with the 12th fl., 2991 8th Avenue, Polo Ground Towers, Manhattan

Raul Quijano case 2197/10 formerly associated with the 8th fl., 110 Columbia Street, Baruch Houses, Manhattan

Danrell Richardson case 2192/10 formerly associated with the 1st fl., 1430 Bergen Street, Albany Houses, Brooklyn

Mariano Rivera case 2193/10 formerly associated with the 10th fl., 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Garden Houses, Brooklyn

Elizabeth Genao case 1141/10 formerly associated with the 9th fl., 140 Moore Street, Bushwick Houses, Brooklyn

Francisco Delgado case 8303/09 formerly associated with the 2nd fl., 1755 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, Bronx

Steven Sanchez case 2338/10 formerly associated with the 6th fl., 680 Tinton Avenue, Adams Houses, Bronx

Ruben Cortez case 2071/10 formerly associated with the 4th fl., 811 Flushing Avenue, Bushwick Houses, Brooklyn

Timothy Glover case 2223/10 formerly associated with the 9th fl., 131 Belmont Avenue, Seth Low Houses, Brooklyn

Reginal Jones case 2362/10 formerly associated with the 11th fl., 1390 5th Avenue, King Towers Houses, Manhattan

Usef Hartley case 2349/10 formerly associated with the 5th fl., 65 Tompkins Avenue, Tompkins Houses, Brooklyn

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

The Chief's Corner TRICK OR TREAT

Safety Tips For Halloween

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

- 🍎 An adult always should examine Halloween treats before children eat them. Never eat open or unwrapped Halloween foods.
- 🍎 Costumes should be flame-retardant and should allow children to walk freely without tripping. Children's ability to see, hear and move should not be impaired by unwieldy masks.
- 🍎 Make certain that any face paint or make-up used on skin or costumes is non-toxic.
- 🍎 Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark.
- 🍎 Children should carry a flashlight and wear reflective or bright colored clothing at night.
- 🍎 Emergency identification information should be placed discreetly inside clothing of small children, in case of accidental separation.
- 🍎 Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them.
- 🍎 As always, children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly-lit areas and homes of people they do not know.

Halloween treats should be consumed only if they are packaged appropriately. Parents can help protect their children by making sure that treats are wrapped in their original, unbroken packages – no loose candy, open glasses or bottles, fresh fruit or homemade goods. If after eating a Halloween treat there is evidence that it may have been tampered with, or it has a strange taste or if a child feels sick, parents or guardians can call the NYC Health Department's **Poison Control Center**. The Poison Control Center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, for emergencies and advice at **(212) POISONS (764-7667)**, **(212) VENENOS (836-3667)** for Spanish language speakers, or **(212) 689-9014** for TDD users. The National toll free number, **1-800-222-1222**, connects to the nearest poison control center.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

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)



Breaking News: NYCHA Receives \$250K Safety Grant for Mott Haven

NYCHA received a \$250,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to address emergency safety and security needs. The money will go toward installing upgraded building entrance door locks and new intercom systems in the eight residential buildings in Mott Haven Houses in the Bronx. Check the November issue of the *Journal* for more details.

DEVELOPMENTS COMMEMORATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Queensbridge

Queensbridge observed its 70th anniversary on June 1. From left to right are Mary Mohan, Queensbridge North Manager; Carolyn Jasper, Queens Borough Management Director; Pamela Thrower, Resident Association President; Kevin McNerney, Queens Borough Management Deputy Director; Joseph Carrington, Queensbridge South Manager; NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea; Douglas Smith, Queensbridge South Superintendent; and John McManamy, Queensbridge North Superintendent.



Todt Hill

Todt Hill celebrated its 60th anniversary on June 22. From left to right, NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr.; Donna Harvey, Resident Association Treasurer; Sylvia Cunningham, Resident Association President; and Scott Marcus, Development Manager; speak with Susan Volpe, at right, a resident who maintains a garden outside her building.



Pelham Parkway

Pelham Parkway marked its 60th anniversary on June 30. From left to right are Antonio Garcia, Supervisor of Caretakers; Bartholomew Pulley, Superintendent; Herma Williams, Resident Association President; Jay Glasser, Development Manager; Melania Allen, Bronx Borough Management Director; and Mathew Joseph, Bronx Borough Management Deputy Director.



Eastchester

Eastchester commemorated its 60th anniversary on July 17. From left to right are Edwin Rodriguez, Development Manager; Keith Ramsey, Resident Association President; and Richard Scott, Development Superintendent.



Glenwood

Glenwood celebrated its 60th anniversary on July 30. In front, from left to right are Blanch Tadros, Development Assistant Manager; Patricia McKinley, Development Manager; Carolyn Walton, Resident Association President; and Perry Thornton, Supervisor of Caretakers. In back, from left to right, are Selwayne Burke, Development Superintendent; Edgardo Perez, Grounds Supervisor; and Norma Williams, Development Assistant Superintendent.



◀ continued from page 1

Residents Have Opportunities to Shape NYCHA's Future

for the future. Residents are closest to the issues that affect public housing and NYCHA's communities. During the next few months, NYCHA will seek resident input to better understand their needs, and to help inform decisions for the plan. The Authority wants to understand what most concerns residents, and how to work together to shape a better future for all NYCHA residents. These efforts will be coordinated with the Citywide Council of Presidents and Resident Association leaders. NYCHA has begun holding

focus groups and conducting phone surveys for public housing residents and Section 8 participants, which will continue through the fall. Selection is random and participation is voluntary. Outside organizations are conducting the focus groups and phone surveys, so no NYCHA employee will see any individual's responses. Also, the Authority will host roundtables next year to seek additional input on goals and key initiatives.

The focus groups and surveys ask about topics such as the quality of apartments,

safety and security, satisfaction with services, community centers and senior centers, youth programs and workforce development. Residents can voice their opinions on the greatest challenges facing public housing and the Section 8 program, and suggest improvements the Authority can make.

Analysis of the overall results of the focus groups and surveys will help shape the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. The findings also will serve as a baseline for customer satisfaction against which progress and success

can be measured in the future. Once compiled, the results will be provided in a future issue of the *Journal*.

The Plan to Preserve Public Housing will address five strategic challenges:

- How can NYCHA balance its budget and ensure long-term fiscal stability?
- How can NYCHA best use its resources to preserve public housing and increase the number of affordable housing units?
- How can NYCHA help improve quality of life and enhance self-sufficiency for

public housing residents and Section 8 participants?

- How can NYCHA promote environmental sustainability in its offices and communities?
- How can NYCHA ensure productive and safe workplaces and communities?

NYCHA expects to share the Plan to Preserve Public Housing with the broader public in late spring/early summer 2011. **Residents who are interested in participating or have questions are encouraged to contact the Authority at plan@nycha.nyc.gov or 212-306-6093.**

\$20 Million Grant for St. Nicholas Charter School

The planned Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) charter school at St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan recently received a \$20 million contribution from the banking firm Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. The funds will go toward construction of the facility, which will serve 1,300 students and is scheduled to open in September 2011. The school building also will serve as a neighborhood resource by providing available space for community use, including making the school gym available afterschool and on weekends all year round. HCZ will offer free programming for children and adults.

"President Obama challenged the nation's housing authorities to pursue neighborhood development plans that integrate housing, schools and community facilities, and that's exactly what we're doing at the St. Nicholas Houses in Harlem," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. "We've committed more than \$60 million to the

project, but without private partners, it could never happen. Thanks to Goldman Sachs' \$20 million contribution, it will."

HCZ anticipates the creation of approximately 100 long-term jobs at the new school, including teachers, administrative staff, security guards, maintenance workers and after-school program staff.

"The New York City Housing Authority is enthusiastic about the contribution of Goldman Sachs in helping NYCHA and the Harlem Children's Zone achieve better outcomes for the children and families of St. Nicholas Houses and the surrounding community," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "NYCHA has worked closely with St. Nicholas Houses residents and the Harlem Children's Zone to ensure the success of this project, including the assurance of admission for all eligible kindergarten-age children."

The \$20 million contribution to HCZ is the largest received by the organization since it was founded in 1970.



The proposed plan for the Harlem Children's Zone school at St. Nicholas Houses will open up 129th Street. The school is shown in blue.

◀ continued from page 1

Separating Fact from Fiction: Health & Human Services Official Discusses How New Federal Health Care Policy Affects Seniors

Dr. Graham explained that PPACA includes a one-time, tax-free \$250 rebate check for eligible Medicare beneficiaries. The Act also addresses what commonly is called the Medicare doughnut hole, which can put seniors receiving Medicare in an uncertain financial position, having to pay the entire cost of their prescription medications until they reach a maximum limit. The law will close the doughnut hole by 2020.

By 2018, seniors on average will save nearly \$200 per year in premiums compared to the cost without the new law. Many new beneficiaries also will see considerable reductions in their Medicare insurance.

In addition, a number of new rules designed to regulate insurance companies went into effect with any health plan year that began on or after September 23, 2010.

- All new plans must cover certain preventive services such as mammograms and colonoscopies without charging a deductible, co-pay or coinsurance.
- Insurance companies' use of annual dollar limits on the amount of insurance coverage a patient may receive will be restricted for new plans in the individual market and all group plans.
- Insurance companies will be prohibited from imposing lifetime dollar limits on essential benefits, like hospital stays.

- Consumers now have a way to appeal coverage determinations or claims to their insurance company, and there is a new external review process.
- It now is illegal for insurance companies to use an error or other technical mistake on a customer's application as justification to deny payment for services when he or she becomes ill.

More than 73,000 senior citizens (aged 62 and older) live in public housing in New York City, which is more than 18% of NYCHA's total population. Seniors are the fastest-growing segment of the City's population, and are the most vulnerable to mental, physical and financial worries. Elvira Yanes, the Director of the Vladeck Senior Center, said Dr. Graham's speech helped inform residents about ways they can address these concerns. "If seniors in the development come across problems, they'll know how to contact people like their social workers and ask the right questions," she said. "Having someone come here and tell them exactly what is going into effect and what their options are is very valuable."

More information about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act can be found at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website, www.healthcare.gov, in the "Understand the New Law" section.

NYCHA's Kids Walk Promotes Healthy Living

NYCHA held its ninth annual Kids Walk on August 17. Kids Walk gathers more than 1,000 youths aged 6 to 12 from summer camp programs in all

five boroughs who participate in a mile and a half walk-a-thon in Clove Lakes Park on Staten Island to promote healthy living. The children made banners that

they carried during the walk, promoting eating right and exercise. Every participant received a shirt, hat and bag with health-related items.



News from the Office of Public-Private Partnerships

Technology Grant Will Provide High-Speed Internet Access to Residents

NYCHA has been awarded more than two million dollars in federal grant funding to expand the availability of broadband Internet access to low-income populations. The funds are part of a larger \$14 million grant given to NYC Connected Communities, a City program that enhances public computer centers in low-income communities.

NYCHA will bring high-speed, broadband Internet technology to community centers in 13 developments in all five boroughs, and will serve public housing residents and people living in the surrounding communities. Senior citizens, unemployed residents, children and people with disabilities

will benefit from greater access to broadband Internet resources, and from a variety of Internet employment training and job search skills.

"The \$14 million award for NYC Connected Communities will significantly expand the availability of public computer centers in high poverty areas," said Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement. "Investing in libraries, public housing facilities, senior centers and community centers across the five boroughs, the program will serve 40,000 new users weekly, provide 1,047 new work stations, and offer an array of new resources for digital literacy, employment support, and other critical services."

The Housing Authority will hire 13 Broadband Services Managers to staff the centers and provide training to equip broadband users with skills to fully access the almost limitless on-line resources available to improve the chances for success in school, employment and other aspects of life. The 13 recipient centers are Adams Houses Community Center, Beach 41st Houses Community Center, Butler Community Center, Carver Houses Community Center, Hammel Houses Community Center, Hope Gardens Community Center, King Towers Community Center, Manhattanville Houses Community Center, Richmond Terrace Community Center,

Stuyvesant Gardens Community Center, Van Dyke Community Center,

West Brighton Community Center and Woodside Houses Community Center.

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From NYCHA to Oxford

Former NYCHA Youth Now is a Rhodes Scholar

By Brent Grier

For most of his childhood, Rakim Brooks called Wagner Houses home. In his journey to realize his potential, he has left not only the Harlem NYCHA development, but also the country. The 23-year old received a scholarship to be a Rhodes Scholar, which allows students to attend Oxford University in England at no cost. One of the world's leading academic institutions, Oxford exemplifies the phrase "melting pot," even for someone who grew up in New York City.

"It's great. There is no greater opportunity for interacting with smart people from all over the world," said Mr. Brooks. "It's truly an epicenter. I can have conversations with people from Zimbabwe, South Africa and India."

Mr. Brooks' family life

growing up in Wagner Houses played a large role in his development. He was raised by his mother and grandmother and draws inspiration from them, as he learned that bettering oneself comes with sacrifice. His mother struggled to make a better life for Mr. Brooks and herself. "She really pulled herself up from having little," he said.

During middle school, his mother found an apartment for them, but he continued to stay with his grandmother during the week so he would not have to switch schools. When his grandmother, an avid booklover, started losing her eyesight, he read for her. "It was tragic, but it was also serendipitous," Mr. Brooks said. "She just wanted to keep reading so I assisted her."

After excelling in his academics at Bronx High

School of Science, Mr. Brooks attended Brown University, where he says the academic freedom allowed him to grow. One of his professors at Brown suggested that he apply for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, which involves a rigorous application process. Past winners include former President Bill Clinton, Newark's Mayor Cory Booker and former New Jersey Senator and New York Knicks' player Bill Bradley. Of the 32 Rhodes Scholars chosen annually, the selection parameters are "high academic achievement, integrity of character, a spirit of unselfishness, respect for others, potential for leadership and physical vigor."

Mr. Brooks had experience as a scholar when he started at Oxford, having spent his junior year in college as a scholar at the Drum Major



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea (left), Rakim Brooks (center) and NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly (right) meet at the Drum Major Institute's 2010 Scholars Ceremony.

Institute for Public Policy (DMI), the New York City non-profit think tank that promotes social and economic fairness. Representing the 2008 DMI scholars class, Rakim spoke at this year's scholar ceremony about his experiences.

"I learned the importance on continuing to develop progressive positions," said Mr. Brooks. "In order to be counted, you need to be very

clear about what it is you want and plan to do about it."

As for Mr. Brooks' vision for his future, he plans to represent people in need of assistance. "I couldn't imagine being anything other than an attorney," he said. "In my surroundings, people often needed an attorney in some way, shape or form. People always need some form of advocacy."

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

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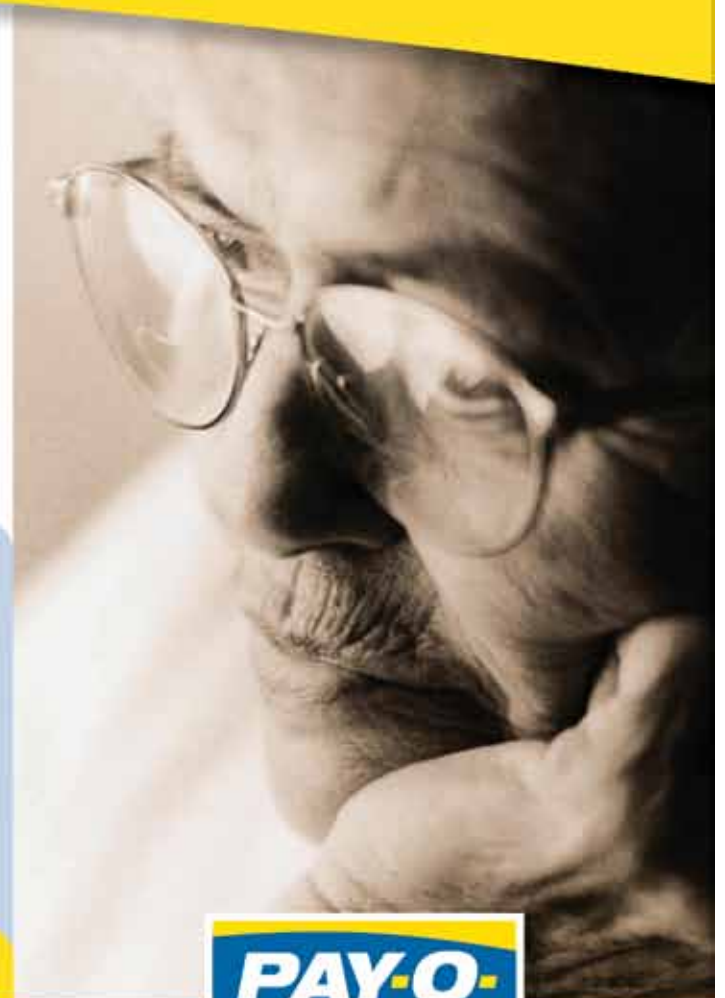
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NYCHA Language Services Unit Enhances Resident Communications

Did you know that NYCHA's Language Services Unit can assist people in more than 35 different languages? The Authority takes steps to ensure that residents who are Limited English Proficient have meaningful access to its programs, services and activities. Limited English Proficient individuals do not speak English as their primary language and have a limited ability to speak, read, write or understand English at a level that permits them to communicate effectively in the course of applying for or receiving NYCHA services or benefits.

To better help people with Limited English Proficiency, NYCHA continues to expand the translation and

interpretation services available to residents, applicants and the general public through the Language Services Unit. NYCHA employees are expected to contact the Language Services Unit when necessary to communicate more effectively with people identified as being Limited English Proficient. When a person with Limited English Proficiency is identified, the employee can call the Language Service Unit to provide interpretation services. The Unit is staffed by two interpreters each for Spanish, Chinese and Russian. More than 230 additional volunteers enable NYCHA to provide assistance to a wide range of residents and applicants.



NYCHA employees participate in mock conversations to practice for volunteering in the Language Services Unit.

Brooklyn Resident Volunteers Honored by State Lawmaker

On August 25, New York State Assemblyman Vito Lopez (Brooklyn) held his annual Volunteer Leadership Recognition Luncheon. The event honored more than 40 Brooklyn NYCHA residents who are active in their developments by

volunteering for Resident Watch, Resident Advisory Boards, community centers, senior centers or through other

opportunities. Approximately 900 public housing residents attended to celebrate their neighbors.



NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly (center top) and State Assemblyman Vito Lopez (in blue shirt) join some of the honorees at Assemblyman Lopez' annual Volunteer Leadership Recognition Luncheon on August 25, 2010.



Department of Education: Younger Students Can Apply for Gifted and Talented Programs

The New York City Department of Education (DOE) provides challenging and highly engaging learning opportunities to children who have an exceptional capacity to learn, think analytically and enjoy in-depth exploration of their interests. Parents of these exceptional learners are encouraged to have their children aged 4-9 years old tested to gain admission to the Gifted and Talented (G & T) programs offered in a select number of New York City public schools.

DOE has implemented a standardized, citywide assessment and identification process for pre-kindergarteners through second graders who apply to gifted and talented programs. Parents who want to have their children tested must complete a Request For Testing form, also known as the RFT. More information about the gifted and talented programs, including the RFT form and information about applying for testing, can be found at DOE's website at www.nyc.gov/doe in the "Academics" section on the "Gifted and Talented" page. The form also is available at pre-K programs in schools and community-based organizations. To get a copy of the form, call **212-374-2323** to find a location.

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Just Say 'Neigh'

Several NYCHA youth with disabilities spent the summer horsing around. The Authority's Department of Citywide Programs and Assessment and the New York Therapeutic Riding Center ran a nine-week Therapeutic Horseback Riding program for children with disabilities at the Chateau Stables in Manhattan. The youth spent one hour each week in a riding class with a therapeutic riding instructor and a physical therapist, along with volunteer walkers. Health care professionals have found that therapeutic horseback riding plays a vital role in the rehabilitation of children with a wide range of disabilities. Therapeutic horseback riding can lead to improvements in balance, posture, coordination, mobility and self-image. The program concluded on August 28, when each child received their own riding caps to recognize the progress they made during the summer.



A young NYCHA resident bravely grasps the reins as his steed makes its way around the stable as part of the Therapeutic Horseback Riding program.

NYCHA Youth Sample Sports, Learn New Skills



A young NYCHA resident gets airborne on a hopping ball during NYCHA's Education Through Sports Day.

By Brent Grier

Hundreds of youth from the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) tested their sports skills throughout the summer at Education Through Sports Days. The program provides a series of free instructional clinics and games designed to introduce children to sports they may not otherwise be exposed to, such as golf, lacrosse, soccer, volleyball and the martial arts. NYCHA hosts Education Through Sports Day events every summer in all five boroughs.

At the event held in Harlem River Park, eight-year-old Juan

Alvarez of Lehman Houses in Manhattan won a trophy for putting golf balls despite it being the first time he ever had picked up a club. "I like baseball better," Alvarez admitted. "I just got lucky, but I want to try playing again."

When the names of greats in the sport were mentioned, Alvarez and his new golfing buddy, eight-year-old Oscar Ruiz of Clinton Houses in Manhattan, traded blank stares. Primarily a soccer fan, Ruiz also won a golf competition even though he is unfamiliar with the sport. "I liked it a lot, it was great to win, but I didn't know I could play good," said Ruiz.

A skilled technician with his hands, mixed martial arts expert Ishmael Cato taught a clinic on the finer points of defensive maneuvering. "You guys better not try this in the community center," chuckled a NYCHA staff member while looking on at the demonstration.

A short walk away from the main field, NYCHA youth

and staff were treated to a visit from basketball legend, Darryl Dawkins, most known for his backboard shattering days with the NBA's New Jersey Nets and Philadelphia 76ers. "It's great to come out here and meet with the kids and show them a few things," Dawkins said. The near seven-footer was not on the court as a ringer, instead leading the children in a few drills, although he was unable to resist blocking a few layup attempts.

Box lunches and bottles of water were on hand to replenish the participants, who in addition to playing physical sports, flexed their mental muscles with board games like chess. Seven-year-old Kasey Sedgwick of Lehman Houses waited for his chance to play checkers, while his friend, 11-year-old Eddie Diaz, also of Lehman, had his heart set on a game of Connect Four. "I'm into baseball, but I want to play something else first," said Sedgwick, as he studied the strategies of other players.

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 a.m. 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:

October 13, 2010	November 24, 2010
October 27, 2010	December 8, 2010
November 10, 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 p.m. 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 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.



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