



Mayor's Message:

NYCHA to Add Resident Board Member



NYCHA has never had a resident serve as a member of the board. On July 1 that will change, when I appoint a NYCHA resident to

serve on its board for the first time in its history. And that resident could be you.

I decided to make this appointment to help ensure that the voices of NYCHA's more than 400,000 residents are officially represented when it comes to voting on contracts, resolutions, policies, rules and regulations, and other administrative matters. I hope that a large and diverse group of residents will apply for the position, and I encourage every eligible resident who has a passion for community service, team-building and leadership to apply.

The Resident Board Member will not be required to serve full-time, but will need to devote a minimum of 20 hours a month and will receive a \$250 monthly stipend for his or her service. You must be at least 18 years old and a resident of NYCHA in good standing. The new Resident Board Member will need to be cleared for service by the New York City Department of Investigation, the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board and/or NYCHA's Office of the Inspector General.

To apply to be the NYCHA Resident Board Member, please pick up an application at Property Management offices, Borough Management offices or NYCHA-sponsored Community or Senior Centers, or download it at www.nyc.gov (type NYCHA in the search box). All applications must be mailed to:

**NYCHA Resident Board Member
P.O. Box 3766
New York, NY 10008-3766**

All applications must be post-marked no later than **May 16, 2011**. Applications will only be accepted by U.S. Regular Mail.

This is an exciting opportunity for NYCHA's residents, as well as an important step as we continue our work to improve the conditions and quality of life at all of NYCHA's developments.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Bloomberg

Plan to Preserve Public Housing Survey Reveals Resident Concerns



NYCHA residents attend a job fair in the Bronx. Having access to job training opportunities was named as the most important program by NYCHA residents in a phone survey held for the Plan to Preserve Public Housing.

We asked; you responded. NYCHA residents said that they are satisfied with many features of living in public housing. They told us that their concerns are focused on their buildings, rather than their apartments or developments. They feel that the services NYCHA provides are important. And they communicated a strong need for more timely service for repairs. These are the key findings from a phone survey NYCHA held as part of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, the Authority's comprehensive plan that will serve as a vital roadmap for the next five years.

More than 1,000 residents and more than 600 Section 8 participants, chosen at random, took part in the phone survey, which measured residents' levels of customer satisfaction. The survey was designed and run by professors at Baruch College. The participants represented a sample of NYCHA's many groups of different ethnicities, ages and neighborhoods.

NYCHA also held 16 focus groups, which encouraged residents to discuss their attitudes about their experiences as a public housing resident or as a Section 8 voucher holder as well as their hopes for the future. The focus groups were made up of more than 140 residents from various backgrounds, including Resident Association leaders, NYCHA resident employees, participants in NYCHA programs like community centers or Green Committees and Section 8 voucher holders. There were groups held in

Spanish, Russian and Cantonese. The focus group discussions were led by a research firm so participants would feel comfortable speaking freely.

"The results from the phone survey and focus groups will go a long way in helping NYCHA shape the Plan to Preserve Public Housing," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "As we form the direction of public and Section 8 housing for the next five years, we need to be sure the plan properly addresses the needs of the families we serve. The survey and focus groups help us understand the issues that are most important to our customers."

While about two-thirds of public housing residents were satisfied with the overall condition of their apartment and development, only a little more than half were satisfied with their building. This was based partially on how safe residents feel in their building. Many resident concerns were focused on the quality and timeliness of maintenance and repairs.

The biggest priority for residents who took part in the focus groups was keeping developments clean, safe and functional. This included addressing the time it takes for repairs, and the quality of the repairs; day-to-day maintenance; security; the enforcement of rules and regulations; and how potential residents are screened for eligibility. They also talked about the different needs of their families and neighbors and how important it was that people were able to access the services they needed, whether it is day care or meals for seniors.

The phone survey found that residents showed a level of satisfaction in many aspects of their life in public housing. Most respondents said their apartment was a good value. A vast majority placed importance on having on-site support, especially having a management office, senior center and community center in their development. Access to job training and GED programs were the services that residents considered most important.

NYCHA already is working to address many of the ideas and concerns raised by residents in the phone survey and focus groups. The Authority is dedicating \$31 million over the next five years specifically toward reducing its longstanding maintenance and repair needs. Through a new initiative developed by the Department of Operations, NYCHA is targeting apartments with

Top findings from resident phone survey

- Satisfaction with many features of living in public housing
- Concerns focused on buildings, rather than apartments or developments
- Strong need for more timely service for repairs

Preferred way to get info

Public Housing residents

- Flyers
- Journal

Section 8 Residents

- At annual recertification
- E-mail/Text message

85% of residents satisfied with how NYCHA staff treats them when performing repairs

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Emily Youssouf Named New NYCHA Vice Chair

Emily Youssouf has been named by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg as NYCHA's new Vice Chair of the Board. Ms. Youssouf, who currently is a Clinical Professor at New York University's Schack Institute of Real Estate, previously served as the President of the New York City Housing Development Corporation from 2003 to 2007.

"NYCHA is gaining a real champion in the appointment of Emily Youssouf to its Board, and she has a strong track

record in her commitment to affordable housing for New Yorkers," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

"I am honored that Mayor Bloomberg has asked me to be of service to the City and I am especially pleased to be joining NYCHA at this momentous time as it embarks on its five-year Plan to Preserve Public Housing," said Ms. Youssouf.

As Vice Chair of the Board, Ms. Youssouf will oversee NYCHA's Audit Department, which provides indepen-

dent, objective, value-added advice to improve the Authority's operations. She will work closely with Chairman Rhea to oversee the Authority's mixed financing rehabilitation and real estate development plans.

Ms. Youssouf will begin her five-year term on the NYCHA Board later this spring.



Photo credit: Elena Olivo/ NYU Photo Bureau

NYCHA Board Meetings



Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's 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 2011 are as follows:

April 13	July 20	October 12
April 27	August 3	October 26
May 11	August 17	November 9
May 25	August 31	November 23
June 7 (Tuesday)	September 14	December 7
June 22	September 28	December 21
July 6		

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 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 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 business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call **(212) 306-6088**.

YOU Can Join the NYCHA Board

For the first time in its history, NYCHA soon will have a resident serve on its Board. As outlined on page 1, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg will appoint a Resident Board Member on July 1, 2011.

To apply, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be a resident in good standing
- Be cleared for service by the New York City Department of Investigation, the New York City Conflicts of Interest Board and/or NYCHA's Office of the Inspector General

Here is how you can apply:

- Get an application at any Property Management office, Borough Management office or NYCHA-sponsored community or senior center
- Download the application at www.nyc.gov (type NYCHA in the search box)
- Call 311

All applications must be mailed to:

NYCHA Resident Board Member
P.O. Box 3766
New York, NY 10008-3766

Applications must be post-marked no later than May 16, 2011. Applications only will be accepted by U.S. Regular Mail.



Ground was broken on the Harlem Children's Zone charter school at St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan on April 6, 2011. Shown from left to right are Harlem Children's Zone Chairman Stanley Druckenmiller; Harlem Children's Zone President and CEO Geoffrey Canada; Goldman Sachs Group COO Gary Cohn; John Ciardullo Associates President John Ciardullo; NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea; former New York City Schools Chancellor Cathie Black; Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg; and U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan.

New Harlem Children's Zone Charter School Breaks Ground at St. Nicholas Houses

A section of St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan got a little closer to being filled with lunch bells, spelling tests and band practice. The Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ) charter school, scheduled to open in 2012, broke ground on April 6.

The school will serve 1,300 students in grades K-12 from St. Nicholas Houses and the surrounding community. Preference for admission to the school has been given to children who live in the St. Nicholas Houses. An admission lottery was held last August for three-year-olds and about one-third of the kindergarten class entering the school will be NYCHA youths.

"This school is a gold-star example of how we're making

good on our strong commitment to improving the quality of life for the more than 400,000 residents of NYCHA," said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "At a time when other cities have walked away from public housing, we're investing in and improving NYCHA housing, so that it will be even better in the years to come."

"Today, together, we are embracing our children, our parents and our grandparents," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "Together we will foster the chance for our children that their parents didn't have. And together we will write the future of our neighborhoods – a future that is opportunity rich, healthy and more secure."

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Plan to Preserve Public Housing Survey Reveals Resident Concerns

the most pressing needs or with multiple open work tickets to reduce the time residents wait for repairs and reduce the number of appointments needed to complete repairs. The NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force has worked for more than a year to make public housing safer and more secure. Fifteen community centers are scheduled to open by the end of 2011. Through its Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), NYCHA has enhanced several workforce development programs to help residents obtain good jobs and build their savings.

Authority staff continues to work on solutions to address what it learned from residents. These ideas will be shared with residents at upcoming Community Conversations across the City for review and discussion.

"The Community Conversations will be a great way for residents to let their voices be

heard," said Citywide Council of Presidents Queens District Chair Ann Cotton-Morris. "I'm looking forward to seeing what the results will be when the Plan to Preserve Public Housing is finalized."

To read more about the Community Conversations, please see the Chairman's Message on page 3. To see the dates and locations, please go to page 5.

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



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Message from the Chairman

As NYCHA develops the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, a comprehensive strategy to move our communities forward, we have remained committed to talking to our partners. As residents and customers you are NYCHA's most important partners.

Through a comprehensive phone survey and detailed focus groups (see page 1), NYCHA received very honest feedback from a number of you about living in public housing. And we have heard you. The topics include wanting repairs completed faster; access to jobs; feeling safer where you live; satisfaction with the quality of service from NYCHA staff; having regulations enforced consistently; the importance of community partnerships; how you want us to communicate with you; and much more.

We have a better understanding of the issues that are most important to you, and that is where we will focus for our Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Now the next step is to have a conversation with you about how we can work together to come up with solutions to problems, and expand on what is working well.

Beginning on April 30, we will host 10 Community Conversations to share some of our thinking about the long-term strategy for improving resident quality of life and developing and promoting NYCHA's overall financial strength. We want to get your suggestions for how we should move forward together. These Community Conversations will allow you to talk with your neighbors, NYCHA staff and community partners about how you envision public housing in the future.

At least one Community Conversation will be hosted in each borough and we've scheduled them to fit into your schedule. Not only do we want to see you there, but we would like to have your help in getting your family, friends and neighbors to come as well. Spread the word to other NYCHA residents, because to make sure the Plan to Preserve Public Housing is going to work, we need all of you to share your thoughts.

The health, stability and long term growth of our communities depends on all of us. Only by working together will we make the NYCHA of tomorrow better, stronger and more secure. I hope you'll take a look at the schedule of Community Conversations that appears on page 5 of this issue and find a Conversation that works for you. We look forward to hearing from you and working with you to make our neighborhoods stronger, one family at a time.

Tilling the Soil and Raising the Crops in Public Housing

By Eric Deutsch



NYCHA residents sort through fresh herbs to make their own tea bags at the Ninth Annual NYCHA Grows with its Gardeners Conference on March 25, 2011.

The residents crowded into the cramped room and sat with undivided attention as they heard tips on cultivating fruit and vegetable gardens in the middle of a large urban environment. Cut gallon water jugs in half for plant beds and stack milk crates for shelves. Grow crops in circles instead of rows to maximize the limited space. And put cages over crops to prevent squirrels, pigeons and stray cats from eating them. These are just some of the tricks of the trade more than 500 NYCHA residents picked up

at one of the 16 workshops held at the Ninth Annual NYCHA Grows with its Gardeners Conference on March 25 at Hostos Community College in the Bronx.

"I learned a lot today about how to work the soil to get plants to grow," said Frances Johnson, from Cooper Park Houses in Brooklyn. "I didn't know you could use broken egg shells and coffee grounds in the soil."

At the workshop on "Indoor Plants that Clean our Environment," residents were told that standard light bulbs



The conference included a green resource fair that brought together gardening and environmental partner organizations that provided educational materials and free or low-cost gardening resources.

won't do any good for indoor plants. Fluorescent bulbs provide the light plants need to survive, including CFLs, which NYCHA now uses in developments to improve efficiency and save money. Another key point was to check whether an indoor plant is a high, medium or low-light breed, which determines how far from a window it should be placed.

"I want to learn how to better grow plants, especially about how acidity affects soil," said Susie Johnson, from Parkside Houses in the Bronx, who tends to a garden outside her building's entrance. "Acid is good for some plants but not for others."

Conference-goers even got an education on alternative medicine, at the workshop "The Power of Herbs." Among the advice dispensed was to boil a Mimosa root into a tea to help get rid of kidney stones, and blending Comfrey leaves into a pulp to reduce swelling from arthritis.

The conference inspired some residents to take a greater interest in developing their green thumb. "I want to have a lot of plants in my apartment," said Marcelina Torres, from Hope Gardens in Brooklyn, who loves how plants exemplify the beauty of nature. "I love and take care of my plants."

"There is a garden at the senior center I go to," said Luis Rosado, from Cooper Park Houses in Brooklyn. "Now I will get involved."

The NYCHA Grows with its Gardeners Conference was established in 2002 with the Bronx River Alliance and is part of the Authority's Garden and Greening Program. The conference included a green resource fair that brought together more than 20 gardening and environmental partner organizations that provided educational materials and free or low-cost gardening resources to resident gardeners.

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA's public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of June 30 and July 7, 2010.

Prohibited as of June 30, 2010

- Ulyses Beary** Surfside Gardens Houses, 2949 W 28th St, 6th fl., Brooklyn
- Alice Brooks** Seth Low Houses, 131 Belmont Ave, 1st fl., Brooklyn
- Christopher Brooks** Seth Low Houses, 131 Belmont Ave, 1st fl., Brooklyn
- Shamar Calloway** Hammel Houses, 84-14 Rockaway Beach Blvd, 3rd fl., Queens
- Gabriel Carmichael** Queensbridge North Houses, 40-07 12th St, 5th fl., Queens
- Tommy Hymes** Hammel Houses, 81-04 Rockaway Beach Blvd, 7th fl., Queens
- Antwan Jack** Hammel-Carleton Manor Houses, 71-15 Beach Channel Dr, 2nd fl., Queens
- Robert Johnson** Twin Parks West Consolidated Houses, 365 Ford St, 4th fl., Bronx
- Kevin Leader** Pelham Parkway Houses, 2215 Bronxwood Ave, 6th fl., Bronx
- Solne Martinez** Wald Houses, 40 Avenue D, 8th fl., Manhattan
- Wade Murray** East River Houses, 442 East 105th St, 6th fl., Manhattan
- James Parker** Bushwick Houses, 131 Moore St, 18th fl., Brooklyn
- Richard Randolph** Mitchel Houses, 175-177 Willis Ave, 9th fl., Bronx
- Valencia Ray** Pink Houses Houses, 2726 Linden Blvd, 8th fl., Brooklyn
- Henry Robinson** Castle Hill Houses, 2175 Lacombe Ave, 5th fl., Bronx
- Jonathan Ryals** Marcy Houses, 53 Nostrand Ave, 3rd fl., Brooklyn
- Linda Seawright** a/k/a Linda Jackson Mott Haven Houses, 340 Alexander Ave., 21st fl., Bronx
- Clarence Stephens** Bedford-Stuyvesant Rehab Houses, 701 Willoughby Ave, 4th fl., Brooklyn
- Kevin Terry** Mott Haven Houses, 340 Alexander Ave., 21st fl., Bronx

Prohibited as of July 7, 2010

- Miguel Figueroa** Van Dyke Houses, 352 Sutter Ave, 12th fl., Brooklyn
- Leroy Frieson** Whitman Houses, 75 Cumberland Walk, 5th fl., Brooklyn
- Luis Gonzalez** Bushwick/Hylan Houses, 24 Humboldt St, 9th fl., Brooklyn
- James Green** Brevoort Houses, 1853 Fulton St, 1st fl., Brooklyn
- Derrick Irizarry** Vladeck I Houses, 354 Madison St, 2nd fl., Manhattan
- Judith Ortiz** Whitman Houses, 75 Cumberland Walk, 5th fl., Brooklyn
- Francisco Pagan** Melrose Houses, 700 Morris Ave, 6th fl., Bronx
- Shaheim Perry** Whitman Houses, 32 Auburn Pl, 6th fl., Brooklyn
- Daquan Williams** Wise Towers Houses, 74 West 92nd St, 10th fl., Manhattan

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New Harlem Children's Zone Charter School Breaks Ground at St. Nicholas Houses

As part of the project, HCZ will upgrade the existing playgrounds in St. Nicholas Houses and plant new trees along 129th Street. Construction of the building will create 100 new jobs, with preference for the jobs given to St. Nicholas residents. NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability is working with HCZ to provide job search support. NYCHA and HCZ have held two job fairs and several resume

workshops for residents.

The completed facility will serve also as a free meeting space for community groups, with free programming that will include afterschool activities for students and other children in the neighborhood. Adults will have access to evening classes at the school, including nutrition, exercise and continuing education, as well as weekend activities for children and adults. The City still will own the property.

Notice of HUD Inspections

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be conducting a physical inspection of NYCHA developments within the next few weeks. The system that HUD developed for these inspections is called the Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). As part of this process, a certain number of residents' apartments will be inspected.



Residents can assist by reviewing the following items:

Electricity

- Your circuit breaker or fuse panel should not have any missing breakers or fuses (you should not see any of the wiring or parts inside the breaker or fuse panel). Do not block access to the panel.
- All light switches and outlets should operate properly and have cover plates over them. Light fixtures should be functional.
- In apartments with Call for Aid units, switches and pull cords should operate properly with pull cord hanging down to the floor and no furniture blocking access to the cord.
- Ground Fault Interrupter (GFI) outlets should test properly when pushing the Test button.
- Leaks near electrical devices (e.g. light fixtures, fuse panels or breaker panels) should be reported.

Smoke Detectors/Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Detectors should be installed and function properly.
- There should not be empty brackets with missing detectors.

Stove/Oven

- Check each burner. Each burner should light individually by turning the knob.
- The oven should work and have no missing knobs.
- Range hoods should be clean and functional.

Refrigerator

- The refrigerator door should close all the way. Door gaskets should not be cracked or broken.
- Lights should work.

Doors

- Bathroom, bedroom and closet doors should close and latch properly.
- Apartment entrance and bedroom doors should not have a double-keyed cylinder or padlock.
- Door knobs and latches should be in good working order.
- Doors should be free of holes or damage.

Windows

- Windows should work properly, staying up when opened and latching when closed.
- Window glass should not be cracked or broken.

Faucets

- Faucets and their parts should not leak when either on or off.
- You should have rubber stoppers for the sinks and tub.

Toilets

- Toilets should function properly and have no apparent leaks.

Mildew and Mold

- Mildew and mold conditions in any area of an apartment should be reported.

Exterminator

- You should not have any type of infestation condition.

Mailboxes

- Mailbox doors must lock with a key.

If any of the above items are not in good order, please contact the Customer Contact Center at (718) 707-7771 to schedule an appointment to have those items repaired. If you already have scheduled an appointment for these repairs, it is not necessary to call the Customer Contact Center again.

Resident Owned Items:

- Resident owned items also are inspected during the physical inspection of the apartments and should be checked and corrected as necessary.

Fire Extinguishers

- Resident-owned extinguishers must have a valid annual inspection tag.

Double-Keyed Cylinders

- Resident-installed double-keyed cylinders and/or padlocks must be removed.

Air Conditioners and Fans

- Resident-owned air conditioners must be in working order.
- Fans must have protective covers.

Mirrors

- Broken mirrors should be removed and/or replaced.

NYCHA thanks you in advance for your continued cooperation.



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- Your risk of heart disease is cut in half in one year

To find FREE and low cost programs to help you or your loved ones quit smoking, speak to your doctor or call **311**.

Share your thoughts, spread the word, get involved!!!

Join NYCHA for a Community Conversation

You can help NYCHA shape the future of New York City's public housing and Section 8 programs, as outlined in the Charman's Message on page 3. Sign up to participate in a Community Conversation where you will learn about NYCHA's Plan to Preserve Public Housing and how it will impact you. The Authority also wants to hear from you about maintenance and repairs, jobs and resident services and community/senior centers. Language translation services will be available at the Community Conversations, and there will be refreshments and raffle prizes. To sign up or learn more, call **212-306-6093**, or send an e-mail to plan@nycha.nyc.gov or send a text to **24587**. The schedule is below.

BOROUGH	WHEN	WHERE
Bronx	Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Classic Community Center, 286 East 156th St.
Brooklyn	Saturday, April 30, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Van Dyke Community Center, 392 Blake Ave.
Brooklyn	Monday, May 2, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.	Williamsburg Community Center, 195 Graham Ave.
Manhattan	Saturday, May 7, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.	Manhattanville Community Center, 530 West 133rd St.
Manhattan	Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.	Rutgers Community Center, 200 Madison St.
Queens	Wednesday, May 11, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.	Queensbridge Community Center, 10-25 41st Ave.
Staten Island	Thursday, May 12, 6 p.m.-9 p.m.	West Brighton Community Center, 230 Broadway
Chinese Speaking Queens	Friday, May 6, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.	Bland Community Center, 133-36 Roosevelt Ave.
Russian Speaking Brooklyn	Monday, May 2, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.	Carey Gardens Community Center, 2315 Surf Ave.
Manhattan (Young Adults, 18-25)	Saturday, May 14, 2 p.m.-5 p.m.	Rutgers Community Center, 200 Madison St.

Fallen Police Officer's Legacy Lives on at New Community Center

Gerard Carter Community Center Opens at Stapleton Houses

By Zodet Negrón

Emotions filled the air as family, friends, colleagues, community members and government officials celebrated the anticipated opening of the Gerard Carter Community Center at Stapleton Houses, named after a slain officer and hero of the Staten Island community.

"I've been crying ever since I came into the building," said his widow, Jozette Carter, in tears during the official ribbon-cutting ceremony. "This center will [not only] give the children in the area a safe place where they can be physically active and get the help they need, but it will also help to carry out the work that Gerard did with children, the work he took great pride in."

Officer Gerard Carter, whose life was tragically cut short on July 26, 1998, when he was shot while patrolling the West Brighton Houses, was known as a role model for children who lived in the housing developments where he was stationed.

The Gerard Carter Com-

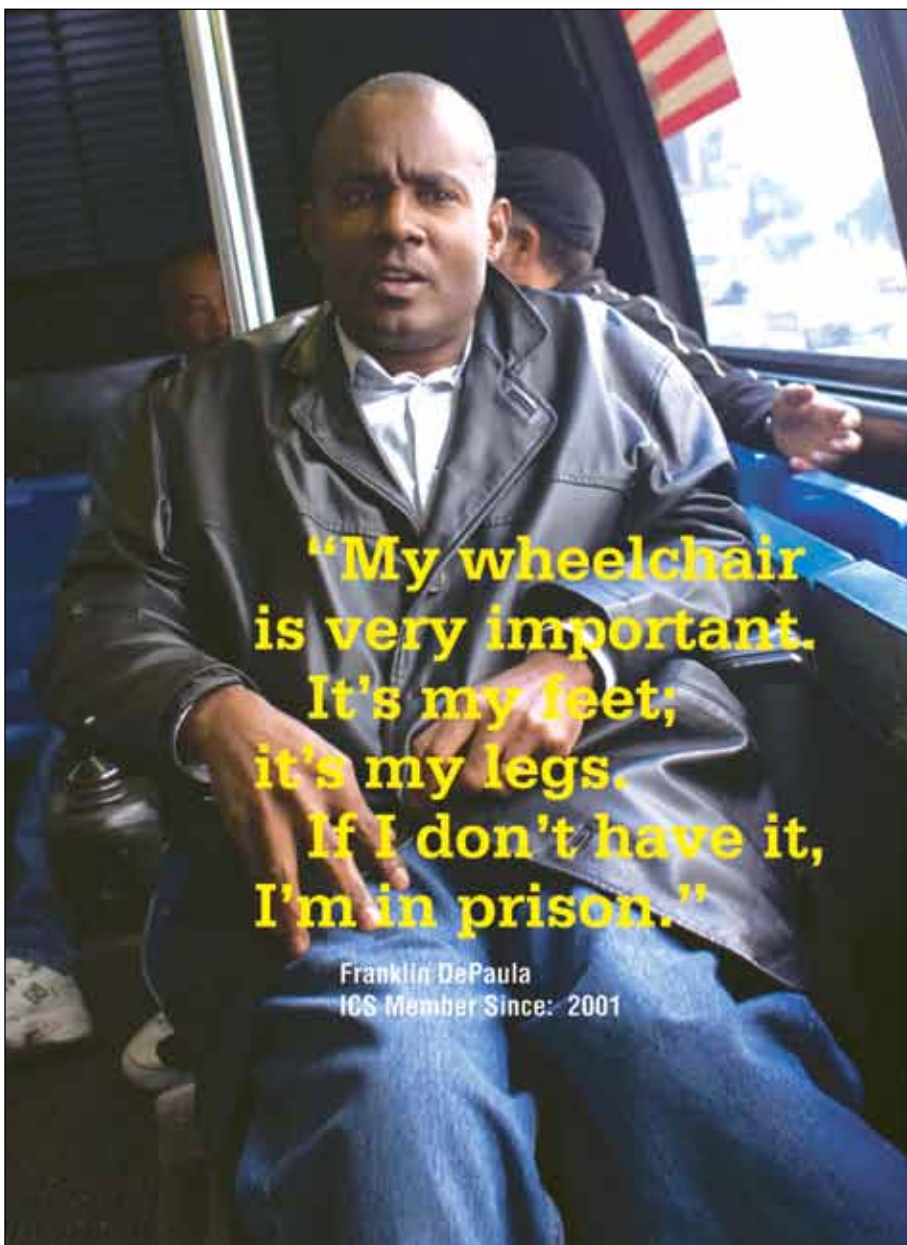


Jozette Carter, Gerard Carter's widow, expresses her gratitude to all those who helped make the Gerard Carter Community Center in Staten Island a reality on April 6, 2011. She is joined by, from left to right, her brother-in-law Keith Carter, son Louis Carter and mother-in-law Martha Johnson-Carter.

munity Center is the result of a partnership among NYCHA, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro, City Council Member Deborah Rose, the New York City Police Department, residents of the Stapleton community, the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island and other elected officials. At a cost of \$16.6 million, the 21,000-square foot multi-purpose center features athletic facilities, performance space, a recording studio, a game room, an arts and crafts room, a computer library and classroom, a kitchen and a dining room, all to be used for a variety of community programs.

"It is a tremendous tribute that we not only name this community center in honor of Gerard Carter; it is of great significance that this center continues the commitment to youth that was so important in his life," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea.

Known as a "Gentle Giant" in the community, Officer Carter not only volunteered as a softball coach but took the time to get to know the young people of the community helping them out in any way he could. "He was not only a police officer but a friend to all," said an emotional Mrs. Carter. "This is his birthday present from his community that loved him so much."



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MANHATTAN

East Harlem

*1861 Lexington Ave.
(@ E. 115th St.)
212-360-MPCS

Harlem

*160 W. 125th St.
(@ Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.)
212-663-MPCS

2492 7th Ave.
212-283-0786

3421 Broadway
(@ W. 139th St.)
212-234-1700

3569 Broadway
(@ 147th St.)
212-281-8454

702 St. Nicholas Ave.
(@ W. 145th St.)
212-281-0444

Lower East Side
120 Delancey St.
(@ Essex St.)
646-395-3384

BROOKLYN

Bedford-Stuyvesant
142 Rockaway Ave.
718-484-3338

425 Sutter Ave.
347-627-6444

Brownsville
1113 Rutland Rd.
(@ Rockaway Pkwy.)
347-295-3272

93-21 Church Ave.
(@ E. 96th St.)
718-345-1806

Downtown Brooklyn
*523 Fulton St.
(@ Fulton Mall)
718-624-MPCS

Flatbush

*1556 Flatbush Ave.
(@ Nostrand Ave.)
718-434-MPCS

BRONX

2265 Jerome Ave.
347-271-5712

267 E. 167th St.
(@ Morris Ave.)
347-498-1157

*2901 3rd Ave.
(@ 151st St.)
718-402-MPCS

308 E. 149th St.
(Btwn Morris Ave.
& Courtland Ave.)
718-993-3900

QUEENS

Far Rockaway
1481 Beach Channel Dr.
718-868-0269

Jamaica
*162-01 Jamaica Ave.
(@ 162nd St.)
718-297-MPCS

South Ozone Park

119-12 Rockaway Blvd.
(@ Lefferts Blvd.)
718-529-1200

STATEN ISLAND

*2040 Forest Ave.
(In Forest Plaza Shopping Center)
718-477-MPCS

821 Castleton Ave.
917-225-5821

*MetroPCS Retail Stores

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Mmmm... Cupcakes!

A couple of Marcus Garvey Houses (Brooklyn) residents decided to bring something sweet to the NYCHA board meeting on March 16, 2011. April Cambridge and Mabel Davis have been coming to the board meetings for a couple of months, and surprised NYCHA staff with a generous offering of home-baked cupcakes. "I just was elected Vice-President of my Resident Association, so I've

been observing the meetings to find ideas on how to get things done in my development," said Ms. Cambridge. "I thought it would be nice after the meeting for everyone to have a good time and eat cupcakes." Ms. Cambridge (second from right) and Ms. Davis (second from left) stand with NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and Commissioner Margarita López with some of the scrumptious treats.

Time for Kids to Register for Camp NYCHA!

Camp NYCHA, a summer day camp for community residents 6–12 years old, is accepting applications for the coming summer. The camp runs from July 5–August 26, Monday-Friday, from 8:00 AM-6:00 PM. The registration fee is \$350 and applications and fees are due by May 31. Parents and guardians can register their children at their local community center. For more information, call the Manhattan Community Operations Borough Office at **212-306-3324**.



Borough Taxis: Let the City Know What You Think!



The City wants to hear from you about Mayor Bloomberg's proposal to establish a new category of livery cars that can make on-street pickups

outside of Manhattan just like yellow cabs do. The program aims to improve taxi availability while bringing yellow taxi-like amenities, such as metered fares, credit/debit card payment and easier-to-spot cabs to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. The Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) has a brief online survey where you can voice your opinion about taxis and car services. Go to the TLC website at www.nyc.gov/taxi to let the City know what you think.

Work at NYCHA This Summer!

NYCHA is seeking youths between the ages of 14 and 21 for the 2011 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and the 2011 program will run from July 5 through August 19. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is **not** required to qualify for the program.

NYCHA's SYEP participants gain valuable employment experience working in Community Centers as Counselors-in-Training, or on NYCHA development grounds. There also will be a limited number of administrative positions at NYCHA's Central Office locations and approved external worksites. Starting in mid-April, interested youth can apply on-line or download an application from the DYCD website at www.nyc.gov/dycd. SYEP applications also will be available at NYCHA Development Management Offices. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA Development Management Office. For more information about SYEP, please visit DYCD's website or contact NYCHA's Human Resources Help Desk at **212-306-8000**.

DEVELOPMENTS COMMEMORATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Patterson Turns 60, Berry Turns 50



Patterson Houses in the Bronx reached its 60th anniversary in late 2010. Commemorating the occasion were, in the front row from left to right, Dameul McGill, Supervisor of Grounds; Wallace Hasan, Resident Association President; Alverista Hall, Property Maintenance Supervisor; Kimberly Taylor, Property Manager; and Joacim Mendez, Supervisor of Caretakers. In the back row from left to right, Gerard Allen, Supervisor of Caretakers; Edward Bush, Assistant Superintendent; Dana Pitts, Assistant Superintendent; and Stephen Nored, Supervisor of Grounds.



Berry Houses in Staten Island turned 50 years old in late 2010. On hand for the celebration, from left to right, were Christopher Filingeri, Assistant Property Maintenance Supervisor; Joseph Falzarano, Property Maintenance Supervisor; Anthony Mincieli, Queens/Staten Island Borough Administrator; Scott Marcus, Property Manager; Victoria Cirigliano-Doria, Resident Association President; Angelo Rodriguez, Resident Association First Vice-President; Rosa Rodriguez, Resident Association Second Vice-President; Joseph Schweizer, Supervisor of Caretakers; Laura Farina, Resident Association Treasurer; and Ralph Demonte, Supervisor of Grounds.



SONYMA makes homeownership affordable in these difficult times.

The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) offers first-time homebuyers:

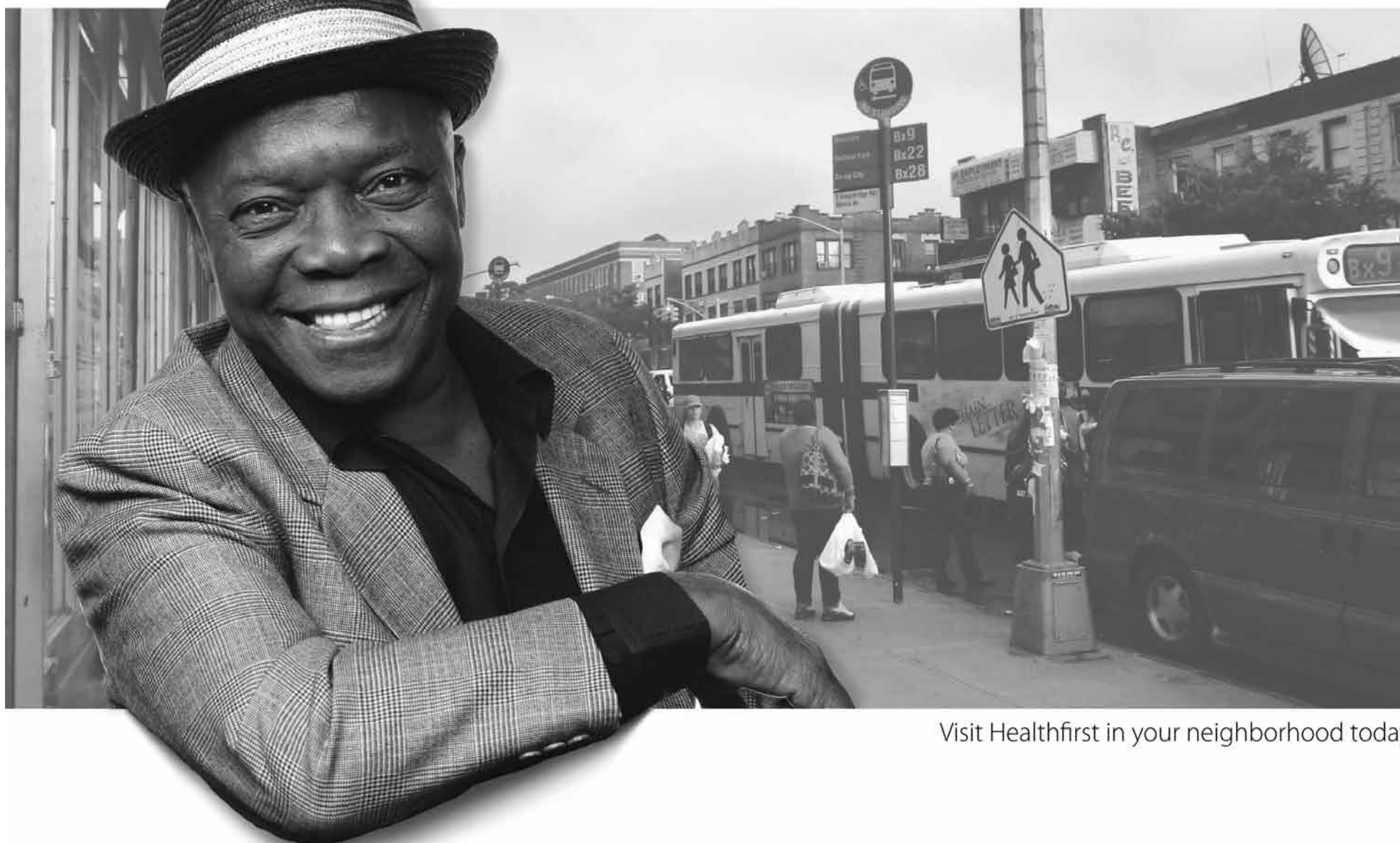
- 30- or 40- year fixed interest rates that are typically below market;
- Financing up to 97%;
- Flexible underwriting guidelines;
- Down payment assistance (higher of \$3,000 or 3% of the loan amount or up to \$15,000);
- No points;
- No financing add ons.

For more information, call **1-800-382-HOME (4663)** or visit www.sonyma.org



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New York City Housing Authority Fair Housing Non-Discrimination Policy

In honor of Fair Housing Month, below is an abbreviated version of NYCHA's Fair Housing Non-Discrimination Policy. To read the full policy, please go to NYCHA's website at www.nyc.gov/nycha and click on 'Applying for Public Housing.'

It is the policy of the New York City Housing Authority to provide equal housing opportunities for all qualified residents and applicants.

In the selection of families and in the provision of NYCHA programs, services or activities, there shall be no discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, age, familial status, marital status, partnership status, lawful occupation, lawful source of income, military status, alienage or citizenship status or on the grounds that a person is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. This policy also prohibits retaliation.

Any resident or applicant who wishes to report housing discrimination or retaliation may file a discrimination complaint (NYCHA 036.024) by contacting the Department of Equal Opportunity from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at:

New York City Housing Authority Department of Equal Opportunity
250 Broadway, 27th floor
New York, NY 10007
Telephone (212) 306-4468
Fax (212) 306-4439
TTY (212) 306-4845

Persons who require an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a NYCHA program, service or activity, may contact the Services for People with Disabilities Unit in the Department of Equal Opportunity using the contact information above.

Can you Paint, Draw, Sketch? Your Artwork Could Be in a NYCHA Calendar

The NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force is looking for submissions for its Poster Contest. Submitted posters should be centered on the theme of "Safety and Security – What it Means to Me Living in Public Housing." The contest is open to participants of public housing programs, including Section 8 residents, in four age groups – children (6-12), teens (13-19), adults (20-59) and seniors (60+). Three winners in each group will have their artwork appear in the Safety and Security Task Force calendar and in the annual resident art show. The posters must be no larger than 8½" x 11" and in landscape format. Posters must be submitted by **May 3**. They can be brought to any NYCHA Community or Senior Center, or can be mailed to New York City Housing Authority / Department of Community Operations, Attn: Mary Buerkle, 90 Church Street, 5th Floor, New York, NY, 10007. For more information, please call **212-306-6675**.

Apply Now for a NYCHA/CUNY Scholarship



Lilian Almanzar, one of the winners of the 2010 NYCHA Resident Scholarship, stands with her grandmother at the 2010 scholarship program reception.

NYCHA offers two types of scholarships to residents: one for full-time undergraduates at a City University of New York (CUNY) college, and one for residents with disabilities who are enrolled in a CUNY undergraduate program. Scholarships are worth at least \$1,000. To qualify for the scholarships you must:

- Be an authorized NYCHA resident
- Be a full-time sophomore, junior or senior student enrolled in a CUNY Associates or Baccalaureate degree program
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Demonstrate financial need
- Submit a 500 word autobiographical essay
- For the scholarship for students with disabilities, have a documented disability

The application deadline is May 16, 2011. For more information and an application, go to www.nyc.gov/nychacunyscholarship.

Help Prevent Child Abuse

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and create strong communities to support children and families. NYCHA encourages all parents to take the time to talk with and listen to their children every day. This will help create a stronger bond between parents and their kids. Healthy parent/child relationships have:

- ◆ **Safety** – A child free from physical and/or emotional harm
- ◆ **Stability** – Regular routines with children help to prevent stress
- ◆ **Nurturing** – Being available and responsive to children reduces their fear

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month and throughout the entire year, NYCHA strives to reduce the occurrence of child abuse and neglect by supporting parents and building community networks.

If you suspect a child is in danger, call 911. You also may call the New York State Central Registry of Child Abuse/Maltreatment at 1-800-342-3720.

New Rent Payment Sites in Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union now has two sites where residents can pay their rent in cash. All residents need to bring is their rent bill or remittance slip, cash payment and a \$1 processing fee. While there, they have the opportunity to take advantage of other financial services offered at Brooklyn Cooperative Federal Credit Union.

The locations are:

750 Myrtle Ave.
(at Nostrand Ave.)
Mon-Wed and Fri
from 9:00-4:00


1474 Myrtle Ave.
(at Grove St.)
Tues-Thurs from 9:00-4:00
Fri from 9:00-6:00
Sat from 9:00-2:00

Manhattan South District Exec Board Sworn In



On March 7, 2011, the members of the Executive Board of the Manhattan South District of the Citywide Council of Presidents were sworn in. Shown taking their oath of office, administered by City Councilman Daniel Garodnick, from left to right, are Rose Bergin, District Chair (Isaacs Houses); Desiree Huff, Sergeant-at-Arms (Campos Plaza); Charlotte Miles, Vice-Chair (Wald Houses); Polly Spain, Secretary (120 West 94th St.); and Michael Steele, Treasurer (Rutgers Houses).

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



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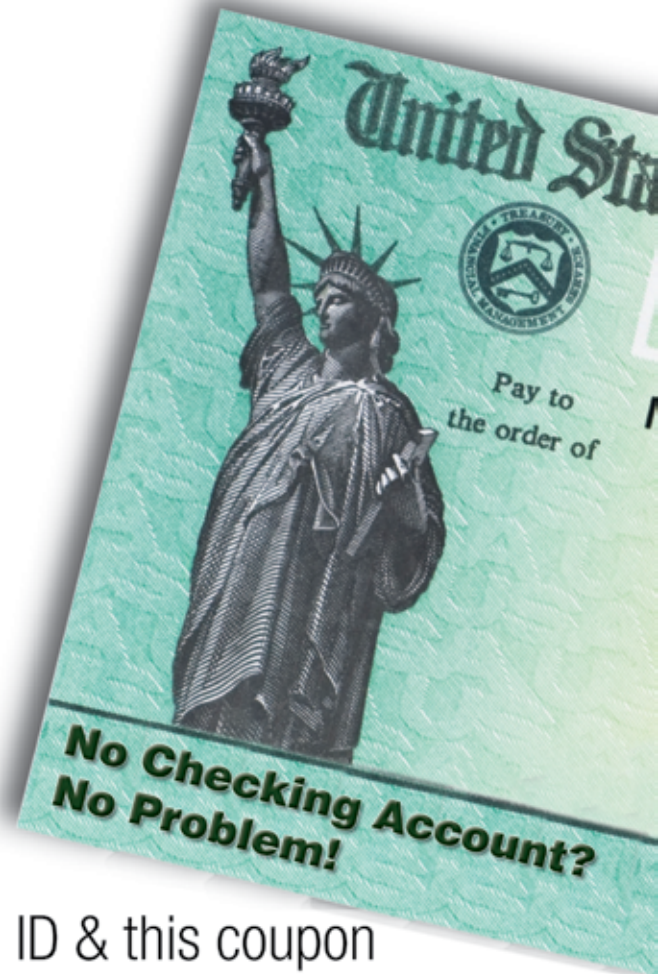
The U.S. government will soon stop sending your benefit payments by check.

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- No more waiting for your check in the mail
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- 1) Bring your Federal Benefits check, your photo ID & this coupon to any Pay-O-Matic or participating check casher
- 2) Meet with one of our helpful associates to fill out one simple form
- 3) Get \$55 just for enrolling in Direct Deposit



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