



## Community Conversations are Complete, but Dialogue Continues *Effort Will Inform Plan to Preserve Public Housing*

Nearly 1,000 public housing residents and Section 8 participants from all five boroughs joined NYCHA in its 10 Community Conversations this spring. The series of conversations, bringing residents face-to-face with NYCHA staff to discuss the future of the Authority, drew a positive response for the collaboration they were meant to encourage.

At the Community Conversation at Melrose Classic Center in the Bronx, Citywide Council of Presidents Bronx North District Chair Herma Williams inspired residents to continue in the dialogue and not have it end with the Community Conversations. "To be given an opportunity to have direct dialogue with NYCHA executives who are actually in the position to make positive changes to improve my quality of life, as well as the safety and security of my family based on what they heard from me, is inspiring and highly commendable," she said.

The Community Conversations will help shape the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, NYCHA's comprehensive plan



NYCHA residents and staff discuss the future of the Authority – and how it will be reached together – at the Community Conversation held on May 14, 2011, at the Rutgers Community Center in Manhattan.

that will serve as a vital roadmap for the next five years.

At the Community Conversation held for Russian speakers, two public housing residents expressed how the Authority provides much more than a home when asked why NYCHA is important to them. "We want to thank NYCHA for a place to live that we can afford and also for providing trips,

through the community center, to cultural and social events. Because of NYCHA, we have a sense of community and a better life," they said.

A Section 8 voucher holder thanked NYCHA for providing housing that he otherwise could not afford. "Studio apartments in this area rent for more than \$1,250 a month and our family could never pay" *continued on page 2*

One of the key initiatives NYCHA unveiled during the Community Conversations is a plan to transition families to more appropriate-sized apartments based on their current needs. By doing so, the Authority can make larger apartments available to families currently on its waiting list. NYCHA estimates that there are about 5,000 apartments where the residents can use more space, and there are 45,000 apartments where residents have more space than they need, half of which are inhabited by seniors. NYCHA does not plan to evict these residents, but offer them other options, including subsidized housing and the opportunity to move to another development.

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## Top Teen Chefs Learn to Cook up a Storm

By Zodet Negrón

They had never even cut an onion, or boiled an egg, but in just 10 weeks, 20 young men and women from NYCHA developments in Manhattan learned to work a knife like an "Iron Chef," making their own sauce and roasting chicken. They acquired their techniques not in "Hell's Kitchen," but from the Teen Chef Program, a partnership among NYCHA, The Sylvia Center and Children's Aid Society. The purpose of the program, sponsored by renowned Chef Rachael Ray and her Yum-O organization, was not only to teach youth how to make a "30-Minute Meal," but to inspire them to make healthier options and consider the food industry as a career opportunity.

"I want to inspire them to start cooking, even if they don't become a chef, so that they learn how to cook and enjoy it," said Chef Hollie Greene, Education Director at the Sylvia Center, a non-profit that teaches children about nutrition and cooking. It was a challenge, she added, since this was the first time they took on teens, but she feels it was well worth it. The students agree.

"For different vegetables, you have

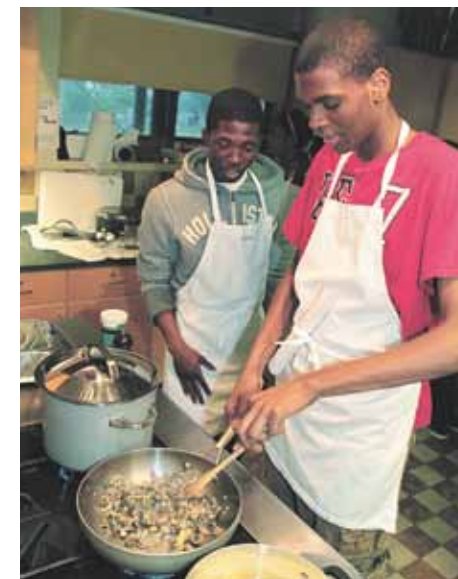
different cuts," explained Douglas Canady, 21, from Drew-Hamilton Houses in Manhattan, as he chopped up an onion like a pro. "When I started, I only knew how to cut up an onion one way."

Canady aspires to be a chef and was inspired by a visit to the Red Rooster restaurant in Harlem during a field trip, where he got to see a professional kitchen and learn how it works. "Now I want to do it more and more," he said, adding that he plans to go to culinary school.

"I wanted to learn how to cook in the first place and make sure my mom eats right," said Joshua James, 19, from Drew-Hamilton Houses. "My mother is a diabetic and this experience will help me help her."

"I don't want to cook all the time, but I wanted to know how," said Marc Donate, 15, from Drew-Hamilton Houses. "At least that way someone else would know how to cook at home, and on special occasions like Mother's Day, I can cook."

For their last class, the cooks, who were predominantly male, made lasagna, garlic bread, a salad of fresh-picked mixed greens from a field trip to a farmer's market, and raspberry tiramisu for dessert.



NYCHA youth stir up something scrumptious to make your mouth water at the Teen Chef Program, a partnership among NYCHA, The Sylvia Center and Children's Aid Society.

According to Chef Hollie, the idea is to have a cooking curriculum for spring, summer and fall to learn more than just "Cooking for Real." John Hall, Chief Operating Officer for Rachael Ray, who visited the class, added that they hope to continue partnerships such as these to offer programs for both children and teens.



## 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:

June 22	August 31	November 9
July 6	September 14	November 23
July 20	September 28	December 7
August 3	October 12	December 21
August 17	October 26	

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://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.

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



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# HUD Grant Aims to Help East Harlem Residents Breathe Easier



A federal grant of more than half a million dollars to help improve conditions for children with asthma in East Harlem was presented on May 9, 2011, at Jefferson Houses in Manhattan. Shown, from left to right, are Congressman Charles Rangel; LSA Family Health Service Director of Environmental Health Ray Lopez; NYCHA Board Member Margarita López; New York Academy of Medicine President Jo Ivey Boufford; Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.; NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, New York City Councilwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito; and HUD Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control Director Jon Gant.

NYCHA youth who live in East Harlem soon may breathe a little easier. A \$500,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) aims to improve the health and quality of life of children aged 17 and younger with severe and/or persistent asthma in the Manhattan neighborhood. The money will fund programs that improve indoor environmental conditions and promote education and medical services for asthmatic

children and other residents of East Harlem living in public and assisted multifamily housing.

Nearly 20 percent of East Harlem children ages 4-5 have asthma, double the New York City and national rate, and 23 percent of children ages 5-12 in the area suffer from asthma. Asthma is a leading cause of school and work absences, emergency room visits and hospitalizations among low-income minority populations in communities like East Harlem.

The program will help reduce or eliminate household environmental conditions that worsen asthma symptoms such as mold, poor ventilation, pest infestation (roaches, bedbugs and rodents), house dust and second-hand smoke. Families will receive information on household asthma triggers and be trained how to safely fix health hazards. As part of HUD's Controlling Asthma Through Home Remediation program, families will be loaned equipment, such as HEPA-filtered vacuums and air cleaners.

"Supporting our children and saving them from this debilitating disease will require all of our efforts," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "Our youth are not only our most precious resource, but they are indeed our future and the future health and prosperity of New York City rests on how well we support them today."

The program will be run by the New York Academy of Medicine in partnership with Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service. This was the first time HUD awarded a grant to combat indoor conditions that exacerbate asthma.

## Community Conversations are Complete, but Dialogue Continues

that," he said.

The Community Conversations presented a call to action for residents to stay involved to create a plan for NYCHA's future through many ways, including addressing immediate housing concerns, improving safety and security, supporting and empowering neighbors and communities, assisting more New Yorkers and transforming the organization.

"Residents are really pleased to have the opportunity to meet with us and we share their enthusiasm," said Assistant Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Deidra Gilliard. "It's important that the five-year plan reflect residents' experiences and concerns because they are impacted directly by the decisions that will be made."

Go to [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha) for more information.

## Deputy Mayor Steel: "We're Focused on Creating Jobs"

New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert Steel, who assumed management authority for NYCHA at City Hall in April, visited the Authority on May 20 to discuss the importance of ensuring the City remains economically vibrant. While the City has recovered from the recession more than most of the country, the first issue that confronts Deputy Mayor Steel every day is the unemployment rate.

"Jobs are issue one, issue two and issue three in terms of what this administration is thinking about," he said.

He added that government needs to be more involved in investing for the future. The City must build the economy by making the right investments to create jobs and



a clean, safe environment with an educated workforce.

Deputy Mayor Steel also has an eye on how the City operates as a customer service provider. "Being customer oriented is a mission critical theme," he said. "Government should not be an 8:00-4:00, with a break from 12:00-1:00, service."



## Message from the Chairman



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea speaks with residents at one of the Authority's Community Conversations on May 7, 2011, at the Melrose Community Center in the Bronx.

What an incredible month! NYCHA's Community Conversations, which joined nearly 1,000 public housing residents and Section 8 participants with more than 400 NYCHA staff members, were unlike anything done previously in our history. The 10 Community Conversations held across the City were an unprecedented effort to discuss NYCHA's

vision for the future and share thoughts on what matters most to residents, including maintenance and repairs, as well as safety and security. I thank everyone who attended one of the Community Conversations.

We all collectively own the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, the Authority's comprehensive plan that will serve as a vital roadmap for the next five years. Receiving feedback on what we aspire to do to ensure the future of NYCHA communities allows us to incorporate your ideas and opinions as we finalize the Plan.

The Community Conversations also continue our commitment to make NYCHA a more open and transparent organization attuned to the needs and aspirations of residents. We recognize that through open, constructive partnerships with residents,

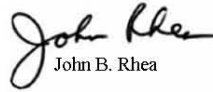
NYCHA can better understand how to serve you, as well as share the responsibility to strengthen our communities for future generations.

Although the Community Conversations are completed, that does not mean that your role has ended. The Community Conversations were a great start, and now we also need you to stay involved, spread the word and be an important part of the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Everyone can help make it a success, and there are so many ways to do so:

- Be active in your Resident Association
- Join your Resident Green Committee
- Volunteer for Resident Watch to improve your development's safety and security
- Look for community service and volunteer opportunities
- Send your ideas, comments and questions to [plan@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:plan@nycha.nyc.gov).

I invite all of you to attend one of the upcoming town hall meetings for the Draft Annual Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2012. The Draft Annual Agency Plan was released recently, and we are holding town hall meetings in July and August, one in each borough, where residents also can share their thoughts. The town halls will follow the same format as the Community Conversations, with residents and NYCHA staff gathering in small groups. The public hearing for the plan will take place in August (See page 8 for more information on dates and locations).

Our conversation continues.

  
John B. Rhea

## Preparing for Bad Weather in the Rockaways

By Zodet Negrón

"Climate change affects you more than anybody else in the New York City Housing Authority," said Commissioner Margarita López, Coordinator of NYCHA's Green Initiative, to the more than 175 residents gathered at the Ocean Bay Bayside Community Center on May 17. "We need to be ready and we need to do this together."

That is the lesson NYCHA residents in Queens learned during a series of Emergency Preparedness sessions. Residents are finding out exactly what they need to safeguard their families, neighbors, apartments and property in case of an emergency.

More than 600 residents in Far Rockaway joined Commissioner López and representatives from the Emergency Services Department and Queens Property Management to learn the importance of being prepared for extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods. NYCHA and the City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) offered the Emergency Preparedness pilot program in all six Rockaway developments: Beach 41st Street, Carlton Manor, Hammel Houses, Ocean Bay Bayside, Ocean Bay Oceanside and Redfern. These residents live in the Rockaway Peninsula, which is vulnerable to flooding during heavy rain.

Emergency Services Director Conrad Vázquez stressed that the most important thing to do is make a plan that includes identifying where household members will reunite after a disaster, designating an out-of-state friend or relative to call if separated during a disaster and identifying all possible exit routes. Also important is preparing a "go bag" that can be carried easily with essentials such as bottled water, non-perishable food, copies of important documents in a waterproof container, cash, a flashlight and a battery-operated radio. Even if residents remain in their homes during an emergency, they should have an emergency kit with bottled water (one gallon per person per day),



Residents are shown some of the items they should have in an emergency kit to keep at home in case of an emergency, including a battery-powered radio, flashlight, bottled water and toothpaste.

non-perishable food and a battery-operated radio.

"What is an iodine tablet and where can I get one?" asked one resident. Mr. Vázquez explained that iodine tablets are used to disinfect water.

"How do I know if my children's school has an emergency plan in place?" asked another resident after Commissioner López emphasized how important it is to not pick up children in school during an emergency.

"All schools should have an emergency plan in place," Commissioner López said. "Call the schools

and find out what that plan is, and if they don't have one – and they should – give me a call."

With a plethora of new information and safety booklets in hand, residents left with a sense of satisfaction. "It was great, it was informative," said Carlos Vázquez, a resident of Ocean Bay. "I think it's better to be safe than sorry."

In an effort to protect the welfare of even more residents, Emergency Services Department staff will reach out to those who did not attend a meeting. NYCHA also will work with its residents and staff to assess how to best advance the pilot program and team up with relevant community-based organizations.



## 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 July 28 and August 4, 2010.

### Prohibited as of July 28, 2010

**Leory Cain** Stapleton Houses, 181 Gordon St, 7th fl., Staten Island

**Omar Collins** Breukelen Houses, 712 East 108th St, 1st fl., Brooklyn

**Cassandra Graham** Cooper Park Houses, 60 Kingsland Ave, 3rd fl., Brooklyn

**Tyon Jones a/k/a Tyon Pelote** Polo Grounds Houses, 2999 8th Ave, 22nd fl., Manhattan

**Brandon Lee** Breukelen Houses, 712 East 108th St, 1st fl., Brooklyn

**Medielvis Lopes** Cooper Park Houses, 60 Kingsland Ave, 3rd fl., Brooklyn

**Armando Olan** Vladeck Houses, 17 Jackson St, 1st fl., Manhattan

**Joel Paulino** Cooper Park Houses, 60 Kingsland Ave, 3rd fl., Brooklyn

### Prohibited as of August 4, 2010

**Mikael Best** Murphy Consolidation Houses, 611 Crotona Park North, 19th fl., Bronx

**Marcus Favor** Adams Houses, 745 East 152nd St, 4th fl., Bronx

**Miguel Franco** Patterson Houses, 315 East 143rd St, 13th fl., Bronx

**Rafael Garcia** Edenwald Houses, 1132 229th Dr, 14th fl., Bronx

**Antonius Nedd** Wagner Houses, 445 East 120 2th fl., Manhattan

**Reginald Ridley** Manhattanville Houses, 95 Old Broadway, 4th fl., Manhattan

**Erna Rivera** Patterson Houses, 315 East 143rd St, 13th fl., Bronx

**Anthony Robinson** Jefferson Houses, 2055 3rd Ave, 3rd fl., Manhattan

**Renee Rodriguez** Riis Houses, 466 East 10th St, 9th fl., Manhattan

**Dexter Sanon** Stapleton Houses, 27 Warren St, 3rd fl., Staten Island

**Arnaldo Santiago** Washington Houses, 219 East 97th St, 11th fl., Manhattan

**Hector Soler** Ocean Hill/Saratoga Houses, 15 Mother Gaston Blvd, 2nd fl., Brooklyn

**Francisco Vega** Richmond Terrace Houses, 151 Jersey St, LD, Staten Island



New York City and the youth services non-profit Harlem RBI announced a partnership on June 13, 2011, to develop a landmark, mixed-use facility in Manhattan that will include a DREAM Charter School and up to 100 new affordable housing units at Washington Houses. Scheduled to open for the 2014-2015 school year, the new school space will accommodate up to 450 students between kindergarten and eighth grade. On hand for the announcement, from left to right in back, were New York Yankee Mark Teixeira, City Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, and Jonathan F.P. Rose, President of Jonathan Rose Companies. Be sure to look for more details in the next issue of the Journal.

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



# REWARD



Up to **\$1,000** for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons possessing or distributing fireworks.

# Fireworks are Illegal

**The New York City Police Department  
urges you to celebrate safely on July 4th**

If you use fireworks, you or someone else can get seriously hurt. If you have fireworks we can ARREST YOU, your car can be confiscated or your business can be closed.

Concerned citizens can anonymously report the delivery, sale or storage of fireworks.

**CALL: 911** for crimes in progress  
**311** to provide information

A Public Safety Message from The New York City Police Department, Community Affairs Bureau

SP 14-CAB (06-06)



NYCHA youth plant flowers on May 23, 2011, at a community event held by the Ravenswood Houses Resident Green Committee.

## Resident Green Committees Continue to Spruce up Neighborhoods

Five Resident Green Committees recently received grants from the Citizens Committee for New York City's Love Your Block program to help their efforts to green NYCHA public spaces and promote NYCHA's environmental initiatives. The New Yorker for Better Neighborhood Awards were given to Amsterdam Houses (\$2,000); Baruch Houses (\$1,850); Jackie Robinson Houses (\$750); Pink Houses (\$500); and Woodside Houses (\$890).

One of the developments that received a Citizens Committee award in 2010 recently held a greening event for its residents, which included honoring veterans. The Ravenswood Houses Resident Green Committee gathered on May 23 to rededicate the development's veterans' garden and write thank you letters to deployed military service men and women. They also planted flowers at the senior center and hosted environmental information tables and workshops.



# Healthfirst

and **New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)** present

## Health and Wellness Series

Healthfirst is committed to giving back to the communities we serve. That's why we partner with NYCHA to help host these health and wellness series to educate our local communities. Visit our website to see a list of our upcoming events at [www.healthfirstny.org](http://www.healthfirstny.org).



### Brooklyn

#### Location

Brevoort Houses - 280 Ralph Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11233  
 Wyckoff Garden - 572 Warren St, Brooklyn, NY 11217

### Bronx

#### Location

Adam Houses - 731 Tinton Ave, Bronx, NY 10455  
 Moore Houses - 515 Jackson Ave, Bronx, NY 10455  
 Boston Secor Houses - 3570 Bivonia Ave, Bronx, NY 10475  
 Baychester Houses - 1811 Schieffli Ave, Bronx, NY 10466  
 Jackson Houses - 765 Cortland Ave, Bronx, NY 10451  
 Millbrook Houses - 530 East 137<sup>th</sup> St, Bronx, NY 10454  
 Marble Hill Houses - 5210 Broadway, Bronx, NY 10463

### Queens

#### Location

Astoria Houses - 2-10 Astoria Blvd, Astoria, NY 11102  
 Bland Houses - 40-21 College Point Blvd, Flushing, NY 11354  
 Queensbridge Houses  
 Queensbridge Park 41<sup>st</sup> Ave and Vernon Blvd, LIC, NY 11101  
 Woodside Houses  
 50-19 Broadway (between Newtown Rd & 15<sup>th</sup> St)  
 Woodside, NY 11377

### Manhattan

#### Location

Wise Towers - 117 West 90<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10024  
 Wald Houses - 58 Avenue D, New York, NY 10009  
 La Guardia Houses - 45 Rutgers St, New York, NY 10002  
 St. Nicholas Houses  
 131 St. Nicholas Ave (between 116<sup>th</sup> and 117<sup>th</sup> St)  
 New York, NY 10027  
 Johnson Houses - 1844 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10029  
 Polo Grounds  
 2931 Frederick Douglas Blvd, New York, NY 10039  
 Manhattanville Houses - 545 West 126<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10027  
 Drew Hamilton Houses  
 2660 Frederick Douglas Blvd, New York, NY 10030  
 Amsterdam Houses - 218 West 64<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10027  
 Robbins Plaza - 341 East 70<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10021



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## Q & A with New NYCHA Vice-Chair Emily Youssouf



Emily Youssouf started as NYCHA's Vice-Chair on May 9, 2011. Vice-Chair Youssouf sat down recently with the *Journal* to talk about her role as a leader who will help advance the Authority's mission.

**Question:** What interested you about working for NYCHA?

**Answer:** I always have been involved in housing and housing finance issues. Early in my career I worked at Standard and Poor's [the financial services company] in the municipal housing finance area, and helped develop their criteria for funding Section 8 programs. NYCHA has a lot of capital needs and we're trying to figure out ways to leverage our assets to raise additional funds so we can focus on our maintenance requirements.

Affordable housing is critical, not just for New York City, but nationally, and there never is enough. Everyone deserves clean, safe and decent affordable housing.

**Q:** How will your experience as President of the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC) help what you want to accomplish at NYCHA?

**A:** At HDC I worked a lot with bonds, asset management, portfolio management and credit issues. These all are issues that NYCHA deals with on a daily basis.

**Q:** NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea said one area you will focus on is real estate development strategy. Why is this so important for NYCHA?

**A:** The federal government has very difficult budget issues, and the City and State cannot be counted on to address our funding needs. We have to look at different financial strategies that might be helpful. If we can raise money to perform needed rehabilitation and maintenance by refinancing some properties where the mortgage is paid off, and at a conservative level, that is a good concept to explore.

**Q:** How have your first weeks on the job been?

**A:** Very busy! NYCHA always had a reputation of being well-run and it is true; I'm very impressed with the staff I have met. It was wonderful to talk with residents at the Community Conversations held for the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Residents are so involved in their communities and it was good to hear their concerns and their proposed solutions.

**Q:** Since you started at NYCHA, what program has caught your attention?

**A:** I am pleased that NYCHA ensures residents have opportunities to work here through the Section 3 program, and also that we reach out to minority and women-owned businesses to be contractors. Efforts like that usually start in government and then trickle down to the private sector. Often what people really need is a chance. I'm excited NYCHA makes an effort to promote these opportunities to residents and minority and women-owned businesses.

**Q:** Final thoughts?

**A:** NYCHA faces challenges from the tough economic times, but that opens the way for creative thinking. I am very excited about the opportunity and I hope to serve the NYCHA community in a meaningful way.



## Fleet Week Officers Give NYCHA Community Center Brand New Look

Naval officers like Latoya Jones, who grew up in Brooklyn's Marcy Houses, volunteered their time during Fleet Week to paint the Mariners Harbor Community Center in Staten Island, as part of the "Brush with Kindness" program. Brush with Kindness is a partnership between NYCHA and Habitat for Humanity New York City to refurbish community centers in NYCHA developments throughout the city. "With the military we do a lot of volunteer work, but for me to do it here in my state, my city, with my people, it is an honor to be able to give something back," said Ms. Jones, a Second Class Petty Officer on the U.S.S. New York.

## News from the Office of Public-Private Partnerships HUD Grant Helps Section 8 Self-Sufficiency Program

NYCHA's Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Family Self Sufficiency program (FSS) assists participating families in increasing their income, reducing or eliminating the need for welfare assistance and increasing financial literacy. The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently awarded NYCHA \$69,000 to hire a full-time Coordinator. The Department of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability will employ the Coordinator to encourage Section 8 residents to participate in FSS and work to achieve educational and employment goals that will enhance their economic independence and self-sufficiency.

## Be Safe When It's Hot!

The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) designate certain buildings as cooling centers on summer days that are very hot. Cooling centers are public places, such as NYCHA community centers, Department for the Aging (DFTA) senior centers, libraries and Salvation Army community centers where air conditioning is available.

To find the cooling center nearest to you, call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115), or use OEM's online Cooling Center Finder

at [www.nyc.gov/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/oem). OEM recommends checking the online Cooling Center Finder or calling 311 just before leaving home to ensure the closest center is open.

The risk for getting sick during a heat wave is increased for people who:

- Are younger than five or older than 64
- Have chronic medical or mental health conditions such as diabetes or substance abuse disorders
- Are overweight
- Take certain medications which can disrupt the regulation of body temperature
- Are unable to leave their homes or are confined to their beds

- Drink alcohol or use drugs which can impair their judgment

Seniors and others who may be sensitive to extreme heat should contact friends, neighbors or relatives at least twice a day during a heat wave. Residents who do not have an air conditioner should go to a cooler place such as a cooling center; air-conditioned family's, friend's or neighbor's home; store; mall; museum; or movie theater. For more information on coping with extreme heat, see the *Ready New York: Beat the Heat* guide at [www.nyc.gov/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/oem). For more information on the health effects associated with extreme heat visit [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health).



## 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](http://www.sonyma.org)



# NYCHA Spelling Bee Brings Out the B-E-S-T



Uvica Francois from Manhattanville Houses in Manhattan spells her way to victory in the 4th grade competition at the annual NYCHA Spelling Bee on May 26 at the Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn.

The best spellers NYCHA has displayed their talents at the sixth annual NYCHA Citywide Spelling Bee on May 26 at the Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn. The youths calmly worked their way through the dictionaries they keep in their brains until each of three age groups had one winner. All winners will receive a \$200 savings bond, and the runners-up will receive a \$50 savings bond, sponsored by the After-School All-Stars of New York.

## The NYCHA Citywide Spelling Bee Champions were:

**4th grade**  
Uvica Francois, Manhattanville Houses, winning word: marveled

**5th grade**  
Jaylen Scott, Hammel Houses, winning word: declared

**6th grade**  
Jomar Archer, South Beach Houses, winning word: reluctant

## The runners-up were:

**4th grade**  
Krystina Love, Boulevard Houses

**5th grade**  
Pierrot Jean-Charles, Howard Houses

**6th grade**  
Daquan Barr, Woodside Houses

## Add NYCHA to Your Social Media Network

NYCHA residents have many options to stay in touch with the Authority on the internet.

- ◆ Follow NYCHA on Twitter: NYCHA uses Twitter to share news, events and real-time updates in 140 characters or less. For example, NYCHA provided real-time updates on the Community Conversations held for the Plan to Preserve Public Housing. Residents also can post questions and NYCHA makes every effort to provide an informative, timely response via Twitter. To follow NYCHA on Twitter, go to [twitter.com/NYCHA\\_Housing](http://twitter.com/NYCHA_Housing).
- ◆ Like NYCHA on Facebook: Residents can get the scoop on what's happening at NYCHA by becoming a fan of its Facebook page. See event notices, photos and check out what the Resident Green Committees are up to. Find NYCHA on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/NYCHA](http://www.facebook.com/NYCHA).
- ◆ See NYCHA photos on Flickr: NYCHA has nearly one thousand photos on Flickr from various community events such as the annual talent show and the recent Community Conversations with residents. New photos are added weekly, to see them, visit: [www.flickr.com/photos/nychapics](http://www.flickr.com/photos/nychapics).

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

# In case of an emergency, you can count on us.

If you use life-sustaining equipment or you know someone who does, it's important to let us know. Con Edison keeps a record of these individuals so that we can contact them in case of an emergency. Even if you are not a Con Edison customer but live in our service area, you are eligible to be contacted in case of an emergency. To give us this information, complete and mail the accompanying form or call **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)**.

To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify the equipment that you use.



## Life-Sustaining Equipment/ Medical Hardship Survey

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate contact in case of emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Name of development \_\_\_\_\_

NYCHA office phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Doctor or Hospital:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment Information:

- Tank-type respirator (iron lung)
  - Cuirasse-type (chest) respirator
  - Rocking bed respirator
  - Electrically operated respirator (used more than 12 hours a day)
  - Apnea monitor (infant monitor)
  - Hemodialysis equipment (kidney machine)
  - Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_
- Frequency of use: Times per week \_\_\_\_\_ Hours per day \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is equipment used during sleeping hours?  Yes  No  
 If yes, how often? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this survey to:

Con Edison Life-Sustaining Equipment/Medical Hardship  
 30 Flatbush Avenue, Room 515  
 Brooklyn, New York, NY 11217





# NOTICE

## New York City Housing Authority Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2012

### Availability of the Draft Agency Annual Plan for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2012* will be available for public inspection starting on July 8, 2011, at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, New York, NY, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call (212) 306-8202 to make an appointment to review the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2012* and supporting documents.

The *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2012* also will be available at the following locations:

- On NYCHA's webpage, which is located on <http://www.nyc.gov/nycha>
- At the Management Office of each NYCHA public housing development during regular business hours.
- At the Community Centers/Borough Offices listed below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

Campos Plaza Community Center  
611 East 13th Street  
New York, New York

Sotomayor Houses Community Center  
1000 Rosedale Avenue  
Bronx, New York

Atlantic Terminal Community Center  
501 Carlton Avenue,  
Brooklyn, New York

King Towers Community Center  
2 West 115th Street  
New York, New York

Hammel Community Center  
81-14 Rockaway Beach Blvd  
Rockaway, New York

Breukelen Community Center,  
715 East 105th Street,  
Brooklyn, New York

St. Mary's Park Community Center  
595 Trinity Ave  
Bronx, New York

Queens Community Operations  
Borough Office  
70-30 Parsons Blvd  
Flushing, New York

Staten Island Community  
Operations, Borough Office,  
140 Richmond Terrace,  
Staten Island, New York

#### Public Comment

The public is invited to attend any of the five scheduled Town Hall meetings regarding the *Draft Annual Plan for FY 2012*. These meetings will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the dates and locations shown below:

**JULY 25**  
**BROOKLYN**  
Brooklyn @  
Van Dyke  
Community Center  
392 Blake Avenue,  
Brooklyn, NY 11212

**JULY 28**  
**STATEN ISLAND**  
Staten Island @  
Stapleton  
Community Center  
230 Broad Street,  
Staten Island, NY 10304

**AUGUST 3**  
**MANHATTAN**  
Manhattan @  
Johnson  
Community Center  
1829 Lexington Avenue,  
New York, NY 10029

**AUGUST 4**  
**QUEENS**  
Queens @  
Queensbridge  
Community Center  
10-25 41st Avenue, Long  
Island City, NY 11101

**AUGUST 16**  
**BRONX**  
Bronx @  
Classic (Melrose)  
Center  
286 East 156th Street,  
Bronx, NY 10451

The public also is invited to comment on the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2012 at a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

**PACE UNIVERSITY**  
Auditorium  
One Pace Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Each location listed above is both handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation. For transportation information go to [tripplanner.mta.info](http://tripplanner.mta.info) or call the MTA/NYC Transit Travel Information Line at (718) 330-1234.

Written comments regarding the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2012 are encouraged. To be considered, submissions must be received via United States Postal mail or fax no later than August 24, 2011. Faxed submissions will be accepted at (212) 306-7905.

Comments may be sent to the following address:

**NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**  
Public Housing Agency Plan Comments  
Church Street Station  
P.O. Box 3422  
New York, New York 10008-3422

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

John B. Rhea, Chairman



**H**earing loss is a growing health concern. It usually happens over time and is hard to notice. In most cases, family and friends will notice your hearing loss before you do. You may have hearing loss if you:

- Frequently ask people to repeat themselves
- Have trouble following conversations in a group of people
- Often think that others are mumbling
- Have trouble hearing voices of women and small children
- Get complaints about your TV or radio being too loud

Contact your doctor if you suspect you have hearing loss. After explaining your symptoms, your doctor may send you to a hearing specialist for a full hearing exam. Hearing loss can be treated in most cases, improving your quality of life.



## Citywide Council of Presidents Sworn in for Next Term

The Citywide Council of Presidents, the duly-elected representatives of Resident Associations, were sworn in for their next term on May 16, 2011. Shown taking their oath, from left to right, are Lilie Marshall (Brooklyn South), Rose Bergin (Manhattan South), John Johnson (Bronx South), Ethel Velez (Manhattan North), Geraldine Parker (Staten Island), Reginald Bowman (Brooklyn East and CCOP President), Raymond Ballard (Brooklyn West), Ann Cotton Morris (Queens), and Herma Williams (Bronx North).

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

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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.)  
212-281-8450

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

455 Sutter Ave.  
347-627-6444

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

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

**Crown Heights**  
266 Kingston Ave.  
(@ Lincoln Pl.)  
718-774-0678

293 Utica Ave.  
(@ Union St.)  
347-295-0537

**BRONX**  
1759 University Ave.  
347-270-3231

2 W. Fordham Rd.  
(@ Jerome Ave.)  
646-393-5288

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  
Corona**  
40-34 National St.  
(@ 41st Ave.)  
718-233-1324

51-19 108th St.  
718-271-0715

**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**

Offer valid May 1 through June 30, 2011. Huawei Ascend and LG Optimus M™ handset prices after mail-in rebate. Mail-in rebate is for a MetroPCS Visa® Prepaid Card, while supplies last. Available to new activations and upgrades. Limit 5 per household. Coverage and services not available everywhere. Visit metropcs.com or a MetroPCS store for information on specific Terms and Conditions of Service, coverage areas, handset capabilities and any applicable restrictions. Nationwide long distance only available to the continental United States and Puerto Rico. Rates, services and features subject to change. Screen images simulated. Phones not shown actual size. Android is a trademark of Google Inc. MetroPCS-related trademarks, service marks, and other intellectual property are the exclusive properties of MetroPCS Wireless, Inc. All other brands, product names, company names, trademarks, service marks, images, symbols, copyrighted material, and other intellectual property are the properties of their respective owners. ©2011 MetroPCS Wireless, Inc. Visa prepaid cards are ordered and delivered by MetroPCS. Visa is not a sponsor of or affiliated with this offer in any way.

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# NYCHA ANNUAL RESIDENT ART SHOW

NYCHA's Annual Resident Art Show displayed the exceptional artistic talents of residents. The artwork was shown at the Rutgers Community Center in Manhattan in June.



Andrew Yates, Wagner Houses, Senior, *Eyes of Fear*



Viola Robinson, Saratoga Square, Senior, *Fish Casserole*



Skylar Grady, Brevoort Houses, Youth, *Robot*



Amaya Brown, Gun Hill Houses, Youth, *Colorful Neighborhood*



Joan Cheng, Pomonk Houses, Senior, *Lily*

Jose Rivera, Monroe Houses, Adult, *Escudero*



Joseph Falero, Richmond Terrace, Adult, *Flying USA Objects*



Rachel Moran, Wagner Houses, Youth, *Girl in Green*