



NYCHA Celebrates Elliott-Chelsea Affordable Housing Opening

By Zodet Negrón

New construction in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood received great cheers from those who attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 3. NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea was joined by Mathew Wambua, Commissioner of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Marc Jahr, President of the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and representatives of Artimus Construction and Citi Community Capital for the formal ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Elliott-Chelsea, which has 168 units of affordable housing for low- to middle-income families, including former NYCHA residents.

For former NYCHA resident Discaury Vargas of the nearby Fulton Houses, moving into the newly constructed development has been a wonderful experience. She not only gets to remain

close to her parents in NYCHA, but she has her own place.

"I am happy to be able to stay in the same neighborhood and have great new neighbors in a nice, quiet brand-new building that I can afford," said Vargas, a single mother of two. "When I found out I had all the requirements to qualify for this apartment, I was thrilled."

Ms. Vargas describes her new living situation as a totally different experience from NYCHA, and she is thankful to get the opportunity to be there.

Nydia Mata, also a former resident of the Fulton Houses, shares those sentiments and also is glad to call Elliott-Chelsea her new home. "I used to live with my mom and my sister before, and now I have my own space for me and my son," said Ms. Mata, who does administrative work for a bottling company. "I am paying almost twice as much in rent, but it's definitely worth it because I



Nydia Mata, a former resident of Fulton Houses, stands in her kitchen with her son, Aidyn Mieleles, and her niece, Olivia Rodriguez, at the new Elliott-Chelsea affordable housing complex.

worked hard for this and now I have my independence."

To date, 19 former NYCHA residents have moved into the new development and there are 11 more units for rent with NYCHA resident preference still available at press time. All other units have been filled.

The 22-story building is located at 401 West 25th Street. The \$65 million devel-

opment was funded through public and private partnerships, and is located on land that previously was used as a parking lot by NYCHA for Elliott and Chelsea Houses. Along with the new development, there are 26 underground parking spaces available for rent at prevailing NYCHA rates to residents of the neighboring developments.

continued on page 5 ▶

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NEW COMPACTORS

for Washington Houses

» read more on page 6

NYCHA'S STARS SHINE

at Annual Talent Show

» read more on page 9

GREEN COMMITTEES GROW THEIR OWN:

Promote Teamwork

» read more on page 3

STARTING YOUR OWN BUSINESS:

Need Help?

» read more on page 7

NYCHA's New Computer Labs Have a Unique Feature: WHEELS

By Tischelle George

Anthony Holiday, a 19-year-old resident of Washington Houses, loves construction and is looking for a job that will allow him to help build in his community. But something is

standing in his way – he wants to work on his resume and did not have access to the technology he needs to do so. That is until he discovered NYCHA's Digital Van.

Digital Vans bridge the technological

divide for NYCHA residents – essentially computer labs on wheels. The vans travel around the city, stopping in areas that have limited or no access to broadband high-speed Internet

continued on page 2 ▶



NYCHA's new Digital Van travels around the city to provide residents access to laptop computers, printers and wireless Internet.

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 2012 are as follows:

May 9	July 18	September 12	November 7
May 23	August 1	September 27	November 21
June 6	August 15	October 10	December 5
June 20	August 29	October 24	December 19
July 5			

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 Corporate 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 Corporate 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 Corporate 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.

Check out NYCHA's Facebook page!

Got a web-enabled smartphone? Now you can access NYCHA's Facebook page and bonus content in this issue by scanning or taking a snapshot of the QR codes. The QR code for NYCHA's Facebook page is on the right.

Step 1: Download a QR code scanner application from your phone's marketplace (many of these "apps" are free to download). **Step 2:** Point your phone's camera at the QR image.



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Residents' Voices

April 6, 2012

(sent via Twitter)

"115 Street @ NYCHA Johnson Houses Manhattan"



April 8, 2012

(sent via Twitter)

"Spring time in Lé Projects @ NYCHA Johnson Houses Manhattan"



Photographs taken by Russell Barnes, Jr., Johnson Houses

Tell us what is on your mind!

Residents' Voices accepts letters, photographs, poems, drawings – anything that allows you to express yourself!

Please include your full name, development name, address and phone number. We will print only your name and development on our pages; we need your address and phone number for verification purposes only.

Please limit written submissions to 250 words.

The *Journal* reserves the right to edit all content for length, clarity, good taste, accuracy, etc. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per issue.

There are many ways to share your thoughts with us at the *Journal*:

Send an e-mail to Journal@nycha.nyc.gov

Send a snail mail to:
**NYCHA Journal
Letters to the Editor
250 Broadway, 12th floor
New York, NY 10007**

Send a Tweet on Twitter at twitter.com/NYCHA_Housing

Post a message on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NYCHA

Send a fax to 212-577-1358

If you have any questions, please send them to Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

◀ continued from page 1

NYCHA's New Computer Labs Have a Unique Feature: Wheels

service. They include eight laptop computers, printers and wireless Internet access (WiFi), allowing residents to access the Internet to advance their education and careers. The WiFi allows people with their own laptop computers to be outside the van and access the Internet for free. The program was initiated and led by the efforts of NYCHA's Department of Information Technology, with the support of Citywide Programs. Operations in one van are funded by the federal government's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, which seeks to expand broadband access in communities across America.

Although Mr. Holiday noticed the Digital Van in his neighborhood before, it was not until he attended a job information session hosted by NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), when he realized all that the van has to offer. "When I first saw it in the neighborhood it looked cool, but I didn't know what to think," Mr. Holiday said.



Washington Houses resident Anthony Holiday receives help with his resume in NYCHA's new Digital Van from Rosaida Rodriguez, an instructor from City College of New York, one of NYCHA's partners.

"But now that I'm here it's cool inside and out! I will be able to touch up my resume and make it look good."

And the timing could not have been better for Mr. Holiday. "I have Internet access

at home but not a printer. This is really helpful to me," he said.

To find out which developments the NYCHA Digital Van is scheduled to visit, call 212-306-8090 or e-mail digitalvan@nycha.nyc.gov.

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



Message from the Chairman

This April 23 marked three years since NYCHA formally received funding through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, also known as ARRA or the “Stimulus Bill.” As part of that landmark national legislation, NYCHA was given the largest single ARRA grant made to a public housing authority in the country, allowing us to immediately get to work bringing building and service improvements to NYCHA residents in every borough.

ARRA presented a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – and NYCHA capitalized. From the first announcement of the stimulus award, NYCHA staff rose to the occasion, consistently completing work ahead of schedule and meeting deadlines outlined in the bill in order to get every stimulus dollar we were entitled to. In fact, the very first ARRA project completed by any New York City agency was an infrastructure improvement at Monroe Houses in the Bronx, for which NYCHA received a citation from President Obama.

Three years later, ARRA has had a huge positive impact on NYCHA developments and the residents we serve. From new elevators, refrigerators and heating systems, to repaired roofs and brickwork, to investments in building security, ARRA dollars have made NYCHA stronger, safer and more sustainable for you and your families.

For example, at Samuel Houses in Manhattan, we installed new doors and locks to building entrances, new lighting in lobbies and intercoms on the outside of entrances. “Security was a major issue here and it became much more secure with the removal of the old doors and the installation of the new level of security here,” Diane Blackwell, President of the Samuel Houses Resident Association, told us.

We also replaced alleyway gates at Samuel Houses. Ms. Blackwell told us that “previously people would go into the alleys or the back of the buildings. This move deterred a lot of illegal activity.”

As we pass the third anniversary mark, I’m happy to announce that NYCHA has successfully expended every dollar of our ARRA funding. On the surface this may not sound like an accomplishment, but in the case of ARRA funding, the reality is more complicated. To ensure that our entire ARRA grant went directly into our developments, projects had to be identified quickly, meet specific criteria laid out in the bill, be “shovel-ready” and directly address your most pressing needs. Work had to be coordinated and executed expertly and efficiently to ensure maximum impact within a strict set of time constraints. NYCHA employees from every corner of the agency worked hard to complete this work that improves the quality of your homes.

In addition to safety and security improvements, here are just some of the things we accomplished with ARRA funding:

- We performed rehabilitation work at 218 developments, to the benefit of more than 136,000 families.
- We replaced roofs in 205 buildings at 43 developments, and fixed brickwork and masonry in 244 buildings at 38 developments.
- We replaced 188 elevator cars in 18 developments.
- 12,000 families received new energy-efficient ovens, and 55,000 families received new energy-efficient refrigerators.

Of course ARRA funding, while generous, was not unlimited. We didn’t get to everything we would have liked to, and we all know there is much work left to be done. That’s why Plan NYCHA is so important – it describes how we are going to build on the foundation ARRA established and make public housing even stronger in the years to come. I hope you too will lend your strength to the fight to preserve public housing, and help ensure that NYCHA’s best days are still ahead.

To see photos of work NYCHA has completed with ARRA funding, please see page 10.

Resident Green Committee Leaders Convene at First Sustainability Conference

By Zodet Negrón

More than two dozen Resident Green Committee (RGC) members from 20 NYCHA developments came together for the first Resident Green Committee Sustainability Conference on March 29 to share ideas on how to build RGCs, reach out to the community and secure financial resources.

As part of its environmental sustainability initiative, NYCHA established a resident engagement strategy to create awareness in the developments by creating and mobilizing volunteer-based RGCs – groups of concerned NYCHA residents committed to reduce carbon emissions, reverse the effects of climate change and preserve public housing. For Mila Melnik, Captain of the Amsterdam Houses (Manhattan) RGC, learning techniques on how to approach and get more people involved

was particularly helpful for the year-old group. “It was excellent,” said Ms. Melnik of the Sustainability Conference. “We received very useful information on how to do outreach and apply for grants.”

Many RGC leaders found they have similar experiences. “Meeting everyone and learning what they have done and what they are doing [with their RGCs] was great,” said Cheryl Minor, Captain of the Frederick E. Samuels Houses (Manhattan) RGC. “It makes you realize that you are not by yourself. We all just need to come together and work toward a more sustainable future.”

There are approximately 30 RGCs throughout the five boroughs. Since the initiative began in 2009, RGCs have organized clean-up days, planted gardens and trees and raised resident awareness about recycling and composting, as well as energy and water conservation.

An important part of



Astoria Houses residents Kaman Fong (left) and Almeda Rodman (right), participate in NYCHA’s first Resident Green Committees Sustainability Conference on March 29, 2012.

NYCHA’s Green Agenda is to educate and empower its residents to lead greener lives in their homes. “The Green Agenda is about what you and I can do to preserve public housing,” said NYCHA Board

Member and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López. “We are counting on you to create a bigger, stronger green community in each development.”

The event was organized by the Civic Corps members

of NYC Service currently assigned to NYCHA. Eight Green City Force members, all NYCHA residents between the ages of 18-24, were on hand to provide volunteer assistance.

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 full list can be viewed at on.nyc.gov/nychanotwanted. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of December 28, 2011, and January 11, 18 and 25, 2012.

Prohibited as of December 28, 2011

Jose Figueroa Lincoln Houses, 2120 Madison Ave., Apt. 5H, Manhattan

Maurice Garcia Marble Hill Houses, 5480 Broadway, Apt. 7F, Bronx

Anthony Hicks Astoria Houses, 4-21 Astoria Blvd., Apt. 4A, Bronx

Bruce Lawrence West Brighton I Houses, 240 Broadway, Apt. 5C, Staten Island

Johnny Obas Washington/Lexington Houses, 183 E 98th St., Apt. 8H, Manhattan

Ramel Parker Polo Grounds Towers, 2949 Eighth Ave., Apt. 5J, Manhattan

Angel Silva Hope Gardens Houses, 180 Palmetto St., Apt. 2C, Brooklyn

William Ward Harlem River Houses, 2850 8th Ave., Apt. 15B, Manhattan

Prohibited as of January 11, 2012

Frank Cumming LaGuardia Houses, 340 Cherry Street, Apt. 14B, Manhattan

Gregory Forbes McKinley Houses, 730 East 163rd St., Apt. 7B, Bronx

Maria Gomez Forest Houses, 1000 Trinity Avenue, Apt. 5H, Bronx

Danny Jones Eastchester Gardens Houses, 3010 Yates Avenue, Apt. 4C, Bronx

James Jones Eastchester Gardens Houses, 3010 Yates Avenue, Apt. 4C, Bronx

Charles Smith Forest Houses, 1000 Trinity Avenue, Apt. 5H, Bronx

Prohibited as of January 18, 2012

Aaron Daily Soundview Houses, 1725 Randall Avenue, Apt. 4C, Bronx

Tyrone Green Seth Low Houses, 131 Belmont Avenue, Apt. 8C, Brooklyn

Dashawn James Marlboro Houses, 2249 Stillwell Avenue, Apt. 3H, Brooklyn

Mark Mercado Castle Hill Houses, 575 Castle Hill Avenue, Apt. 1G, Bronx

Prohibited as of January 25, 2012

Emil Anderson King Towers Houses, 20 West 115th Street, Apt. 3B, Manhattan

Derrick Hagood Pomonok Houses, 65-26 Parsons Blvd., Apt. 2D, Queens

Charles Mangum Jefferson Houses, 2215 1st Avenue, Apt. 9C, Manhattan

Christian Midgette Cooper Park Houses, 20 Debevoise Avenue, Apt. 5F, Brooklyn

Henry Purvis Tompkins Houses, 919 Myrtle Avenue, Apt. 7G, Brooklyn

Angel Suren Brevoort Houses, 274 Ralph Avenue, Apt. 5B, Brooklyn

William Webster Roosevelt Houses, 383 Pulaski Street, Apt. 8D, Brooklyn

FDNY's Top Seven Fire Safety Rules

A Message from the Fire Department of New York City



- 1. Never use an extension cord with appliances that have large currents, such as a space heater, air conditioner or refrigerator.**
Extension cords can cause home fires by overheating due to overloading the outlet.
- 2. Never smoke while lying down, especially if drowsy, medicated or have been drinking. Completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.**
Smokers are seven times more likely than nonsmokers to have a fire in their home.
- 3. Stay in the kitchen while cooking, and wear short or tight fitting sleeves.**
Unattended cooking accounts for one-third of home fires.
- 4. Installing and maintaining a smoke alarm will reduce your chances of dying in a fire in half. Install alarms in bedrooms for extra protection.**
Seventy percent of fire deaths occur in
- 5. Plan and practice a fire escape plan. Do not attempt to fight the fire yourself. Get out and CLOSE THE DOOR. Call 911 from a safe location.**
Smoke and fire kills! You may have less than three minutes to get to safety.
- 6. Store matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children. Provide close, continuous supervision of children.**
Toddler fire deaths are most often due to children playing with matches or utility lighters.
- 7. Never leave burning candles unattended.**
Half of the people killed by candle fires in the home were younger than 20 years of age.

Be Prepared in an Emergency

New York City has created an emergency preparedness guide designed for people with special needs – *Ready New York: My Emergency Plan*. The guide is a large format, interactive workbook that helps users create personalized emergency plans.

My Emergency Plan helps in establishing a support network, capturing important health information, evacuation planning and gathering emergency supplies. The guide recognizes that everyone's needs in an emergency are unique and no one should plan for an emergency alone. The workbook supports people planning together – with family, friends, caregivers or service providers.

Versions of the guide – in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean, Italian and Haitian Creole – can be found at <http://bit.ly/oemplan>, or call 311 for a copy. The website also offers the guide in an audio format.



Attention Youth: Work at NYCHA This Summer!

NYCHA is seeking youths between the ages of 14 and 24 for the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and will run from July 5 through August 17. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is not required to apply 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 is a limited number of administrative positions at NYCHA's central office locations and approved external worksites. Interested youth can apply on-line or download an application from the DYCD website at www.nyc.gov/dycd. SYEP applications also are available at NYCHA Development Management Offices. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA Development Management Office.

For more information about SYEP, visit DYCD's website or contact NYCHA's Human Resources Help Desk at 212-306-8000.

NOTICE

New York City Housing Authority Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2013

Availability of the Draft Agency Annual Plan for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2013* will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, New York, NY, starting May 17, 2012 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 2013* and supporting documents.

The *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2013* will also 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	West Brighton Community Center 230 Broadway Staten Island, New York

Public Comment

The public is invited to attend any of the five scheduled Round Table Discussions at which the public may raise questions regarding the *Draft Annual Plan for FY 2013*. These Round Table Discussions will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the dates and locations shown below. **Please call (212) 306-3800 to RSVP for the Round Table Discussions or send an email toeventsrsvp@nycha.nyc.gov.**

TUESDAY, June 5, 2012	THURSDAY, June 14, 2012	THURSDAY, June 7, 2012
BROOKLYN Brooklyn @ NYC College of Technology 285 Jay Street Brooklyn, NY 11201	STATEN ISLAND Staten Island @ Stapleton Community Center 230 Broad Street, Staten Island, NY 10304	MANHATTAN Manhattan @ Johnson Community Center 1829 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10029
TUESDAY, June 12, 2012	TUESDAY, June 18, 2012	
QUEENS Queens @ Electrical Industry Center 67-35 Parsons Boulevard at Jewel Ave Flushing, NY 11365	BRONX Bronx @ Classic (Melrose) Center 286 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10451	

The public is also invited to comment on the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2013 at a public hearing to be held on July 25, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

MANHATTAN CENTER STUDIOS

311 West 34th Street
New York, New York 10001

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

Written comments regarding the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2013 are encouraged. To be considered, **submissions must be received via United States Postal mail or fax no later than July 25, 2012**. 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

◀ continued from page 1

NYCHA Celebrates Elliott-Chelsea Affordable Housing Opening

Each new unit features hardwood floors, central cooling and heating, stainless steel appliances, video intercoms and granite countertops. All residents, regardless of income, have access to onsite parking, laundry facilities and a green rooftop terrace that features modern furniture and planters. Residents applied for housing through an open lottery system to ensure fair and equitable distribution of housing to eligible applicants.

Information on upcoming availabilities in affordable housing developments can be found on the HPD website at www.nyc.gov/hpd and the HDC website at www.nychdc.com.

To see more photos from the Elliott-Chelsea opening, point your smart-phone's camera here.



Nydia Mata hangs out with her son, Aidyn Mieles, in his bedroom, along with her niece Olivia Rodriguez at the new Elliott-Chelsea affordable housing complex.

Citibank Adds More Financial Institutions Where Residents Can Pay Rent

Several new Citibank locations around the city now offer NYCHA residents the opportunity to pay their rent in cash. In addition, Citibank will provide residents with information regarding financial services and products that are available to them.

- Bronx – 491 Baychester Ave.
- Brooklyn – 1388 Pennsylvania Ave.
- Queens – 113-01 Beach Channel Dr.
- Staten Island – 577 Bay St.

There now are 35 bank locations throughout the city that take cash rent payments. Residents who prefer to pay their rent in cash are encouraged to use these locations, as they are safe and secure. The fee for each transaction is \$1.75, which is cheaper than authorized payment centers, such as check cashing companies, that accept NYCHA cash rent payments.

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

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

NYCHA Installing New State-of-the-Industry Compactors at Washington Houses

By Zodet Negrón

As NYCHA makes way for a new 450-seat charter school and 89 units of affordable housing to be built by Harlem RBI at Washington Houses in Manhattan, it also is improving waste management by installing new state-of-the-industry compactors that will create a cleaner environment for all.

"Compacting waste saves money, improves safety and security, improves aesthetics and increases usable space," said Ceasare Gentile, Coordinator of NYCHA's Waste Management Unit. "The new compactors we will be installing at the Washington Houses are more energy-efficient, quieter and better for the environment."

The site of the new charter school and affordable housing currently is a sanitation yard that processes garbage from Washington Houses, and a parking lot. After two years of planning, analysis and studying

what would be the best location for the new compactor, NYCHA determined that the current barbecue area on the south side of East 102nd street between 230 East 102nd Street and 220 East 102nd Street best meets the needs for the new compactor. Every viable site for the new compactor yard on the Washington Houses campus was analyzed, based on space, underground utilities and proximity to residential buildings.

A brand new barbecue area will be constructed in a more centrally located area on the same block and the parking lot will be replaced. NYCHA presented this plan to residents in June 2011.

With advancements in compactor models, the size of the new sanitation yard will be smaller, with three compactors instead of six; NYCHA will build fences with slats to surround the yard for sanitation and

security reasons; and evergreen trees and flowering trees will be planted to provide an additional buffer, defraying potential noise and odors.

NYCHA residents took a tour with residents from Washington Houses on March 26 to Linden Houses in Brooklyn to look at compactors similar to what will be installed at Washington Houses, and they were impressed at how clean and relatively noiseless they were. The residents were given a demonstration of how the pre-crusher works, crushing eight tons of bulk items instead of the current three tons, and they saw how the garbage is compacted and deodorized.

To see more photos from the tour of Linden Houses, point your smartphone's camera here.



A NYCHA staff member shows how garbage is compacted and deodorized by the compactors at Linden Houses in Brooklyn. Washington Houses (Manhattan) residents were being shown how the process works, because similar compactors will be installed at their development.

Show You Love Where You Live – Save Energy


As NYCHA continues its efforts to improve the energy efficiency of its developments and reduce its operating costs, Green City Force is spearheading the Chelsea-Elliott Green Challenge, a friendly competition among Chelsea Houses, Chelsea Addition and Elliott Houses in Manhattan.



Green City Force Corps Members, who are young NYCHA residents enrolled in a green jobs training program, are going door-to-door to install compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) light bulbs, which use up to 75% less energy and last longer than regular light bulbs. The bulbs will be provided at no cost to residents. The Corps Members developed the theme for the Challenge, "Love Where You Live." They will share tips with residents on what they can do to save energy and water, aligned with NYCHA's Green Agenda goals, and help their development to achieve the greatest electricity consumption savings. NYCHA's Energy Department will track the developments' electricity consumption during the initiative. The development that reduces their consumption the most will be recognized at a ceremony this summer. This initiative, developed by Green City Force in partnership with NYCHA's Green Agenda, received support from Google and Alcoa Foundation.

Residents of any development with questions can contact Green City Force at 718-923-1400 ext. 279, or go to their website at www.greencityforce.org.

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163 West 125th Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10027

Eligibility Requirements: 18 years of age or older, NYS resident who meets low-income guidelines, non-college graduate

The MEOC is administered by Borough of Manhattan Community College/CUNY



Bed Bugs – Get Out of Our Homes!

In recent years, public health agencies across the country have been overwhelmed by complaints about bed bugs. Here are some important tips that can help defeat them.

Top 10 Bed Bug Tips

1. Make sure you really have bed bugs, not fleas or ticks or other insects.

If you think you have bed bugs, compare what they look like to the drawings on this page, or go to the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's website at on.nyc.gov/bbugsdoh to see photos.

2. Don't panic!

Don't throw out all of your things because most of them can be treated and saved.

3. Don't immediately reach for the spray can.

Using the wrong pesticide or using it incorrectly to treat for bed bugs can make you sick, may not solve the problem and could make it worse by causing the bed bugs to hide where the pesticide won't reach them. Please contact NYCHA's Customer

Contact Center (CCC) at **718-707-7771**.

4. Clean up the clutter.

A cluttered home provides more places for bed bugs to hide and makes locating and treating them harder.

5. Keep mattresses covered.

When you buy a new mattress, make sure it is sealed in plastic. Use special bed bug covers on your mattress and box springs to make it harder for bed bugs to get to you while you sleep.

6. Avoid second-hand furniture.

Never bring bed frames, mattresses, box springs or upholstered furniture found on the street into your home.

7. Regularly wash with hot water and heat-dry your bed sheets, blankets, bedspreads and any clothing that touches the floor.

Bed bugs and their eggs can hide in laundry containers/

hampers, so clean them when you do the laundry.

8. Don't pass your bed bugs on to others.

Bed bugs are good hitchhikers. If you throw out a mattress or furniture that has bed bugs in it, wrap it in plastic and contact NYCHA so that no one else takes it.

9. Reduce the number of bed bugs to reduce bites.

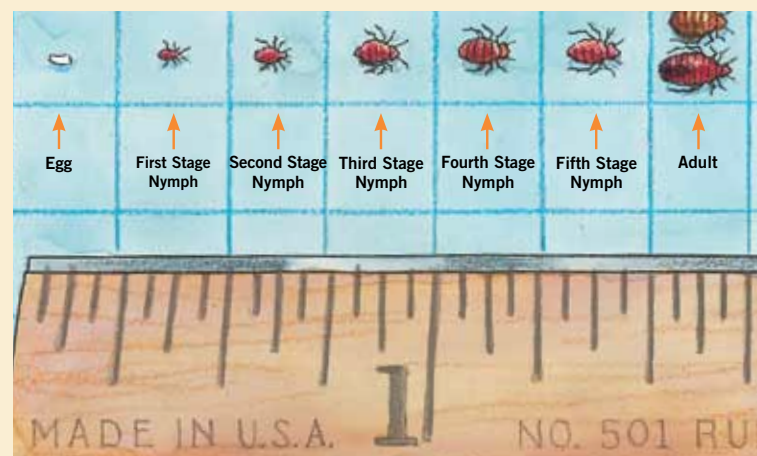
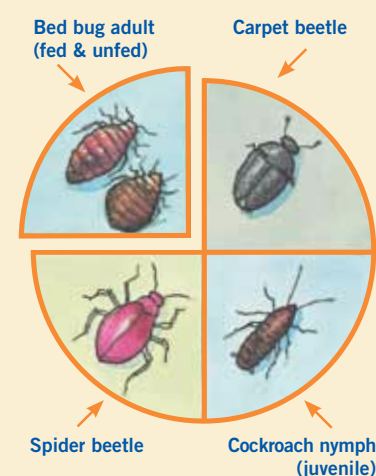
Carefully vacuum rugs, floors, upholstered furniture, bed frames, under beds, around bed legs and all cracks and crevices around the room. Change the bag after each use and place it in a tightly sealed plastic bag and in an outside garbage bin.

10. Contact NYCHA's Customer Contact Center (CCC) at 718-707-7771.

NYCHA has experienced, responsible pest control professionals on staff that are

trained to treat bed bugs. Please call the CCC to schedule an appointment if you think you have bed bugs.

For more information about stopping bed bugs safely, go to on.nyc.gov/HZQaFD on NYCHA's website, which includes the brochure *Preventing and Getting Rid of Bed Bugs Safely*.



Want to Run Your Own Business? That Dream Can Become Reality

NYCHA residents like Sara Ortiz who dream of starting their own businesses, or just have a great idea for a new product or service, are in luck. Prospective entrepreneurs recently had the opportunity to attend *My Business Action Plan*, a free workshop to guide aspiring small-business owners through a self-assessment of their business ideas and help them to develop next steps to launching their businesses.

"They teach you how to be an entrepreneur, which is what I've wanted to do for the longest time," said Ms. Ortiz, a resident of Frederick Douglass Houses in Manhattan who hopes to start a three-in-one Laundromat/dry cleaner/restaurant. "The step-by-step approach in the session was very helpful."

The sessions were operated by the Women's Initiative, a partner of NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES),

in March and April. The Women's Initiative is a non-profit that assists women who aspire to run their own business. Participants who are ready to begin the work of building their businesses will have access to the Women Initiative's 11-week business management course, *Simple Steps to Business Success*. Tracey Brooks, a resident of Webster Houses in the Bronx, plans to take the course. "I enjoyed the personality of the presenters," she said. "I can use the information to build my business, and I'll learn a skill I can apply to whatever I want in the future."

This initiative is the latest example of NYCHA's commitment to using the power of partnerships to connect NYCHA residents to economic opportunity and support them in reaching their economic goals.

"Women's Initiative for Self Employment is delighted to have launched our first business



Residents attend a workshop for the My Business Action Plan program on April 12, 2012.

training classes for women in partnership with NYCHA," said Erica Hunt of Women's Initiative. "With most new jobs coming from small businesses, this partnership helps women and trains them so that they can get on the path of economic self-sufficiency using their resilience, can-do spirit and creativity."

"The session was very good," said Ilma Joyner, the Resident Association President at O'Dwyer Houses in Brooklyn. "The course could benefit so many of the residents at my development who want to start their own businesses."

For more information on this and other REES initiatives, call the REES Hotline at **(718) 289-8100**.

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Keeping Her Roots

By Heidi Morales

This is the latest in a series of Journal profiles of NYCHA's resident gardeners as part of the celebration of the 50th year of the Authority's Garden and Greening Program.

Barbara Ward likes to speak of an old Staten Island. "I remember when there actually were farms in Staten Island," said the New Lane Shores resident.

Despite its transformation from farming town to a small metropolis, Staten Island has enabled Mrs. Ward to keep her farming roots alive by planting vegetables, plants and flowers next to her building for the past six years. "I started a small garden in the back of the building with some vegetables," she said.

Now her gardens cover the front and back of the buildings three seasons a year. "I like to see things all year round – bulbs in the spring, summer flowers and fall gardens – ever-changing gardens," Mrs. Ward said. "I've gotten positive input from residents. They leave me potted plants and I plant them in my garden."

A mother of three and grandmother of six, Mrs. Ward described nurturing her flowers with the same love and care as if they were her offspring. "It's like waiting for your children. You're planting them; you're feeding them and watering them," she said. "Of course, when you fail you're disappointed."

But Mrs. Ward's gardens are a big hit. They have helped to build a bridge between

long-time English-speaking residents and new non-English-speaking residents who have been moving into New Lane Shores. "We communicate via the garden. They'll stop and express their appreciation for the garden," she said. "It's a good icebreaker."

Mrs. Ward attended this year's 10th annual NYCHA Grows with its Gardeners Conference, which also had a special focus on the 50th anniversary of NYCHA's Garden and Greening Program. She praised NYCHA's gardening staff for their unwavering support of her and her gardens, and for sharing their gardening expertise, which has allowed her to learn more about different types of flowers, dealing with pests and general maintenance. "The conference was very informative," she said. "I always go to the gardening awards dinner. We like to support each other."

Many people believe gardening benefits the physical and emotional health of seniors – a sort of therapy for the body and soul. "Being a senior resident, it's a reason to get up and get out," Mrs. Ward said. "It keeps me moving." Mrs. Ward encourages all NYCHA residents to become involved and create a garden of their own at their developments. "It's our home; it's beautifying our home," she said. "I love to see the color. I think it does the residents well and the buildings well. You can't say anything bad about flowers."



Get Checked! Colonoscopies Save Lives!

Everyone older than 50 should get a colonoscopy, which is a test that can detect colon cancer and other conditions. Colon cancer is the second deadliest form of cancer. However, 90% of people who discover it at an early stage can be cured. You should get a colonoscopy every 5-10 years. Discuss this with your doctor. Colon cancer is treatable and beatable. Colonoscopies are available at little or no cost and they are covered by Medicare. Call your doctor, or call 311 to find a screening location near you.

You can reduce your risk of colon cancer:

- Stop smoking
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise regularly
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables and other foods rich in fiber
- Get a colonoscopy

Get Screened for Glaucoma

Glaucoma is an eye disease that causes gradual vision loss. Some people lose up to 40% of their vision before discovering that they have Glaucoma. Catching Glaucoma in its early stages can help slow or prevent further vision loss. Medicare covers 80% of the cost of annual Glaucoma screenings. Call your doctor or health plan to schedule your screening.

Groups that have a higher risk for Glaucoma include:

- Older Adults
- People with a family history of Glaucoma
- People with Diabetes and other medical conditions

Remember, get regular eye exams, control your weight and blood pressure and protect your eyes.

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment



The New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located on Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. **These applications will take place between June and September of 2012. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:**

Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category – "Caution"
Summit B.i. Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category – "Caution"
Altosid XR, EPA Reg. No. 2724-421, Toxicity Category – "Caution"

Contact names and numbers for this application are:

NYC Housing Authority:

Ray Gamble, Administrator, 718-707-5306 available from 9 am – 5 pm

Jamal Rashid, Technical Resource Advisor, 718-707-5808 available from 8 am – 4 pm

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2, Bureau of Pesticide Management – 718-482-4994

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network – 1-800-858-PEST

Inquiries concerning symptoms of pesticide poisoning should be directed to the Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

Residents Sing and Dance Their Way into the Spotlight at Annual Talent Show



NYCHA's 42nd Annual Talent Show was held on April 21 at the Red Hook East Miccio Community Center in Brooklyn. The competition showcases the singing and dancing talents of NYCHA residents. To see more photos of the NYCHA Talent Show, point your smartphone's camera here.

Below is a list of all winners and competitors.



Ronnie Marks, Marcus Garvey

Children

- 1st place:** Somethin' Untouchable (Webster)
- 2nd place:** Melonie Sosa (Pelham)
- 3rd place:** Modesty Devine (Rutgers)
- Competitor:** Isaac Yeboah (Gun Hill)

Teens

- 1st place:** PXI (Taft)
- 2nd place:** A.S.K. (Throggs Neck)
- 3rd place:** Pride and Legacy (Williamsburg)
- Competitor:** Davante Essence (Campos)



PXI, Taft



Tonya Minto, Campos

Adults

- 1st place:** Tonya Minto (Campos)
- 2nd place:** Christine Rivera (Pomonok)
- 3rd place:** Tina Smith (Hammel)

Seniors

- 1st place:** George Greene (Grant)
- 2nd place:** Ronnie Marks (Marcus Garvey)
- 3rd place:** James Dickson (Drew Hamilton)



Melonie Sosa, Pelham



Tina Smith, Hammel



Somethin' Untouchable, Webster



George Greene, Grant

Federal Stimulus Work at NYCHA

As outlined in NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea's message this issue on page 3, NYCHA has made many accomplishments using federal stimulus funding over the past three years. Here are some of the different ways NYCHA has utilized the funding.



Exterior brick work at Armstrong Houses in Brooklyn



Exterior brick work at Marble Hill Houses in the Bronx



Elevator upgrades at Chelsea-Elliott Houses in Manhattan



Roof repairs at Rutgers Houses in Manhattan



Interior refurbishing at Whitman-Ingersoll Houses in Brooklyn

Research Study

**The Albert Einstein College of Medicine
IS NOW RECRUITING FOR A RESEARCH STUDY OF
TREATMENT FOR COCAINE DEPENDENCE**

We are looking for individuals aged 18-65, who are addicted to cocaine and have used opioids (such as heroin, codeine, oxycontin, vicodin) in the past year, and would like no-cost treatment.

- This study is 8 weeks long; in-clinic visits three times per week
- Participation is voluntary and of no cost to you
- Compensation will be provided for your time and travel costs.

Please call Andrea or Matthew
For more information.



(347) 493-8555



New energy-efficient ovens and refrigerators at Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx



Roof repairs at Whitman-Ingersoll Houses in Brooklyn