



Message from the Chairman

NYCHA's challenges are daunting. We have an aging infrastructure with a multi-billion dollar capital shortfall that faces ongoing cuts from the federal government, and a backlog of repairs that some residents wait for months or even years to be addressed. Since 2002, NYCHA's annual capital subsidies have been cut in half in real terms – even though three quarters of our buildings are more than 30 years old. Over the past decade, NYCHA also has received \$1.4 billion less in operating subsidies than is required by federal formula.

Our roadmap for preserving public housing in New York City – Plan NYCHA – spells out very clearly what we need to do to renew and revitalize public housing. This includes finding new and creative ways for us to generate funding. With this in mind, we are going to leverage one of the most valuable assets in the City: our land.

Many NYCHA properties are under-built. We have room to grow. So we will offer our sites for the development of market rate and affordable housing and, in some cases, commercial, retail and community facilities. This will generate hundreds of millions of dollars – all of which can be plowed back into our buildings to improve residents' quality of life, and used to fix roofs, elevators and building facades and for other unmet capital needs.

I want to be very clear on several points of how this effort will not affect residents. We do not need to demolish a single residential building to make this plan happen; we will develop on land where there is no current housing. We will not displace a single family. And we will not sell NYCHA land – this is not a plan to privatize public housing. We will enter into long-term leases on currently vacant land that will provide stable and predictable cash flow to NYCHA to rehabilitate our existing buildings. We also will make best efforts to relocate parking and other community facilities that may be displaced.

We will focus mostly on sites that have substantial commercial value and can generate revenue for NYCHA. The residents who will benefit the most from the increased revenue will be in the NYCHA communities where new development takes place. But not all of the benefits will be local – this program will be designed to benefit all of NYCHA's residents as well.



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea speaks at the Association for a Better New York breakfast on September 24, 2012, after being introduced by William C. Rudin, Chairman of ABNY.

This program will create thousands of construction and permanent jobs – jobs that NYCHA residents will be well-positioned to get. It also will create thousands of units of new housing, a portion of which will be affordable.

While we have done a significant amount of work already, we still are in the planning process. We will talk to you and get your thoughts, as well as from elected officials and other community leaders, before we finalize a list of the sites to develop. Our goal is to see construction begin in early 2014.

This plan, combined with two other initiatives which you can read more about below on this page, could fill as much as half of NYCHA's current \$6 billion backlog of unfunded improvements. It will give NYCHA residents better homes and all New Yorkers more housing – a true win-win situation.

John B. Rhea
John B. Rhea

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



NYCHA SENIORS

Get Health and Money Check-Ups at Annual Benefits Fair

» read more on [page 5](#)

NYCHA RESIDENTS/CUNY STUDENTS:

Scholarships Go a Long Way

» read more on [page 6](#)

HE'S 19 –

and He's a Resident Association Vice President

» read more on [page 7](#)

New NYCHA Efforts Will Generate Revenue

By Eric Deutsch

As described in NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea's message above on this page, NYCHA will make available underdeveloped land on its properties for the development of market rate and affordable housing and, in some cases, commercial, retail and community facilities. The effort is part of the Plan NYCHA goal to address chronic and continued funding cuts from the federal government.

In announcing the plan at a breakfast sponsored by the Association for a Better New York on September 24, 2012, Chairman Rhea also announced two other initiatives – an audit of NYCHA's energy practices to become more energy efficient; and using a federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program to secure \$500 million to pay for capital improvements. The three initiatives combined could fill as much as half of NYCHA's current \$6 billion backlog of unfunded improvements.

"I am excited about this initiative. It was developed in collaboration and partnership with resident leadership," Reginald Bowman, the President

of the Citywide Council of Presidents and Resident Association President at Seth Low Houses in Brooklyn, told the *Journal*. "It is a real, practical solution to solve our problems."

The money NYCHA generates from the plan mostly will be used to benefit the specific communities where the new development takes place. However, some of the funds also will go into the Authority's capital budget. City Council Member Rosie Mendez,

the Chair of the Council's Public Housing Committee, said striking a balance between the two will be important. "It is important for residents who see work being done where they live to benefit from it," she told the *Journal*. "But you don't want some developments to get all of the benefits just because they are located where there are more opportunities."

continued on page 3 ▶



NYCHA will make available some underdeveloped land – such as existing parking lots – for market rate and affordable housing and commercial, retail and community facilities.

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:

October 10	November 21
October 24	December 5
November 7	December 19

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



September 3, 2012

(via e-mail)

We are the Edenwald Resident Association from Edenwald Houses in the Bronx. We have never honored our caretakers/maintenance crew for their hard work and dedication, and for the sacrifices they make being sometimes short-staffed. The residents of Edenwald would like to show their appreciation by honoring them with a certificate of appreciation.

Walter McNeill, Edenwald Houses Resident Association President

(Ed. note: Members of the Resident Association are shown gathering with the Edenwald staff)



September 11, 2012

(via Twitter)

My Tiana at the Ravenswood Community Center
Carmen Ocasio, Ravenswood 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**.

Former Prospect Plaza Residents Benefit from Financial Services

As part of NYCHA's redevelopment and revitalization of Prospect Plaza in Brooklyn, the Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) continues to work closely with relocated residents of the former development to provide financial planning and management and credit- and asset-building services. The organizations Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners (NTFP) and the Brownsville Partnership provide the services.

Construction on the mixed-use buildings is scheduled to start in 2013, with public housing and affordable housing units, ground floor retail space, open space and a community center. There will be a minimum of 80 NYCHA public housing units and approximately 280 affordable housing units. Former residents will have first priority to return to the redeveloped Prospect Plaza site. They will have to undergo a credit check as part of the application process, as will any new applicant. The free services former Prospect Plaza residents receive help them become economically prepared to qualify for the new housing.

Cynthia Vaughn, who currently lives at Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn, has been receiving the financial counseling services, which allowed her to eliminate debt, manage her monthly budget

and minimize predatory financial service fees. Her goal is to move back to the redeveloped Prospect Plaza site, a community she says she misses. "I loved the shopping, transportation, and overall feeling of safety," she said.

In 2007, the Prospect Plaza rehabilitation project was suspended after it was determined that it was financially infeasible to renovate the towers. NYCHA went back to the drawing board and, with input from former residents and community stakeholders, developed the Re-Vision Prospect Plaza Community Plan in 2010.

In its first full year of providing services, NTFP (formerly known as Credit Where Credit Is Due) and the Brownsville Partnership contacted every former Prospect Plaza resident. More than 120 of them used the services and had financial action plans created. Other NYCHA residents who live in Brooklyn Community Board 16 – including Brownsville, Howard, Hughes Apartments, Sutter Ave-Union Street, Tilden and Van Dyke I – also now can access the financial services and will get preference within the lottery to inhabit a set number of the new units. For more information, go to **www.revisionprospectplaza.com**.

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

◀ continued from page 1

New NYCHA Efforts Will Generate Revenue

Another goal from Plan NYCHA is to work with partners to ensure the future of public housing. A new advisory committee, called "New Yorkers for NYCHA," will solicit ideas from City residents who want to get involved in supporting NYCHA.

"We have to do something different. The federal government has been hurting us – we have one of the best public housing programs in the country, but we have to fund it to better address the maintenance and repairs backlog," City Council Member Domenic Recchia, Jr. told the *Journal*. "We can't sit back – Chairman Rhea is thinking outside the box and making things happen."

NYCHA Receives Additional \$44 Million in Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Equity Rehabilitation Work to Date has Benefitted More Than 20,000 Families Citywide

NYCHA received an additional \$44 million in low-income housing tax credit equity from the successful completion of rehabilitation work at the first four tax credit projects. The rehabilitation work included replacement of roofs, façade repairs, major elevator modernizations and building entrance upgrades. The money comes from low-income housing tax credit equity payments associated with the 2010 deal that brought more than 11,000 units in 13 of the 21 former City and State developments under NYCHA's federal funding stream.

"Originally, this transaction represented a very creative way to help us address our fiscal challenges, while helping us maintain and preserve the homes

of thousands of NYCHA families residing in formerly unfunded City and State developments," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "This groundbreaking initiative continues to provide hundreds of millions of dollars for capital rehabilitation and operating expenses."

The purpose of Federalization was to make necessary repairs to the 21 developments while also securing an additional \$65-75 million a year in recurring federal operating and capital subsidies at 13 of the sites. The majority of the equity payments can be received only after rehabilitation projects are completed and several post-completion milestones are met, which is standard practice.

To date, NYCHA has funded



Part of the money NYCHA received from tax credits as part of the Federalization plan will be used for roof repairs.

about \$209 million of rehabilitation work at the 21 developments, benefitting more than 20,000 families. At the 13 tax credit sites, NYCHA also has funded approximately \$30 million in interior repairs. Ten of the rehabilitation projects that were funded with low-income housing tax credit equity are complete with the

remaining three expected to be complete by the end of 2012.

In addition to the \$44 million, NYCHA expects to receive approximately \$156 million in additional tax-credit equity by the middle of 2013 once it successfully fulfills its project close-out requirements for the remaining projects.

Residents Show They Love Where They Live By Saving Energy

As reported on in the May issue of the *Journal*, NYCHA continued its efforts to improve the energy efficiency of its developments and reduce its operating costs through a friendly competition among Chelsea Houses, Chelsea Addition and Elliott Houses in Manhattan to see which development could reduce its energy consumption by the greatest amount through resident behavior change. The Chelsea-Elliott Green Challenge took place from April to June. It was developed and led by Green City Force (GCF) and their Corps Members, young NYCHA residents in training for careers in sustainability, in partnership with NYCHA's Green Agenda.

"We are building relationships with a lot of people and we are doing something for our planet," said Christie Reyes, a GCF member from Seward Park Extension in Manhattan. "It is very important to me to know that our next generation is going to live in a safe environment."

Chelsea Addition won with a decrease of 20 percent and will be recognized at a ceremony later this year; Chelsea's decrease was eight percent and Elliott's was five percent, for an overall average of 11 percent. Nearly two-thirds of residents at the three developments participated. NYCHA performed meter readings for several months to compare electricity consumption from 2011 to 2012.

Green City Force Corps Members went door-to-door installing compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) light bulbs and sharing tips with residents on what they can do to save water and



Residents of Chelsea Houses, Chelsea Addition and Elliott Houses in Manhattan got help this summer to reduce energy consumption from members of the Green City Force, including, from left to right, Ronelle Grant (Beach 41 Street Houses), Norma Castro (Taft Houses), Christie Reyes (Seward Park Extension), Lizzette Graham (Taft Houses) and Melissa Ruiz (Vladeck Houses).

energy, such as taking shorter showers and turning off lights when not in use. Thanks to Google and Alcoa Foundation, who sponsored the Challenge, residents received CFL light bulbs, free of charge, which use up to 75 percent less energy and last longer than regular light bulbs. The Green Challenge, which Corps Members assigned the theme of "Love Where You Live," aligned with NYCHA's Green Agenda goals in both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating a rich training opportunity for the GCF members.

"It's more than just a bulb swap. The tenants were very receptive to our program to lower NYCHA's energy usage, and were willing to do their part to help preserve public housing and protect their homes," said GCF member Tysheen Fahie, a resident of Pink Houses in Brooklyn. "I enjoy what we're doing, and I'm proud to say I'm a part of something very good for our community."

Breukelen Houses Garden Has Creatures from the Land, Air...and Sea

By Eric Deutsch

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

People walking by Anne Marie Rameau's garden at Breukelen Houses might do a double-take when they see something moving in the ground. But there is no cause for concern – it's just the fish swimming in the fish pond Ms. Rameau installed. "It is so beautiful to see the blue sky above the garden, I wanted to add something to it," Ms. Rameau said. "The squirrels run through it, the birds fly over it, I thought, 'Something is missing.'"

She dug a hole in the ground and put in a 270-gallon fish tank, where seven fish live, year-round. Making sure the fish are well-fed and taken care of are just part of the nurturing Ms. Rameau provides to her garden, called Breukelen Sight Garden, every other day. "I love nature," she said. "I plant one little seed and it becomes big flowers and plants."

Ms. Rameau moved in to Breuke-

len Houses in 1976, and started the garden the next year after going to a workshop NYCHA held for budding gardeners. She started out by running a hose from her kitchen sink, but was able to really expand the garden after NYCHA allowed her to connect to an outdoor faucet. Her efforts are noticed by her neighbors. "A lot of the kids really like it, they ask for seeds and stop to smell the flowers. I give them a corner and tell them they can plant their own," Ms. Rameau said.

Ms. Rameau shares the wealth with her neighbors, frequently giving them seeds and helping them start their own gardens. She gets the most enjoyment when she is able to experience the tranquility of her surroundings. "I have daffodils that are yellow, bachelor's buttons that are blue. It's beautiful to see each flower have a butterfly or a bee on top of them," she said.

People other than her neighbors notice Ms. Rameau's garden – NYCHA chose it as the winner in the citywide flower category for this year's Garden and Greening Competition. For the full list of winners, see page 7.



Anne Marie Rameau's garden at Breukelen Houses includes an artificial fish pond that she installed herself.

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 May 9 through June 6, 2012.

Prohibited as of May 9, 2012

Nayquan Garden Douglass Houses, 870 Columbus Avenue, Apt. 5H, Manhattan

Mikel Paden Pink Houses, 1307 Loring Avenue, Apt. 6E, Brooklyn

Prohibited as of May 16, 2012

Lenny Bovan aka **Lenny Bovian** Lafayette Gardens Houses, 433 Lafayette Avenue, Apt. 4F, Brooklyn

Edward Capers Butler Houses, 1330 Webster Avenue, Apt. 11F, Bronx

Curtis Carter Lafayette Gardens Houses, 415 Lafayette Avenue, Apt. 12G, Brooklyn

Lisa Gant Murphy Houses, 1091 Longfellow Avenue, Apt. 4J, Bronx

Kristen Hardy Saint Nicholas Houses, 212 West 129th Street, Apt. 8A, Manhattan

Jamel Jordan Marcy Houses, 562 Park Avenue, Apt. 2D, Brooklyn

Daniel Martinez University Avenue Rehab Houses, 1927 University Avenue, Apt. 5F, Bronx

Charlie Ramos Campos Plaza II Houses, 612 East 14th Street, Apt. 14A, Manhattan

Prohibited as of May 23, 2012

Lamar Iverson Coney Island/Sites 4 Houses, 2950 West 35th Street, Apt. 1012, Brooklyn

Ronald Mack Forest Houses, 750 East 166th Street, Apt. 1C, Bronx

Prohibited as of May 30, 2012

John Bonilla aka **John Ferrer** Mill Brook Houses, 620 East 137th Street, Apt. 11C, Bronx

William Brooks Mill Brook Houses, 620 East 137th Street, Apt. 11F, Bronx

Michael Dukes aka **Amos Dukes** West Brighton Houses, 778 Henderson Avenue, Apt. 7G, Staten Island

Barrington Grant Queensbridge South Houses, 41-06 Vernon Boulevard, Apt. 4B, Queens

Raul Rosado University Avenue Rehab Houses, 1895 University Avenue, Apt. 6D, Bronx

Prohibited as of June 6, 2012

Rafael Davilla Red Hook West Houses, 505 Columbia Street, Apt. 4B, Brooklyn

Walter McNatt Red Hook East Houses, 16 Mill Street, Apt. 4B, Brooklyn

Reinaldo Medina Mill Brook Houses, 530 East 137th Street, Apt. 21, Bronx

Terrell Ortiz Lafayette Houses, 470 De Kalb Avenue, Apt. 2F, Brooklyn

Jason Velez Douglass Houses, 875 Columbus Avenue, Apt. 7H, Manhattan

New Location for NYCHA Department of Equal Opportunity

NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO) is in a new office location. The office now is at 250 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10007. To provide continuity of service, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers for all DEO staff remain the same:

- Telephone (212) 306-4468
- TTY (212) 306-4845
- Fax (212) 306-4439

Residents seeking assistance in a DEO matter may visit the office from Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Chief's Corner

SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN FROM THE NYPD

- Trick-or-treaters always should have adult supervision, even if they are traveling in a group of friends.
 - An adult always should examine Halloween treats before children eat them. Never eat open or unwrapped Halloween foods.
 - Costumes should be flame-retardant and should allow children to walk freely without tripping.
 - Children's ability to see, hear and move should not be impaired by unwieldy masks.
 - Make certain that any face paint or make-up used on skin or costumes is non-toxic.
 - Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark.
 - Children should carry a flashlight and wear reflective or bright colored clothing at night.
 - Emergency identification information should be placed discreetly inside clothing of small children, in case of accidental separation.
 - Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them.
 - As always, children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly-lit areas and homes of people they do not know.
 - Halloween treats only should be consumed if they are packaged appropriately. Parents can help protect their children by making sure that treats are wrapped in their original, unbroken packages – no loose candy, open glasses or bottles, fresh fruit or home-made goods.
- If after eating a Halloween treat



Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe

there is evidence that it may have been tampered with, or it has a strange taste, or if a child feels sick, parents or guardians can call the NYC Health Department's Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, for emergencies and advice at **(212) POISONS (764-7667)**, **(212) VENENOS (836-3667)** for Spanish language speakers, or **(212) 689-9014** for TDD users. The National toll free number, **1-800-222-1222**, connects to the nearest poison control center.

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

Help us fight terrorism, report suspicious activity to the

**COUNTER TERRORISM HOTLINE:
1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233)**



Manhattan Financial Empowerment Centers Help with Financial Stability

When Myrna Arias, a Manhattanville Houses resident for more than 20 years, received a flyer in the mail about the Financial Empowerment Center at the Manhattanville Community Center, she knew it was the opportunity for her. "I was struggling with the transition into retirement and a fixed income," she said. "I was so happy there was a Financial Empowerment Center so close to home, where I raised my son. I have recommended it to my friends that have recently retired, their incomes have decreased and they are struggling to adjust."

The City's Financial Empowerment Centers offer free and confidential one-on-one professional financial counseling in multiple languages. A financial counselor can help residents access and review their free credit report, remove incorrect

information from the credit report, establish or improve credit, deal with debt collectors, deal with identity theft and create a budget. The goal is to make sure residents have the support they need to become financially stable and secure in the future.

NYCHA's new outcome-driven resident economic opportunity platform — the Zone Model — focuses on using service coordination, partnerships, local resources and NYCHA resources to support increasing residents' income and assets. A key component of the Zone Model is collaborating with various Economic Opportunity Service Providers like the City's Financial Empowerment Centers operated by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) across the five boroughs. "These days, a lot of people are struggling to stay afloat. We help our clients

create a financial plan that makes sense," said Milly DuBouchet, Financial Counselor at the Manhattanville Houses Financial Empowerment Center.

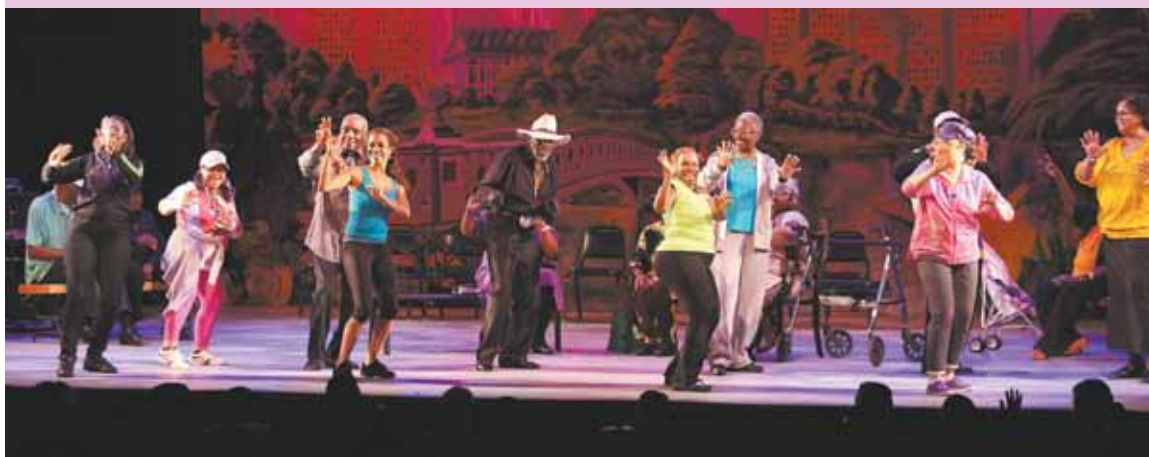
Ms. Arias feels that Financial Empowerment Centers are a great resource for seniors. "Especially for seniors that would rather not eat than not pay their bills. Or people that cut their medicines in half in order to pay their bills," she said.

NYCHA worked with the DCA and Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners to bring the new Financial Empowerment Center to the Manhattanville Community Center, where services are available to all NYCHA residents by appointment. It is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. To make an appointment at any of the more than 25 Financial Empowerment Centers throughout the City, residents can call **311**.

NYCHA Seniors Perform at 35th Annual Senior Show

NYCHA's 35th Annual Senior Show, "Ageless," was a musical comedy about the powerlessness of growing older. But hilarity ensues as the seniors, in their own quirky way, deal with the different issues that threaten to steal their zest for life. "The senior show is a chance for a lot of seniors who usually don't get to go anywhere to get out of their apartments and socialize, no matter

what their condition," said Lois Credle, from Pink Houses in Brooklyn. The senior show is run by NYCHA's Department of Community Programs and Development.



SENIOR NEWS

American Diabetes Association Expo

The American Diabetes Association's 'Diabetes Expo' features free health screenings, cooking demonstrations, product exhibits and information on diabetes prevention and management. There will be activities for all ages. Admission is FREE. For more information call **1-888-342-2383, extension 3435**. The expo is on Saturday, November 3, from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Jacob Javits Convention Center at 655 West 34th Street in Manhattan.



In Memoriam: Phyllis Gonzalez

Phyllis Gonzalez, the Resident Association President at Chelsea-Elliott Houses, passed away on September 12. Ms. Gonzalez, (front left) was on hand to celebrate her development's 65th anniversary earlier this year. Joining her were Resident Association 2nd Vice President Margaret Toole (front right), NYCHA Board Member Victor Gonzalez (rear, third from left) and development and Borough staff.

NYCHA Seniors Learn About "Money Matters" at Annual Benefit and Entitlement Fair

By Heidi Morales

Under bright sunny skies and a breeze that signaled the beginning of fall, 1,800 senior NYCHA residents came together at the Authority's 8th Annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan on September 20. In addition to its traditional focus on health, this year's fair placed special emphasis on managing finances, including preparing for the upcoming elimination of paper checks for the delivery of federal benefits such as Social Security.

As part of the theme "Money Matters," NYCHA and its partners assisted seniors in making the switch to electronic payments. Jackson Houses (Bronx) resident Geraldine Hardy, 73 years old, said she was excited about the knowledge she gained about banking and the changes from the Social Security Administration. "I'm on SSI and I get paper checks and I learned how important it is to have

that changed before March," said Mrs. Hardy.

Other workshops provided useful information about ways seniors can protect themselves from identity theft, considered the fastest growing crime nationwide. The event also included hands-on technology demonstrations of computers and computer tablets, help with understanding and enrolling in Medicare savings plans, free flu shots and information on food and nutrition.

Iraida de la Paz from Gowanus Houses in Brooklyn made use of the free health screenings to her benefit. "I got my blood pressure checked and I thought I was fine because I took my pills, but it was high and I didn't know it," she said.

The goal of the fair is to educate and empower NYCHA seniors to make informed choices about health care and finances that can improve their quality of life.



NYCHA seniors get nutrition tips at the 8th Annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan on September 20, 2012.

It's Heating Season! October 1 – May 31

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

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

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

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

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

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NYCHA joins DYCD, DOE and the Brooklyn Nets for “Dads Take Your Children to School Day”

By Zodet Negrón

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea joined New York City Department of Youth and Community Development Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrav, New York City Department of Education Chancellor Dennis Walcott, Brooklyn Nets players Deron Williams, Keith Bogans and Jerry Stackhouse and around 150 dads and their kids on their morning walk to school to celebrate Dads Take Your Children to School Day on September 20. The event, hosted by DYCD and University Settlement Society of New York, highlighted the importance of fathers being involved in their children’s lives.

Dozens of children walked along Myrtle Avenue past the Ingersoll Houses – home to many of them – with their proud dads holding their hands and leading the way to



Fathers and sons walk to school together in Brooklyn on September 20, 2012, as part of Dads Take Your Children to School Day.

the school. “I didn’t have my father growing up so it’s good that I can take my kids to school,” said Antonio Hodges, a father of six with two children currently going to P.S. 67. “I enjoy taking my children to school.”

His daughter, Shaun’ji, a fourth grader, always looks forward to it as well. “I talk to my dad on my way to school. I like it,” she said.

“We know that kids who have a dad involved in their lives are two times less likely to drop out of school,” said Chairman Rhea. “Today, we actively support fathers in their role and responsibility of seeing their kids off to school – the place where a large part of their development will take place and where they will begin to build a foundation for future learning.”

NYCHA Awards 15 Residents CUNY Scholarships

By Brent Grier

This year’s class of NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship winners made the most of an opportunity to receive assistance in pursuit of higher education. The program awards \$1,000 scholarships annually to eligible residents who are enrolled at City University of New York (CUNY) colleges. Award recipients can use the aid towards tuition, books or other education-related expenses.

NYCHA residents have to write an essay as part of the application process, and Mariner’s Harbor (Staten Island) resident Rodolfo Martinez said writing his essay was therapeutic. “At first it was hard, but eventually I decided to write about my experiences being homeless,” said the City College attendee, who after graduating with a major in political science, hopes to go to law school. “NYCHA gave me a home to live in and now is helping me pay for school.”

Misty Daiyan, a Queensbridge Houses (Queens) resident who studies accounting at Queens

College, said she also had trouble getting started on her essay. “It was hard being so open and talking about my parents’ struggles and what they’ve been through throughout life,” she said, noting that they always have been there for her ever since the family came to the United States from Bangladesh.

This year’s scholarships were funded in part by grants from the non-profit organization Women in Housing and Finance, Inc., and New York City Council Members Robert Jackson and Letitia James. City Council Member Gale Brewer also contributed funds to the Scholarship Program, which will be applied next year. “For better or worse, it takes money to pursue the best educations this country has to offer,” NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea told the scholarship winners. “We want to do our part to make it available to you, but you’re doing your part by putting in the hard work.”

In addition to Mr. Martinez

continued on page 7

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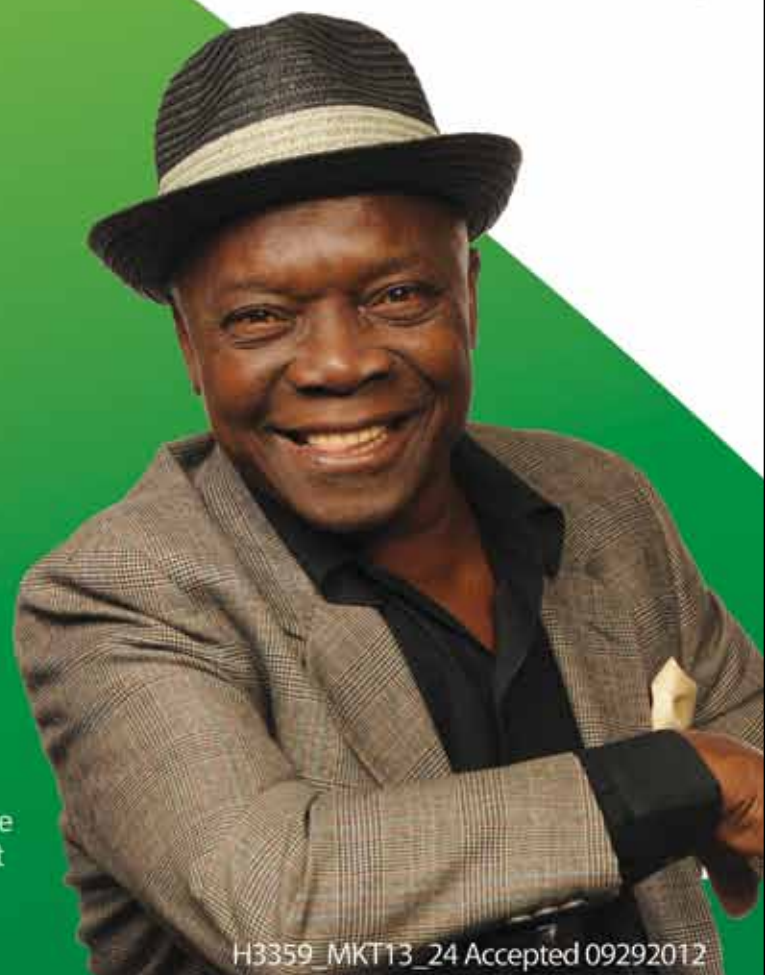
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◀ continued from page 6

NYCHA Awards 15 Residents CUNY Scholarships

and Ms. Daiyan, the 2012 NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship winners are Tiffany Almonte (Douglass Houses/York College); Alexandria Carr (Armstrong Houses/City College of NY); Ebony Johnson (Ingersoll Houses/Hunter College); Talha Khan (Queensbridge Houses/Queens College); Danique Love-Billy (Grant Houses/Lehman College); Kayla L. Marte (Parkside Houses/City College of NY); Tonisha Reid (Marcus Garvey Houses/LaGuardia Community College); Syeda T. Shume (Polo Grounds Towers/Hunter College); Jazmyn L. Smith (Ravenswood Houses/John Jay College for Criminal



Talha Khan, a resident of Queensbridge Houses and student at City College, stands with his mother at the annual NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program Awards Ceremony on September 20, 2012.

Justice); Lygia A. Sukie (Malboro Houses/Borough of Manhattan Community College); Melinda Thompkins-Perez (Park Rock Rehab/Kingsborough Community College); Heriberto Vega (Amsterdam Houses/John Jay School for Justice); and Ning Ye (Gowanus Houses/Borough of Manhattan Community College).



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and Kars 4 Kids volunteers pass out backpacks to NYCHA youth at Baisley Park Houses in Queens on August 30, 2012.

NYCHA Joins Council Member Wills and Kars4Kids to Help Youth Prepare for the School Year

By Ryan Dicovitsky

Just days before the start of the new school year, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and Authority staff appeared at the Baisley Park and South Jamaica Houses to provide school supplies to local children. Partnering with City Council Member Ruben Wills and the nonprofit Kars4Kids on August 30, more than 3,000 backpacks were distributed. The backpacks were donated by Kars4Kids.

"It's nice that they are doing this in our community and it's very helpful at this time for the children going back to school. Not all parents can afford it," said Baisley Park Houses resident Paula Ellis.

As Chairman Rhea spoke to residents, he emphasized the importance of a good education and proper resources. "Our primary mission at NYCHA is to provide safe, quality, affordable housing to New Yorkers. For a student, a backpack serves sort of the same purpose as a home – it's a place to house the tools needed to achieve, a place to keep dreams and ambitions," he said. "This investment goes beyond the material. It's more than a backpack. It's about giving every child the opportunity and the tools to succeed."

Some younger residents were happy to have new supplies. Starmel Williams, a young Baisley Park resident, said he would use his backpack to carry fruit before his mother, Patricia Williams, quickly interjected. "And homework," she added.

For Smith RA VP, Age is Just a Number

By Heidi Morales

Jonathan Gardenhire is living proof that being young or inexperienced does not mean someone cannot make a difference in their community. The 19-year-old is the Vice President of the Smith Houses (Manhattan) Resident Association (RA). He was hand-picked by RA President Aixa Torres to run for the spot because of his community involvement, academic accomplishments and knack for communicating with residents of all ages.

At the meeting when Mr. Gardenhire was elected, he spoke about the importance of having representation for the development's youth on the RA Board to address their concerns. "What surprises me is how surprised people are when they meet me because I'm so young," he said. "They are surprised to see that I'm 19 and sitting on the Board and that I'm actually interested."

Mr. Gardenhire credits his mother for his community activism and overall focus in bettering himself. "I want to make sure that everyone is taking advantage of every single facility and opportunity that's out there, because not everyone has the same foundation and family that I have," he said. "Smith Houses is a community where everyone cares about each other and with the community-oriented residents, together, we can all create an environment that's welcoming and empowering."

Serving as Vice President of the RA is just one of many activities for Mr. Gardenhire. He studies photography on a full scholarship at Parsons School of Design; interns at an agency that



Jonathan Gardenhire, Resident Association Vice President at Smith Houses in Manhattan, stands with City Council Member Margaret Chin and U.S. Congress Member Nydia Velazquez.

represents professionals in the fashion industry; works part-time selling modern housewares and furniture; and in his spare time, likes to go to the beach and hang out with friends. His career goal is to be a creative director at an agency that represents photographers or at a high-end fashion magazine. But no matter where life will take him, Mr. Gardenhire will stay focused on his neighbors. "Being Vice President, I want to make sure that if I get really successful that I can still do the same community outreach and make sure that there's still a strong sense of community all over," he said.

2012 NYCHA Garden and Greening Competition Awards

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

CITYWIDE FLOWER
Breukelen Sight Garden,
Breukelen Houses

CITYWIDE VEGETABLE
Bright Light Vegetable
Garden, Gun Hill Houses

CITYWIDE THEME
Liberty Garden,
Throggs Neck Houses

BRONX FLOWER
Shady Flower Garden, Pelham
Parkway Community Center

BRONX VEGETABLE
Marie's Garden, Union
Avenue Consolidation

BRONX THEME
Twinkle, Twinkle Little Stars
Garden, Union Avenue
Consolidation

MANHATTAN FLOWER
Bernadet's Garden,
Elliot Houses

MANHATTAN VEGETABLE
Go Green New York Garden,
Taft Houses

MANHATTAN THEME
Mrs. Potts' Garden,
Isaacs Houses

BROOKLYN SOUTH FLOWER
Morning Glory Garden,
Breukelen Houses

**BROOKLYN SOUTH
VEGETABLE**
Green House Garden,
Marlboro Houses

BROOKLYN SOUTH THEME
Woman of God Garden,
Carey Gardens

BROOKLYN WEST FLOWER
The Garden of Faith,
Roosevelt Houses

BROOKLYN WEST VEGETABLE
Yue Mei Li's Vegetable Garden,
Ingersoll Houses

BROOKLYN WEST THEME
Ebony's Garden, Marcy Houses

BROOKLYN EAST FLOWER
Palmetto's Senior's Paradise
Garden, Palmetto Gardens
Senior Center

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

QUEENS FLOWER
Zodiac Garden, South
Jamaica Houses

QUEENS VEGETABLE
Park Jong Won's Vegetable
Garden, Beach 41st Street
Houses

QUEENS THEME
Horizon #1-Horizon
#2-Horizon #3 Garden,
Shelton House

STATEN ISLAND FLOWER
Flowers of Happiness
Garden, New Lane Shores

**STATEN ISLAND
VEGETABLE**
Pacific Lane Garden,
New Lane Shores

STATEN ISLAND THEME
Raising the Stakes Garden,
New Lane Shores



"Liberty Garden" at Throggs Neck Houses won the citywide theme category.

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*January 2012 VNSNY CHOICE membership data



Farragut Houses Residents Celebrate Opening of Laundry Facilities

By Ryan Dicovitsky

As Mary Andrews, President of the Farragut Houses Resident Association, stepped up to the ribbon obstructing the basement entrance at 201 Sands Street in Brooklyn, she had two requests for the residents gathered behind her. First, she asked that they enjoy and make use of

the new laundry room facilities which were about to be unveiled. Second, Ms. Andrews called for respect and proper treatment of the machines. "This is for you," Ms. Andrews proclaimed as she cut the ribbon.

Ten washing machines and 10 dryers sit in neat rows, and

the room also has sinks, tables, counters and laundry carts.

"We've been waiting a long time. We have a lot of seniors, and it's very difficult for them to get to a laundromat," said resident Sarah Jacocks at the laundry room re-opening ceremony on September 6.

NYCHA Board Member Victor Gonzalez said the room provides a laundry list of benefits for residents. "It's safer. Security will be better because it's within the development," he said. "People know each other, they can come in groups. And it's not just washing your clothes. It's also the camaraderie, a little 'let's get together and talk and make plans.'"

The Farragut laundry room re-opening is part of a larger, Authority-wide effort to provide more laundry facilities to residents as part of the Plan NYCHA goal to make better efforts to meet residents' needs.



Farragut Houses resident Mary Wilks does her laundry shortly after the Brooklyn development's new laundry room opened on September 6, 2012.

Register Your Pet, Have Them Examined and Spayed and Neutered!

Whether you are considering taking in a new dog or cat or already own one, it is important to keep in mind your responsibilities as a resident of NYCHA. In order to fulfill the terms of your lease, make sure you are following some basic NYCHA guidelines to have your dog or cat registered with NYCHA and examined by a veterinarian.

First, make sure that your dog or cat is allowed to live with you in your apartment. Every dog and cats must be registered with your property management office. All dogs registered after February 1, 2010, must weigh no more than 25 pounds. Several breeds, either full or mixed, are prohibited, including Doberman Pincher, Pit Bull and Rottweiler. Every dog must wear two tags on a collar around its neck – its NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene metal license tag, and its NYCHA metal registration tag.

Next, make sure your pet is healthy. Every dog or cat must be examined by a veterinarian who must certify that the dog has a NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene license, that the dog or cat has been spayed or neutered, and that the dog or cat has a current rabies vaccination. These requirements also apply to service animals.

Spaying and neutering helps NYCHA. If a dog or cat has not been spayed or neutered it is more likely to seek out a mate,

leading to costly litters of kittens or puppies. Preventing unwanted litters of animals helps combat New York City's overpopulation of stray animals, and the euthanasia that occurs as a result.

Spaying and neutering also helps your pet. The procedure helps prevent cancer, infections and aggressive behaviors, increasing your pet's chances of a long and healthy life. After your pet has undergone the procedure, it will be less likely to spray unpleasant smelling urine in your home or act aggressively toward others.

NYCHA residents are entitled to assistance with the financial cost of spaying and neutering. The ASPCA of NYC offers mobile clinics in all five boroughs to spay and neuter cats and dogs, and NYCHA residents pay only \$5 with documented proof of public housing residence. Be sure to take advantage of this program, for the benefit of both you and your pets.

To learn more about the ASPCA's mobile program, call **877-SPAY-NYC** or go to www.aspcanyc.org/mobile-clinic. For other information about veterinarians, adoptions, and medical procedures for your pets, contact Animal Care and Control of New York City at **212-876-7770 x.4303** or go to www.nycacc.org.

If a resident does not comply with NYCHA's pet policy, serious consequences can result. An unregistered cat or dog constitutes a breach of rules. Failure to comply with the pet rules can lead to follow-up lease enforcement action.

Send Your Special Holiday Greetings – in the *Journal*!

Feeling joyous about the coming holiday season? Take the opportunity to show someone you care with Special Thoughts of Holiday Cheer!

Special thoughts now are being accepted for the December issue of the *Journal*. To submit Special Holiday Greetings that will appear in the December issue, please contact NYCHA's Marketing Agents by phone at **212-306-6616** or by e-mail at cavella.james@nycha.nyc.gov. Pay as little as \$20 for 20 words (four lines); additional lines are \$5 each. The Marketing Department reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, good taste, etc. The deadline for submissions is November 13.

NYCHA Residents Tackle Football Rules, Life Challenges Head-On

By Ryan Dicovitsky and Brent Grier

For the third year in a row, the NYCHA-NFL Officiating Academy trained NYCHA residents how to be football referees, while also helping them to develop their life skills. Once participants graduate, they can take the Public Schools Athletic League certification exam, which would allow them to officiate in youth leagues and high school games. "The most interesting thing is being on the field, actually just learning the things I don't know," said Calvin Thompson, a resident of Kingsborough Houses in Brooklyn. The program is a partnership between NYCHA and the National Football League.

At the graduation ceremony on August 29, held at the NFL's offices in Manhattan, Ocean Hill Apartments (Brooklyn) resident Troy Duncan, who plays semi-pro football, expressed sympathy for the officials he has maligned in the past. "I feel



At the graduation ceremony for the NYCHA-NFL Officiating Academy on August 29, 2012, participants got to check out the National Football League's "Control Room," where the league records their games so that every single play can be reviewed for accuracy.

for them now. I always used to grill the refs, but now I don't want players doing that to me so now I tell my teammates to stop," he said.

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