



Journal

39th Annual Garden Competition Awards Ceremony

Deputy Mayor Walcott and Chairman Hernandez Vow To Bring Ceremony Back To City Hall



BREAKING NEW GROUND Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence praised NYCHA residents and staff at the 39th Annual Garden Competition Awards Ceremony, while Deputy Mayor Dennis M. Walcott (center) and Chairman Tino Hernandez applauded. Inset (top to bottom): The Citywide Flower, Vegetable, and Children's Theme Garden Winners.

By Eileen Elliott

Spring has sprung with the help of more than 600 dedicated New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) gardeners who came to the Fashion Institute of Technology on March 26, 2002 for the 39th Annual Garden Competition Awards Ceremony. Originally scheduled for September, the event was delayed this year because of the attacks on the World Trade Center, and for the first time in the long history of the program, the NYCHA Garden Awards Ceremony was held at a venue other than City Hall.

"Residents of all ages, cultures and backgrounds cultivate a plot of land," said Department of Community Operations Director for Citywide Programs Deidra Gilliard, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies. "Your diversity is truly reflected in the gardens you have created and I thank you, residents and staff, for all you do to help beautify our communities."

There were 281 Flower Gardens, 240 Vegetable Gardens and 102 Children's Theme Gardens entered in the competition this

year. Over 82 awards were presented at the ceremony.

Deputy Mayor for Policy Dennis M. Walcott brought greetings from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, who was attending memorial services for fire fighters lost on September 11.

"What you've done is a testimony to your commitment to make our lives beautiful," Mr. Walcott told the audience. "It is my pleasure to make sure we open the steps and the courtyard of City Hall to the NYCHA

Garden Program in September."

Chairman Hernandez called the program, "an inspiring success every year," commending NYCHA residents and staff, among them Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, Ms. Gilliard, Garden Coordinator Howard Hemmings, Program Developer Rob Bennaton, and Program Secretary Kathleen Thomas, for their hard work.

Mr. Spence asked the audience to provide a round of applause for the groundskeepers, also attending, who turned over 360 square feet of soil last spring. He called the land where the gardens grow, "sacred soil."

Over 15 judges from a number of organizations, including the New York Botanical Gardens and the Audubon Society of New York, chose the winning gardens.

2001 GARDEN COMPETITION AWARD-WINNERS

CITYWIDE WINNERS

FLOWER: Renew Your Spirit Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, South Brooklyn
VEGETABLE: Garden of Venus, South Jamaica Houses, Queens
CHILDREN'S THEME: Tiny Toon Rainbow Children's Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation, the Bronx

SOUTH BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDENS

1st Prize: Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses
2nd Prize: New Beginning Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Shining Light Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
Honorable Mention: Garden of Joy, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDENS

1st Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Marlboro Houses
2nd Prize: Fajardo Garden, Breukelen Houses
3rd Prize: Puerto Rico Garden, Breukelen Houses
Honorable Mention: Growth of God Garden, Marlboro Houses
Special Achievement: Garden of Plenty, Marlboro Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

1st Prize: Flowers of Faith Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
2nd Prize: Beauty At The Bay Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Hudson's Vegetable Garden, Marlboro Houses

WEST BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDENS

1st Prize: F. Watts Sunshine Garden, Wyckoff Gardens
2nd Prize: Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses
Honorable Mention: Mr. And Mrs. Lucas' Garden, In Memory of Mr. And Mrs. Lucas, Marcy Houses

WEST BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDENS

1st Prize: Our Neighborhood Garden, Marcy Houses
2nd Prize: Bengie Vegetable Garden, Sunner Houses
3rd Prize: Neighborhood Garden, Borinquen Plaza
Honorable Mention: Good News Garden, Stuyvesant Gardens

WEST BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

1st Prize: Ebony Garden, Marcy Houses
2nd Prize: Twinkle Tots' Sunshine Garden, Farragut Houses
3rd Prize: Children of Walt Whitman's Garden, Walt Whitman Houses
Special Achievement: The Rainbow Garden, Williamsburg Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDENS

1st Prize: Butterfly Garden, Hope Gardens
2nd Prize: Give God The Glory Garden, Linden Houses
3rd Prize: Love and Peace Garden, Brownsville Houses
Honorable Mention: Garden of Faith, Brownsville Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDENS

1st Prize: The Mini Plantation Garden, Pink Houses
2nd Prize: John V. Garden-1, Howard Houses
3rd Prize: The Garden of Eden, Hope Gardens
Honorable Mention: Franboyan Garden, Hope Gardens
Honorable Mention: God Bless Garden, Pink Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

1st Prize: Mayda's Children's Garden of Peace, Boulevard Houses
2nd Prize: Making Choices Garden, Brownsville Houses
3rd Prize: Fannie's Garden With Love, Pink Houses

STATEN ISLAND – FLOWER GARDENS

1st Prize: Balloon Abstract Garden, Todt Hill Houses
2nd Prize: Pride and Joy Garden, Stapleton Houses

STATEN ISLAND – VEGETABLE GARDENS

1st Prize: Nature's Wonder Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
2nd Prize: Amedina's Garden, Berry Houses
3rd Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

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Message From The Mayor

**DROUGHT EMERGENCY DECLARED
NEW YORKERS MUST CONSERVE WATER**



Our City is in the midst of the worst drought it has experienced in a decade. In fact, the seriousness of the situation has prompted me to impose water restrictions for a Stage I Drought Emergency, which began on April 1. Hopefully everyone reading this newspaper is abiding by them. These restrictions affect some 8 million City residents, nearly half-a-million of whom live in

New York City Housing Authority developments. I am asking all of you to sharply moderate your water usage.

A Drought Emergency is declared when there is a reasonable probability that our upstate reservoirs could become strained unless stringent measures are implemented to reduce water consumption. Six months of unusually dry weather have left the reservoirs only half full at a time of year when they are normally at 90 percent of capacity. With the summer months approaching, when water consumption increases dramatically, it is very important to pitch in and help conserve water in our City.

New Yorkers have heeded the City's requests for water conservation over the past months, and we have seen our water use cut by some 30 million gallons a day. The New York City Housing Authority, which manages 2,072 buildings in our City, has played a vital role. However, voluntary conservation alone can't make up for the lack of rainfall, therefore we must take more stringent measures to increase protection of the water supply and reduce water use.

In a Stage I Drought Emergency there are mandated prohibitions that direct and restrict the use of water. These prohibitions are enforced by the NYPD and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). **Activities that are not allowed include washing vehicles, sidewalks, driveways or streets. It is also illegal to wash graffiti from building exteriors with City water. Watering lawns is restricted to four hours a day, from 7 to 9 AM and 7 to 9 PM for even numbered addresses on even dates and for odd number addresses on odd dates. In addition ornamental fountains must be turned off. I ask all NYCHA residents to please do your part by following the water-saving tips listed below.**

WATER SAVING TIPS

1. Report any leaking faucets or toilet tanks to your management office *immediately*. These will be designated as priority items for maintenance workers.
2. Report leaking fire hydrants on or near NYCHA property to the DEP by calling (718) 337-4357. Note that it is illegal to use a hose or fire hydrant for washing vehicles. It is also illegal to use a New York City fire hydrant without a permit for any purpose other than fire protection.
3. Take shorter showers or fill the tub only halfway. Make sure that your shower head has a water flow restrictor.
4. Don't run the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
5. Don't let the water run while washing dishes. Kitchen faucets use 2 or 3 gallons a minute.
6. Keep chilled water in the refrigerator. Don't run water to make it cold.
7. Run the washing machine only when full. Use short cycles if available.
8. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Each unnecessary flush can waste 1.6 to 5 gallons of water.
9. Take advantage of the DEP's free water survey. To apply, call (718) DEP-HELP.
10. And lastly, keep an eye open in your Management Offices and building lobbies for "Save Water" posters, with more information. Additional tips for saving water can be found on DEP's Web site at www.nyc.gov/dep.

Michael R. Bloomberg

**Two Residents Honored At Women's History Celebration
*Rising Above and Beyond The Call Of Duty After 9/11***

Two New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents were among those employees honored by NYCHA's Committee On Women's Concerns at its third annual Women's History Month celebration held on March 20 at the sumptuous Surrogate's Court in lower Manhattan. This year's theme for Women's History Month nationwide was "Women Sustaining the American Spirit."

In her keynote address, NYCHA's Department for Social Services Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk encouraged those in the audience to arrive at their own definitions of the phrase, "sustaining the American spirit." She said that after speaking with family and friends, she came to think of those words as meaning, "any contribution made in the spirit of the principles set forth when our society was founded — democracy, freedom, justice and equality."

The event honored NYCHA women employees who went above and beyond the call of duty in their response to the September 11 tragedy. Two of those employees—Cheryl Bobb and Sylvia Carattini—also live in NYCHA housing. Ms. Bobb is a Caretaker at Throggs Neck Houses in the Bronx. She was working at Monroe Houses, also in the Bronx, on September 11. Ms. Carattini is a Caretaker at La Guardia Houses in Manhattan.

Both women volunteered as drivers in a convoy of about 70 NYCHA trucks that entered Ground Zero late on the night of September 11. Both worked long shifts, hauling much needed supplies into the site and carrying debris out. The two women said they were grateful for the opportunity to do something to help on that fateful day.

Chairman Tino Hernandez, who also rode in that convoy, emphasized the important role played by the Housing Authority immediately following the disaster, saying it was one of the first City agencies on the scene after the Police and Fire departments.

"We're here to honor the contributions of women during the extraordinary attack on New York City," the Chairman said, standing beneath the marble arches in the Court's main hall, "but the contributions that women make at NYCHA every day do not escape me. NYCHA has taken the lead in appointing women to executive, managerial and non-traditional positions."

Board Member JoAnna Aniello and Senior Policy Advisor Carmen Ambert were also guest speakers at the event. Ms. Aniello, who has



Keep On Truckin' Cheryl Bobb (left), of Throggs Neck Houses in the Bronx and Sylvia Carattini (right) of Johnson Houses in Manhattan, both Caretakers, drove NYCHA trucks down to Ground Zero on the night of the World Trade Center attacks. These women were commended for their work at NYCHA's Women's History Celebration.

held several positions during her tenure with NYCHA, encouraged the women in the audience to, "Go after what you want. Reach for the stars!"

And the many women in the audience served as a testament to Ms. Ambert's comment that, "Women in America have come a

long way in our struggle for equal rights and dignity in the workplace."

Across the nation, the month of March is set aside to recognize women's contributions. March 2002 was the 21st anniversary of Women's History Month.

Visit NYCHA's Web Site
www.nyc.gov/nycha

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Message From The Chairman**Summer Employment Opportunities With NYCHA**

Are you a young New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident with some extra time on your hands this summer? Why not use that time constructively by earning some money and gaining valuable work experience? The Housing Authority has two summer employment programs for young people — the Resident Youth Employment Program (RYEP) and the Summer Lottery Program. One of them may be right for you.

The Resident Youth Employment Program

The Resident Youth Employment Program is open to NYCHA residents who will be between the ages of 16 and 21 as of the program's start date, July 1, 2002. The program lasts for seven weeks, from July 1 through August 15. Participants in this program work on the grounds of NYCHA developments for 20 hours a week, from 8AM to 1PM, Monday through Thursday. The Housing Authority will make every effort to place you in the development where you live, but travel may be required. RYEP workers make \$5.25 an hour. There are also a limited number of positions as Team Leaders, available for residents between the ages of 18 and 21. Team Leaders work one additional hour a week, and earn \$6.00 an hour.

Applications are available in your development's Management Office, but **hurry! The deadline to submit your application is April 30, 2002.** Once your application is received, a computer program will be used to randomly select applicants and invite them to register. Your chances of being invited to register will depend on the total number of applicants. *In previous years, the Housing Authority has been able to accommodate all qualified applicants.* If you are invited to register, **you must bring certain documents** when you come to the registration site in order to be enrolled and get a job. Don't wait until the last minute. **If you need information on obtaining a Social Security Card, call 1-800-772-1213.** If you are 16 through 17 years old, you will need an Employment Certificate, commonly referred to as, "working papers." **For information on working papers, call (718) 222-6220.**

The Summer Lottery Program

The Summer Lottery Program provides 75 lucky "lottery winners" with seven weeks of employment, from July 8 through August 23, and is open to New York City residents and non-residents who have proof that they have been admitted to, or are currently enrolled in college. The program is geared to give college students a great work experience. It's called a lottery because each application received by NYCHA's Human Resources Department is assigned a number, and a copy of the number goes into one of several pools, depending on the applicant's background. The categories are liberal arts, accounting, social services, computer services, and engineering. The numbers are then picked randomly from the pools.

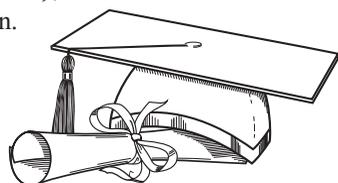
The Housing Authority makes every effort to match the interests and skills of the lottery winners with the available positions. Lottery winners work for 35 hours a week, from Monday through Friday, for a salary of \$523.00 biweekly. Keep an eye open in your Management Office for application information. And best of luck!

Tino Hernandez

GED classes for residents 17-20 years old at NYCHA's Alternative High School (AHS), a collaboration with the New York City Board of Education.

Open enrollment

Classes run Monday – Friday,
from 9AM – 12:30PM
20 locations citywide



For more information, call the **Department of Economic and Business Initiatives at (718) 250-5904.**

U.S. Supreme Court Upholds HUD Policy

By now, many New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents have probably heard that on March 26 the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upheld what is commonly referred to as the "One Strike And You're Out" law. That means that local housing authorities can evict a tenant's entire family when a member of the tenant's household or a guest engages in drug-related criminal activity, on or off the premises, regardless of whether the responsible tenant knew of, or had reason to know of, that activity.

The decision overturned a ruling by the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco, which had interpreted the provision of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to bar the evictions of four Oakland, California public housing residents who allegedly had no knowledge of their family members', and in one case, a caregiver's, illegal drug activity.

In *Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) v. Rucker*, the U.S. Supreme Court held that Congress gave housing authorities wide discretion to evict tenants for criminal or drug activity.

Even before the *Rucker* decision, NYCHA began utilizing leases which provide that any criminal or drug activity that threatens the health, safety, or right to peaceful enjoyment of the premises by other tenants, their family members, or guests, can be cause for termination of tenancy. NYCHA reviews the facts of each case and exercises its discretion in dealing with offending residents.

The *Rucker* decision reinforces NYCHA's ability to take effective action to protect its residents against illegal drug and other criminal activity. Thus, the *Rucker* decision will assist NYCHA in providing safe and decent housing for its residents.

"NYCHA's policy has always been zero tolerance for drug and violent criminal activity," said NYCHA spokesperson Howard Marder. "We applaud the unanimous Supreme Court decision. It strengthens our position."

HUD called the decision, "a great victory for families in public housing who want to be free from those who infiltrate their community with drugs."

The "One Strike And You're Out" policy was implemented in 1996 under President Bill Clinton.

Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

Freewheelin' When we spoke to Mr. Holvin Tony Baltodano earlier this month, he was looking forward to the Boston Marathon on April 15, the Achilles Marathon in Brooklyn's Prospect Park on April 28, and, of course, the New York City Marathon on November 3, 2002. But Mr. Baltodano, age 35, who resides in Monroe Houses in the Bronx, won't be running in these marathons — he'll be wheeling. Tragically, he was left unable to walk after a crime was committed against him. But that hasn't kept him from his passion. Mr. Baltodano's spirit and determination are inspirational. He said, "After three years in rehabilitation, I said to myself, it's time to fight the barriers that life has in store for you. I decided to face reality. Even though I won't be able to walk again, I can still be a productive member of society. I went back to school and I graduated from Hostos Community College, in the Bronx, with an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts, focusing in Sociology. I went on to Lehman College and I have three more semesters to go before I get my Bachelor of Arts Degree. Right now I work as a Peer Coordinator at Mount Sinai Hospital and I do volunteer work on my days off at the Veteran's Affairs Hospital here in the Bronx. I also have a passion, which is competing in marathons, like the New York City Marathon, along with able-bodied runners.

However, I must use a wheelchair. On November 4, 2001 I did my best: 26.2 miles in 2.03 hours. Out of 99 people, I finished ninth." Mr. Baltodano is living proof that with hard work and determination, a mobility impairment doesn't have to keep you from reaching your goals. **Look for Tony the next time you see a marathon, I'm sure he will be there whizzing by in his wheelchair. Special thanks to Jamie Ratzken, Assistant Manager of Monroe Houses, who contributed this story.**



Tony Baltodano

Golden Gloves—Is gold precious? Well the young men of the Betances Houses Boxing Club have proven that their hands are as precious as gold. They have brought home the metal. Out of the 13 who participated in this year's *Daily News* Amateur Golden Gloves Boxing Competition, five made it to the finals. Four are scheduled to fight on April 11 and one on April 12, at Madison Square Garden, beginning at 7:30. Luis Reyes, open heavyweight, made it to the finals after he took down Adam Lachoff in the second round with a knockout. Reyes will meet Ruben Gonzalez in the open final bout. Javier Monserrate, weighing in at 147 lbs., novice, was named P.C. Richards Boxer of the Night after defeating Sabath Al Sabath, at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn. Javier has a 5-0 record in the tournament and will be facing off against none other than Juan Carlos Sanchez, (also a member of the Betances Team) who won a 3-2 decision over hard-hitting Daniel Terriel, of the Kingsway Boxing Club. Federico Ramirez, 165 lbs., novice, defeated Rafael Chevoller, NYC PAL. By the way if you didn't know, "open fighters" have more than ten fights under their belts. "Novice fighters" have less than ten. Check out the next issue of the *NYCHA Journal* to see if your favorite boxer won. **I wish all you guys good luck and victory! You go out there and show your opponent who's in control!**

Deborah's Diary is a column that is for you, the residents of NYCHA, to share significant events in your lives with your neighbors. As always, I plan to tell you about those individuals who are the "talk of the town," but I need your help in getting that news. So, remember the Diary! If you have news, share it with me and I will share it with my readers. Drop me a few lines or fax me at 212-577-1358. Or, hey, make it personal! Give me a call at 212-306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it, but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.

The NYCHA “Not Wanted” List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on December 27, 2000 and January 3 and 24, 2001. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of December 27, 2000

Jose Santana	Case 5050/00 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 1408 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.
Luis Nieves	Case 5098/00 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 160 West 174th Street, Sedgwick Houses, the Bronx.
Ramon Muriel	Case 5001/00 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 530 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.
Leroy Mack	Case 5003/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 300 Bushwick Avenue, Borinquen Houses, Brooklyn.
Edwin Santana	Case 5005/00 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 286 South Street, La Guardia Houses, New York.
Abdul Pullium	Case 5007/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 155 Eldert Street, Hope Gardens, Brooklyn.
Jonathan Hernandez	Case 5032/00 formerly associated with the twentieth floor of 418 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, New York.
Jacquien Reid	Case 5065/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 1145 226th Drive, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Robert Moore	Case 5069/00 formerly associated with the twenty-first floor of 200 West 143rd Street, Drew Hamilton Houses, New York.

Prohibited as of January 3, 2001

Rafael Velez	Case 5135/01 formerly associated with the eighth floor 50 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, New York.
Ramell Brunson	Case 4389/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 400 West 19th Street, Fulton Houses, New York.
James Murray	Case 5143/01 formerly associated with the eighteenth floor of 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Sharory Bigelow	Case 5218/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 754 Henry Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 24, 2001

Aaron Pryor	Case 20/01 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 10 Amboy Street, Prospect Plaza, Brooklyn.
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Protecting NYCHA's Urban Forest *Working Together To Maintain Tree Health*

By Eileen Elliott

Who knew? Collectively, the estimated 50,000 to 100,000 trees that grow on the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) 2,521 acres of land in virtually all of our 345 developments make up what is known as an urban forest. These trees are particularly vulnerable, enduring more stress than trees that grow in natural forests. In fact, the average life expectancy for a tree in New York City—even the toughest—is only seven years!

On March 29, NYCHA's Design Department hosted a seminar in its office at 90 Fifth Avenue for various department directors, including planners, landscapers, and engineers, to educate them on landscape planning, and the installation and maintenance of urban trees. The presentation was led by Consulting Arborist Gerald Posner of Tree Health Management, Inc., a specialist in the care and maintenance to trees.

Critical to the day's discussion was the importance of a “protection zone,” or a “critical root zone” for every tree, where no grading or construction should occur. This is necessary so that the tree's roots can spread out and grow properly. When sidewalk pavement cracks and buckles because it is being forced up by tree roots, that means that the tree's protection zone was violated.

Unfortunately, when construction occurs on NYCHA property, this protection zone is sometimes violated. Trenches for electric, gas, telephone and TV cable lines can cut into a tree's root system, with disastrous consequences down the line. Once 30% of the root system is lost, most mature trees will die within five years.

One reason for this is that the tree's secondary root system, made of the new roots that grow after an original root is cut, is not strong enough to support the tree or provide it with adequate sustenance. In addition, these new roots often grow around the base of the tree, in effect strangling it, a condition known as girdling. Girdling restricts the flow of water and nutrients between the root system and the leafy part of the tree, or the crown.

Vandalism is another big problem for trees on NYCHA property. Damage to the trees caused by dogs and people is the main reason that many newly planted trees die in NYCHA developments.

One way to deter tree vandals is by planting trees in groups of three or more. For some reason, people are not as likely to vandalize a tree that is part of a group. Another, more obvious way to protect trees from vandalism is by fencing them off.

By average City standards, NYCHA's trees are doing pretty well; most are at least 50 years old



Battle Of The Bulge Consulting Arborist Gerald Posner of Tree Health Management, Inc., shows NYCHA staff how this tree at Manhattan's Riis Houses has become misshapen by girdling roots.

or older. Still, many of these trees have been injured by storms, soil compaction which prevents adequate amounts of air, water, and nutrients from entering the roots, and outdated pruning practices.

After the slide show, the class went over to Riis Houses on East 10th Street, to see some examples of the kinds of problems urban trees are faced with.

NYCHA Forester Brian Smith said the Housing Authority is planning to inventory and map all of its trees. This data will form the basis of NYCHA's urban forest program.

“Once we have a database with this information, we can better prepare for different cycles, such as fertilization and pruning cycles,” he said. “We will also be

able to do long-term planning. For example, if we know how old a given percentage of trees is and what kinds of damage these trees have sustained, we can better estimate when they will begin dying and prepare for that.”

Mr. Smith emphasized the importance of a proactive maintenance program for trees in urban forests and encouraged residents to respect the trees around them. “They're living things. They purify the air you breathe, beautify the surroundings, and provide shade in the summer.”

Most trees on NYCHA property are one of four kinds: the London Plane, the Norway Maple, the Honey Locust or the Pin Oak.

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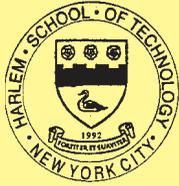
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TRYOUTS FOR

NYCHA GYMNASTIC SCHOLARSHIPS

At Sutton Gymnastic Training Center in Manhattan

- **DO YOU HAVE A CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6 AND 9 LIVING IN A NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENT?**
- **IS HE OR SHE MENTALLY FOCUSED AND PHYSICALLY TALENTED? (STRONG, FLEXIBLE AND FAST!)**
- **ARE YOU OR ANOTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT WILLING TO COMMIT TO HELPING YOUR CHILD ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE? ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT!**
- **DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE A MINIMUM OF 4 HOURS A WEEK TO GIVE TO ATTAINING THAT EXCELLENCE?**



IF THE ANSWERS ARE "YES"...

SUTTON GYMNASTIC TRAINING CENTER and the **NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY** are offering full gymnastic scholarships to children who qualify. **THIS IS A FULL SCHOLARSHIP.** If your child is selected, is willing to work hard, and meets all requirements, he or she will become a part of the Sutton Gymnastics/ NYCHA Gymnastics Competitive Team Program.

Our girls and boys compete in the USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Development Program and the USA Independent Gymnastics Clubs competitions. This program trains gymnasts from local level to the national and international levels of competition.

Team members are instructed by nationally recognized USA Gymnastics Certified coaches, meet many new friends, travel, and if they maintain high scholastic standards, have the opportunity for scholarships at many fine colleges and universities.



TO AUDITION

All auditions will be held at Sutton Gymnastics.

Address: 20 Cooper Square 7th floor
(at Third Ave & 5th St. in the East Village)
Telephone: **212-533-9393**

Appointments begin at 2PM and are by reservation ONLY.

AUDITIONS ARE ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS.

Sunday April 28th
Sunday May 19th
Saturday June 15th



All auditions begin at 2:00 pm and are by reservation only.
Please call Sutton Gymnastics between the hours of 9AM and 1PM. We will schedule your time and appointment date. The phone can be busy so please keep trying.

Included on the current team roster are NYCHA boys and girls who have WON local, state, regional meets and even earned a place on the TOPS national team.



Mohini
Approved for Posting

Places to Apply for Jobs!

The Civil Service Chief-Leader provides valuable information on where to apply for and pick up employment/examination applications. Using their material, here is a list of some important places where examinations and/or job applications may be obtained. We also list phone numbers where you can obtain further details about exams, vacancies and the application process.

City: In person 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Application Center, 18 Washington Street, telephone (212) 487-JOBS. Forms may be downloaded from the Internet at <http://nyc.gov/html/dcas/html/exam-forms.html>. Mail requests for applications must be received at DCAS Application Section, 1 Centre St., 14th floor, New York, N.Y. 10007, with self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope, no later than seven days before the filing deadline. Applications must be returned by mail postmarked on or before the filing deadline. Filing fees range from \$30 to \$60, depending on title, and are payable by money order only.

State: In person, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, New York State Civil Service Department Community Outreach Center, 163 West 125th St., Manhattan, telephone (212) 961-4326, and at Labor Department Community Service Centers. Mail requests to: Examination Information, New York State Civil Service Department, Building 1, State Office Building Campus, Albany, N.Y. 12239, (518) 457-6216. The filing fees range from \$15 to \$35.

Postal Service: Information about exams in Manhattan or the Bronx may be obtained, only when tests have been ordered, at the main Post Office, 380 West 33rd Street. For exams in Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island, information may be obtained, only when tests have been ordered, at any of the following locations: 78-02 Liberty Ave., Queens, telephone (718) 529-7000; 142-02 20th Ave., Queens; 45 Bay St., Staten Island.

Good luck, keep on persevering and keep on using this paper as an aid to finding a job!

State Exams Open Continuously

20-725 to 20-739

Bilingual Education Teacher
\$29,802—\$37,313

20-545/20-546

**Child Protective Services Specialist I
and Child Protective Services Specialist I
(Spanish Language)**
\$30,488

20-775

**Teacher of English to Speakers
of Other Languages**
\$29,802—\$37,313

Postal Exams Close April 30

**Electronic Technician
(Brooklyn and Queens)**
\$39,493

**To apply, call (866) 999-8777 and enter
Announcement No. 14137**

**Mail Processing Equipment Mechanic
(Brooklyn and Queens)**
\$32,832

**To apply, call (866) 999-8777 and enter
Announcement No. 14144**

**Maintenance Mechanic and Building Equipment
Mechanic (Brooklyn and Queens)**
\$30,381, \$32,832

**To apply, call (866) 999-8777 and enter
Announcement No. 14132**

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- Property must be owner occupied
- Purchase transactions only

To learn more about how you can prepare for home ownership, join us at a location conveniently located throughout the NYC area or call for your free pre-qualification at 1-800-636-6395, ext. 210.

Thursday, May 9 6pm - 8pm Atlantic Terminal Community Center 501 Carlton Ave. Brooklyn, NY	Wednesday, May 22 6pm - 8pm Manhattanville Community Center 530 W. 133rd St. New York, NY	Monday, June 3 6pm - 8pm Gun Hill Community Center 744 E. Gun Hill Rd. Bronx, NY
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Seating is limited. Please RSVP to 1-800-636-6395.



All loans are originated by JP Morgan Chase Bank. All loans are subject to credit and property approval. Program terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other restrictions and limitations apply. Not all products are available with 1% down payment from borrower's own funds; 2% gift or unsecured loan, totaling 3% down payment. For down payments of less than 20%, mortgage insurance (MI) is required and MI charges apply. Mortgage loans are offered through JPMorgan Chase Bank, JPMorgan Chase Community Development Group, Residential Lending, One Chase Manhattan Plaza, NY, NY 10081. ©2002 J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. All rights reserved. Equal Housing Lender

Garden Award Winners

(Continued From Page 1)

STATEN ISLAND – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Mariner's Harbor Community Center Youth Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
- 2nd Prize: A Little Sunshine Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

QUEENS – FLOWER GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses
- 2nd Prize: Tabernacle Flower Garden, South Jamaica Houses
- 3rd Prize: "Just For You" Garden, Woodside Houses
- Honorable Mention: Liz' Flowers, Beach 41st Street Houses
- Special Achievement: Catherine's Stair Steps to Heaven Flower Garden, Beach 41st Street Houses
- Special Achievement: Garden of Faith, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS – VEGETABLE GARDENS

- 1st Prize: My Kitchen Garden, South Jamaica Houses
- 2nd Prize: Garden of Joy, South Jamaica Houses
- 3rd Prize: Garden of Love, Beach 41st Street Houses

QUEENS – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Catherine's-We Are The Children, Children of the World Flower Garden, Beach 41st Street Houses
- 2nd Prize: Beautiful Things Garden, Redfern Houses
- 3rd Prize: Barquan's Garden of Love, Beach 41st Street Houses

MANHATTAN – FLOWER GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Holliday's Cuisine Garden, Amsterdam Houses
- 2nd Prize: Balm's of Gideon Garden, St. Nicholas Houses
- 3rd Prize: Neighbor's Garden, East River Houses
- Honorable Mention: Garden of Love, Douglass West of Broadway
- Special Achievement: A Touch of Class Garden, Wagner Houses

MANHATTAN – VEGETABLE GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Troche's Garden, Wald Houses
- 2nd Prize: Garden to Cherish, Holmes-Isaacs Houses
- 3rd Prize: Light of Earth Garden, Wagner Houses
- Honorable Mention: Senior Citizens' Group Garden, Drew Hamilton Houses

MANHATTAN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

- 1st Prize: El Coqui Children's Garden, Campos Plaza
- 2nd Prize: Blues Clues Flower Garden, Jefferson Houses
- 3rd Prize: Sunflowers Garden, Vladeck Houses
- Honorable Mention: Where The Wild Things Grow, Seward Park Extension
- Special Achievement: All My Children, Jefferson Houses

BRONX – FLOWER GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Blue Shade Garden, Bronxdale Community Center
- 2nd Prize: Sunset Garden of Love, James Monroe Houses
- 3rd Prize: Rodriguez & McKay's Sunrise Garden, Patterson Houses
- Honorable Mention: The Purple Rain Garden, Edenwald Houses
- Honorable Mention: Jessica's Garden, Patterson Houses

BRONX – VEGETABLE GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Mamita's Neighborhood Vegetable Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
- 2nd Prize: Family Garden, Throggs Neck Houses
- 3rd Prize: Union Veggies Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
- Honorable Mention: Sunflower Garden, Patterson Houses

BRONX – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDENS

- 1st Prize: Perennial and Shade Extravaganza Garden, Bronxdale Community Center
- 2nd Prize: Mickey's Garden, Throggs Neck
- 3rd Prize: Herbs and Woodland Garden, Bronxdale Community Center

Garden Competition

(Continued from page 1)

"We can't thank you enough," Mr. Hemmings said to the residents in closing. "Everyone takes pride in your collective efforts." He promised some exciting new inter-generational weekend garden workshops in May and June.

The program has won Best Practice Awards from the City's Department of Youth and Community Development and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Gardeners are provided with free seeds in the spring, as well as year-round technical assistance. Gardeners also receive free flowering bulbs in the fall and are reimbursed \$40 per garden for the purchase of their plants. In addition, the Garden Program provides year-round environmental education to NYCHA gardeners of all ages.



Report Dangerous Dogs, Call the New Dog Hotline: 1 (888) 895-3647



Come find out if you are eligible for Family Health Plus.

You may join Family Health Plus (FHPlus) as an individual and/or family if you:

- Are single, a parent or part of a childless couple.
- Are between the ages of 19 and 64.
- Are a citizen or fall into one of many immigration statuses.
- Have no health insurance.
- Meet FHPlus income criteria.
- Are a New York State resident.

Here's what you need to apply:

Make sure you bring copies of the following:

1. **Proof of address.** (For example, a current utility bill such as a telephone, gas, cable, water bill, or a current rent receipt or statement.)
2. **Proof of age.** (For example, a birth certificate, passport, or driver's license.)
3. **Proof of income.** (For example, paycheck stubs, a letter of income verification from employer showing wages, an unemployment Benefits Statement, Federal/State Income Tax Return*.)
4. **Proof of Social Security Number.**
5. **Proof of Citizenship or Immigration Status.**

*Income tax returns for other than self-employed must be for applications prior to April. If later, you must include another form of documentation.

Family Health Plus covers, but is not limited to:

- Inpatient and outpatient health care.
- Physician visits.
- Lab tests and x-rays.
- Prescription drugs.
- Emergency medical care.
- Dental services.
- Hearing and speech services.
- Vision care.
- Family planning services.
- ...plus much more!

For weekday enrollment sites and additional information call: 1-888-785-1834



Stop by one of our enrollment centers on any Saturday to learn more about Family Health Plus.

QUEENS
RUDEL ANNEX 9:00 – 1:00 PM
88-06 55th Avenue
Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373

MIDLAND PKWY 9:00 – 1:00 PM
180-05 Hillside Ave.
Jamaica, N.Y. 11432

QUEENS CONT'D
FLUSHING 9:00 – 1:00 PM
140-15 Sanford Ave.
Flushing, N.Y. 11355

BEN E. LANDESS 9:00 – 1:00 PM
125-06 101st Ave.
Richmond Hill, N.Y. 11419

BRONX
GRAND CONCOURSE CENTER 9:00 – 1:00 PM
2532 Grand Concourse
Bronx, N.Y. 10458

STATEN ISLAND
CLOVE LAKE 9:00 – 1:00 PM
1050 Clove Rd.
Staten Island, N.Y. 10301

BROOKLYN
BAYRIDGE 8:00 – 12:00 PM
6300 8th Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220

KINGS HIGHWAY 9:00 – 1:00 PM
3245 Nostrand Avenue
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11229

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.

Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., the world's largest bottler of non-alcoholic beverages is sponsoring two job fairs with NYCHA. The following positions are available:

Account Manager * - meets sales, delivery merchandising and stock rotation standards for all Company products at each outlet. Knowledgeable and savvy about local marketplace conditions and needs in order to increase profitable sales activity. Excellent customer service skills are essential. Clean driver's license required. Ideal candidate has an Associate's or Bachelor's degree or 5-10 years solid sales experience. Salary: \$33,500 plus bonus.

Driver Merchandiser* - delivers products to assigned retail outlets. HS or GED required; basic math; clean driving record; Class A or B license. **Summer Hire Position**
 Salary: 5-8's: \$130/day plus .25¢ per case over 155 cases.
 4-10's: \$150/day plus .25¢ per case over 185 cases.

Merchandiser* - work with Account Managers and drivers rotating stock and resetting accounts to corporate standards. High School or GED required. Must have a car and clean driver's license. Salary: \$9.00/hour. [*Ability to lift up to 50 pounds].
Summer Hire Position

The job fairs will be held in the following boroughs in May:

Manhattan	Wednesday, May 1st	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Brooklyn	Wednesday, May 15th	10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

If you are interested, leave your name and number at:

212-306-3800
for NYCHA Residents ONLY

Danish Gymnastic Team at Jacob Riis



By Deborah Williams

The Danish Gymnastics Team tumbled into the Jacob Riis Community Center in Queensbridge North Houses, Queens, on March 28 and 29, 2002, during their World Tour. The 28 gymnasts put on a performance that was loved by all the spectators.

Members of the Jacob Riis community waited anxiously for the performance to start. As the performance progressed the children became more and more excited. Their laughter and their *ooh's* and *ah's* could be heard outdoors, and that drew in more spectators who, as they watched, soon discovered that it not only takes agility, flexibility and skill to become part of this amazing team, it takes acting ability, dancing skills and a little comic relief as well.

After the event was over, guests were invited to remain to take advantage of some one-on-one instruction sessions with the gymnasts. Many children eagerly accepted the offer, receiving lessons in cartwheels and flips.

For a visit from the Danish Gymnastics Team or for more information you can contact: Danish Gymnastics & Sports Associations, Vingsted Skovvej 1, P.O. Box 569, DK 7100 Vejle, Denmark or call + 45 79 40 40, fax + 45 79 40 40 80, or log on to their website at www.dgi.dk/ndpt.

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* All normal Rx's included up to +/- 8.00 diopters sphere & +2.00 diopters cylinder. Adds up to +3.00. Eye exam not included. Plastic lenses only.

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