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HUD APPROVES SECTION 8 TRANSITION FOR 8,400 UNITS IN CITY- AND STATE-BUILT DEVELOPMENTS

IN MID-SEPTEMBER THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RECEIVED FINAL APPROVAL FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) REGIONAL OFFICE IN MANHATTAN TO TRANSITION UP TO 8,400 UNITS IN NYCHA'S 21 CITY- AND STATE-BUILT DEVELOPMENTS INTO THE SECTION 8 PROGRAM. This will give NYCHA a dedicated revenue stream to support operations for all 20,000 units in these developments, which currently receive no funding from any government source to support operations.

"HUD's approval of dedicated Section 8 federal funding for these City/State developments is historic," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez.

As the name indicates, the Section 8 Voluntary Transition Program is voluntary, meaning that there is no obligation for the public housing residents of the 21 developments who do not wish to transition into the Section 8 program to do so.

A limited number of Section 8 vouchers will be issued to

interested City/State residents who live in the 21 developments. All 20,000 residents of the 21 developments were sent a letter from NYCHA notifying them of HUD approval of the plan and of the options available to them.

The options are: to remain in place as a public housing resident; accept a Section 8 Voucher and remain in their current apartment, as long as it is a right-sized unit per Section 8 occupancy standards; or accept a Section 8 Voucher and move to private housing in a

neighborhood of their choice; or transfer to a federal development as a public housing resident.

This is a multi-year effort whereby the additional revenue NYCHA expects to receive in 2009 will be approximately \$17 million, growing to \$75 million by 2011 when the program is fully implemented. This additional revenue will cover operating costs for all units in the 21 developments.

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HEALTHY CHOICES Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau (left) and Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott (right) were guest speakers at the 4th Annual Senior Benefit Fair in October.

HEALTH AND FINANCE ARE FOCUS OF SENIOR FAIR

By Eileen Elliott

OVER 50 HEALTH CARE AND FINANCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND MORE THAN 1,500 NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) SENIORS FROM THE FIVE BOROUGHS CONVERGED AT RIVERBANK STATE PARK IN UPPER MANHATTAN ON A BLUSTERY OCTOBER 2ND FOR THE AUTHORITY'S FOURTH ANNUAL SENIOR BENEFIT AND ENTITLEMENT FAIR, ENTITLED "HEALTH AND FINANCIAL FITNESS."

Resident Support Services Director Richard Greene welcomed the seniors who filled the open-air skating rink to hear the morning's speakers, and thanked the many collaborators including 70 volunteers who were helping out for the day. An impressive roster of speakers kicked off the program, the first of whom is an octogenarian himself.

"It's good to be among my contemporaries," the 86-year-old Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau quipped at the start of his remarks. Mr. Morgenthau spoke briefly about the dangers of identity theft, alerting the audience to the fact that 2,000 cases of the crime were reported to his office last year. "You never know who's going to take advantage of you," he warned.

Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott brought greetings from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and in keeping with the Fair's dual theme, stressed the importance of physical, emotional and financial health.

Department for the Aging (DFTA) Commissioner Edwin

Mendez Santiago called the Fair, "a model for the rest of the City," thanking the seniors who were present for all of the good work they do. "When you think of older adults," the Commissioner said, "you should no longer think of people who have retired from work; retired from life. Older adults are the #1 volunteers throughout the City."

The DFTA Commissioner was followed by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Region II Chief Medical Officer Dr. Nilsa Gutierrez. The Dr. provided practical advice about the Medicare 2009 Prescription Drug Plan's open enrollment period, which will run through December 31st. She urged seniors to discuss the prescription plans with their doctors to determine which plan is right for them. She also warned seniors about aggressive drug plan marketers, while offering a number to call to file complaints against them, 1-800-Medicare.

After the speakers, seniors filed into the adjacent Cultural Center, where the Financial Literacy

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FLOWER POWER NYCHA Board Member and Environmental Coordinator Margarita López (far left) joined staff and Citywide winners at the Williamsburg Community Center in Brooklyn for the 46th Annual Garden Competition Awards Ceremony.

46th Annual Garden Awards Ceremony

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) 46TH ANNUAL GARDEN AWARDS CEREMONY WAS HELD AT THE AWARD-WINNING WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER IN BROOKLYN ON OCTOBER 7, 2008. NYCHA resident gardeners from all boroughs gathered together to

receive acknowledgement and praise for their efforts as well as awards for the best among the 600 Flower, Vegetable and Children's Theme Gardens entered in the competition this year.

Gardens entered into the Garden and Greening Competition are judged by horticultural

professionals and awarded first, second and third prizes for each borough in the three categories mentioned. Citywide winners are then chosen from the first-place winners.

"I'm so happy. I'm 77 years old and I feel like I'm 16," said Marion

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MEET WATER TAXI
CAPTAIN SAQUAN BUSH

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'IF YOU SEE IT,
REPORT IT'



PAGE 3
NOVEMBER IS NATIONAL
ELEVATOR SAFETY MONTH

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**New Recommendations
Mean More NYC Kids Need
Flu Vaccine this Year**



INFLUENZA SEASON IS HERE AND NOW IS THE TIME TO ARM YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY—BY GETTING VACCINATED. Following the lead of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Department is now recommending vaccinations for all children between 6 months and 18 years of age. CDC changed the recommendation this year in

response to research showing that children often spread influenza to family members and others. In New York City, the number of eligible kids will grow by more than a million compared to last year, when the vaccine was recommended only for those between 6 months and 5 years of age.

Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory illness that kills thousands of New Yorkers every year. Besides sparing people days or weeks of misery, the vaccine can prevent unnecessary school absences, doctor visits and hospitalizations. Free flu shots are now available at all of the Health Department's immunization clinics. Young children and older adults are at higher risk of hospitalization if they get sick.

Influenza and pneumonia (a potential complication) together represent the third leading cause of death in New York City, claiming more than 2,500 lives every year. Only heart disease and cancer take greater tolls. Anyone can get influenza, but some groups are at especially high risk of complications and death:

People 65 and older have the highest risk. More than 2,000 older New Yorkers died of influenza and pneumonia in 2006, and more than 13,000 were hospitalized. Infants and children are also at high risk of complications. In 2006, more than 4,000 children up to age 10 were hospitalized due to influenza and pneumonia; 10 children under 14 died.

Children under the age of 9 need to receive two doses if they're being vaccinated against influenza for the first time. Last year, only 18% of children aged 6 months up to 5 years were fully protected.

Who should get a flu shot?

Everyone who wants to reduce the risk of influenza should get vaccinated this year. It is especially important that the following groups get vaccinated:

- Children between 6 months to 18 years of age
- Adults 50 and older – especially those over 65
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic health conditions
- People in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- Health-care workers
- Anyone in close daily contact with children under 5 – especially infants younger than 6 months
- Anyone in close daily contact with people who are over 50 or living with chronic health conditions

People ages 65 and older and those between the ages of 2 and 64 with chronic medical conditions should ask their doctor about the pneumococcal vaccine.

Where to get a shot

Your regular health care provider should have a good supply of flu vaccine, so call and set up an appointment today.

Flu shots are available at no cost at Health Department clinics in each borough. No appointment is necessary. Any New Yorker can call 311 for clinic locations and other sites where flu vaccine is being offered, or use the flu clinic locator online at www.nyc.gov/health/flu.

New York City's Health and Hospitals Corporation also offers free and low cost flu shots and FluMist at public hospitals throughout the city. For information, visit www.nyc.gov/html/hhc/html/services/flushots.shtml.

Scared of needles? There's an alternative. FluMist is a vaccine spray for healthy people between the ages of 2 and 49. FluMist is not recommended for pregnant women, people with weakened immune systems, and those with long-term health problems. Your doctor can tell you whether FluMist is right for you.

Michael R. Bloomberg

THE FACES OF NYCHA

Meet Water Taxi Captain Saquan Bush

By Ashley Grosso
Summer Intern

IF YOU ARE ONE OF THE PASSENGERS WHO IS ABLE TO PUSH THROUGH THE CROWDS AT PIER 11 ON WALL STREET IN MANHATTAN TO BOARD THE FREE NEW YORK WATER TAXI TO THE IKEA FURNITURE STORE IN RED HOOK BROOKLYN, BE SURE TO SAY HELLO TO CAPTAIN SAQUAN BUSH. When you board the boat—the Curt Berger—you can relax, knowing that Mr. Bush has checked the engine, fire extinguishers, and navigation lights. These responsibilities now come easily to the 24-year-old Mr. Bush, a former Red Hook Houses resident, who became one of the youngest Water Taxi captains, at age 23, in 2007.

An employee of New York Water Taxi since 2002, Mr. Bush went from being a deck hand to being a captain in just four years. The owner of the company, Tom Fox, encouraged Mr. Bush to take the two necessary courses to become a captain. One is a course about the rules of the road—the Coast Guard's "Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels" license. This class is also known as the six-pack license, referring to the six passenger limitation on boats operated under the certification. The other requirement is a "Master's 100 Ton Captain's License," named for the maximum weight of the boat a captain can operate. The classes require a minimum number of days of sea time and passing multiple choice exams. Mr. Bush said the tests were not tough for him after so many years on the water.

Although Mr. Bush previously drove a boat to and from Rockland County, he has driven the water taxi from Wall Street to Red Hook six days a week from nine to five since the route started on June 18, 2008. The trip to Ikea attracts plenty of shoppers and tourists, with views of the New York City "Waterfalls" installation (now gone), as well as a less artistic but still interesting submarine and colorful shipping containers. Mr. Bush's 74-passenger boat can cruise at a speed of up to 24 knots, or 28 miles per hour.

Mr. Bush grew up in Red Hook Houses West, and left four years ago. In his free time, he likes to play basketball. He likes the fact that his job is close to home, and he can walk to work. According to Mr. Bush, the water taxi is a useful mode of transportation for these tough economic times. He advises drivers to take the ferry instead of



MAKING WAVES Water Taxi Captain Saquan Bush brings shoppers from Lower Manhattan to the Ikea furniture store in Red Hook, Brooklyn each day. Mr. Bush grew up in Red Hook Houses.

spending money on gas. Mr. Bush also encourages young people in the community to come work on the water. He said it is a good place to work with great people. "It's an up-and-coming company and an up-and-coming neighborhood."

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

The next *NYCHA Journal* will be a combined December/January issue and will be available in early January 2009. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the holidays. Keep an eye open for special "75th Anniversary" features in 2009.

**The Housing Authority
Journal**

74
years
of Public Housing
in New York City

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- Ashley Grosso.....Summer Intern
- Peter Mikoleski, Leticia Barboza.....Photography

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Taking Stock as 2008 Comes to a Close



AS 2008 DRAWS TO A CLOSE AND THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) APPROACHES ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY, I'D LIKE TO TAKE STOCK OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS WELL AS THE CHALLENGES WE'VE FACED OVER THE PAST YEAR. These have been difficult times for public housing across the country as a whole. In fact, the country has seen a loss of about 200,000 units of public housing. NYCHA has seen six straight years of federal disinvestment, losing over \$611 million in operating funds and we've lost \$502 million in needed capital

assistance over the past eight years. Still, NYCHA has taken needed steps to preserve public housing for the 403,000 residents who call NYCHA home. As we celebrate our 75th Anniversary, the challenges we face only serve to renew our commitment to preserve this vital affordable housing resource.

When we released our Plan to Preserve Public Housing to bring structural fiscal stability to the Housing Authority we outlined seven objectives. You can read about one of those objectives in the article on page 1 of this *Journal* to learn about our unprecedented use of Section 8 funding to support the operations of our City- and State-built developments which will eventually bring the Housing Authority an additional \$75 million in much needed revenue by the year 2011.

Together with residents we won passage of the Shelter Allowance, correcting a rent disparity that existed for decades, which will bring \$46 million in new money to the Housing Authority.

We are partnering with the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development in creating a pipeline of new housing. We have finished or have nearly finished 300 units at Markham Gardens in Staten Island, 65 units at Fabria Houses on the Lower East Side, and 350 units at University Avenue Consolidated in the Bronx. In addition, three developments which are part of the Hudson Yard Rezoning on Manhattan's West Side are slated for new construction of affordable housing: Chelsea, Elliott and Harborview. In the Bronx, 1,000 units are slated for Soundview, Highbridge, Forest, and University Avenue, and there are also 53 two- and three-family townhouses slated for Linden/Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn.

We are applying capital dollars to upgrade heating plants and hot water heaters and advancing our "green" agenda to become more energy efficient. We've made a massive investment in brickwork and roof replacement to preserve our buildings' infrastructure, as part of our historic \$2 billion capital plan.

Recently, in the span of a few months, we have experienced several tragedies. As many of you know, NYCHA manages a system of 343 public housing complexes with approximately 2,600 buildings and 178,000 apartments. NYCHA is a city within a city. If we actually were a city we would be the 19th largest in the nation. Problems are inevitable for such a giant landlord. We need to learn from them to renew our commitment to safety. These tragedies should not be the measure by which NYCHA and its residents are judged.

Please take a look at the article on elevator safety to the right of this column and note our new, 'If You See It, Report It,' campaign. If you notice a problem with your elevator, please report it to the Centralized Call Center at (718) 707-7771. If you see any condition in your development which needs to be addressed, please contact the CCC. Safety is a responsibility that is shared between NYCHA staff and NYCHA residents.

NYCHA will continue to seek to learn and improve on how we manage our operations. I look forward to working together with you on the challenges and successes of our 75th year. Enjoy the holidays.

Tino Hernandez

November Is Elevator Safety Awareness Month

November is National Elevator Safety Awareness Month. Since the New York City Housing Authority maintains over 3,300 elevators in 2,600 buildings, this is the perfect time to remind residents of the following elevator safety tips. Remember, it's a shared responsibility!

—Remind your family and neighbors to always look in before entering an elevator.

—To protect the health and safety of all residents, especially the elderly and children, don't litter in the elevator.

—Remove all personal belongings when you leave an elevator, including personal garbage, if any.

—Don't prop the elevator door open while running back to your apartment for something. Propping the door open will damage the elevator mechanism and cause service interruptions.

—If you are moving, have an elevator-full of household items ready to be put in the elevator before you call for it. Please be careful when loading and unloading your belongings to avoid damaging the elevator buttons, walls or doors.

—Don't allow young children to go into elevators by themselves. Young children should always be accompanied by an adult.

—Elevator maintenance and repairs are costly. Vandalism takes resources away from preventive maintenance and inconveniences you and your neighbors. Notify your Manager if you observe someone vandalizing the elevator.

—Any unsafe condition of the elevator, for example, jumps, or stops that are too high or low, should be reported to the Centralized Call Center (CCC) at 718-707-7771 immediately.

—If you're stuck in an elevator, REMAIN CALM, press the alarm button, and wait for assistance. Don't try to remove yourself from the elevator because this can be dangerous.

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



It's Hard to Kill a Dream — Once a ballet dancer, Derrick Brown (nicknamed Dee Jay) turned to basketball after Saint John's University Men's Basketball Team Manager Kimani Young told him, "You should learn how to play basketball!" That was four years ago. Today, standing at 5 feet 6 inches, Dee Jay might not have the height of your typical basketball player but at the age of 14 he has

mastered the skill of the game and he still has time to grow — so watch out all you wanna-be b'ballers! Playing in the C3 Elite basketball tournament and several other well known basketball youth tournaments, Dee Jay was able to gain the experience and exposure he needed to catch the attention of other coaches and school recruiters who recognized his talent.

Discovering the South Kent School

So when he applied to the St. Thomas More School, a Catholic college preparatory boarding school in Oakdale, Connecticut, with a grade point average of 3.4, he was quickly accepted. However, after attending a basketball game in Rhode Island, Dee Jay discovered the South Kent School, an independent co-educational boarding school located in South Kent, Connecticut, with a basketball team that has sent many student to Division I, II and III colleges and universities. Dee Jay, with a desire to play for the NBA someday, knew this was the right school for him. "I daydreamed about the school all the time," said Dee Jay, who decided to try to make his dream a reality.



Derrick "Dee Jay" Brown

Tragedy

But life hasn't been a slam dunk for Dee Jay. There was a tragedy that could have ended his dream forever. On July 4, 2007, Dee Jay, only 13 years old at the time, and his mother, Treena Hunter, were attacked by his stepfather. Dee Jay and his mom, who received a six-inch cut to the face, will both wear their battle scars for the rest of their lives.

The attacker was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Prosecutor Cynthia Lynch was quoted in the *Daily News* saying, "Dee Jay's poise and presence of mind is what saved them on the dreadful day." Ms. Lynch continued to say, "He has something we should all aspire to—a quiet confidence, an inner strength beyond his years."

Practice, Practice, Practice

Dee Jay used to walk around Brooklyn's Farragut Houses where he lives, holding his head down trying to hide the bandages that covered his face. "I felt so bad for Dee Jay. He would tell his friends and others who asked him what happened, that he was in a car accident. But later he decided to tell the truth and it made him feel better," said Ms. Hunter. Soon Dee Jay began to hold his head up again and got back into his daily routine of practicing basketball every morning either at Tillary Park, Theodore Battery Park (more commonly known as City Park) or the Farragut Houses basketball court. "I worked Dee Jay hard on the court. If he missed a lay-up he would do four push-ups, and you know what? Dee Jay didn't complain because he loves the game. I wanted to teach Dee Jay that if you want to be successful in life you have to work hard for it," said Ms. Hunter.

Basketball Scholarship

On September 5, 2008, Dee Jay and his mom attended a meeting at the South Kent School with the basketball coach and Dee Jay was accepted and awarded a basketball scholarship. Normally 9th-graders aren't recruited on the "prep" team—it's something that the South Kent School hasn't done in over 10 years, but Dee Jay has the makings of an NBA player. South Kent's Basketball Coach, reported to the *Daily News*, "Dee Jay is pure. He has no agenda other than doing the best he can." "Dee Jay was so excited about his acceptance. We thought the scholarship would pay the tuition, so I began packing his belongings," said Ms. Hunter.

On September 7th, Dee Jay and his mom headed for the South Kent School and upon arrival were told that

(Continued on page 6)

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. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on July 11, 18 and 25, 2007. **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

**REMEMBER,
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA'S
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.**

Prohibited as of July 11, 2007

Issac Taylor	Case 4703/07 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 3150 Broadway, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Damir Jackson	Case 4794/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 3547 Nostrand Avenue, Sheepshead Houses, Brooklyn.
Jerry Oriol	Case 4843/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 40-08 10th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Queens.
Ramel Sanders	Case 4910/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 411 Beach 54th Street, Ocean Bay Apartments (Bayside), Queens.
Taisheik Stone	Case 7913/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2055 Rockaway Parkway, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.
Troy Mitchell	Case 6998/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2221 Pitkin Avenue, Fiorentino Plaza, Brooklyn.
Rayray Conner	Case 3756/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 840 Hewitt Place, Union Avenue Houses, the Bronx.
Steven Colon	Case 5008/07 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 2120 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Jarron Shuford	Case 5031/07 formerly associated with the first floor of 159-06 109th Avenue, South Jamaica Houses, Queens.

Prohibited as of July 18, 2007

Kim Williams	Case 5021/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 40-06 10th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Queens.
Quadiri Bolare	Case 4888/07 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2370 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Rahsaun Williams	Case 4096/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 67-40 Parsons Boulevard, Pomonok Houses, Queens.
Scorpio Simon	Case 4631/07 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrell Anderson	Case 5035/07 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 1455 Harrod Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Desinor Graham	Case 5192/07 formerly associated with the second floor of 1738 Lexington Avenue, Clinton Houses, Manhattan.
Kevin Taylor	Case 5202/07 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 545 West 126th Street, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.
Richard Graham	Case 3809/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1385 Fifth Avenue, Taft Houses, Manhattan.
Richie Hamilton	Case 5201/07 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 1609 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, Bronx.
Courtney Pettus	Case 6501/04 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 3002 Surf Avenue, Coney Island Houses, Brooklyn.
Lance Aponte	Case 5232/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 5812 Farragut Road, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.
Jonathan Miller	Case 5163/07 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 125 Richards Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of July 25, 2007

Barney Henry	Case 5327/07 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 1350 Fifth Avenue, King Towers, Manhattan.
Darryl Garcia	Case 5353/07 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 868 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglas Houses, Manhattan.

SECTION 8 TRANSITION

(Continued from page 1)

NYCHA oversees the nation's largest Section 8 Program, which serves about 270,000 New Yorkers using about 90,000 vouchers to rent apartments in the private housing market. NYCHA also has approximately 32,000 participating landlords.

Under Section 8, Voucher-holders pay 30% of their household income in rent, while the program pays the remainder of the reasonable rent approved by NYCHA up to the limits of the Fair Market Rent established for New York City by HUD. Section 8 Vouchers are portable and can be used anywhere in the U.S. or U.S. territories where there are Section 8 landlords.

Current Section 8 Voucher-holders who are interested in moving into one of the City/State developments can register online at NYCHA's website nyc.gov/nycha/s8apts or call (212) 306-3650 between the hours of 9AM and 5PM, Monday through Friday. Current residents of the 21 developments who wish to move into one of the 8,400 units should contact their Management Office.

Units will be converted to Section 8 as they become vacant or as current residents volunteer.

SENIOR FAIR

(Continued from page 1)

portion of the Fair was held, featuring seminars on identity theft, check cashing vs. local banking, and opening and managing a checking account. From there it was on to the complex's Athletic Building for medical screenings, senior IDs, reduced fare MetroCards and even voter registration. The various zones within the Athletic building included Senior Support Agencies, Health Screening vans, Seniors IDs, Medicare, Social Security and Epic, Medical Information and Nutrition, Health Screening and Flu Shots, Transportation, and Medicare HMOs. **There was even a "Getting Healthy Courtyard" with exercise groups (shown at right) and massage therapy.**

Eighty-three-year-old Dorothy Evelyn of Manhattan's Taft Houses came to the Fair to have her blood pressure and blood sugar taken. When asked if she could benefit from the financial literacy component of the Fair, she seemed skeptical, saying simply, "You gotta make do."

THE CHIEF'S CORNER

Holiday Safety Tips



HOUSING BUREAU POLICE CHIEF JOANNE JAFFE

Hello! As the holidays are fast approaching, the New York City Police Department wants this holiday season to be a safe and joyous one for all the residents and employees of the New York City Housing Authority. As a reminder, the following safety tips are being provided to ensure a safe holiday season.

- Be alert and aware of your surroundings at all times. Criminals often confront people who are distracted.
- Travel on populated, well-lit streets. If possible, travel with a friend.
- Plan your purchases in advance and carry only the amount of cash necessary for the purchase. If you must carry a large sum of money, divide the cash between your purse, pockets and wallet.
- If you are taking the subway, look for the red or green lights outside the entrance to determine if the entrance is open. A red light indicates the entrance is closed, while a green light indicates it is open.
- Carry purses close to the body. Place one end of the purse in the palm of the hand and the other in the bend of the elbow. Never carry a purse by the handle or wrap the strap around your body.
- Place wallets in your front pants pockets or an inside jacket pocket.
- Don't wait until you reach your front door to look for your keys. Have them ready ahead of time.
- Don't buzz in someone until you have verified who he or she is. This will help protect both yourself and your neighbors.

— Don't allow unscheduled workers to gain access into your home. Criminals may pose as utility workers, NYCHA workers or as trades' people. Remember to always check a person's identification especially when you did not schedule any work.

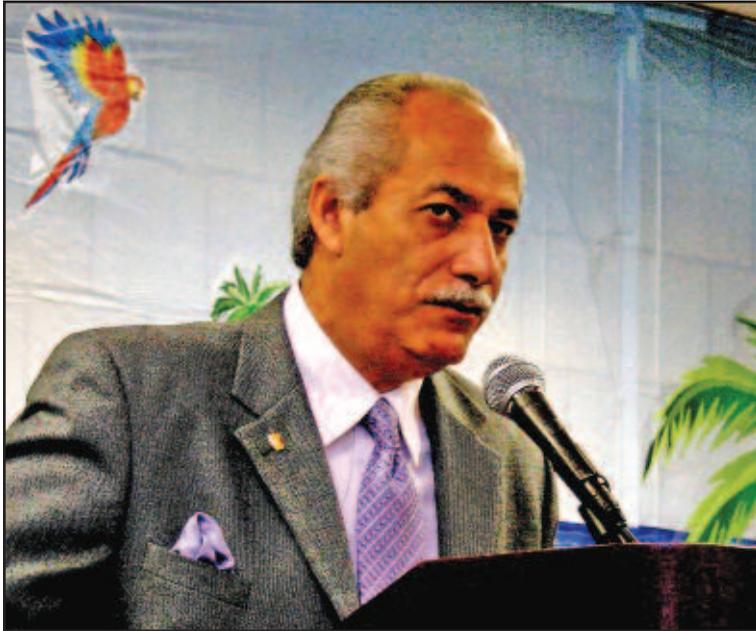
CON ARTISTS...

It's not only that time of the year for you to go shopping, but also for con artists to start shopping for their next victim. Con artists use a number of ploys to scam you and steal your property. One common scam involves a couple of cohorts, one causing a commotion to divert your attention while the other is picking your pocket. Still others conduct more elaborate scams that may involve as many as seven con artists. A general rule to remember is, **"IF IT SEEMS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, IT PROBABLY IS."**

Have A Joyous And Safe Holiday Season!



NYCHA Honors Its Language Bank Volunteers At DC37



Did you know that the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has a Language Bank consisting of 200 NYCHA employee-volunteers who provide language services to residents and staff in 46 languages? For the 14th year in a row, NYCHA honored its Language Bank volunteers with a special ceremony, which was held this year at District Council 37's offices in Lower Manhattan on September 25th, 2008. 2008 also marks the 40th Anniversary of the Fair Housing Act which prohibits discrimination in housing. "NYCHA's Language Bank plays a major role in helping NYCHA meet the requirements of the Fair Housing Act by ensuring that residents and applicants with limited proficiency in English have full access to the wide range of services NYCHA offers," said Chairman Tino Hernandez. As the keynote speaker, **Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs Commissioner Guillermo Linares (above)** touted Mayor Bloomberg's Executive Order 120, announced last summer, which requires every City agency to provide language assistance in the top six languages spoken by New Yorkers.

Douglass Houses' 50th Anniversary



The Frederick Douglass Houses in the Manhattan Valley neighborhood of Manhattan celebrated its 50th Anniversary on September 25th, 2008. Named for the celebrated abolitionist, orator, author and statesman, Douglass Houses is home to nearly 4,400 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents who live in 2,058 apartments. The development consists of 17 five- to 20-story buildings which sit on nearly 22 acres. **Shown above (left to right) are Douglass Houses' Superintendent Joe Militano, Resident Association President Jane Wisdom, and Manager Myrna Castro** with a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, in which the Mayor applauds the development for serving as an invaluable resource for residents of Manhattan Valley.



GREEN SCENE NYCHA Environmental Coordinator Margarita López (center, in green) joined staff and residents at Tilden and VanDyke Houses in Brooklyn for a tree-planting courtesy of Timberland and the New York Restoration Project as part of *MillionTreesNYC*.

Tree Planting at Tilden and Van Dyke in Brooklyn

More than 300 volunteers, including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents from Brooklyn's Tilden and Van Dyke Houses, planted nearly 430 trees on the grounds of the two developments in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn on a brisk Saturday, October 4th, for Earthkeepers DIG IT Day. Earthkeepers is an initiative created by the Timberland outdoor gear and apparel company to plant trees in deforested regions of the world. DIG IT DAY volunteers got to "dig cool tunes" as a reward for their hard work in a concert that evening featuring Pearl Jam's guitarist Stone Gossard and the Hank Khoir. The event was sponsored by Timberland, American Forests, the New York Restoration Project, NYCHA's Energy Management and Environmental Sustainability Committee and Trees New York. Joining NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator Margarita López, were New York City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe, New York Restoration Project Executive Director Drew Becher, and representatives from Timberland and American Forests. The event was part of *MillionTreesNYC*, an initiative which aims to plant one million trees throughout the five boroughs by 2017. *MillionTreesNYC* is jointly led by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the New York City Parks Department, and the New York Restoration Project. Approximately 3,000 trees have been planted on NYCHA property so far as part of the initiative.



CLOSER TO HOME (Front row, left to right) Bronxdale Houses Assistant Housing Manager Liliana Billini, RES Director Sonia Torruella, State Senator Ruben Diaz, Adams Houses Resident Association President Sylvia Sierra, NYCHA Board Member Margarita López and Wilhelm Rhonda from the Office of the Bronx Borough President gather to cut the ribbon on the Adams Resource Center.

RES Opens New Satellite Office in the Bronx

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Department of Resident Employment Services (RES) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the department's new office, the Adams Resource Center at 755 East 152nd Street, located in Adams Houses in the Melrose neighborhood of the Bronx, on October 7th. "RES had the opportunity to open up our services to this community through a grant which provides computer literacy and GED training to community residents," said RES Director Sonia Torruella. "The space was perfect for a RES expansion. We worked with Sylvia Sierra, the resident leader for Adams Houses to open up this site." "This way we're bringing the services closer to home," added Deputy Director Araina Sepulveda. The Adams Resource Center has three full-time staff members including a career specialist and a job developer, with two visiting staff members to provide services related to homeownership and business start-ups on an as-needed basis. The hours are 8:30AM to 4:00PM and RES recommends calling for an appointment, though walk-ins will also be accepted. Basic orientations for residents are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1PM. In addition to the Bronx and Manhattan, RES also has offices in Brooklyn and Queens. Interested residents from any borough should call: 718-250-5904 to learn more.



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DEBORAH'S DIARY
(Continued from page 3)

an additional \$1,500 payment was needed before Dee Jay could begin classes. Dee Jay and his mom were devastated and his mom was heartbroken because she didn't have the money. So they picked up his belongings and headed back for the train station. Once Dee Jay returned home the story about what had happened at the South Kent School spread throughout the neighborhood. The same day while Dee Jay played on the courts at City Park someone from Spike Lee's Company was in the park and heard Dee Jay's story. He reached out to Spike Lee who generously laid out the money and even gave Dee Jay an additional \$200 for spending money.

Dee Jay's dream is now a reality, but it may be only temporary. According to an article in the *Daily News* "Dee Jay's yearly tuition is \$46,000 and he still needs the remaining balance of \$10,000 per year. In that article the *News* asked for donations, and I am happy to report that based on a follow up article donations are beginning to come in on behalf of Dee Jay. *Anyone interested in helping contribute to the Derrick Brown Scholarship can write or call the South Kent School at 40 Bulls Bridge Road, South Kent, Conn. 06785, (860) 307-9471.*

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46th Annual Garden Awards

(Continued from page 1)

2008 GARDEN AND GREENING COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

CITYWIDE WINNERS

CITYWIDE FLOWER	Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses, Queens
CITYWIDE VEGETABLE	Green Thumb Garden, Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island
CITYWIDE CHILDREN'S/THEME	Rain Forest-Marta Diaz, Patterson Houses, the Bronx

FLOWER AWARDS

BRONX	Love and Peace Garden #1, Boston Secor Houses, 1st Prize Garden of Paradise, Bronx River Houses, 2nd Prize Secret Garden, Morris Houses, 3rd Prize
MANHATTAN	Oasis Garden, St. Nicholas Houses, 1st Prize Heavenly Scent Serenity Garden, Isaacs Houses, 2nd Prize Sweet Success Garden, Manhattanville Houses, 3rd Prize
SOUTH BROOKLYN	Renew Your Spirit Gardens, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, 1st Prize Breukelen (Sight) Garden, Breukelen Houses, 2nd Prize Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses, 3rd Prize
WEST BROOKLYN	Ebony's Garden, Marcy Houses, 1st Prize Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses, 2nd Prize Gowanus' Garden, Gowanus Houses, 3rd Prize
EAST BROOKLYN	Sunflower Garden, Hope Gardens, 1st Prize 185 Wortman's Victory Garden, Linden Houses, 1st Prize 345 Dumont Garden, Brownsville Houses, 2nd Prize
QUEENS	Paradise Garden, South Jamaica Houses, 1st Prize Grannie Bloomers Garden, Astoria Houses, 2nd Prize Flower Garden of Love & Peace, South Jamaica Houses, 3rd Prize
STATEN ISLAND	Flowers of Happiness Garden, New Lane Shores, 1st Prize Gift of Beauty Garden, New Lane Shores, 2nd Prize Welcome Garden, Berry Houses, 3rd Prize

VEGETABLE AWARDS

BRONX	Maria's Mixtures Vegetable Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation, 1st Prize Vegetable and Flowers Garden, Edenwald Houses, 2nd Prize El Bohio Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation, 3rd Prize
MANHATTAN	Anna B. Leggett's Garden of Love, Isaacs Houses, 1st Prize Jefferson's Vegetable Garden, Jefferson Houses, 2nd Prize Troche's Garden, Lillian Wald Houses, 3rd Prize
SOUTH BROOKLYN	Minnie's Vegetable Garden, Marlboro Houses, 1st Prize Green House Garden, Marlboro Houses, 2nd Prize Garlic Garden, Surfside Gardens, 2nd Prize
WEST BROOKLYN	Bengie's Vegetable Garden, Sumner Houses, 1st Prize The Cabbage Patch Gardens, Walt Whitman Houses, 2nd Prize Happy, Healthy Garden, Wyckoff Gardens, 3rd Prize
EAST BROOKLYN	God Bless Garden, Louis H. Pink Houses, 1st Prize Green Thumb Garden, Louis H. Pink Houses, 2nd Prize The Mini Plantation, Louis H. Pink Houses, 3rd Prize
QUEENS	Garden of Eat'n, South Jamaica Houses, 1st Prize Garden of Venus, South Jamaica Houses, 2nd Prize My Kitchen Garden, South Jamaica Houses, 3rd Prize
STATEN ISLAND	Bright Corner Garden, New Lane Shores, 1st Prize Green Acres Garden, Berry Houses, 2nd Prize Papa John's Garden, New Lane Shores, 3rd Prize

CHILDREN'S/THEME AWARDS

BRONX	Parkside Community Center Butterfly Garden, Parkside CC, 1st Prize Pelham Com. Center Shady Butterfly Garden, Pelham Parkway CC, 2nd Prize CNC Tiny Tot's Family Garden, Claremont Neighborhood Center, 3rd Prize
MANHATTAN	9/11 Memorial Garden, Vladeck Houses, 1st Prize East River Children's Harvest Garden, East River Houses, 2nd Prize Sunshine Gardens, Grant Houses, 3rd Prize
SOUTH BROOKLYN	"Beauty at the Bay" Children's Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, 1st Prize Flowers of Faith Garden, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, 2nd Prize
WEST BROOKLYN	Butterfly Garden, Sumner Houses, 1st Prize Old Mother Hubbard's Garden, Gowanus Houses, 2nd Prize Butterflies are Free Garden, Independence Community Center, 3rd Prize
EAST BROOKLYN	Unique One Garden, Saratoga Square, 1st Prize
QUEENS	A-D-C Unidos Garden, Hammel Houses, 1st Prize Garden of United, Beach 41st Street Houses, 2nd Prize Happy Acres Garden, Conlon-Lihfe Tower, 3rd Prize
STATEN ISLAND	Mariner's Harbor Youth Theme Garden, Mariner's Harbor, 1st Prize Butterfly Garden, Mariner's Harbor Community Center, 2nd Prize Venus, Isis, and Taurus, Berry Houses, 3rd Prize

Dolphus of South Jamaica Houses who won 1st Prize in the Citywide Flower category for her "Garden of Zodiac." Ms. Dolphus also won 2nd Prize in the Queens Vegetable Garden for the "Garden of Venus." "People love that garden," she said. Ms. Dolphus estimates that she has been working in the garden, for 43 years and has taken home six or seven Citywide awards.

NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. told the gardeners, "This event epitomizes what NYCHA is all about. You make it beautiful; you make our communities look good; I think you are one of the best resources here."

"This event is a very special event and all of us should be proud," said NYCHA's Environmental Coordinator and Board Member Margarita López. "This program was created in 1962. New York City public housing was ahead of everyone else on the issue of climate change. This sleeping giant, NYC public housing, is

awake and moving forward. We are going to do it together with residents leading the way."

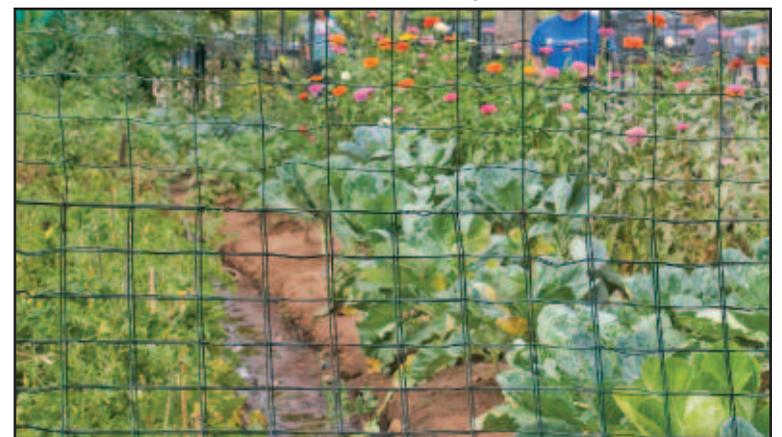
Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence thanked everyone involved including Garden Program Coordinators Howard Hemmings and the groundskeepers and maintenance staff who turn over the soil for the gardens. "It wouldn't have happened without your help," he said. "Each garden is 360 square feet; with 600 gardens that's over 200,000 square feet of soil the maintenance staff has turned over. That's a lot of hard work."

Angela Michie from the New York Restoration Project, who served as one of the judges, said her first response to the gardens was that "they were beautiful." And speaking on behalf of all the judges, she said, "We found the amount of work that went into the gardens inspiring."

Photos by Lloyd Carter



Citywide Flower Winner: Garden of Zodiac
South Jamaica Houses, Queens



Citywide Vegetable Winner: The Green Thumb Garden
Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island



Citywide Children's Theme Winner: Rain Forest-Marta Diaz
Patterson Houses, the Bronx

What Can I Do to Help Maintain My Apartment?

There are many things you can do to help maintain your home environment. Here are some tips:

- Your stove and the area around it should be cleaned on a regular basis. Excessive grease is a hazard.
- Keep sink strainers in place to prevent foreign material from entering your drain.
- Wipe down your cabinets on a regular basis as well as the refrigerator and the rubber gaskets (rubber around the frame of door).
- Make sure the plumbing fitting connecting your washing machine water hose under the sink has a properly working check valve.
- Remember to use small garbage bags so they fit into the hopper chute. This will help avoid spills and prevent vermin.
- Use Compact Florescent Lights (CFLs) instead of traditional light bulbs to save energy.
- Never remove batteries from smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors unless replacing them with new ones. We recommend that you change the batteries when you change your clocks during Daylight Savings Time.
- Keep your apartment neat and orderly. Clutter can cause hazardous conditions.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions concerning the proper, safe connection to an electrical source for all appliances. Do not overload electrical systems.



NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Board Meeting Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2008 are as follows:

November 12, 2008
November 26, 2008
December 10, 2008
December 24, 2008



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

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration of speakers is required. Those who wish to register must do so at least forty-five (45) minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments are limited to the items on the agenda. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration. Speaking time will be limited to three (3) minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of thirty (30) minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

For Board Meeting dates and times, and/or additional information, please visit our website at nyc.gov/nycha or contact us at (212) 306-6088. Copies of the agenda can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3P.M. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting, should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five (5) business days before the Board Meeting.

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