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THE PEACEMAKERS NYCHA YOUTH WHO'VE WITNESSED LIFE-ALTERING VIOLENCE FIRSTHAND REACH OUT TO PREVENT OTHERS FROM EXPERIENCING THE SAME PAIN.

Twice a month a group of young people get together for pizza and a movie, but this isn't just a chill session. These individuals are members of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Peer Leadership Committee – youth under the age of 24 residing in NYCHA developments, some from the 15 developments within the Mayor's Action Plan for Safety (MAP). They all have personal experience with gun violence, gang violence or the criminal justice system, and they are all interested in learning how to become advocates and activists for peace in their communities.

The movie they watch – one they've seen many times – is *Voices From Within*, a short film by Dan Slepian, who worked with the staff and inmates of the Sing Sing Correctional Facility to record inmates speaking directly to a camera about their feelings on having taken someone's life. The film is wrenching, difficult to watch, and very powerful. The Peer Leaders are trained by educators from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and their community-based partner, the Maysles Institute, a documentary and education organization, to facilitate a discussion with individuals who have just viewed the film about their reactions to the film

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



Children from Monroe Houses were excited to meet NBA star Carmelo Anthony at the June 4 ribbon-cutting for a newly renovated basketball court courtesy of Anthony's Courts 4 Kids program.

Home Court Advantages

Carmelo Anthony Foundation Renovates Three NYCHA Basketball Courts

I T'S GOING TO be a summer of free throws, jump shots, and dunks for kids at Coney Island Houses 4 & 5 (Brooklyn) and James Monroe Houses (Bronx) as they take advantage of basketball courts recently renovated by the Carmelo Anthony Foundation's (CAF) Courts 4 Kids program.

At Coney Island, CAF painted the court and added new backboards, and at Monroe Houses, CAF repaved, painted, and installed new backboards. CAF has

now renovated three NYCHA basketball courts – the first in 2013 at Red Hook Houses, where NBA basketball star Carmelo Anthony grew up.

"The whole idea behind putting courts in underprivileged neighborhoods...is basically to bring communities together," Anthony said at the Monroe Houses ribbon-cutting. "I think by putting this basketball court here in this community, in all the communities that we touch, it's about giving that community something

to look forward to on a day-to-day basis. It's about the youth, it's about the kids that are out here today, what they're going to do afterschool, what they're going to have to call their own, and this court right here is for the Monroe Houses so you can be able to call it your own."

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held on May 21 at Coney Island and June 4 at Monroe and were attended by NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly, City Councilmembers Mark Treyger and Annabel Palma, and NYCHA staff, residents and community members. A highlight of the dedications was the pick-up games played on the new courts by local youth.

And the kids were excited to get on the new courts: Carey Gardens resident Tajheir Marcano, 8, said, "Carmelo Anthony, that was nice of him for doing this basketball court and he's a good shooter and a good dunker," and 14-year-old Coney Island resident Maurice Hayward said, "When you come here, it's like you're playing with Carmelo."



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

SUMMER IN THE CITY!



several NYCHA developments to fight against crime this summer, making our communities safer for everyone. These young people, all of whom have been personally touched by gun violence or gang violence, want to change the dangerous dynamic that leads to the loss of so many young lives. Please join them on their tour through our developments, talk with them about these life and death issues, and consider the important questions they pose about the responsibilities we each have to ourselves, our families and our communities. (For more information, see the article on page 1.)

MAY AND JUNE were busy months for NYCHA. Mayor Bill de Blasio and I launched NextGeneration NYCHA, our 10-year plan to preserve and protect public housing for the next generation of New Yorkers. We've already begun to make progress on several of the plan's initiatives. For example, thanks to support from Mayor de Blasio and the City Council, we've already begun work on critical roof repairs to our properties. With your help, we launched a new recycling program at five developments in May: Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, Bronx River, Bronx River Addition, and Boynton Avenue Rehab. That launch will be followed by a continuous, larger roll-out to every NYCHA development by the end of 2016. Look out for the iconic blue and green recycling bins at your development! To learn more about NYCHA's recycling initiative, visit NYCHA's website.

In June, GM Kelly accepted the 2015 Exceptional Employer Award on behalf of NYCHA's Resident Training Academy (NRTA) from Brooklyn Workforce Innovations, one of our job training and employment partners. NRTA and its parent organization, NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES) are celebrating their fifth anniversary this year – so far we have graduated more than 1,000 NYCHA residents who've learned valuable skills, and more than 88 percent of them have been placed in good-paying jobs.

As you'll see in this issue, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice is working with young people from

Of course, summer is a time to have fun too. Thanks to the generosity of the Carmelo Anthony Foundation, kids at Coney Island and Monroe Houses can work on their jump shots on newly refurbished basketball courts. Carmelo Anthony is not only a three-time Olympic medal-winner and a record-breaking scorer for the Knicks – he's also a champion of the NYCHA community.

We know it is summer when NYCHA developments become the life of the neighborhood with our famous Family Day celebrations, with all the excellent food, entertainment, and camaraderie that entails. As always, we've got a full calendar this year – the Family Days kicked off last month and about 150 are scheduled in total through the end of September. Check our website frequently for updated Family Day schedules or ask your Tenant Association or Property Manager for more information.

I know how much many of you love to cook, so we've included something special for you in this issue: a listing of all the farmers' markets in the city. There's no time like the summer to eat healthy and well, and I'll be looking for some delicious dishes to try at Family Days!

Here's to a happy, healthy, safe summer season,

Shola Olatoye
Chair and CEO

All About NYCHA's Resident Board Members



Beatrice Byrd



Victor Gonzalez



Willie Mae Lewis

THE FIRST RESIDENT board member was added to the NYCHA Board of Directors in 2011, following the passage of State legislation that mandated the addition of residents to the Board to bring the experience, knowledge and perspective of public housing residents to NYCHA's governing body. In 2013, additional legislative changes increased the number of board members from three to seven, of which three residents would serve as board members.

All board members are appointed to fixed terms by the Mayor, with the exception of the Chair who also serves as Chief Executive Officer at the pleasure of the Mayor. The current board members were initially appointed for fixed terms of one, two or three years. After these initial terms, all appointees will serve three-year terms.

Every board member votes on contracts, resolutions, policies, motions, rules and regulations, as well as admin-

istrative matters at ten regularly scheduled board meetings per year. These meetings are open to the public.

NYCHA's Office of the Secretary handles all resident correspondence and calls to board members at **board.members@nycha.nyc.gov** and **212-306-3454**. Board members receive input from residents at the scheduled board meetings and the Annual Public Hearing, in addition to other meetings that they may attend such as Resident Advisory Board (RAB) meetings, the Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP) meetings, and Tenant Association meetings.

The first resident board member to be appointed, Victor Gonzalez, resides at Wise Towers in Manhattan. Beatrice Byrd, who resides at Red Hook West Houses in Brooklyn, and Willie Mae Lewis, who resides at St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan, are the other two resident board members.

NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

NYCHA'S BOARD MEETINGS, open to the public, take place on Wednesdays at 10 am in the NYCHA 12th floor conference room at 250 Broadway. People who wish to speak during the public comment period must pre-register at least 45 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin and can only comment about items on that meeting's agenda. Each speaker's time is limited to three minutes. The public comment period concludes either when all speakers are finished or after the 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever comes first.

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor after 3 pm on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 pm on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **212.306.6088** no later than five business days prior to the meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates and times, please call **212.306.6088**.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

July 29, 2015

September 30, 2015

October 28, 2015

November 18, 2015

December 23, 2015

* Note: There will be no board meeting in August. The November and December board meetings are scheduled for the second-to-last Wednesday.

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Resident Leader Spotlight: Carolyn Walton, Tenant Advocate



GLENWOOD HOUSES RESIDENTS have a newly paved driveway at E. 59th Street and Glenwood Road thanks to the tenacity of their Resident Association President Carolyn Walton.

The driveway had been severely damaged by weather and vehicular traffic and was a tripping hazard to pedestrians. For the last two years, Walton, who is also the Brooklyn South



District Chair of the Citywide Council of Presidents, pushed to get the driveway fixed. She called 311 repeatedly, contacted NYCHA, and worked with her Councilmember Jumaane Williams to get the Department of Transportation (DOT) to repair the damage. After a walk-through of Glenwood Houses at the end of March with Walton, NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye, and CM Williams, DOT staff assessed the damage in early May and began repairs almost immediately.

With the driveway repaired, Walton says the lesson to other residents is, "If you see a problem that needs to be fixed you should make it a collaborative effort



Glenwood Houses Resident Association President Carolyn Walton (middle) met with NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye and New York City Councilmember Jumaane Williams during a tour of the development.

with development staff and elected officials. Get your elected officials involved because they can and will help."

After repairing the driveway, the DOT decided to fix other sidewalk areas outside of the development, with work set to finish by the end of the summer. Chair Olatoye said this was "a fine example of

community improvement spurred by" Walton's leadership.

"I know the residents saw me outside always taking pictures of the driveway. That area is used by many residents, I know they're happy," Walton reports. "A resident called me and said 'thank you, thank you so much.'"

Empowering NYCHA Residents

SINCE 2010, MORE than 1,000 NYCHA residents have trained with NYCHA's Resident Training Academy (NRTA) to start and build careers in construction, janitorial services, and pest control. NRTA is a partnership between NYCHA, the Robin Hood Foundation, and some of the best employment trainers in New York City, including Brooklyn Workforce Innovations (BWI), Nontraditional Employment for Women, New York City College of Technology (CUNY), the Center for Family Life and St. Nicks Alliance.

Operated by NYCHA's Office of Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability (REES), the Academy has helped many residents achieve their dreams of having not only jobs, but also careers with opportunities for growth. As it celebrates its fifth anniversary this year, NRTA has graduated 1,087 students, 88 percent of whom have been placed into jobs as caretakers, pest control technicians and maintenance aides with NYCHA, as well as in a variety of construction-related positions with NYCHA contractors and affordable housing developers. Graduates earned an average wage of \$15.36 per hour in full-time positions.

In June 2015, NYCHA received Brooklyn Workforce Innovation's Exceptional Employer Award.



Natasha Neville

NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly, accepting the award on behalf of the Authority, cited the program's unique ability to "prepare residents for entry-level employment . . . and assist in developing career plans that will lead to long-term employment, promotions and increased wages."

NRTA is currently recruiting for its next construction training program. For more information, visit <http://opportunitynycha.org/workforce-development/nycha-resident-training-academy/>.

Natasha Neville: Training Academy Success

Brooklyn NYCHA resident Natasha Neville is living her dream, and she thanks the NYCHA Resident Training Academy (NRTA), operated by REES, for helping her achieve it. On June 10, Neville began a job as a Caretaker J, finally securing the NYCHA position she has wanted for so long.

Although Neville had done seasonal work for NYCHA for four years, she hadn't been able to gain the full-time employment she desired until being chosen for and completing the NRTA.

Neville is one of 28 recent graduates of NRTA's janitorial track. Training for the janitorial track was conducted by Brooklyn Workforce Innovations and prepared Neville and her cohort to be caretakers; their duties include maintaining the grounds, buildings, and public spaces of NYCHA developments.

During training Neville had to come up with short- and long-term goals for her career. Her short-term goal to become a full-time NYCHA employee is complete and she is hard at work on her long-term goal: to be a successful NYCHA employee and move up the ranks.

"The NRTA training enhanced my past experience and I know I will be a great asset to NYCHA because I am very reliable, a hard worker, determined, and most of all I'm a great team player."

Upcoming REES Events

NYCHA's Food Business Pathways program is a FREE program that provides customized training and resources for NYCHA residents and NYCHA Section 8 voucher holders to launch and grow their food business. The program will prepare residents to enter New York City's kitchen incubators and to succeed in growing their food businesses in the City's food industry. For more information on this and other REES programs, contact the REES Hotline at **718.289.8100** or visit opportunitynycha.org.

FOOD BUSINESS PATHWAYS INFORMATION SESSION

Brooklyn

Tuesday, July 21, 2015, 6-8 pm

NYCHA REES OFFICE

787 Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor
(bet. Vanderbilt Ave. & Clermont Ave.)
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Bronx

Thursday, July 23, 2015, 6-8 pm

BETANCES COMMUNITY CENTER

547 E. 146th Street
(bet. St. Ann's Ave. & Brook Ave.)
Bronx, NY 10455

Manhattan

Thursday, August 6, 2015, 6-8 pm

SONDRA THOMAS APTS.

102 W. 91st Street
New York, New York 10024

Queens

Tuesday, August 11, 2015, 6-8 pm

SOUTH JAMAICA CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CENTER

109-4 160th Street
(corner of 109th Ave.)
Jamaica, New York 11433

NOTICE

New York City Housing Authority Proposed Amendment to the Agency Plan for FY 2015 and the Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2016

AVAILABILITY OF THE DRAFT AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

The public is advised that the *Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015 Agency Annual Plan* and the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2016* will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, New York, NY, starting June 26, 2015 between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please call **212.306.3701** to make an appointment to review the *Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015 Agency Annual Plan* and the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2016* and supporting documents. The *Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015 Agency Annual Plan* and the *Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2016* will also be available at the following locations:

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

<p>Manhattanville Community Center 530 West 133rd Street New York, New York</p> <p>Taft Senior Center 1365 5th Avenue New York, New York</p> <p>Sedgwick Community Center 1553 University Avenue Bronx, New York</p>	<p>Soundview Community Center 1674 Seward Avenue Bronx, New York</p> <p>Queens Community Operations Borough Office 70-30 Parsons Boulevard Flushing, New York</p>	<p>Staten Island Community Operations Borough Office 126 Lamport Avenue Staten Island, New York</p> <p>Brownsville Senior Center 528 Mother Gaston Boulevard Brooklyn, New York</p>
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PUBLIC COMMENT

The public is invited to attend any of the five scheduled town hall discussions at which the public may raise questions regarding the *Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015 Agency Annual Plan* and the *Draft Annual Plan for FY 2016*. These discussions will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on the dates and locations shown below **unless noted otherwise**.

Thursday, July 9, 2015		Thursday, July 16, 2015	
<p>Brooklyn St. Francis College 180 Remsen Street Brooklyn, New York 11201</p>		<p>Queens Joint Industry Board 158-11 Jewel Avenue Flushing, New York 11365</p>	
Monday, July 20, 2015	Wednesday, July 22, 2015	Monday, July 27, 2015	
<p>Staten Island Gerard Carter Community Center Stapleton Houses 230 Broad Street Staten Island, NY 10304</p>	<p>Bronx Cardinal Hayes High School 650 Grand Concourse Bronx, NY 10451</p>	<p>Manhattan Borough of Manhattan Community College 199 Chambers Street New York, NY 10007</p>	

The public is also invited to comment on the *Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015 Agency Annual Plan* and the *Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2016* at a public hearing to be held on **August 11, 2015 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at:

Pace University – Schimmel Center for the Arts, 3 Spruce Street, New York, New York 10038

Each location listed above is both handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation. For transportation information go to <http://tripplanner.mta.info> or call the MTA/NYC Transit Travel Information Line **718.330.1234**.

Written comments regarding the *Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015 Agency Annual Plan* and the *Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2016* are encouraged. To be considered, **submissions must be received via United States Postal mail or fax no later than August 30, 2015**. Faxed submissions will be accepted at 212.306.7905. Comments may be sent to the following address and comments may also be emailed to annualplancomments@nycha.nyc.gov.

Public Housing Agency Plan Comments
Church Street Station
P.O. Box 3422
New York, New York 10008-3422

Bill de Blasio, Mayor

Shola Olatoye, Chair and Chief Executive Officer

What is RAD?

THE RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION program, known as RAD, is a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) program that enables public housing authorities to convert a select number of their traditional public housing units to a project-based Section 8 funding stream. RAD is one initiative to help NYCHA

attain financial stability that is outlined in NextGeneration NYCHA, the Authority's 10-year strategic plan to ensure the future of public housing in New York and to create safe, clean, and connected communities. NYCHA has HUD's approval to convert approximately 1,400 units at Ocean Bay/Bayside Apartments in Far Rockaway

through RAD. This will enable NYCHA to rehabilitate and preserve this property and will reduce the Authority's overall capital needs by nearly \$90 million. A meeting was held by Councilmember Donovan Richards to answer questions.

RAD has been used successfully by public housing authorities across

the nation to preserve their precious housing stock and fund maintenance and repairs. By leveraging the Section 8 funding, public housing authorities can generate revenue to reinvest back into the converted properties. At the same time, RAD ensures that residents' rights and affordability are protected.



VAN DYKE RESIDENTS LOVE WHERE THEY LIVE

ON APRIL 25, Van Dyke Houses residents rolled up their sleeves to spend the day picking up trash as part of the "Love Where You Live" Clean-Up and Plant Day. Armed with rakes, brooms, gloves, and garbage bags, more than 115 residents, volunteers, and staff cleaned different areas of the development and then learned how to plant flower bulbs to add a touch of beauty. The day wasn't just about cleaning; it was also about community and having fun. Residents enjoyed refreshments, danced the Electric and Cha Cha Slides, and checked out the

resource area with information on recycling, gardening, jobs and training opportunities, pest control, and help for maintenance and repair issues. For the youngest residents, there were games, art projects, and face painting. Clean-Up Day was organized by NYCHA's Resident Engagement and Development departments, along with resident members of NextGeneration NYCHA committees. It was co-sponsored by Healthfirst, Brownsville Community Justice Center, Medgar Evers College CUNY, the New York City Police Department, and Community Solutions.

Stay Safe in the Heat



WEATHER FORECASTERS ARE reporting that this summer is expected to be a lot warmer than last year. Everyone needs to take extra care in hot weather, even people who seem healthy, fit and strong, but especially children and seniors.

The American Red Cross reports that excessive sun exposure can lead to sunburn, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If someone is experiencing cramps in the legs or abdomen, get them to a cooler place, have them rest, lightly stretch the affected muscle, and replenish their fluids with a half a glass (about 4 ounces) of cool water every 15 minutes.

Signs of heat exhaustion include cool, moist, pale or flushed skin, heavy sweating, headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness and exhaustion. Move any individual with these symptoms to a cooler place, remove or loosen tight clothing and spray the person with water or apply cool, wet cloths or towels to the skin. Fan the person and give him or her small amounts of cool water to drink. If the person refuses water, vomits or begins to lose consciousness, **call 9-1-1 immediately.**

Hot Weather Health Tips

- Never leave children or pets in cars.
- Stay hydrated by drinking plenty of fluids. Avoid drinks with caffeine or alcohol.
- Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, light-colored clothing. Dark colors absorb the sun's rays and will make you feel warmer.
- Slow down, stay indoors and avoid exercise during the hottest part of the day (mid to late afternoon).
- Postpone outdoor games and activities.
- Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat.
- Take frequent breaks if working outdoors.
- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning or live alone.
- Check on animals frequently to make sure they have cool water.
- Spend time in air conditioned places like schools, libraries and movie theaters if you don't have air conditioning. Or call **311** to find the address of the New York City Cooling Center nearest you.

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment



The New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located on Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These treatments will take place between June and September of 2015. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:

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

Contact names and numbers for this application are:

NYC Housing Authority:

Debbie Wolf, Associate Staff Analyst, **718-707-5709**
available from 9 am – 5 pm

Denise Torres, Technical Resource Advisor, **718-707-8032**
available from 8 am – 4 pm

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

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

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

1-800-222-1222

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VISIT citibikenyc.com/nycha

OR CALL **1-855-BIKE-311**

Fresh Off the Farm

FARM STANDS HAVE sprouted all over the city, offering shoppers the chance to buy local fresh fruit and vegetables directly from growers. The markets can be big like Union Square's Greenmarket, which features 140 regional farmers, or small like the Pomonok Community-Run Farmers' Market, served by just two farms. No matter the size, farmers' markets are the best way to eat healthy, in-season, local produce in your community.

Many NYCHA residents have farmers' markets within walking distance of their developments; some are right outside of the development, such as the Pomonok Community-Run Farmers' Market, operated by Queens Community House

(QCH). The market recently opened for its fifth season, and Pomonok Houses residents can shop produce from Woorti Farms of Goshen, New York and Mi Ranchito Farm of Hazlet, New Jersey.

"We're a small operation, but what we lack in size we make up for in spirit. Last season we reached 1,200 people with nearly 5,000 pounds," said Amy Tam-Liao, Community Supported Programs Director of the Pomonok Center, QCH.

QCH relies on a nine-member volunteer planning team to help run the market; six of the members are Pomonok Houses residents. Anita Gerken, member of the planning team and Pomonok resident for 28 years, said,

"Whatever they need me to do, I do. I set up or clean up, help someone buy something, and this year I'll hand out flyers and put them in the building, do the attendance, and call vendors to make sure they are coming down for the week. I like to volunteer to interact and socialize with tenants."

Gerken hopes to see a lot of her neighbors at the market this season. She says they should get their produce at the market because, "even though it costs a little more, it doesn't have all the chemicals and their green vegetables taste better than at the supermarket."

Like most farmers' markets throughout the city, Pomonok Community-Run Farmers' Market also features food

demonstrations and special events. Residents can learn how to create delicious dishes using produce from the market, such as fusilli pasta with tomatoes and spinach or butternut squash soup. In August the market will host its Second Annual Food Fest, where they will celebrate eating local and have kid-friendly events, local business vendors, and raffles.

The market runs on Wednesdays beginning now until November 25, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., outside the Pomonok Community Center, 67-09 Kissena Boulevard, Queens. The market accepts cash, Snap/EBT, WIC and Senior FMNP, WIC Veggies and Fruits, and Health Bucks. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)**



Farmers' Markets Near NYCHA Developments

Fresh fruit and vegetables are just a short walk away from most NYCHA developments. Below is a list of farmers' markets within a half mile of NYCHA developments throughout the five boroughs. In addition to this list, you can use the NYC Department of Health's texting resource: text "SoGood" to 877877 to receive the locations of up to three farmers' markets near you.

BRONX

Bronx Borough Hall Greenmarket

Grand Concourse bet 161st & 162nd Sts
Tues, 8am - 4pm EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home Forest Avenue Farmers' Market (July-Aug only)

Forest Ave bet Westchester Ave & 156th St
Wed, 8am - 4pm, EBT

Harvest Home Hunts Point Farmers' Market

E 163rd St & Hunts Point Ave
Wed, 8am-4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Harvest Home Mt. Eden Farmers' Market

Mt. Eden & Morris Aves
Tues & Thurs, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home Soundview Farmers' Market

Morrison Ave & Harrod Pl
Sat, 8am-4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home St. Mary's Park Farmers' Market

149th St & St. Ann's Ave
Thurs, 8am-4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home Sunday Farmers' Market

165th St & Grand Concourse
Sun, 8am - 4pm, EBT

Hostos Community College Greenmarket

149th St & Grand Concourse
Tues, 8am-4pm, EBT

Kingsbridge-Riverdale Farmers' Market

W 231st St & Kingsbridge Ave
Sun, 9am - 5pm, EBT

La Familia Verde Farmers' Market

E Tremont Ave bet LaFontaine & Arthur Aves
Tues, 8am - 2pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Learn It, Grow It, Eat It Youthmarket

169th St & Boston Rd
Wed, 10am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Lincoln Hospital Greenmarket

149th St bet Park & Morris Aves
Tues & Fri, 8am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Marble Hill Youthmarket

225th St bet Broadway & Exterior St
Thurs, 1pm - 6pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Mott Haven Farmers' Market

139th St & St. Ann's Ave
Tues, 10am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Project EATS Urbis Farm Market

1385 E Gun Hill Rd at Knapp St
Thurs, 2:30pm - 6:30pm, EBT

South Bronx Farmers' Market

138th St bet Alexander and Willis Aves
Sat, 10am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Taqwa Community Farmers' Market

90 W 164th St bet Ogden & Nelson Aves
Sat, 8am-4pm, EBT

Williamsbridge Square HERBan Farmers' Market

White Plains Rd & E. Gun Hill Rd
Wed, 9am - 5pm, EBT

BROOKLYN

Albee Square Farmers' Market

Fulton & Bond Sts
Fri, 10am - 4pm, EBT

Brownsville Community Farmers' Market

514 Rockaway Ave at Sutter Ave
Sat, 8:30am - 4:30pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Brownsville Pitkin Avenue Youthmarket

Thomas Boyland St bet Pitkin & Sutter Aves
Sat, 10:30am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Brownsville Rockaway Youthmarket

Rockaway Ave bet Livonia & Dumont Aves
Fri, 1pm - 6pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Bushwick Farmers' Market at Make the Road

Grove St & Myrtle Ave
Fri, 2pm - 7pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Bushwick Farmers' Market on Broadway

Halsey St & Broadway
Thurs, 2pm - 7pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Carroll Gardens Greenmarket

Carroll St bet Court & Smith Sts
Sun, 8am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Coney Island Farmers' Market

Surf Ave & W 16th St
Sun, 9am - 3pm, EBT

East New York Farm Stand

New Lots Ave bet Alabama & Georgia Aves
Wed, 3:30pm - 6:30pm,

East New York Farmers' Market

Schenck Ave bet New Lots & Livonia Aves
Sat, 9am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Fort Greene Park Greenmarket

Washington Park bet DeKalb & Willoughby Aves
Sat, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Graham Avenue Farmers' Market

Cook St at Graham Ave
Sat, 8am - 5:30pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Harvest Home Kings County Hospital Farmers' Market

Clarkson Ave bet E 37th & E 38th Sts
Wed, 8am-4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home Marcy Park Farmers' Market

Myrtle & Marcy Aves at Marcy Park
Thurs, 8am-4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Hattie Carthan After Church Farmers' Market

49 Van Buren St bet Tompkins & Throop Aves
Sun, 1pm - 6pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Hattie Carthan Community Farmers' Market

Marcy Ave & Clifton Pl
Sat, 9am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

High School for Public Service Youth Farmers' Market

600 Kingston Ave bet Rutland Rd & Winthrop St
Wed, 2:30pm - 6:30pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Isabahlia Farm Stand

Rockaway & Sutter Aves
Fri, 11am - 4pm, EBT

Isabahlia Farmers' Market

Livonia Ave bet Powell & Junius Sts
Sat, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Malcolm X Blvd Farmers' Market

Malcolm X Blvd bet Marion & Chauncey Sts
Sat, 8am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Project EATS Marcus Garvey Village Farm Market

300 Chester St at Dumont Ave
Sat, 11am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Red Hook Farmers' Market

580 Columbia St
Sat, 8am - 3pm, EBT

Saratoga Farm Stand

Saratoga Ave & Fulton St
Sun, 10am - 2pm, EBT

Urban Oasis Farmers' Market

Clarkson & Troy Aves
Wed, 2pm - 5:30pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Williamsburg Greenmarket

Taylor St & Lee Ave
Thurs, 8am - 2pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

MANHATTAN

57th Street Greenmarket

57th St & 9th Ave
Wed & Sat, 8am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

79th Street Greenmarket

Columbus Ave bet 78th & 81st Sts
Sun, 9am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

92nd Street Greenmarket

1st Ave bet 92nd & 93rd Sts
Sun, 9am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

97th Street Greenmarket

97th St bet Columbus & Amsterdam Aves
Fri, 8am - 2pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

125th Street FreshConnect Farmers' Market

W 125th St & 7th Ave
Tues, 10am - 7pm, EBT

175th Street Greenmarket

175th St bet Wadsworth & St Nicholas Aves
Thurs, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Abingdon Square Greenmarket

12th St & 8th Ave
Sat, 8am - 2pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Chelsea's Down to Earth Farmers' Market

23rd St bet 8th & 9th Aves
Sat, 9am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Chenita's Community Garden

112th St & Madison Ave
Sat, 9am-4pm, EBT

City Hall Greenmarket

Broadway & Chambers St
Tues & Fri, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Columbia University Greenmarket

Broadway bet 114th & 116th Sts
Thurs & Sun, 8am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

El Barrio Youth Marqueta

116th St at Park Ave
Sat & Sun, 12pm - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Fort Washington Greenmarket

168th St & Ft. Washington Ave
Tues, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Gouverneur Hospital Youthmarket

Madison St bet Clinton & Jefferson Sts
Thurs, 12pm - 5pm, EBT

Grassroots Farmers' Market

W 145th St bet Edgecombe & Bradhurst Aves
Tues & Sat, 9am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Hamilton Heights Green Youthmarket

Amsterdam bet 143rd & 144th Sts
Wed, 10:30am - 5:30pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home East Harlem Farmers' Market

104th St & 3rd Ave
Thurs, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Harvest Home Harlem Hospital Farmers' Market

506 Lenox Ave bet 135th and 137th Sts
Fri, 8am - 7pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home Lenox Ave Farmers' Market

Lenox Ave bet 117th & 118th Sts
Sat, 8am - 7pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home Metropolitan Farmers' Market

99th St & 3rd Ave
Fri, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Harvest Home West Harlem Farmers' Market

137th St & Broadway
Tues, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Lower East Side Youthmarket

Grand Ave bet Pitt St & Abraham Pl
Thurs, 11am - 6pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Marcus Garvey Park HERBan Farmers' Market

124th St & 5th Ave
Sat, 9am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Morningside Park's Down to Earth Farmers' Market

110th St & Manhattan Ave
Sat, 9am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Mt. Sinai Hospital Greenmarket

99th St bet Madison & Park Aves
Wed, 8am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

NHEMA Farmers' Market

125th St & Park Ave
Thurs & Fri, 11am - 7pm, EBT

Project EATS Frederick Douglas Houses Farmers' Market

100th St bet Amsterdam & Columbus Aves
Sat, 10am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Project Harmony People's Market

122nd St bet 7th & 8th Aves
Thurs, 1pm - 7pm, EBT

PS 11 Farm Market

21st St bet 8th and 9th Aves
Wed, 8am - 10am, EBT

SoHA Square I Farmers' Market

264 W 118th St
Thurs & Fri, 8am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

SoHA Square II Farmers' Market

117th St & St Nicholas Ave
Sat & Sun, 8am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

St. Mark's Church Greenmarket

E 10th St & 2nd Ave
Tues, 8am - 6pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Stuyvesant Town Greenmarket

14th St Loop & Ave A
Sun, 9:30am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Tompkins Square Greenmarket

E 7th St & Ave A
Sun, 9am - 6pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Tucker Square Greenmarket

66th St & Columbus Ave
Thurs & Sat, 8am - 5pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

QUEENS

Astoria Greenmarket

14th St bet 31st Ave & 31st Rd
Wed, 8am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

BSCAH Edgemere Farm Market

Beach Channel Dr & Beach 45th St
Wed, 10am - 2pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

CK Farm Rockaway

444 Beach 58th St & Beach Channel Dr
Sat, 10am - 3pm, EBT

Jamaica's Down to Earth Farmers Market

160th St off Jamaica Ave
Fri & Sat, 8:30am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Joseph Addabbo Family Health Center's Farmers' Market

6200 Beach Channel Dr
Sat, 8am - 2pm, WIC FMNP

Pomonok Community-Run Farmers' Market

67-09 Kissena Blvd
Wed, 9am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP, WIC VF

Rockaway Beach Youthmarket

Beach Channel Dr & Beach 58th St
Sat, 9:30am - 3pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

Socrates Sculpture Park Greenmarket

Vernon Blvd & Broadway
Sat, 8am - 4pm, EBT, WIC FMNP

STATEN ISLAND

Snug Harbor Heritage Farm Farmer's Market

1000 Richmond Terrace
Fri, 12pm - 2pm



It's summer farmers' market season! Head out to your nearest market to pick up a healthy and colorful selection of fresh food and vegetables straight from the farmers who grew them.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)



Farmers' Market Incentive Programs

ALL NEW YORKERS should have the opportunity to buy fresh, local produce from farmers' markets. Below are some programs that make it easier for people of all income levels to have access to farmers' markets. Before you shop at your neighborhood farmers' market, ask the manager or the stand operator if they accept your payment method.

SNAP/EBT

At farmers' markets that accept SNAP/EBT, you can use your card to buy \$1 or \$5 tokens to purchase fruit, vegetables, and even baked goods from participating market stands. If you have unused tokens you may exchange them for a refund on your EBT card or just keep them for your next visit. Tokens don't expire and can be used at any NYC farmers' market that accepts SNAP/EBT. To see if you're eligible for SNAP/EBT, call **311** or visit foodhelp.nyc.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Checks

Low-income senior citizens and recipients of the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program are eligible to receive Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) checks worth \$4 each. These checks can be used to buy fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers' markets from June 1 – November 30. If a market accepts FMNP, be sure to use the full value of the check because no change is given.

WIC Vegetables and Fruits Checks

WIC Vegetables and Fruits checks are distributed to recipients of the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program and may be worth \$8, \$10 or \$15 each. These checks may be used at any farmers' market that accepts WIC. There are some limitations on what you can buy with these checks, but you can use them to buy any fresh fruits and vegetables at participating farmers' markets. If your purchase exceeds the value of the check you can pay the difference in cash or with other benefits (SNAP/EBT, FMNP, or Health Bucks).

Health Bucks

As of July, all farmers' markets in NYC accept Health Bucks. Health Bucks, developed by the NYC Health Department, are \$2 coupons you can use to buy fruits and vegetables. At farmers' markets that accept SNAP, for every \$5 spent using your EBT card, you'll receive a \$2 Health Buck to purchase additional produce at the market or at your next visit. Be sure to use your Health Bucks coupons before they expire on November 30, 2015.



Home Sweet Home



ONE OF THE little things that Shari Robeck takes pleasure in is the ability to relax on the couch with her two children, Sebastian, 17, and Brianna, 14, and watch basketball on television.

For Ms. Robeck, this small thing means that she and her children finally have a normal life. In September 2014, after being homeless for five years, the Robeck family moved into an apartment in the Carver Houses. Ms. Robeck receives disability, as well as some assistance from her ex-husband, who furnished the apartment. Prior to moving into the development, the Robecks lived in a shelter in Harlem.

Ms. Robeck never thought she would be homeless, but after losing her job and home, and struggling with numerous health issues, the family became destitute. Due to her health issues she couldn't find work. The family lived in various places, some of which she would like to forget, including a temporary shelter in Chinatown with bug-infested public showers. In their Harlem shelter, the family was subject to curfews, special visiting hours, and having to sign in and out whenever they entered or left the building.

Though the family has faced many hardships while being homeless, including having property stolen and disparaging remarks from paying tenants in the Harlem building they lived in, they pushed on. While her children maintained their honor roll standings in school, Ms. Robeck never gave up hope in her quest to find a more stable living situation for her family. In June 2014, the family was contacted about an apartment available for them with NYCHA.

Of living in the Carver Houses,

Ms. Robeck said, "I am very grateful. It's peaceful, the floor is quiet. Everyone here is very nice; these young guys hold the door for me. I have neighbors who see me in the elevator or at the front door and ask, 'Can I help you?' or 'What do you need?' or they say 'It's good to see you out of that wheelchair.'"

"There's always hope, I'm proof of that," Ms. Robeck said. "The kids have their own rooms, they didn't have TV before, these things don't matter to everyday people, but to us it means a sense of normalcy."

Ms. Robeck is looking forward to many more years in the Carver Houses making new milestones with her children. And her children, who are both basketball players, have more short-term goals in mind, they look forward to spending summer playing ball on the basketball court at their development.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARY MCCRAIL/COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY

Shari Robeck, formerly homeless, is happy to be able to welcome visitors to her apartment at Carver Houses.

NYPD SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

HELP YOUR COMMUNITY WHILE EARNING GOOD PAY AND BENEFITS!

School Crossing Guards help children safely cross busy intersections on their way to and from school. School Crossing Guards control traffic flow around schools in the morning, at lunch time and at the end of the school day.

Take advantage of these excellent Civilian **PART TIME JOBS** with the NYPD!

- **GOOD PAY - \$10.33/HOUR TO START, \$13.49/HOUR AFTER 3 YEARS**
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- **WORK CLOSE TO HOME**
- **SUMMER WORK ALSO AVAILABLE**

There are no formal education or experience requirements for this job, but all candidates must be able to understand and be understood in English.

Prospective candidates must pass a qualifying medical examination, which includes drug screening and a character/background investigation, prior to appointment. You must also complete six (6) days of training at the Police Academy once appointed.

If you are interested in applying for a School Crossing Guard position please visit:

<http://nypdcivilianjobs.com/schoolcrossingguard/>

and provide your information and you will be contacted by an NYPD representative.



The New York City Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Michael Johnson Honored with Sloan Public Service Award



MICHAEL JOHNSON, NYCHA Assistant Property Maintenance Supervisor, is one of six recipients of the **2015 Sloan Awards for Public Service**, presented by the Fund for the City of New York. On June 2, he was honored twice: in the morning by his NYCHA colleagues and Johnson House residents, and in the evening by Mayor Bill de Blasio and other New York dignitaries at a ceremony at Cooper Union. Each Sloan Award recipient receives a \$10,000 prize; the former Staten Island NYCHA resident and 27-year employee plans to donate his entire prize to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital for cancer, a charity he supports as a volunteer and contributor.

"This is a great honor and I wish to thank the Fund for the City of New York, NYCHA, and the residents at Johnson Houses," Mr. Johnson said. "I'm here early in the morning and the residents can all reach me on my cell phone. I want to keep on serving the residents at Johnson Houses."

Michael Arad, a member of the Sloan Award selection committee, presented the award to Mr. Johnson, citing his

"generosity of spirit and his role in making the lives of countless public housing residents better." (An interesting note: Mr. Arad, formerly employed by NYCHA as an architect, drafted the winning design for the 9/11 memorial, selected by the City from 5,000 entries.)

NYCHA Senior Vice President Brian Clarke thanked Mr. Johnson for his "selfless efforts on behalf of residents," and welcomed "the recognition Michael brings to the good work that our staff does day in and day out."

Mr. Johnson's colleagues were full of praise:

"Having employees like Michael makes me proud of our team and the job we do for residents," said Manhattan Property Management Director Conrad Vazquez.

"Whatever challenges that come, Michael is there to meet them," reported Johnson Houses Property Manager Gay Chestnut. "No matter what the situation, he is there with a smile."

"Michael is available 24/7, he always worries about the residents and does them countless favors," added Kevin Cropley, Johnson Houses Property Management Supervisor.

"I was surprised how polite he is – that really boosts morale," Maintenance Worker Kmal Moeen said. "He always follows through with anything that I need or can't do, so residents aren't left waiting."

"We are proud of Michael Johnson," said 30-year Tenant Association President Ethel Velez. "He is a wonderful APMS and there is never a moment he won't help you when you ask. When he tells you something, you know it will get done, and always with a smile."



An American Red Cross volunteer and Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis (seated, right) taught children at South Beach Houses about how to stay safe in emergency situations.

Kids Pack Pillowcases for Safety

ON MAY 11, 75 children at South Beach Houses in Staten Island learned that pillowcases can be used for more than just their pillows. The American Red Cross (ARC) presented "The Pillowcase Project," an interactive fire safety and disaster preparedness program for kids ages 8-11. The children learned how to create family evacuation plans and make emergency supply kits

using pillowcases. All of the children, students in an afterschool program run by United Activities Unlimited, received pillowcases to decorate and take home so that they could share what they learned with their families. Assembly Member Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn) partnered with ARC to host the program because she believes every child should know what to do in the event of a fire.

What Should Kids Pack in Their Pillowcase Emergency Kits?

- Bottled water
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Toiletries: bar of soap, toothpaste and toothbrush
- Non-perishable foods
- Activity book
- Crayons
- Small game
- Emergency contact information

Don't forget to pack nutritious foods!

- **No salty snacks:** These make you thirsty and increase your need to drink water.
- **Add protein:** Nuts, protein bars, and nut butter help keep you full longer. These foods are usually easy to stash in your kit.
- **Add high-energy foods:** Nuts, dried meat, whole grains, and canned beans, fruits, or vegetables to keep energy levels up.

Honoring America's Commitment to Seniors

NYCHA IS PROUD to be home to the nation's first, and oldest, senior center. And on June 19, the William Hodson Senior Center at the Bronx's Butler Houses played host to a very notable celebration. Representatives from various government agencies and elected officials' offices gathered there to celebrate the milestone birthdays of some very important federal programs that have made life better for countless seniors across America.

This year, the Social Security system, which keeps millions of seniors out of poverty, turns 80. The Older Americans Act, the first federal initiative to provide comprehensive services to seniors, turns 50. Medicare and Medicaid, which provide health coverage to seniors and those in need, are also 50. The Americans with Disabilities Act, a sweeping civil rights law that empowers people with disabilities, is 25. The Affordable Care Act, which overhauled the country's healthcare system and is also known as ObamaCare, is 5.

Although there wasn't a birthday cake big enough to accommodate all those candles, the mood was certainly festive, and appreciative, for the approximately 50 seniors who attended the event. "Social security is good," said Velma Sandiford. "It helps me live and maintain some of the standards I had while I was working. It helps me keep my apartment and get food."

Since 1943, the Hodson Senior Center has offered an enriching array of activities, programs, and services. That legacy continues today with a congregate meal program that serves breakfast and lunch, support and discussion groups, weekly visits from a doctor, walking groups and a Zumba dance fitness program, art sessions, and classes on photography, computers, and cell phones. According to Center Director Dr. Rosie Mills, "The idea that got this center started was that older people should have a place to come to – to congregate, socialize, and get engaged – instead of staying

home in isolation, just looking at their four walls. So we offer seniors a home away from home. Participants have told me that our classes are as much about therapy as they are about learning. We've had people lose weight by doing Zumba and people who have improved their eating habits. After learning how to use the internet, participants pay their bills, research their health, or look for lost family members online."

"I live next door and I'm disabled,

so I come here mostly every day. That keeps me feeling better – I can be with other people and talk with them. I call the people here my family," said Theola Shepard. "I'm 97 years old and I've been coming here for about 25 years," said Leroy Thomas Roof. "This center means a lot for the neighborhood. When you come, you can see old friends and have a good time. I have a lot of friends here – I'm friends with everybody. And the food is good!"



Fathers, sons, brothers, uncles, cousins gather at Hodson to celebrate Father's Day.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

ALWAYS BE PREPARED



For Individuals with Functional or Access Needs

Create support teams for home, work, and anywhere else you spend time. Be sure people are aware of your specific needs in case of an emergency. Allow for additional time if you need to evacuate, especially if the following applies:

- **Motorized wheelchairs** weigh over 100 pounds and are often bigger than manual wheelchairs. Ensure you have plenty of time to use elevators when planning your evacuation – they are likely to be turned off early for resident and staff safety.
- **Service animals** are always allowed in emergency shelters. If you are going to a shelter, be sure to bring the necessary supplies for the animal's care, including food, leashes, a carrier, and medication.
- **Homebound residents** may be unable to evacuate by themselves and should contact **311** for assistance.

Access-A-Ride

Access-A-Ride (AAR) is a paratransit service or "demand-response" service for eligible individuals with disabilities who are unable to use accessible mass transit. You must apply in advance to use the service. The Access-A-Ride application is available on-line at http://web.mta.info/nyct/paratran/access_application.pdf. To contact Access-A-Ride (AAR) directly:

- Call **877.337.2017** toll-free from area codes **212, 718, 347, 516, 631, 646, 914,** and **845**.
- From other area codes, dial **718.393.4999**.
- Customers who are deaf/hard of hearing can use their preferred relay service or the free **711** service relay.
- Visit <http://web.mta.info/nyct/paratran/guide.htm#directory> for more information on Access-A-Ride.
- **Accessibility Tip: Wheelchair-Accessible Yellow Taxis**
Wheelchair-accessible yellow taxis are available for select Access-A-Ride trips. To find out if you can use taxis for your Access-A-Ride trips, please call the Subscription Unit's Yellow Taxi Hotline at **718.393.4420**. For the standard metered fare, you can use wheelchair-accessible yellow taxis for trips originating in Manhattan and ending anywhere in the five boroughs. There are five ways to request a NYC wheelchair-accessible taxi:
 - Call **311**
 - Call the dispatch center directly: **646.599.9999**
 - Text a request to: **646.400.0789**
 - Use the mobile app "Wheels on Wheels" (WOW), available free through iTunes or Google Play
 - Order online at www.nycaccessibledispatch.org

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<https://a858-nycnotify.nyc.gov/notifynyc/Enrollment>.

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- Significant Event Notifications
- Public Health Notifications
- Public School Closing/Delay Advisories
- Unscheduled Parking Rules Suspensions
- Sign Language Videos

311

- Reach **311** by text at **311-692**.
- Call **311** or **(212) NEW-YORK, 212.639.9675**, from outside New York City.
- Connect with **311** via Video Relay Service (VRS) at **(212) NEW-YORK, 212.639.9675**.
- Contact **311** via TTY or Text Telephone at **212.504.4115**.
- Available in 170 languages via phone.
- Available online at www1.nyc.gov/311 in over 50 languages,

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- Warnings for severe thunderstorms, winds, tornadoes, floods, and heavy snow.
- Special information statements for significant or unusual weather.
- Broadcast schedule: www.erh.noaa.gov/okx/nwr/rockefeller.html

What You Need to Know About Evacuations

If City officials issue evacuations instructions, **you should be prepared to leave your home – it is not safe to stay**. Find out now which evacuation zone your home, office, or other frequently visited places are by using the map located at <http://maps.nyc.gov/hurricane>.

- **An evacuation recommendation encourages** certain residents to take steps to evacuate voluntarily. A recommendation might be issued to cover residents of specific zones, communities or building types. An evacuation recommendation could also be issued for the benefit of people with mobility challenges who need extra time to evacuate.
- **An evacuation order** requires residents of specific zones or communities to leave their homes for the protection of their health and welfare in the event of an approaching storm.

Where Should You Go?

- Stay with family or friends outside the impacted evacuation zone.
- Go to an evacuation center; from there you will be taken to a shelter staffed by City workers who are trained to keep things safe and running smoothly.
- Shelter sites change based on the emergency so stay tuned to the local news, access [NYC.gov](http://nyc.gov), call **311** (TTY: **212.504.4115**), or contact **311** online for the latest information.

What About Pets?

- Pets in carriers are allowed on MTA subways, buses, and trains. When an evacuation order is declared, pets too large for carriers will also be allowed, provided those animals are muzzled and controlled on a sturdy leash no longer than four feet. The City will announce when this policy is in effect.
- Pets are allowed at all City evacuation centers. Please bring your own pet supplies, including food, leashes, a carrier, and medication. Only legal pets will be allowed.
- All City evacuation centers are reachable via public transportation. Use the MTA's online tool to plan your trip here: <http://tripplanner.mta.info>.

THE PEACEMAKERS



Eric Cumberbatch, program director, started what would become the MOCJ Peer Leadership program while working at NYCHA. NYCHA Chaperones Kiko Charles and Danny Barber are seated at the table at left.



Every two weeks the Peer Leaders meet with Eric Cumberbatch and program coordinator Jessica Mofield to talk through issues that may come up during this summer's tour of MAP communities and strategies the Peer Leaders can use to manage them.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

as the first step in creating a dialogue that can shift the viewer's perspective from a casual attitude toward violence to a focused intention to actively support peace.

Eric Cumberbatch, program director, and Jessica Mofield, program coordinator, work on anti-violence initiatives at the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and manage the Peer Leadership program.

"We're committed to empowering young people through the Peer Leadership Committee to build healthy, vibrant, and peaceful communities. There is no one better to reach out to troubled communities and talk about change than people who have experienced the worst of it," Cumberbatch explains. "All these kids basically landed here with us in this program because they have something to teach us. They are here to be leaders, they are teaching others what they already know, and they are continuing to teach and learn from each other."

The program began about three years ago when Eric was on staff at NYCHA and moved with him when he joined the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. Daniel Barber, TA President at Jackson Houses, and Brenda "Kiko" Charles, TA President at Mariner's Houses, have been the program

chaperones since the beginning. Justin Martinez, who lives in Melrose Houses, and Katora Jones, from Mariner's Harbor, are two of the original peers. Both 20 years old, they feel the program has transformed their lives.

"It can be frustrating to try and communicate what gun violence can do to you and your family and your community but it's gotten so much easier for me to talk about what happened to me, to get comfortable talking about gun violence with other people my age," Justin explains. "I know how to facilitate discussions when people challenge me or challenge what other people say."

"I have really grown as a person here. This group built me up, built my confidence," Katora adds. "They are my family. I do have my own family, of course, and they are important to me, but these people are my family too."

To join the program, each Peer had to contact Eric or Jessica and write an essay explaining his or her reasons for wanting to opt in. Currently the Peer Leadership program runs throughout the year, with biweekly meetings lasting about two hours, plus the summer tour of film screenings and discussions and other events as scheduled. During the biweekly meetings participants work

through a lesson plan, review the previous week's lesson, and discuss targeted citywide anti-violence event planning strategies. In addition, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Maysles Institute staff teach the participants several components of advocacy, public speaking, community organizing and anti-violence project planning.

"The goal of the Peer Leadership Committee is to be able to provide our young people with a platform to activate, refine, and develop their leadership potential," says Jessica. "They are trained to become advocates who bring messages of peace into the community to prevent and reduce youth violence."

The Peer Leadership Committee

has held a handful of well-attended events to date, including screenings of the film *Triggering Wounds* at Jackson Houses in the Bronx during a spate of shootings in 2013 and at Hunter College for an audience of youth in detention. This summer the program will officially launch its first extended tour of events at the 15 NYCHA developments that account for nearly 20 percent of all violent crime in public housing in NYC (see schedule for screening details).

Interested in becoming a member of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Peer Leadership Committee? Email Jessica at jmofield@justice.nyc.gov for more information.

The MOCJ Peer Leadership Committee Summer 2015 Tour

Every MOCJ event will be held from 6:30-8:30 PM at the Cornerstone DYCD Center at each development. Each event will include screenings of the short films *Voices From Within*, *Guns Change Lives*, and *Triggering Wounds*, and a facilitated discussion with the MOCJ Peer Leaders. Additional dates and locations will be posted on NYCHA's website and Facebook page.

Date	Borough	Development
Thursday, July 09, 2015	Brooklyn	Boulevard
Thursday, July 16, 2015	Brooklyn	Tompkins
Tuesday, July 21, 2015	Brooklyn	Bushwick
Thursday, July 23, 2015	Manhattan	Polo Grounds
Tuesday, August 04, 2015	Manhattan	Wagner
Tuesday, August 11, 2015	Brooklyn	Red Hook
Thursday, August 13, 2015	Brooklyn	Van Dyke
Tuesday, August 18, 2015	Bronx	Butler
Thursday, August 20, 2015	Bronx	Ingersoll
Tuesday, August 25, 2015	Staten Island	Stapleton

Anti-Violence Resources

- To view *Voices From Within*, visit <https://vimeo.com/99736358>.
- You can watch the full-length 2011 film, *The Interrupters*, about the Cure Violence program at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/interrupters/>.
- If you are interested in learning more about what's going on with the Cure Violence program nationally, check out the program's blog at <http://cureviolence.org/connect/blog/>.

Cure Violence Programs in New York City

Borough	Neighborhood	Program	Phone
Bronx	Morrisania	Save Our Streets (S.O.S.) Morrisania	646.448.9131
Bronx	South Bronx, Mott Haven	Save Our Streets (S.O.S.) South Bronx	646.448.9131
Bronx	University Heights	Bronx Rises Against Gun (B.R.A.G.) Violence Program	718.716.1150
Bronx	East Concourse	Release the Grip	718.402.6872
Brooklyn	East New York A	Man Up! A	718.498.2320
Brooklyn	East New York B	Man Up! B	718.498.2320
Brooklyn	Bedford Stuyvesant	Save Our Streets (S.O.S.) Bed-Stuy	718.773.6886
Brooklyn	Crown Heights	Save Our Streets (S.O.S.) Crown Heights	718.773.6886
Brooklyn	Brownsville	Violence Out - Brownsville	347.782.2279
Brooklyn	East Flatbush	Gangstas Making Astronomical Community Changes, Inc. (G-M.A.C.C.)	718.772.7429
Queens	South Jamaica	Life Camp	718.848.3900
Queens	Far Rockaway	Rock Safe Streets	718.751.6150
Staten Island	Staten Island	49 Strong Saving Lives	718.273.8411

Extreme Makeover: NYCHA Garden Edition

RESIDENT GARDENERS AT South Jamaica Houses contacted New York Restoration Project (NYRP) for help expanding a small herb garden into a large community garden. A non-profit started by Bette Midler, NYRP helps under-funded communities turn open spaces into gardens by providing tools and materials, such as soil, compost, and flowers; volunteers and expertise in construction, horticulture, forestry; and environmental education to help create or expand community gardens.

On May 14, NYRP staff and volunteers, along with South Jamaica Houses residents, NYCHA Gardening & Sustainability staff, and Green City Force members, got to work. One day of pulling weeds and hacking away at overgrowth, picking up and bagging trash, and building beds and filling them with soil transformed a vacant lot into the garden oasis NYCHA residents had imagined in their dreams.

"I am so very proud of the new farm," said South Jamaica resident gardener Marian Dolphus. "All the residents came out and worked really hard and it's coming along nicely. The farm is going to be so beautiful once everything grows." Dolphus, who is 84, credits gardening with keeping her in good health; she has been a resident gardener since 1975. Since helping build the garden, Dolphus has planted basil, celery, collard greens, lima beans, string beans, sweet potatoes, Swiss chard, and tomatoes. "I can't wait for my collard greens. Everyone keeps asking where's the collard greens?"

"Resident requests are made by people who are active in the gardening process



This lot at South Jamaica Houses, which sits next to an LIRR track, was unused for decades. To transform this space into a garden, volunteers had to pull weeds, trim overgrowth, and bag trash.

and already appreciate public spaces," said Amanda Brown, NYRP Director of Community Engagement Resident. "This is an incentive program to gardeners; these are people who put a lot of effort into the project, and what NYRP does is welcomed and invited because the gardens we create are community-led and initiated."

South Jamaica Community Farm joins NYCHA's rich tradition of gardening, with more than 700 individual and community gardens on NYCHA developments that are cared for by 3,500 resident gardeners. This is the fourth NYCHA garden NYRP has partnered with, in the past they helped gardeners at Marcy, Amsterdam, and Ingersoll Houses.

In addition to gardens, NYRP helps beautify NYCHA by planting trees on NYCHA property. Last year, they planted 11,800 trees at NYCHA developments and this year will plant about 650 trees, 550 of



Welcome to the new South Jamaica Community Farm, featuring 12 raised planting beds that are home to a delicious array of vegetables, including celery, collard greens, carrots, tomatoes, and more, all planted by resident gardeners.

them funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and to be planted in the South Bronx.

Residents at South Jamaica are thankful to NYRP for their support and look forward to many years of beautiful flowers,

nutritious fruits and vegetables, and time to socialize with their neighbors. In the fall, NYRP plans to partner with NYCHA residents on another garden, helping the Authority build more connected communities through gardening.

Resources for NYCHA Gardeners

NYCHA Garden and Greening Program

Learn how to become a NYCHA gardener and start a garden at your development.

greennycha.org/resources/gardening/

Battery Urban Farm

Learn about sustainable farming techniques at this educational farm in lower Manhattan.

www.thebattery.org/projects/battery-urban-farm/

Brooklyn Botanic Garden (BBG) GreenBridge

Learn about urban greening and conservation through the BBG's community environmental horticulture program, which works with Brooklyn block associations and community gardeners.

www.bbg.org/greenbridge

Bronx Green-Up at New York Botanical Garden

Bronx residents who are community gardeners, urban farmers, or members of community organizations can receive horticulture education, training, and technical assistance.

www.nybg.org/green_up/

Green Guerillas

Helps community gardeners cultivate healthy community gardens through plant, soil, and lumber donations; educational programs on community organizing activities, fundraising, and youth engagement programs.

www.greenguerillas.org/

GrowNYC

Through Grow Truck, community gardeners in all five boroughs may receive plant donations and gardening advice and borrow tools. Also, take

advantage of GrowNYC's Annual Spring Plant Sale to get plants, herbs, and vegetables at wholesale prices.

grownyc.org

The Horticultural Society of NYC

Offers lectures and workshops on horticulture, landscape design, urban gardening, and environmental concerns. www.thehort.org/

Just Foods

Offers workshops led by gardeners and farmers to NYC community gardeners on various topics and trains them to spread knowledge about growing, selling, and providing food in their neighborhoods.

New York Restoration Project

Helps transform public spaces by building or expanding gardens through its Gardens in the City program. Will lend tools and materials, volunteers, and advice on creating community gardens in under-resourced neighborhoods in NYC.

www.nyrp.org/green-spaces/transform-your-green-space

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden

Through its Heritage Farm and NYC Compost Project, Snug Harbor offers classes and workshops on basic farming and composting techniques.

snug-harbor.org/

Queens Botanical Garden (QBG)

QBG Farm strives to teach New Yorkers about urban farming, composting, food systems, food justice and environmental stewardship; all central tenets of QBG's sustainability and healthy living programs.

www.queensbotanical.org/



CALLING ALL NYCHA GARDENERS!

NYCHA'S GARDEN AND GREENING OFFICE is looking for 12 NYCHA residents (who are registered with the NYCHA Garden and Greening Program) to participate in the Garden Leaders Training pilot program with the Battery Urban Farm (BUF) this fall!

BUF is an educational farm where New Yorkers of all ages can learn about farming. The Garden Leaders Training begins with a six-week Farm Education Intensive that will teach you everything you need to know to build a beautiful and thriving community garden, including how to plan and lay out your garden, what

kind of garden is best for you, basic urban farming skills, how to integrate farming with community outreach programs, and how to sustain and support your garden. Following the training, BUF staff will provide support and mentorship to Garden Leaders through the end of the summer.

The six-week training will be held in November and December at The Battery Conservancy office at 1 Whitehall Street in Manhattan and will include field trips and guest speakers. Best of all, the program is free! For more information, contact the NYCHA Garden Program team at **212.306.3511**.

NYCHA

Resident Art Show 2015



Angel, Darryl Sisco,
Bronx, Citywide, Monterey, Twin Parks



Landscape, Hsia Huf,
Citywide, Pomonok, Queens



Grandma's Kitchen, Kulwant
Bains, Citywide, Pomonok, Queens



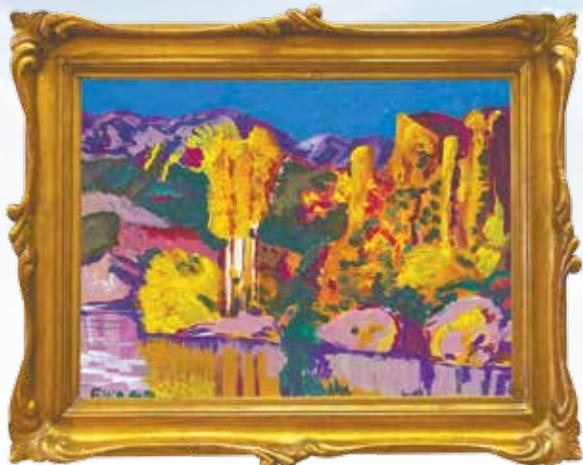
Church Between Flowers, Jorge Luiz Cruz,
Bronx, Bronx River Houses, Citywide



Bouquet of Flowers, Carmen Villarini,
Citywide, Manhattan



In the Fields, Virginia Cheng,
Citywide, Pomonok, Queens



Purple Mountains, Enid Hunter
Bronx, Citywide, James Monroe



On the Beach, Yuan Qing Chang,
Citywide, Pomonok, Queens



Dragonfly, Oscar Escobar,
Citywide, Harbor Terrace, Staten Island



Love Triangle, Roger Raguet,
Bronx, Citywide, James Monroe



Lemons, Judy Lin,
Citywide, Pomonok, Queens



Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Group 5,
Bronx, Bronx River Houses, Citywide