



Journal

New \$5.6M Community Center At Van Dyke



THE CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE (left to right) P.S.A. #2 Captain Timothy Pearson, NYCHA Department of Equal Opportunity Deputy Director Norman McCullough, Brooklyn Borough Management Director Gloria Finkelman, Deputy General Manager for Capital Projects Michael Meyer, Unity Plaza Resident Association President James Butler, Van Dyke Superintendent David Gatling, Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Director Mary Starks, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, and Brooklyn South Council of Presidents Chair Richard Davis join children from Van Dyke and Cypress Hills at the Van Dyke Community Center opening.

By Eileen Elliott

The heart of Brownsville, Brooklyn is changed forever. After five years of planning and two years in construction, what was once a nearly vacant lot at 372 Blake Avenue has become the spectacular Van Dyke Community Center. Its opening was celebrated with a festive ribbon-cutting ceremony on the evening of June 20, attended by New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) officials, community center staff, and residents and their leaders from Van Dyke Houses and the neighboring developments.

Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Director Mary Starks welcomed the guests from a portable stage set up in the enormous gymnasium. "It's been hard, difficult," she said, standing beneath an arc of orange, white and blue balloons, "but the Resident Association worked with us through the entire process and

we're very happy that this is the product."

At 20,750 square feet and a cost of \$5.6 million, the center gives the phrase "state-of-the-art" new meaning. Most impressive is the gymnasium, which includes a full-sized basketball court with an area for spectator seating and adjoining locker rooms. There are

glass-enclosed classrooms, a computer library room, a game room with ping pong and pool tables, a weight room, a music room and recording studio, a photography dark room, a mirrored dance room, and an arts and crafts center. The kitchen is equipped to prepare meals and has a multi-purpose area that can be used for dining. All open off of a gleaming, spacious lobby.

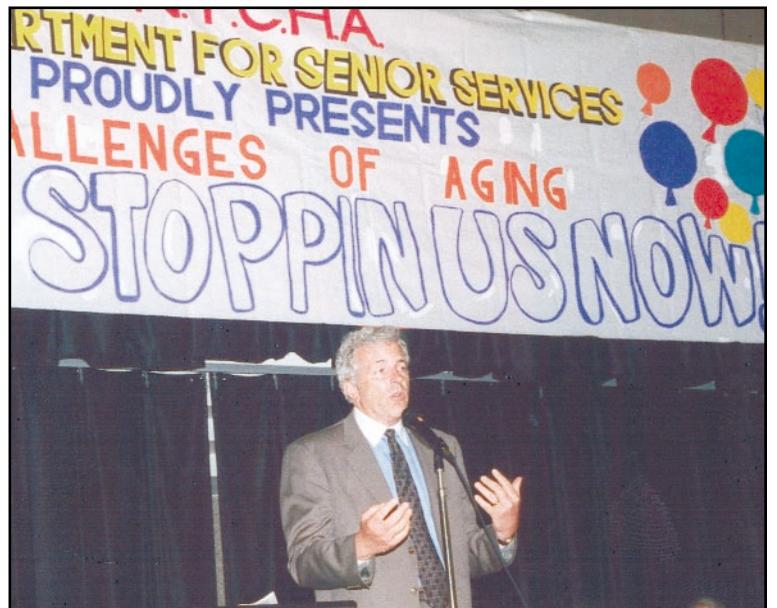
"This is a beautiful facility," said Capital Projects Deputy General Manager Michael Meyer, "but it didn't happen without the tremendous effort, hard work and cooperation of a lot of people."

Mr. Meyer named many of those people, starting with the residents of Van Dyke Houses,

(Continued on page 6)

SENIOR CELEBRATION AT RIVERBANK PARK

There was no stopping them. For over four hours on June 21, the tone was alternately celebratory and serious at the New York City Housing Authority's Department for Senior Services' event entitled, "Today's Challenges for the Aging," at Riverbank State Park. Seniors from all over the city applauded the Chorale Group's spirited musical selection, which included the theme song for the event, "Ain't No Stopping Us Now." But it wasn't all singing and dancing. A panel discussion focusing on many of the challenges facing today's seniors added gravity to the day. NYCHA Senior Services Director Maristella Kelsey presided and Chairman Tino Hernandez added his words of support.



CHALLENGES New York City Department for the Aging Commissioner Herbert W. Stupp (above) was one of the panelists who discussed the challenges seniors are facing today. Other panelists included Fredda Vladeck of the United Hospital Fund, Mt. Sinai's Medical Director for Senior Services Dr. Frederick T. Sherman, New York City Department for Mental Health Deputy Commissioner Dr. Martha Sullivan and Manhattan North Council of Presidents Chair Barbara G. Barber.



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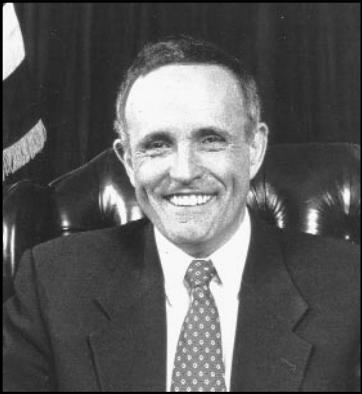
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Congratulations NYCHA Graduates!

Message From The Mayor

Take Me Out To the New Ballparks

New York City is the Baseball Capital of the World and for devoted baseball fans there is no better day of the year than Opening Day. This year, New Yorkers who love baseball are even more fortunate than they were last year, when the season ended with a historic Subway Series between the Yankees and the Mets. After all, this season began with not two, but four Opening Days – and two of them were in brand new stadiums.



Last year's Penn League Champions, the Staten Island Yankees, played their home opener on June 24 in the new Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George. Baseball fans young and old enjoyed a night at the ballpark and enjoyed the most beautiful view in baseball: looking over the outfield fence to New York Harbor and the Manhattan skyline in the distance.

And the following day, Monday, June 25th, professional baseball returned to Brooklyn for the first time in 44 years when the Brooklyn Cyclones played their first home game at the new KeySpan Park in Coney Island. The debut of the Mets' minor league affiliate marked the first time Brooklyn baseball fans celebrated Opening Day on their own turf since Walter O'Malley broke their hearts by moving the Dodgers to Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

The Staten Island Yankees will host at least 38 home games through early September, as well as a variety of concerts and sporting events. The annual game and event schedule is projected to create approximately 200 local jobs. The annual recurring economic impact from stadium operations is estimated at \$16.1 million, with the City expected to receive approximately \$2.5 million in annual revenue from the development.

The ballpark is just one part of a comprehensive economic redevelopment plan that will turn the St. George neighborhood into a state-of-the-art gateway to Staten Island. This redevelopment plan includes the \$81 million renovation of the St. George Ferry Terminal, the construction of the National Lighthouse Museum, and the Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The Brooklyn Cyclones are also scheduled to play at least 38 home games, and the City can host a number of events at KeySpan Park, including other sporting, cultural, and community events. Approximately 240 full- and part-time jobs will result from the operation of the new ballpark. It's expected to generate more than \$11.7 million in economic activity annually for the City, and \$1.1 million in City revenue.

In addition to the revitalization of Steeplechase Park, many improvements to the surrounding neighborhood are planned. My administration has appropriated \$11 million for improvements to the area, including the construction of three pedestrian corridors to maintain public access to the waterfront, the rebuilding of the world-famous Reigleman Boardwalk, significant improvements to the Aquarium, and the development of a museum dedicated to Brooklyn Dodgers memorabilia and New York sports history.

Several cross-harbor series are scheduled between the Brooklyn Cyclones and the Staten Island Yankees during July and August, and I hope that everyone gets a chance to see these beautiful new ballparks. Richmond County Bank Stadium can be reached via a free ride on the Staten Island Ferry – just board at Battery Park and you can see the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island during the ride. The ballpark is right there when you get off the ferry.

The revival of Coney Island is making headlines and the Brooklyn Cyclones are proving to be the anchor tenant that is bringing New Yorkers back to this historic beachfront community. Now is the perfect time to see the changes for yourself – spend the day with family or friends at the amusement parks, grab a delicious dinner at Nathan's or Gargiulo's and then take in a Brooklyn Cyclones game at sunset. For tickets to the Brooklyn Cyclones, call (718) 449-TIXS (8497), and for the Staten Island Yankees, (718) 698-9265. The summer of 2001 offers New Yorkers more opportunities than ever before to take in a ballgame and enjoy the excitement of our national pastime.

Rudy Giuliani

BRIGHT FUTURES FOR NYCHA GRADS

In honor of all of NYCHA's recent high school graduates, the Journal is profiling two of the many residents who show exceptional promise – Stephanie Mendez of Stanley Isaacs Houses and Clifford Thomas of Gowanus Houses, both in Manhattan.

Stephanie Mendez

By Eileen Elliott

In a recent interview at NYCHA's Central Office, 18-year-old Stephanie Mendez of Stanley Isaacs Houses said she never thought she would be able to afford a private college education. Now she knows that she can. Through a variety of scholarships and grants, including a \$20,000 scholarship from her mother's custodial union, this fall, Ms. Mendez will be attending Columbia University where she plans to major in American history.

She has had an impressive career as a member of the very first class of the innovative Baruch College Campus High School in Manhattan. Not only was Ms. Mendez Class Salutatorian (meaning she had the second-highest grade point average in a class of 86), she was also elected Class Speaker in a landslide vote by her peers. She delivered the Salutatory Address on June 25.

Ms. Mendez attributes her discipline and drive to her parents — her mother works for the Board of Education and as a custodial secretary, and her father is a cabinet maker — and her teachers. “My

parents always told us about the importance of education,” she said, tossing a wave of dark hair with fuchsia streaks over her shoulder, “and I think I've had some of the best teachers in New York City.”

Of Stanley Isaacs, where she has lived for the past 14 years, Stephanie said, “I think I'm actually lucky to live there. It's a nice, diverse community.” She is currently working with the Youth Management Team there to start up the Spoken Word Café, modeled after the Nuyorican Poets Café on the Lower East Side.

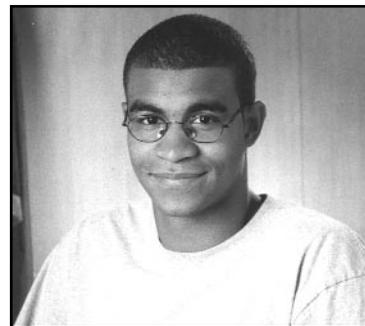
Ms. Mendez's ultimate goal is a worthy one — to become a



teacher in the NYC Public School System. “I want to empower people. I want to have a similar impact on students that my teachers have had on me; show them that people do see their potential.”

But Ms. Mendez admitted that she wouldn't mind augmenting a teacher's salary. “I also want to discover a band, and make a lot of money,” she said laughing, “like George Martin did with the Beatles.”

Clifford Thomas II



By Allan Leicht

Clifford Thomas II's father is a retired NYCHA caretaker, and his mother, Patricia Thomas, is employed as a clerk; both are US Army veterans, high school graduates, hard-working American parents. But when they met in Germany, where they were posted years ago, it is safe to say they did not expect that the newborn infant they took back to the States would one day be a budding vertebrate paleontologist studying at Harvard University, where he will begin this fall.

“Harvard has a great undergraduate paleontology department,” says the modest, good-humored Clifford Thomas II. “I always had this little kid's dinosaur thing and never lost it.”

There is much about the 18-year-old Clifford Thomas that is still like that little kid. He does not like to draw attention to himself, and he is respectful of and grateful to his parents. He also radiates the maturity, confidence

and discipline of a scholar and scientist.

It all began in the third grade when Clifford's teachers alerted Mr. and Mrs. Thomas that he was scoring very well at school. The Thomas's understood his potential and they supported, encouraged and made young Clifford stick to the rigorous schedule of “Prep for Prep,” a private 14-month program that prepares public school kids for private high

school. Clifford devoted a summer and then Wednesday afternoons and entire Saturdays to additional studies that won him a scholarship to the St. Anne's High School in Brooklyn Heights.

“I didn't always want to do it, but I sure am glad they made me keep it up,” he says, knowing that he will be far away from his nurturing parents and the individual attention of St. Anne's when he leaves home for Harvard.

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Rudolph W. Giuliani.....Mayor

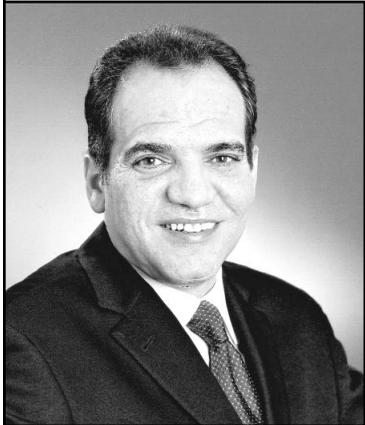
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Message From The Chairman

**Preserving Affordable Housing
In the 21st Century**

Back in 1934 when the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) was founded, who would have guessed that the number of families living in our apartments would grow from 122 that first year, to well over 250,000 in the year 2001? No doubt, there have been many challenges along the way; challenges that were met by a series of administrations dedicated to the mission of providing decent, safe and affordable housing to low-income New Yorkers.



And those challenges are still being met. As apartment rents all over the city continue to rise, NYCHA residents can rest assured that we here at the Housing Authority are utilizing all of the resources available to us to maintain and expand our housing stock in the 21st century.

Many of our developments are very old, which makes maintenance and modernization top priorities. Modernization is a term used to describe structural

renovations made to extend the life and value of our properties, and bring them up to current standards. Nine of our 346 developments are over 60 years old; 28 are over 50; 56 are 40 and older; and 84 NYCHA developments are at least 30 years old. Extensive modernization is in progress with major structural repairs at Vladeck Houses, Harlem River Houses, Wald Houses, Lower East Side V and Johnson Houses in Manhattan, and Williamsburg Houses in Brooklyn.

Because many of NYCHA's community centers were also built in the 1940's and 1950's, the Housing Authority is also in the midst of a comprehensive Community Center Construction Program. The program encompasses 96 facilities. It includes the renovation and modification of existing facilities as well as the construction of eight entirely new, fully accessible facilities. Forty-two new centers have been completed. There are 22 centers in the construction phase, 15 centers in the design phase and 17 centers in the survey/pre-design phase.

NYCHA has also taken a number of steps to expand the number of its public housing units. Over the last 30 years we have added 31,991 new apartments. Our most recently built public housing developments were Marcy Greene in Brooklyn and Lower East Side III in Manhattan, both completed in 1996 with a total of 134 new units. On Stanton Street in Manhattan we are constructing a new freestanding residential building containing 13 units, scheduled for completion in March 2002. These are for residents with immunological disorders — the first of its kind at NYCHA.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) proposed budget for FY2002 promises significant cuts in our modernization funding. This requires us to be as creative and resourceful as we can with our limited financial resources.

We are doing exactly that with the HOPE VI Program at the Arverne and Edgemere developments in Far Rockaway, Queens. What had become severely distressed public housing is now being rehabilitated. In addition to revitalizing the Far Rockaway community, this project will result in approximately 72 additional housing units.

At Prospect Plaza in Brooklyn, the Revitalization Plan is an example of innovative public-private partnership including Hope VI funds, Comprehensive Grant Program funds, private equity, private loans, and in-kind contributions from a variety of community and social service partners. It will result in approximately 80 new units of public housing. Likewise, the Quincy-Greene development in Bedford-Stuyvesant is an excellent example of innovative building and renewal. Quincy-Greene became a reality last year as 44 families moved into their new apartments there. Nineteen of those families were NYCHA applicants. All residents earn no more than 60 percent of median income.

These are just some of the projects NYCHA has initiated to address the challenges of affordable housing. If we are as committed and resourceful as those who came before us, there is no telling what we can do.

Tino Hernandez

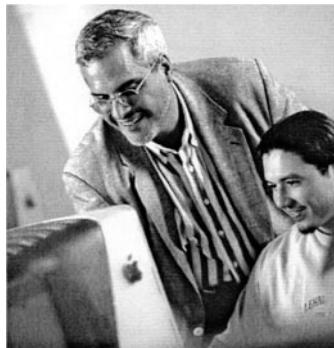
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Correction:

In the story entitled "Last Two Cycles Complete EDSS Program," appearing in the May 2001 *NYCHA Journal*, Violet Solis was identified as class speaker for the daytime division and Thomas Gomez was identified as class speaker for the evening division. The reverse is true.

Deborah's Diary



By Deborah Williams

She's Making that Educational Move — Shauane Pemberton of the William Reid Houses in Brooklyn said farewell to her friends at Erasmus High School in Brooklyn on June 22. She graduated from Erasmus High School of Performing Arts, receiving excellent marks in dance, social studies, math, and science. Shauane may be leaving some of her high school buddies, but there are new friendships waiting for her at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC), which she will attend this fall, majoring in Business Management. Shauane plans to study at BMCC for the next two years and then move on to California to continue her education. Shauane, your mom, Joan, wants you to know that there are no words that can express the joy that you have brought her. *With teary eyes and pride in her voice Joan sends you this message, "I can't believe you have grown up and are about to enter college. You have persevered when times looked bleak and graduated with honors. I am so proud of you! I Love You!" Shauane, congratulations on your achievement and I wish you success at BMCC and with your plans to continue your education in California. Be proud of yourself. You deserve it!*

Recording Artist on the Rise — At Bushwick Houses in Brooklyn, everyone is talking about Jeffrey Ayala. *Why, you ask?* Well, Jeffrey joined the popular five-member singing group called Barrio Boyzz. The group's latest release from the album "Destiny" is the hit song "I Wanna Know What Love Is" and is available everywhere. Barrio Boyzz songs can be heard on your favorite radio stations and throughout the Bushwick Houses. Jeffrey, although talented, started his professional training at the age of fifteen in the Performing Arts program at Bushwick Houses, coordinated by Mrs. Geraldine Glover. Formerly, Jeffrey was the lead singer of the singing group known as Little by Little. During 1996-98, he auditioned at the NYCHA's talent show competition. It was there that Jeffrey's singing talent caught the attention of the producer of the Barrio Boyzz, and the rest, well it's music and history in the making. *Jeffrey, I would like to extend my congratulations to you and I wish you and the Barrio Boyzz great success. May your albums achieve platinum status!*

The Stella Story — Located on the island of Manhattan stands Campos Plaza, a NYCHA development in which the Stella family resides. The Stellas (Rocky and Vilma) moved to Campos Plaza with the desire to see their two children grow up, achieve their goals, and become prominent members of society — and that's exactly what the Stella children did. Their son, Jeffrey, graduated from the Police Academy on July 15, 1986 and was assigned to the Neighborhood Stabilization Unit (NSU-5). Jeffrey, or Stella, as he is commonly referred to by his fellow Officers, received a special recognition award for coming to the aid of a critically injured car accident victim. Their daughter, Beatrice Stella, is also a Police Officer, assigned to the Hospital Police Department. Beatrice and Jeffrey must have been an inspiration to other family members because their cousins Kenneth Stella (28th Precinct), Jeffrey Acevedo (Auto Crime Unit) and Frank Stella (Staten Island Warrants) decided to make it a family tradition.

But that's only the beginning of the story. Another extended family member, Raquel Stella (niece of Rocky and Vilma), has a success story as well. On May 16, 2001, Raquel graduated from Columbia University with a Master of Science in Social Work, and on June 28, 2001, she passed her board certification and license exam. Raquel holds membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society and the National Association of Social Workers, NYC Chapter. She has received the Board of Education Bilingual Social Worker Scholarship (1999-2001), the Puerto Rican /Hispanic Task Force Scholarship (1997), and has made the National Dean's List (1997). She also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College where she majored in sociology with a minor in psychology. Raquel says, "I would like to find employment as a professional bilingual social worker. My intention is to work in a NYC high school setting with at-risk adolescents." *So this is the Stella Story, a story of a family committed to improving and protecting the lives of others. I'd like to congratulate all the Stellas on their careers and wish them all the best for the future!*

The NYCHA “Not Wanted List”

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on June 21, and July 5 and 12, 2000. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of June 21, 2000

Roosevelt Taylor	Case 2308/00 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 3170 Broadway, Grant Houses, New York.
Victor Gonzalez	Case 2310/00 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1260 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
Jorge Pellot	Case 2260/00 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2405 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, New York.
Tu-Rome Singletary	Case 2297/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1306/00 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
Raul Baez	Case 2386/00 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 2250 West 11th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.
Daniel Brown	Case 2390/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 4-24 Astoria Blvd., Astoria Houses, Queens.
George Jackson	Case 2393/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 555 Greene Avenue, Armstrong Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of July 5, 2000

Renell Anderson	Case 2560/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 35-37 12th Street, Ravenswood Houses, Queens.
Hassan Johnson	Case 2494/00 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 362 Sutter Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.
Roberto Astacio	Case 2489/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2369 West 11th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.
Joseph Richards	Case 2580/00 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1909 Amsterdam Avenue, Audubon Houses, New York.
Edwin Maldonado	Case 2586/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 801 Manor Road, Todt Hill Houses, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of July 12, 2000

Troy Smith	Case 947/99 formerly associated with the first floor of 81-04 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Hammel Houses, Rockaway Beach, New York.
Rashah Holmes	Case 2545/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 817 Hicks Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Stefan Ross	Case 2681/00 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 310 East 113th Street, Jefferson Houses, New York.

A.S.P.I.R.E. Graduation At Brooklyn Tech *NYCHA Youth 'On The Right Path, In The Right Direction'*

By Eileen Elliott

Now in its third year, the After School Program For Interaction, Recreation, and Education – A.S.P.I.R.E. – is still going strong. On June 7, approximately 2,300 young NYCHA residents attended the graduation ceremony at the Brooklyn Technical High School in Ft. Greene. The young graduates, dressed in white A.S.P.I.R.E. polo shirts, shared the cavernous auditorium with many of the police officers who have served as their teachers, mentors and friends.

Highlighting the ceremony was the presentation of awards to five A.S.P.I.R.E. graduates chosen as essay contest winners. In the words of one of the winners, Ivyon Edebiri of Stuyvesant Gardens in Manhattan, “The officers who taught A.S.P.I.R.E. have inspired me to stay in school and remain drug-free. A.S.P.I.R.E. will keep me on the right path in the right direction.”

The A.S.P.I.R.E. Program is a collaborative effort between the Mayor's Office, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) and the New York City Police Department (NYPD). Over the course of the school year, NYCHA residents aged 9 through 18 participated in 12-week A.S.P.I.R.E. workshops at one of 75 NYCHA community centers.

The workshops were led by a



Essay Winner Nicole Ruiz of Edenwald Houses in the Bronx, with (left to right) NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler. The other winners were Dileni Ramos of Eastchester Gardens in the Bronx, Tanee S. Walden of St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan, Ivyon Edebiri of Stuyvesant Gardens in Brooklyn and Shamica Nash of Stapleton Houses in Staten Island.

Housing Bureau Police Officer and an NYPD Police Officer, and focused on leadership, communication, conflict resolution, decision-making, responsibility, diversity, gang and drug prevention, and teen violence.

Speakers at the ceremony included NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler, and the NYPD Assistant Commissioner for Community Affairs, Youth Division, Eileen Auld.

Mr. Andrews explained to the group that graduating means stepping up and he encouraged the graduates to continue stepping up in their lives. He also reminisced

about his days growing up near Jamaica Houses in Queens when there were no programs to help the youth learn how to interact with police officers and stay away from gangs and drugs.

“In the Year 2001, so many people have come together to make the world a better place,” Mr. Andrews said referring to the three entities that collaborate on the program.

Police Chief Zeigler added, “the things the Housing Authority and the NYPD are doing to make this program work are fantastic. But next year, I want to see some essay winners from Queens.”

Partners In Reading Graduations

By Eileen Elliott

All over the city, first-, second-, and third-graders took the pledge — the pledge to keep learning, to make books a part of their lives forever, to help others learn to read, and to always be “Partners In Reading.” These children are the latest graduates of the Partners In Reading (PIR) Program — a collaboration between the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the Mayor's Office, and the Board of Education (BOE) — and in early June, over 5,000 “partners” received medals for their efforts at the program's Fourth Annual Closing Ceremonies, hosted by NYCHA's Department of Community Operations.

Bronx and Brooklyn partners graduated on two consecutive nights, June 5 and 6, at Lehman

and Brooklyn Colleges, respectively. They were followed by Manhattan graduates on June 13

at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and by Queens and Staten Island graduates on June 14 at York College in Queens.

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez attended the Bronx and Manhattan Ceremonies and General Manager Douglas Apple attended the Queens ceremony. They joined Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, Citywide Programs Director Deidra Gilliard, NYCHA PIR Coordinator Ukah Busgeth, and BOE PIR Program Coordinator Margaret Ward.

Certificates were presented to the 183 teachers who taught in the 2000–2001 school year, and community center directors were recognized with a loud round of applause at each of the ceremonies.



NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez with young readers at the BMCC Partners In Reading Closing Ceremony on June 13.

Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Luncheon



NOBLE VOLUNTEERS (left to right) NYCHA Department of Social Services Deputy Director Nora Reissig-Lazzaro joins Senior Resident Advisors Patricia Canty for Shelton Houses, Edith Rymer for Conlon-LIHFE, Susan Butler for International Towers, NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence for a photo.

By Allan Leicht

The senior residents of NYCHA gather every year to honor the efforts of the volunteers and floor captains who assist senior program staff. It is a ceremony, a banquet, a concert and a celebration, and every year it turns out to be an affirmation of life. This year it took place in the elegant Antun's Catering Hall in Queens Village, which on a sunlit June 7th was surrounded by the 14 chartered buses that had brought about 600 "NYCHANS" from all five boroughs to a happy crystal ballroom.

"Volunteerism is one of the most noble things one can do," said Hugh Spence, NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager. "It's giving of yourself and comes strictly from the heart." Mr. Spence was referring to a walk in the park, a ride to the doctor, a friend on the phone — the daily acts of kindness by those who look after the well being of their frail, elderly neighbors and enrich the quality of their lives.

The programs honored at the luncheon depend on the spirit of volunteerism of the residents to help ensure that the seniors in

NYCHA developments are able to live independently in their apartments. The volunteers knock on the doors of their neighbors to make sure that they are all right. If there is no answer, the volunteer informs the NYCHA Social Services worker, who also makes a home visit or follows with the resident's emergency contact person. This service has been responsible for averting what could have been a fatality on many occasions.

Mr. Spence thanked the NYCHA support staff — Director of Social Services Michelle Pinnock-Clerk, Deputy Director Nora

Reissig-Lazzaro, and Assistant Director Deborah Harper — but he made clear that it was the senior volunteers who make a major difference. He paid special tribute to Ms. Helen Gibson of Conlon-LIHFE Houses in Queens, who has been a volunteer for 27 years. "She is our Senior Stateswoman," said Mr. Spence.

Ms. Reissig-Lazzaro presided over the presentation of certificates after Assistant Deputy General Manager of Operations Rowland Laedlein praised NYCHA's seniors for their leadership roles in their communities.

As in previous years, after the volunteers and their guests, including NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., enjoyed their luncheon, the roof was raised — musically, if not physically — as the NYCHA Senior Choir commenced a hootenanny entitled "Ain't No Stopping Us Now." And led by Carrie Nation, Lorna Brown, Minnie Mathews, Gloria Geddie, Ida White, Mary Cherry, Erma Berkley, Ernestine Hadley and Murdise Williams, the lusty chorus left no doubt that indeed there ain't no stopping them, not now or ever.

The Senior Resident Advisor/Service Coordinator Programs, the Elderly Safe at Home/Claremont Village Anti-Crime Program, and the Senior Network Program, staffed by the New York City Department for the Aging, are a vital NYCHA network of senior services. But programs are only as effective as the people in them. And on this festive day in June in Queens, it was clear that these people are living up to the pledge that no resident of NYCHA should ever feel alone.

Queens Council of Presidents Installation



Queens Council Of Presidents (COP) Chairwoman Connie Taylor at the June 28 Installation Ceremony.

The Queens Borough Council of Presidents installed new leadership on June 28 in a ceremony at the Beach 41st Street Community Center in Far Rockaway. NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez congratulated new Chair Connie Taylor, Vice-Chairman Donald Henton, 2nd Vice-Chair Sylvia Jackson, Treasurer Josephine Hunter, Secretary Rosemary Lakins and Sergeant-at-Arms Peggy Thomas with thanks for their dedication to "making a better life for residents and getting things done." Mr. Hernandez also paid tribute to Community Assistant and Liaison for the HOPE VI Project Charlene Beverly. Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler administered the oath of office.

Places to Apply for Jobs!

The Civil Service Chief-Leader provides valuable information on where to apply for and pick up employment/examination applications. Using their material as well as information from the NYC Green Book, here is a list of some important places where examination and/or job applications may be obtained. We also list phone numbers where you can obtain further details about exams, vacancies and the application process. **Please note the new address for mailing requests for City applications, in bold below.**

City: In person 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Application Section, 18 Washington St., (212) 487-JOBS. **Mail requests for applications must be received at DCAS Application Section, 1 Centre Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007, with self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope, no later than seven days before the filing deadline.** Applications must be returned by mail postmarked on or before the filing deadline. Filing fees range from \$30 to \$80, and are payable by money order only.

CUNY: At the personnel office of any CUNY college, unless otherwise specified in the exam announcement. The filing fees range from \$13 to \$30.

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

Federal: To inquire about vacancies and where to apply, contact the Office of Personnel Management, 600 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106, (215) 861-3070. Information also is available at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan.

Postal Service: Applications for exams in Manhattan or The Bronx may be obtained, only when tests have been ordered, at the Main Post Office, 380 West 33rd St., (212) 330-2851. For exams in Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island, please contact the Post Office's Triborough District Annex, located at 78-02 Liberty Ave., Queens, (718) 529-7000.

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

State Exams Open Continuously

20-551
Insurance Examiner Trainee I
\$30,488, \$32,733

20-555
Insurance Examiner
\$38,134

20-413
Licensed Practical Nurse
\$25,451

20-414
Licensed Practical Nurse
(Spanish Language)
\$25,451

20-175
Motor Equipment Mechanic
\$25,715 — \$28,551

20-559
Senior Examiner Of Municipal Affairs/
Senior State Accounts Auditor
\$38,134

20-492 to 20-515
Social Worker I and II
and (Spanish Language)
\$33,982, \$39,902

VISIT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S WEB SITE:
www.nyc.gov/nycha

NOTICE

New York City Housing Authority Agency Plan 2002

In accordance with Section 5A of the Housing Act of 1937 as amended, the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") has developed a *draft* agency plan for the year 2002. The draft plan was developed following weeks of meetings and discussions with the 41 members of the citywide Resident Advisory Board.

Availability of Plans for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the proposed plans will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, Reception Area, New York, New York, starting on June 29, 2001, between the hours of 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The Plan will also be available at the following locations:

- On NYCHA's webpage, which can be located at <http://www.nyc.gov/nycha>
- At the Management Office of each NYCHA public housing development during regular business hours.
- At the Community Centers listed below during the hours of 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM:

Campos Plaza Community Center 611 East 13th Street New York, New York	Moore Community Center 515 Jackson Avenue Bronx, New York	Atlantic Terminal Community Center 501 Carlton Avenue Brooklyn, New York
Manhattanville Community Center 530 West 133rd Street New York, New York	Bland Community Center 133-36 Roosevelt Avenue Flushing, New York	Breukelen Community Center 715 East 105th Street Brooklyn, New York
Gun Hill Road Community Center 744 East Gun Hill Road Bronx, New York	Arverne/Edgemere Community Ctr. 57-10 Beach Channel Drive Far Rockaway, New York	West Brighton Community Center 230 Broadway Staten Island, New York

Public Comment

The public is invited to raise questions regarding the draft plan to senior NYCHA officials. NYCHA has already held three Town Hall meetings for this purpose and will hold the final two from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM, at the dates and locations shown below.

Tuesday, July 24, 2001
Staten Island
I. S. 49 Dreyfus Intermediate School
101 Warren Street at Gordon Street
Staten Island, New York

Wednesday, August 1, 2001
Bronx
Forest Houses
South East Neighborhood Center
955 Tinton Avenue at 163rd Street
Bronx, New York

NYCHA also invites public comment on the proposed plans at a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, August 21, 2001, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at

**The Marriott Hotel
333 Adams Street
(between Fulton and Tillary Streets)
Brooklyn, New York**

Each location listed above is handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation.

Written comments regarding the draft plan are encouraged. To be considered, submissions must be received not later than August 21, 2001. Comments may be sent either through the Internet address set out above or via ordinary mail (fax submissions will not be accepted) to the address set forth below:

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

Van Dyke Community Center (Continued from page 1)

who he said showed "tremendous patience." He also mentioned Brooklyn Borough Management Director Gloria Finkelman, Deputy Directors Joseph Fuccillo and Fred Hirt, Department of Construction Director Robert Yauch, Department of Design and Capital Improvement Director David Burney and Deputy Director Eftihia Tsitiridis.

Other speakers included Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence who reminisced about the once-famous outdoor basketball court behind the building, known as "The Hole." "I remember watching some of the best basketball players in Brooklyn in the court here," Mr. Spence said. "This is sacred soil for basketball." There is now an outdoor performance area facing the court.

Brooklyn Borough Deputy Director for Community Operations Byron Cave served as moderator for the evening. The children of Van Dyke performed a skit about someone who was homeless and then found a home, and Andrea Martin set an inspirational tone when she sang a familiar song popularized by Whitney Houston, "The Greatest Love." NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez called the center a great accomplishment. "This is a great thing for Van Dyke and public housing," he said. "Please enjoy it."

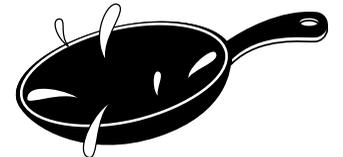
Van Dyke Houses was the 13th permanent public housing development started in Brooklyn after the end of World War II. Van Dyke Houses I, with 1,061 apartments, was completed in 1955 and Van Dyke II, with 112 apartments, built exclusively for the elderly, was completed in 1964.

NO NEED FOR CLOGGED DRAIN NUISANCE!

By Anthony Solomita
NYCHA Recycling Coordinator

There is nothing more annoying when working around your kitchen than having your sink back up on you. It's even more of an annoyance when it happens in your bathroom. Yet this is one nuisance that's easy enough to prevent.

The answer is a simple one. Whenever you're cooking or cleaning up grease and oil residues, be sure to prevent these liquids from escaping down your drain. Grease and oil flow easy enough when heated. But when cooling in your drain pipe and sewer line, they form a solid mass which effectively clogs the drainpipe and may well back up into your sink.



This clogging can become far more than a mere nuisance. Whole areas around your home may have to be torn up so that workmen can get at the clogged sewer lines that serve your building. These lines then have to be either cleaned out or replaced, which most certainly will disrupt your service.

To prevent this, simply pour your excess fats, oils and grease into a jar or can with a secure lid. Keep this jar or can handy and use it each time you cook. A plastic peanut butter jar or a coffee can makes for an ideal container. Ordinarily the can is recyclable but once it is filled with fat or grease, just drop it in the trash. (Plastic jars are not recyclable.)

When you stop to think about it, taking these simple actions to keep fat and grease out of your drain can save you a whole lot of nuisance.



P.S. If you change the oil in your car, the same advice holds true. Do not pour the old oil down the sewer or storm drain. It may end up in our waterways, which could affect plant and marine life as well as water quality. Service stations are required to accept up to 5 gallons of motor oil per person, per day at no charge. Simply put your old oil in a sturdy

container, such as a milk or detergent jug or old oil container, and bring it to your local service station for recycling. Together, we can take a giant step forward in protecting our environment by following these simple guidelines.

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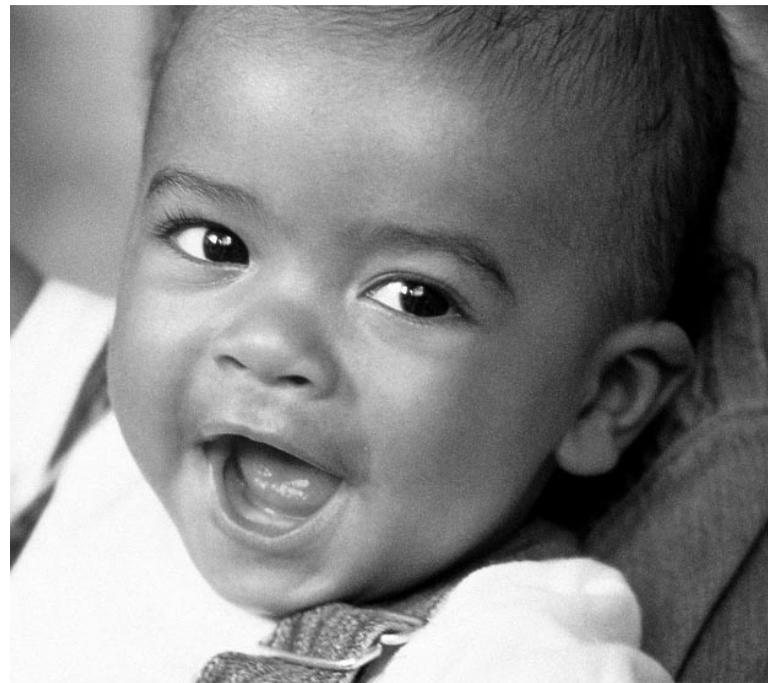
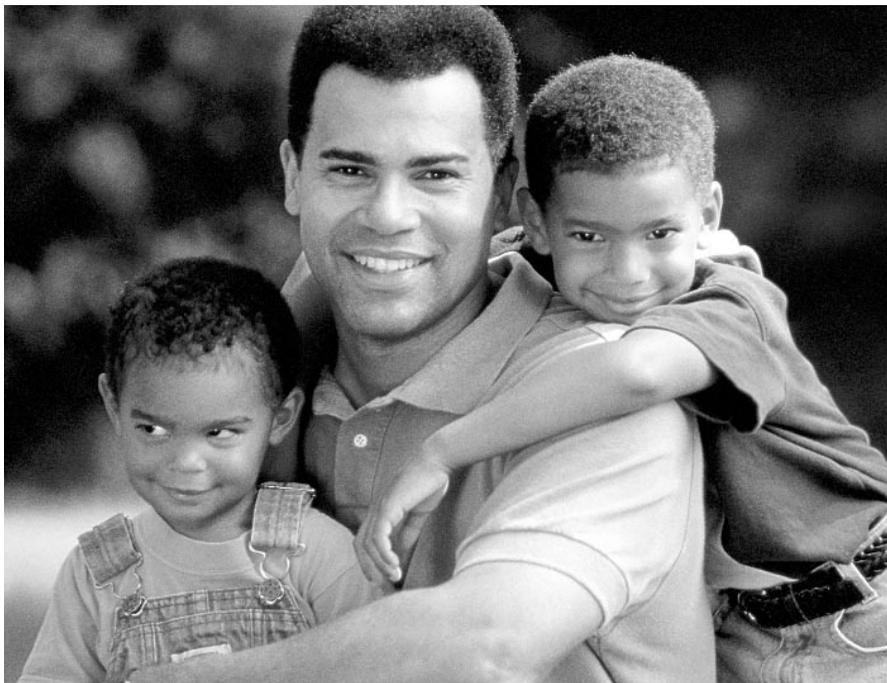
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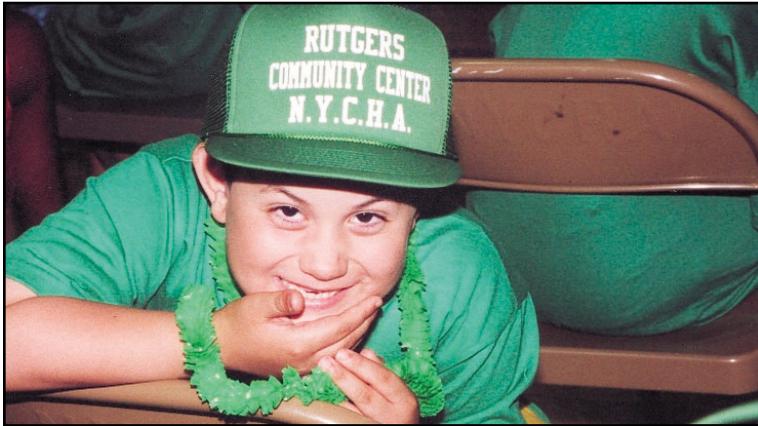
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A Ribbon for Rutgers



WELCOME Guests at the Rutgers Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on June 27 all wore colorful Hawaiian leis, like this young boy.

By Allan Leicht

The renovated Rutgers Community Center on Madison Street on Manhattan's Lower East Side has been buzzing with activity for over a year now, but on June 27 the reopening became official as NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. gave the countdown for the ribbon cutting. Moments before, Mr. Andrews had told the children of Rutgers that it was "a great day to be young" and to use their gleaming new facility to "study real hard and work real hard."

Reconstruction began in November 1998, and the refurbished center was turned over to NYCHA's Department of Community Operations a year-and-a-half and \$752,000 later, in July 2000. Small rooms had been combined to create a large multi-purpose room, there was now a new computer room, a new accessible entryway with ramp, a renovated lobby, new library space for the Partners In Reading program, a room for the after-school program, a gleaming new air-conditioned gym, a new office and a ceramics room complete with kiln. Angel Gerena, Center Director, said that the ceramics room was turning out to be the most popular of all.

Architect Janice Camarillo of the NYCHA Design Department brought the building up-to-date, and it is a far cry from what it was in the days recalled by NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Hugh B. Spence. In his remarks to the gathering, Mr. Spence remembered when he was a Community Center Director at the Two Bridges development.

"In those days," he said, "we had no money. We got one dollar for every family. We had to raise money from the neighborhood and the families. Now," he told the children, "you are the beneficiaries of spaces like this." Mr. Spence also remembered that Rutgers Community Center Director Gerena was one of his children at Two Bridges.

The ceremony, moderated by Manhattan Borough Community Operations Director Gary Morgan and coordinated in large part by Borough Administrator Torry Moorner, featured Manhattan South Council of Presidents Chair Nicoletta Azure, who exhorted the kids to "remember the fun. Time goes so fast. You'll get big. Remember the fun."

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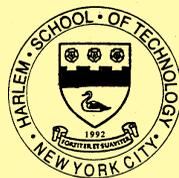


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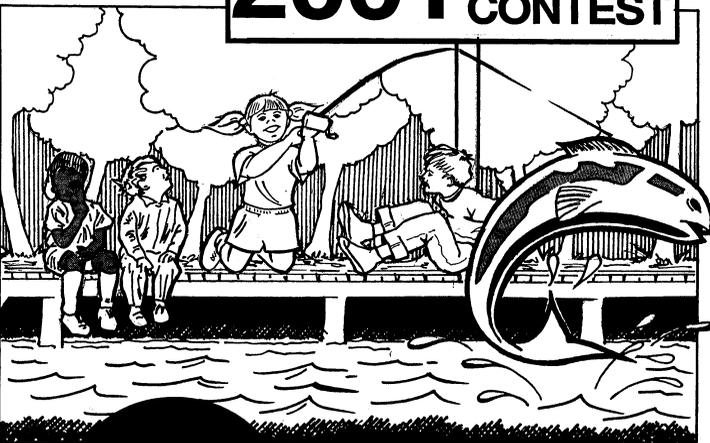
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BRONX WEDNESDAY, JULY 25th 10:00 AM CROTONA PARK BRONX	BROOKLYN EAST TUESDAY, AUG. 14th 10:00 AM PROSPECT PARK LAKE BROOKLYN	QUEENS THURSDAY, AUG. 9th 10:00 AM PROSPECT PARK LAKE BROOKLYN

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 Cornell Hampton or Kevin McMikle Sr.
 Citywide Programs
 Call: (212) 306-4178 or 4179

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 Dir. of Human Resources



SAVE THE DATE

ATTENTION: RESIDENT LEADERS!

Resident Association Presidents and Executive Boards, Tenant Patrol Supervisors, Resident Advisory Board Members:

On Saturday July 28, 2001, NYCHA will be offering a training session on the decision-making process NYCHA uses to prioritize the many improvements needed in your developments. Representatives from the Authority's Design, Contract Administration, Operations Services and the Economic Business Initiatives Departments will be on-hand to explain their roles in the modernization process and to answer your questions about how the Capital Needs Plan and NYCHA's Modernization Program are developed. The session will be held from 9:30 am through 3:30 pm at Pace University's Schimmel Theatre at One Pace Plaza, across the street from City Hall in lower Manhattan. Breakfast and lunch will be served.

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY OPERATIONS
 CITYWIDE PROGRAMS

2001 CITYWIDE SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE



COACHES MEETING
 AUG. 1, 2, & 3, 2001
 7:00 PM AT
 90 CHURCH ST.
 5TH FLOOR
 CEREMONIAL ROOM

GIRLS AGES
 JUNIOR - 9 thru 15 yrs.
 SENIOR - 16 thru 18 yrs.

BOYS AGES
 MINOR - 9 thru 13 yrs. (Ht. req. 5'0" & over)
 MINOR - 9 thru 13 yrs. (Ht. req. 5'0" & under)
 JUNIOR - 13 thru 15 yrs.
 SENIOR - 15 thru 18 yrs.

NOTE: ALL COACHES YOU MUST ATTEND A MANDATORY COACHES MEETING. IF YOU DO NOT ATTEND YOU WILL NOT BE IN THE TOURNAMENT

SEASON TO START AUGUST 7th 2001

THIS SOFTBALL LEAGUE IS OPEN TO BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS WHO RESIDE IN NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEVELOPMENTS.

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DEADLINE FOR ROSTERS IS JULY 27, 2001 - 5:00 PM

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