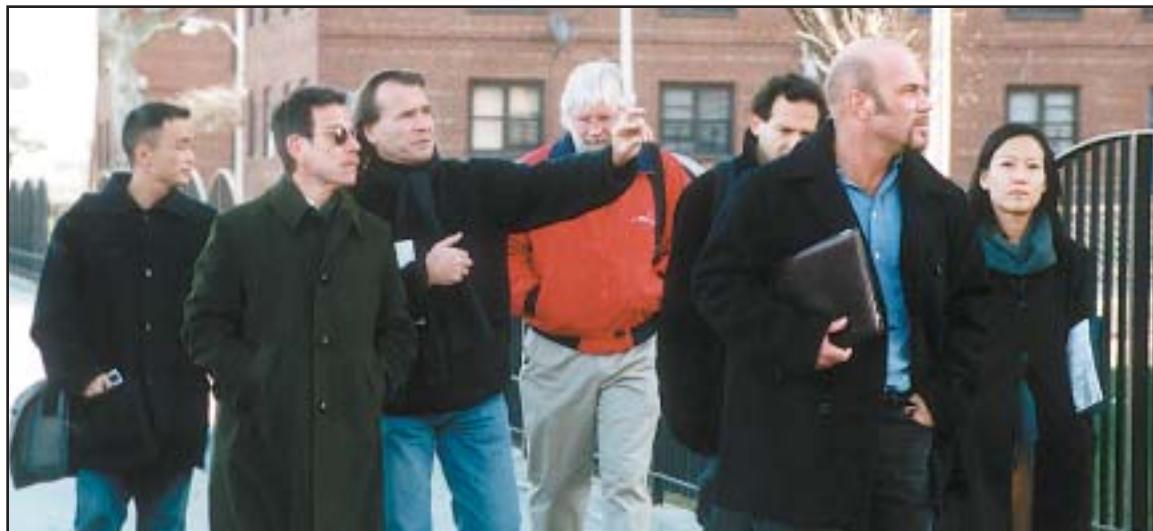




Journal

Residents and Urban Designers Team Up To Transform Rockaways Neighborhood



WALKING THE WALK Architects and designers walk the walk and talk the talk at Arverne and Edgemere Houses in Rockaway. From the left are Roy Chan, Michael Kwartler, Lee Weintraub, Joe Nanartowich, Michael Fishman, Paul Patnode and Jee Mee Kim.

By Allan Leicht

On the morning of January 14, residents of Arverne Houses and Edgemere Houses in Rockaway, Queens, joined with an expert team of urban design consultants to plan the transformation of their neighborhood. Their aim was to further develop the open space designs for the HOPE VI Revitalization Plan for their developments and the surrounding area. But this meeting was not merely so that the experts could get the residents' suggestions, or for the residents to voice opinions, express hopes, have their say and leave. On the contrary, the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) residents are an integral part of the team in the comprehensive planning of this extensive Urban Design – Master Site Plan.

The team of consultants is also a first for NYCHA, because this will be an interactive process by which the community can truly visualize what their neighborhood will look like through computer generated imaging. Once the facts are gathered and existing conditions are analyzed, a design plan will be put together on paper and in scale models, as usual, but it will also become visible in motion, as a "virtual neighborhood" on a computer screen.

This is the work of a team of consultants led by Architect and Urban Designer Michael Kwartler,

Director of the Environmental Simulation Center, Ltd.

Consultant Team Prepares for Meeting with Residents

A walking tour preceded this "Residents' Design Working Group Kick-Off Meeting" so that the consultants could get a sense of the area in preparation for their work with the residents. The tour was guided by NYCHA's Department of Housing Finance and Development (HFD) Assistant Director Mary Elizabeth Rusz with the Arverne/Edgemere Team Leader, Joseph Nanartowich, who

is responsible for coordinating all the design and construction work, as well as social services components. Mr. Kwartler and his Senior Research Associate Paul H. Patnode walked the site with NYCHA officials and other key specialists, Landscape Architect and Community Designer Lee Weintraub, Architectural Lighting Designer Domingo Gonzalez, and Urban Designer, Architect and Traffic Designer Michael Fishman of The Sam Schwartz Company. Arverne/Edgemere Development Manager Sandra Wagner and Development Superintendent George McGriff were on hand, as were Assistant Superintendents Armando Acevedo and Bart Poggi.

"This is one of the very few HOPE VI projects in the country," said Ms. Rusz, "in which the existing buildings are not being demolished." Ms. Rusz is responsible for the physical planning, urban design and architectural

(Continued on page 2)

OPEN HOUSE AT NEW S.I. SOCIAL SERVICES BOROUGH OFFICE

By Eileen Elliott

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Department for Social Services held an Open House at its new Staten Island Borough Office on February 1, 2002. Previously located at the Staten Island Management Borough Office, the facility is now located at 90 Lafayette Avenue, in the Cassidy/Lafayette development.

Social Services Deputy Director Nora Reissig-Lazarro welcomed the assembly of NYCHA Borough Management and Community Operations staff, and local social services organizations at what she referred to as, "the official gathering to launch the new office."

The office has been open unofficially for three months.

The many people Ms. Reissig-Lazarro expressed her gratitude to for their roles in the relocation of the Office included Department of Community Operations' Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Social Services Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk, Staten Island Management Borough Director Elliott Levine, and previous Staten Island Social Services Administrators Ronald Diamond and Ralph Rodriguez.

Thanks also went to Richmond Terrace and Cassidy/Lafayette

Manager John DeSiena and Superintendent Frank Chiamonte.

"Management has been so wonderful here," Ms. Reissig-Lazarro said. "They've done everything we've asked."

The office sees clients primarily by appointment, although walk-ins are welcomed. Most of the clients are referred by the Management Offices at Staten Island's nine NYCHA developments, and some come from community centers, senior centers, resident associations, and community-based organizations.

Staten Island residents can also "refer themselves," by calling the office directly for an appointment at (718) 816-1521. Hours are 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday to Friday. The office accepts messages 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, via an

(Continued on page 4)



Community Operations' Staten Island Borough Administrator Gary Morgan joins the staff of the new Social Services Office, (from left) Community Associates Rose Ubiles, Eileen Carey and Delores Cavallo, Secretary Elsa Gomez, Community Associate Christiana Ejiogu and Kook Ja Kim, Social Work Supervisor Evelyn Lampart, and Community Coordinator Grace Ferente.

Inside:

- Mayor Asks City To Save Waterpage 2
- Black History Monthpage 3
- Lockbox Moves to Manhattanpage 3
- S.I. COP Installationpage 6

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

Message From The Mayor

New York City Needs Water!

Many New Yorkers may not be aware that the City is currently experiencing serious water shortages. In fact, the Drought Watch that was declared at the end of last December became a Drought Warning on January 28. This is the second of three critical phases in the City's Drought Management Plan.



A Drought Warning is declared when there is less than a 33% chance that the Delaware and Catskill Reservoir Systems, which we rely on for our water, will be full by June 1, the beginning of the "water year." As of the beginning of February, these reservoirs, which are usually 82% full, were only 44.6% full.

I'm sure I don't need to tell you how important a ready and available source of water is for our City. Not only is it necessary for our day-to-day living

activities, but we also need it to fight fires and save lives.

In recent years, daily water use in the City has gone down to 1.2 billion gallons per day, from the 1.45 billion gallons consumed per day in 1991. This dramatic drop in consumption can be attributed to several comprehensive water conservation initiatives implemented by the City and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) over the last ten years. These include the installation of water meters and of nearly 1.7 million low-flow toilets and other plumbing fixtures. Without these initiatives, the drought situation would be even more drastic, perhaps turning into a Drought Emergency, the last phase of the City's Drought Management Plan. *And no one wants that.*

So, what can we do? Obviously, we can't control the rain, but all of us who rely on the City's water supply — over 8 million in the City, and another million in four upstate counties — can make concerted efforts to conserve water.

Because you, as residents of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, are nearly half-a-million strong, your efforts can go a long way in preventing a Drought Emergency and replenishing our City's water supply. I know that your communities are strong and that as public housing residents, you can be very effective in working together to achieve your goals. So I ask each one of you now to do your part by following the simple guidelines listed below:

1. Report any leaking faucets or toilet tanks to your Management Office immediately. These will be designated as priority items for maintenance workers.
2. Report leaking fire hydrants on or near NYCHA property to the DEP by calling (718) 337-4357. It is illegal to use a hose or fire hydrant for washing vehicles. It is also illegal to use a New York City fire hydrant without a permit for any purpose other than fire protection.
3. Take shorter showers or fill the tub only halfway when taking a bath.
4. Don't run the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth.
5. Don't let the water run while washing dishes. Kitchen faucets use 2 or 3 gallons a minute.
6. Keep chilled water in the refrigerator. Don't run water to make it cold.
7. Run the washing machine only when full. Use short cycles if available.
8. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket. Each unnecessary flush can waste 1.6 to 5 gallons of water.
9. Take advantage of the DEP's free water survey. To apply, call (718) DEP-HELP.
10. And lastly, please cooperate with your Resident Association leaders and NYCHA management by participating in any water conservation efforts they might suggest.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Rockaways Transformation (Continued from page 1)

aspects of HFD's design projects.

"An overarching goal of the HOPE VI Program was to demolish distressed housing, generally 'tower-in-the-park' forms of development," she explained, "and to replace it with low-rise traditional housing and neighborhoods where spaces are clearly defined as public and private. But," Ms. Ruzs added, "NYCHA's challenge from the start has always been how to revitalize an occupied, public housing development without demolishing what is there and still integrate it back into the fabric of the community in which it exists."

HOPE VI Residents' Design Working Group

After the Consultant Team completed their extensive tour of the area, they returned to the Edgemere Community Center where the Residents' Design Working Group Meeting took place. This was the beginning of a six-month process that will establish the framework for the revitalization not only of the Arverne and Edgemere housing developments but of the entire surrounding neighborhood. It is hoped that the revitalization will link this community with adjacent neighborhoods creating a mixed-use, mixed-income, multicultural, and vibrant series of seaside villages.

Lynn Harrison, a resident of Edgemere Houses, is the Chairperson of the Residents' Design Working Group, whose members are Resident Association President of Arverne Houses and Chairperson of the Citywide Council of Presidents for Queens Cornelia ("Connie") Taylor, Edgemere Houses' Resident Association President Sylvia Jackson, and Edgemere Houses Resident Association Board Member, Noella Young.

Ms. Harrison was very specific in her recommendations regarding improvement of the exterior lighting. "I would hope," said Ms. Harrison, "that the back doors of the low-rise buildings and the breezeways leading to the high-rises will get much better lighting for safety and accessibility. And I would love to see globe lights all along Beach Channel Drive from 51st to 58th Streets." This concern will be addressed to Architectural Lighting Designer Domingo Gonzalez, whose past assignments have included the lighting for La Guardia Airport and the dazzling illumination of the George Washington Bridge.

Ms. Ruzs opened the session, pointing out that, "We want to look in detail at the treatment of the ground plane, at the open



CHARTING THE COURSE are (from left) Residents Cornelia ("Connie") Taylor, Lynn Harrison, Noella Young and Sylvia Jackson.

spaces between the buildings and how these can be better defined, better designed, improved for safety and security, and be made very beautiful."

She then turned the proceedings over to Mr. Kwartler, the consultant team and the resident leaders who represent the approximately 5,000 residents of Arverne/Edgemere. Looking forward to a new identity for their community, the residents have already chosen a new name for their developments. When the work is done it will be known as "Ocean Bay Apartments."

Two main working tools helped in the exchange of ideas around the large table. First, Mr. Kwartler demonstrated the computer simulation programming that generates "real-time" images of a virtual neighborhood and shows physical design concepts in three dimensions. (This computer program was initially developed for flight simulation training by the U.S. Department of Defense.)

Using Lego®-type pictorial building blocks, Mr. Kwartler

projected a three-dimensional computer model of the future up on the wall of the Community Center. "We can show you what it will look like to use the streets, get to work, stop for coffee, pick the kids up at school," Mr. Kwartler told the residents. "You give us the ideas, we'll show you what they will look like."

Mr. Kwartler's computer took the group, who never left their seats, on a journey out the front door of an apartment building, down streets, around corners and through "Ocean Bay Apartments" as they might appear in 2007.

The second exercise, less high-tech but no less practical and perhaps more revealing, used large computer-generated maps in three dimensions, one showing a bird's-eye view of the overall Rockaways neighborhood, and two focusing on both Arverne and Edgemere Houses. Mr. Kwartler asked the residents to apply red and green dots to the maps, a "red

(Continued on page 6)

The Housing Authority
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Message From The Chairman**Black History, American History**

At NYCHA developments and community centers, in schools all around town, and at public and private observances nationwide we fill our February calendars with observances of Black History Month. What we are actually doing is remembering, and by remembering, paying tribute to men and women whose contributions have not only shaped the course of history, but have also become a part of the fabric of our everyday lives.

It is not only for African-Americans to remember Black history, it is for all Americans. And so this month we remember, we learn, we teach our children and we celebrate. NYCHA has permanent reminders of the great African-American men and women who have enriched our nation. Many of our developments are named for them. You may know their stories, but if not, this might be a good time to begin learning more about them.

Louis "Satchmo" ARMSTRONG needs no introduction to the adult NYCHA community, but younger people should treat themselves to the music and story of one of the founders of American jazz. And while you're listening, try some songs by James Alan BLAND, like "Carry Me Back to Old Virginny." Mary McLeod BETHUNE had a fascinating life and was a great educator. As was George Washington CARVER, who was also a botanist, and agricultural chemist who had a great influence on farming in America. Lewis S. DAVIDSON, Sr. was also an important educator as well as a minister and community leader and organizer who made a major difference in the Morrisania section of the Bronx.

Frederick DOUGLASS has been the subject of many a school report and is another great American who changed the course of history. He is well worth reading more about, as is Marcus GARVEY, who was born in Jamaica and became a leading proponent of Black Nationalism. The poetry of Langston HUGHES will no doubt be heard in New York and around the land this month. You might also hear the poems of James Weldon JOHNSON. He was a civil rights leader and intellectual who played a vital role in the civil rights movement and the NAACP. In fact, he wrote the words for "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the poem which is often referred to as the Black National Anthem. We spoke at length last month about the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr., but there can never be enough said about this powerful man of peace who was committed to non-violence and whose influence is felt around the world today.

Next time you switch on the electric light think of Lewis A. LATIMER who invented and patented an incandescent light bulb with a carbon filament in 1881. He served as an engineer for the Edison Company where he supervised the installation of the electric light system. Thurgood MARSHALL illuminated the world of law as one of the best known figures in the history of civil rights in America and the first Black Supreme Court Justice. He served in the Supreme Court for 24 years. For the working man, the soldier and the student, A. Philip RANDOLPH changed life in America as the principal organizer of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters on America's railroads and a leader of efforts to end segregation in the Armed Forces and in schools. Ralph J. RANGEL was an energetic Central Harlem community worker, who became a director of Community Board #1 and the New Careers Program.

The name Jackie ROBINSON rings with courage, decency and great sportsmanship. The first African-American to play in the major leagues, he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in a precedent-shattering move and led the Dodgers to six World Series appearances. He was the first African-American in 1962 to be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Frederick E. SAMUEL was a City Councilman, an immensely popular Harlem political leader who chaired the Council's Black and Puerto Rican Caucus. Born in the West Indies, he went on to graduate from New York University and Fordham University Law School before becoming active in civic affairs and Democratic Party politics. And perhaps most appropriately for this month, there is Carter G. WOODSON, a historian from a poor family who worked in Kentucky coal mines to support himself and go to school. Eventually he received a Ph.D. from Harvard University, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, and in 1926 he founded Negro History Week, which became the Black History Month we celebrate now. There are so many events scheduled for Black History Month. Be a part of them. Remember. Celebrate.

Tino Hernandez

**LOCKBOX
RENT
PAYMENT
PROGRAM
NOW IN
MANHATTAN**

NYCHA is implementing a new procedure to improve the way that rent payments are processed. A single Post Office address, or LOCKBOX, has been established so that rent payments from all NYCHA residents may be processed centrally.

There are a number of advantages to the new rent payment system. Residents will have a monthly record of any outstanding balances they may have along with any other adjustments to their accounts; long rent payment lines in development Management Offices will be eliminated; and the safety of both residents and staff will be enhanced, since residents will no longer carry their checks and money orders to the Management Offices, and staff will not need to make nightly bank deposits.

The program took effect in Staten Island in May 2001, in Queens in December 2001, and in Manhattan just this month. It should be fully operational, in all five boroughs, by the end of June.

NYCHA residents will receive a "Monthly Billing Statement" providing a listing of all payments they have made and any other changes made to their account. It will also detail how much is owed and the amount that is due in the coming month. The Monthly Billing Statement contains a tear-off coupon called the "Remittance Slip" which is to be mailed with the payment in the enclosed envelope.

As all payments will be mailed to the new address, the Bookkeeping Offices in each Development will close. Staff at the Management Office will continue to answer questions you have regarding your account.

Please mail your check or money order and the Remittance Slip in the enclosed envelope. The address will automatically show in the envelope window. If you misplace your Remittance Slip, please contact your Housing Assistant. The Remittance Slip must be mailed with your rent payment to ensure proper processing of your account. Please do not mail cash.

If your payments are sent directly to NYCHA by the Human Resources Administration, you need only to review the Monthly Billing Statement to be sure that

(Continued on page 4)

Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

Ribbon Of Hope — NYCHA youth filled the stage of The Rosie O'Donnell Show on December 24, 2001, to receive praise and recognition for their acts of kindness and patriotism following the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center. Twins Victor and Veronica Alvarez, Priscilla Alvarez, and Taina Rodriguez met with Rosie and the TV viewers to discuss the symbolism of the pin they created, called the "Ribbon of Hope." The Ribbon of Hope Campaign was created by Priscilla Alvarez to collect donations for the World Trade Center victims. It is a combination of a red, white, and blue ribbon which represents patriotism, a dove which represents peace, and praying hands that send out a prayer to everyone who lost a loved one.

Three of these children are not strangers to terrorism, having almost fallen victim themselves to the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993, when a terrorist bomb exploded. Veronica, who was only 5-years-old at the time, was in an elevator that arrived safely on the ground floor, but Taina was trapped for eight hours in another elevator with other frightened children. Victor, who was also 5-years-old, made his way down 107 floors in a smoke-filled stairway. It was this terrifying experience that prompted these children to do something for the September 11th victims. Priscilla wanted to donate blood but was told she was too young and that's when she thought of the "Ribbon of Hope."

The children, working out of Marlboro Houses in Brooklyn have received orders from states all over the map such as Texas and Alaska, and have collected over \$4,000 in donations for the Red Cross WTC Fund. They have also appeared on the Today Show and Channel 2 News. *I'm sure that all of NYCHA joins me in saying, "Congratulations on a job well done!" You are definitely an inspiration to all and should be considered role models by your peers. You all deserve a round of applause!*



Family Reunited After 20 Years — It's been 20 years since La Guardia Houses resident Judith Tanksley and her son Vernon Gaskin have lived together as a family. They were separated when Ms. Tanksley placed Vernon in a home for the mentally disabled when he was 8-years-old. Vernon, who is 75% deaf, autistic, and mentally retarded required a lot of attention and Ms Tanksley found it very difficult to care for him and her other two children. After a long bout with illness, Ms. Tanksley lost her home and ended up living in a shelter in Brooklyn. Vernon was able to visit her there for longer and longer periods of time, until eventually he was released into his mother's care. Their lives got even better when social worker Abigail Snyder from the Brooklyn Bureau of Community Services helped Ms. Tanksley and her family get housing at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) La Guardia Houses on the Lower East Side. Today, Ms. Tanksley is studying at the Nyack College and Alliance Theological Seminary in the Financial District in the hopes of becoming a pastor. She and Vernon live together happily at La Guardia. *Ms. Tanksley and Vernon, I wish you both every happiness.* (This story was excerpted from an article that appeared in *The New York Times*.)

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 November 29 and December 6, 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 November 29, 2000

Juan Estrada	Case 4625/00 formerly associated with the third floor of 380 Clinton Place, Louis Armstrong Houses, Brooklyn.
Dahmoni O'Neal	Case 4693/00 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 40-10 Tenth Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City.
William Covington	Case 4694/00 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1560 East 102nd Street, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.
Vannetta Sanford	Case 4479/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 810 Henderson Avenue, West Brighton Houses, Staten Island.
Angel Aybar	Case 4630/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 920 East 6th Street, Wald Houses, New York.
Michael Bond	Case 4634/00 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1575 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Michael Temple	Case 4635/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 1420 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Andre Rumph	Case 4641/00 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 355 East 143rd Street, Mott Haven Houses, the Bronx.
Brandon Harper	Case 4665/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 467 Columbia Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Dauquan Richardson Duquan Richardson	Case 4668/00 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 101 Humboldt Street, Borinquen Plaza, Brooklyn.
Edwin Suarez	Case 4670/00 formerly associated with the first floor of 40-08 12th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Queens.
Carl Williams	Case 4681/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 341 Kings 3rd Walk, Kingsborough Houses, Brooklyn.
Luis Troche	Case 4698/00 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 3080 Park Avenue, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of December 6, 2000

Shelli Watson	Case 4813/00 formerly associated with sixth floor of 630 Stanley Avenue, Linden Houses, Brooklyn.
Antonio Nunez	Case 3359/00 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 60 East 135th Street, Lincoln Houses, New York.
Tiron Miller	Case 3549/00 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 810 Soundview Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

OPEN HOUSE

(Cont'd. from page 1)

after-hours answering machine which provides instructions in both English and Spanish.

Local resident leaders also attended the Open House. They included Markham Gardens Resident Association President Sylvia Cunningham, New Lane Resident Association President Shirley Blunt, and Staten Island's recently elected Council Of Presidents (COP) Chair Carol LaDieu, who is Resident Association President at Todt Hill. (See page 6.)

"I think this is a very good thing," Ms. LaDieu said. "We have a lot of residents that need help. It's important to have social services available for residents who can't help themselves."

Community Operations' Staten Island Borough Administrator Gary Morgan provided warm introductions to the office's staff: Social Work Supervisor Evelyn Lampart, Community Coordinator Grace Ferranti, Community Associates Rose Ubiles, Christiana Ejioogu, Eileen Carey, Delores Cavallo and Kook Ja Kim, and Secretary/Timekeeper/Receptionist Elsa Gomez.

The NYCHA Department for Social Services is dedicated to the provision of social services to residents of NYCHA developments: children, youth, adults and the elderly; families and individuals. Offices located in each borough assist residents in improving their social functioning by assessment, referral and intervention. The Department continually identifies the varying needs of residents and effectively develops social service plans utilizing various agency and community service based resources.

LOCKBOX

(Cont'd. from page 3)

last month's payment was received and that no other charges are due. If additional monies are due, please mail your payment with the Remittance Slip in the enclosed envelope.

NYCHA has also established "authorized" payment centers where you may make cash payments in person and receive an immediate receipt. These centers are located throughout New York City. See your Housing Assistant for a complete list.

If you are a Brooklyn or Bronx resident, keep an eye out for notices advertising the start date of the Lockbox Program in your Management Office and building lobby. The Program is expected to begin in Brooklyn in the spring and in the Bronx in early summer.

From The Chief's Corner

CCTV: Reducing Crime and Enhancing The Quality of Life At NYCHA

The Housing Bureau hopes all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and employees had a joyful and safe holiday season. This year has been a very difficult and trying year for America, especially New Yorkers. During these difficult times, the Housing Bureau has still fought vigorously to maintain and enhance the services we provide to the NYCHA community. This is shown in our successful initiatives and in the reduction in crime for the year 2001.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler

One very successful initiative is Closed Circuit Television (CCTV), which is presently active in 15 developments citywide. This joint effort with the New York City Housing Authority has helped reduce crime and enhance the quality of life in public housing. It has contributed to more than 1,176 arrests due to direct observations made by monitoring personnel or as a result of the post-investigation process. For the year 2001, index/serious crimes have decreased 24% in developments with the CCTV systems. Overall, the crime reduction in Housing Authority developments was 11.8% for the year 2001.

The Housing Bureau is planning for a more successful year by improving existing initiatives and creating new ones. We in the Housing Bureau recognize that the support of the NYCHA community is essential to the success of our crime fighting initiatives. We thank you for your past support and look forward to it continuing into the future.

Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler



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Equal Housing Lender

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.

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

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

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

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

State Exams Open Continuously

20-491

Intermodal Transportation Specialist I
\$39,469

20-518

**Intermodal Transportation Specialist I
(Rail Safety)**
\$39,469

20-540

Medical Care Representative
\$40,236—\$46,815

20-487

Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainee
\$22,234

20-488

**Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainee
(Spanish Language)**
\$22,234

20-175

Motor Equipment Mechanic
\$27,896—\$30,584

20-297

Excise Tax Investigator
\$37,178, \$38,704

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

SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption being committed against the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA INSPECTOR GENERAL AT 212-306-3355 OR THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION AT 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.

NYCHA YOUTH LEAD NEW CITIZENS IN PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



PLEDGING ALLEGIANCE (front row) Two Bridges residents Brandon Pacheco, Brittany Batista and Jillian Hernandez with their mentors at 500 Pearl Street, just before leading the Pledge in a Naturalization Ceremony.

By Eileen Elliott

January 2002 was the first-ever National Mentoring Month. And the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York paid tribute to the occasion by inviting three New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) youth who participate in the Mentoring U.S.A. Program to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the January 25 Naturalization Ceremony. Together, 221 people from 40 different countries recited the Pledge, led by Two Bridges residents Brittany Batista, 8, and her mentor Jennifer Pringle, Brandon Pacheco, 10, and his mentor Brian Lehman, and Jillian Hernandez, 7, and her mentor, Jessica Malman, at the Federal Courthouse in Lower Manhattan.

The Naturalization Ceremony, which is held every Friday at 500 Pearl Street, was led by Judge Shira A. Scheindlin, who said in her brief and eloquent speech that overseeing such ceremonies is a highlight of her job. The Judge explained that the ceremony has special meaning for her because she is the daughter of immigrant parents. Her father came to the United States in 1928 from Russia and her stepfather came to this country in 1940 from Germany, both to escape persecution and build a new and better life.

Judge Scheindlin and the other mentors mentioned are just four

of 22 employees from the Court who provide guidance and friendship to children from the nearby Two Bridges Houses Community Center through the Mentoring U.S.A. Program. "Together, we read, talk and play as the adult becomes a role model for a child who will benefit greatly," the Judge said.

"It has been a difficult year," she continued. "Mentoring provides a special opportunity for those who volunteer. With the help of people we know our country and citizens, both new and old, will achieve only good things." The Judge then shook the hands

of each new U.S. citizen before they filed out of the courtroom into their new lives, and the welcoming arms of family and friends.

There are 210 NYCHA children who participate in the Mentoring U.S.A. Program at the following developments: Chelsea-Elliott, Two Bridges, Rutgers, South Jamaica, Stanley Isaacs, and Amsterdam/Lincoln. Any NYCHA resident who is interested in enrolling their child in the program, or becoming a mentor, should call Ukah Busgith or Lynez Temple at (212) 427-6648.

Rockaways Transformation

(Continued from page 2)

light, green light" exercise to identify those areas of the developments that they liked and those they did not. The results made for an initial vivid overview of what the future holds for Arverne/Edgemere, the good that will stay and things in need of change.

This data will be electronically linked with NYCHA's maps of the developments for future reference. Mr. Kwartler made clear that this process would be ongoing and that in the making of this "virtual neighborhood," he and his colleagues would rely on the residents for "reality checks" at future meetings. "In that way," he said, "we can avoid mistakes before they are built." Ms. Ruz agreed, adding that, "The designers will bring three conceptual master site plan options back to the residents, and all of us working together will arrive at a consensus." She said that the Department of Housing Finance and Development is fully confident that the revitalized "Ocean Bay Apartments" and surrounding neighborhood improvements will attract working families to the area.

Surrounding Area Will Also Transform

A total of \$217 million is planned for the revival of this Rockaways area by virtue of HOPE VI Revitalization, a program of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Of this total, \$138 million dollars will be spent on Arverne and Edgemere Houses themselves, including apartment modernization, facade upgrading, new community facilities, and site and landscaping improvements. Modernization work began in January 2001 and is 30% complete, according to NYCHA's Department of Contract Administration Assistant Director John Rodway. Interior renovation has been made more complicated by the fact that 100% of the apartments are being renovated while 66% are currently occupied. But there will also be renewal of the area around the developments. The New York City Department of Design and Construction will be replacing and upgrading surrounding public

streets with \$14 million in infrastructure and streetscape amenities. The street improvements will include street calming techniques, special sidewalk treatments, signage, street furniture and lighting.

NYCHA's HFD Director Sharon Ebert put the project in even broader perspective, noting that the Arverne/Edgemere renewal undertaking parallels another major development nearby. That is "Arverne-by-the-Sea," a 100-acre large-scale residential development under the auspices of the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). This project will provide new low- and mid-rise residential housing and new streets and parks focusing on the elevated subway station at Beach 67th Street, along with new retail and community facilities, including a day care center, an 800-student charter school, and houses of worship. A \$350 million project, "Arverne-by-the-Sea" will have 2,300 new dwellings, and construction is due to begin in June of this year.

The entire revitalization — HOPE VI, "Arverne-by-the-Sea," streets and grounds, sidewalks and crosswalks, trees, playgrounds, parking, schools, shops and malls, parks and community buildings — is expected to be done in five years. But as enormous as this project is, perhaps the most innovative aspect of it was expressed when Mr. Kwartler, speaking for the designers, addressed the residents of Arverne and Edgemere as their "clients."

"The timing couldn't be better to coordinate our efforts," said Ms. Ebert. "NYCHA, HPD, the private sector developers, our residents and designers — all of us working together can really transform the area. It will be a whole new life for this part of the City. NYCHA believes that this project can be a true urban revitalization demonstration along the lines of smart growth, by doing more with less, leveraging funds, and creating public-private partnerships in new ways whereby residents, business owners, and the community-at-large benefit."

Staten Island COP Installation



It was an Installation Ceremony for the Staten Island Council Of Presidents (COP) Executive Board as well as a birthday party for COP S.I. Chair Carol LaDieu (center) at the Cassidy/Lafayette Senior Center on January 17. Attending the event (from left to right) were NYCHA's Assistant Deputy General Manager for Support Services Robert Podmore, S.I. Borough Director Elliott Levine, COP Secretary Brenda (Kiko) Charles, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, COP Secretary Sylvia Cunningham, Ms. LaDieu, Board Member JoAnna Aniello, NYCHA Assistant Deputy General Manager Rowland Laedlein, Sergeant At Arms Patricia O'Donnell, Assistant Treasurer Shirley Blunt, Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, and Community Operations S.I. Borough Director Denise Falco-Lara. The District Chair, representing the residents of Staten Island, serves as a direct link to the Chairman's office.

AUDITIONS!

NYCHA Youth Chorus

24-Hour Hotline:

212-427-8603



(Above) This computer-generated image by the Environmental Simulation Center illustrates at a very basic level the shapes and sizes of things at Arverne/Edgemere. Architectural details like windows, doors and balconies will be depicted later as residents collaborate in planning and designing with technology that enables them to move around the virtual environment of their developments. (Right) Residents placed red and green dots on the map at right to indicate areas in the developments where there were things they approved or disapproved of.



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RED HOOK SENIORS**



New York City Housing Authority

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RED HOOK SENIORS**
WITH A SMOKING HISTORY
AGES 60 AND OLDER

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**NYC BOARD OF EDUCATION HAS A NEW PARENT HOTLINE!
718-482-3777**

As part of the Board of Education's ongoing effort to provide better service to parents, Chancellor Harold O. Levy has established a Parent Hotline to answer telephone calls from parents of New York City public school students. The Hotline operates Monday through Friday, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on weekends.

The Hotline is designed to provide parents access to every bit of information they need related to the education of their children in a courteous and timely manner.

Multilingual telephone operators have a list of commonly asked questions with concise answers available. If they are unable to answer a question, there is a designated Parent Hotline Liaison in each central office, district and superintendency to receive referrals from the operators. All referrals will be tracked to ensure that parents get the response needed in a timely fashion.

**PARENTS WITH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS ARE URGED
TO MAKE USE OF THE PARENT HOTLINE BY CALLING 718-482-3777.**