



Journal

NYCHA RESIDENTS HEAD TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

HUD'S Budget For Fiscal Year 2003 At Issue

By Eileen Elliott



(Left) Julio Barreto, Jr., Director of Legislative and Program Development for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, more commonly referred to as NAHRO, addressed public housing residents at the Hyatt Regency in Washington, D.C. on May 22. Mr. Barreto grew up in NYCHA's Edenwald Houses in the Bronx. (Right) Citywide Council of Presidents (COP) Chairwoman Gerri Lamb organized the event with the help of the COP, NYCHA Deputy for Resident Relations Joyce Harrison and COP Liaison Keith Mitchell.

On May 22, 2002, over 800 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents boarded 21 buses and headed to Washington, D.C. to rally against the proposed \$417 million cut in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Capital Funding Program for Fiscal Year 2003. They were joined by some 200 residents from public housing authorities in Buffalo, New York, Baltimore, Maryland, Cleveland, Ohio, Georgetown, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico. Because there was no room large enough to accommodate them at the Capitol, the group converged at the nearby Hyatt Regency Hotel. There, in the words of Council of Large Public Housing Authorities (CLPHA) Executive Director Sunia Zaterman, who also attended, they raised their voices, "loud, insistently, again and again."

As the residents found their seats in Ballroom A of the Hyatt, more often than not, they seemed unable to resist the urge to tap the microphones set up on the floor, or murmur the words, "testing, testing," into them. A simple observation but one that implies, perhaps, a deeper truth — that these are people whose voices have not been heard.

NYCHA's Citywide Council of Presidents Chairwoman Gerri Lamb spearheaded the effort. Ms. Lamb wrote to President George W. Bush, all members of the New

York City Congressional delegation, and to 35 housing authorities around the country to rally their support.

"The proposed \$417 million reduction in HUD's Capital Funding Program will directly affect the much needed repairs, renovations, and basic maintenance of our buildings — our homes," Ms. Lamb wrote.

In the proposed budget, NYCHA's federal subsidy for capital projects would be reduced by nearly 16%. The proposed 2003 allocation of \$339.5 million,

would be a reduction of \$63 million from the Fiscal Year 2002 allocation of \$402.4 million.

Cheers went up as Ms. Lamb told the residents, "We want you to know that we're in this together, because public housing is public housing all over the world." She added, "And there is no greater public housing authority than the New York City Housing Authority."

Although most of the New York City representatives were fighting a battle on the House

(Continued on page 2)

Seeing Stars At NYCHA's 32nd Annual Talent Show

By Eileen Elliott

The audience of enthusiastic New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents settled into a rapt silence just seconds after Aquilla Taylor of Brooklyn's Red Hook Houses took the stage at the Borough of Manhattan Community College's Tribeca Performing Arts Center on May 5, 2002. The young Ms. Taylor looked unassuming enough in a yellow T-shirt, a denim skirt and sneakers, and she made it seem so effortless as she crooned an Alicia Keys' song into the microphone. But by the time her song was over there was no doubt, at least in this listener's mind, that a star was born. For her efforts Ms. Taylor received a standing ovation, and the coveted first-place prize in the 6-13 age category at NYCHA's 32nd Annual Talent Search Competition.

The 20 finalists who took the stage that warm spring afternoon were the best of the best, the *crème de la crème* of NYCHA resident talent, culled down from a total of 256 acts. For these singers, dancers and musicians, the show was the climax of ten weeks of intensive rehearsals under the supervision of Production Director Karen Elliott. For the audience of family, friends and well-wishers, it was an afternoon of pure entertainment.

"There are all kinds of talent in the world," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "Everyone has his or her individual ability, but we have a special wonder and delight for those who step out onto a stage, for you put your talent to the ultimate test in the most of public of ways."

6 to 13 Age Category

Ms. Taylor wasn't the only star that day. Another Brooklynite, seven-year-old Hector Reinoso of

Gowanus Houses, won second place in the 6-13 age category. "Little Hector," as he is also known, sang with a gravity beyond his years, against a dramatic background of clouds and sky. The blue-satin dancers, "No Name Necessary," from Queensbridge Houses in Queens came in third in the category.

14 to 18 Age Category

The dance troupe, "Foot Notes" from Clinton Houses in Manhattan, took the stage by storm with their electric energy, winning first-place in the 14-18 category. Another dance troupe, "Queens Finest" from Queensbridge Houses was a close second-place winner in the category, and the Brooklyn rap duo, "Future Flava" from Breukelen Houses in Brooklyn came in third.



FIRST-PLACE WINNERS (top to bottom) Vocalist Aquilla Taylor of Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn, and Vocalist Julio Reinoso of Gowanus Houses in Brooklyn took home first-place trophies.



(Continued on page 7)

Inside:

- QuickCheck Screening For Srs. . . . page 2
- KEEP COOL Energy Program . . . page 3
- Agency Plan Availability page 4
- Enforcing the Prevailing Wage page 5

Message From The Mayor**Easy Screening For Senior Benefits Programs Through *QuickCheck***

Now New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) seniors, as well as all seniors who live in New York City or New York State, can check their eligibility for 11 Federal, State and City benefit programs online with a new program called *QuickCheck*.

QuickCheck is an invaluable "one-stop" service for seniors designed to reduce the amount of physical exertion and paperwork that can present barriers to obtaining essential support services.

Seniors and their loved ones can access *QuickCheck* anywhere there is Internet access — if not in their homes, then in the City's many senior centers or public libraries. Seniors who live in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments should check with their nearest community or senior center to see if it provides Internet access.

Programs seniors can screen for include the EPIC program, which provides savings for over half the cost of most prescription drugs for the elderly; the Food Stamp program, which provides coupons for low-income households to purchase food; LIFELINE, which provides discounted basic telephone service for Verizon customers that are low-income, elderly or disabled; and Medicaid, which pays medical bills for low-income persons aged 65 years and older, including services not covered by Medicare (dental care, home care, institutional care, prescription drugs, eye glasses and hearing aids).

If you are a senior and are interested in applying for any of these programs, simply log on to the Department For the Aging's Web site: at www.nyc.gov/aging and access *QuickCheck* to see if you are eligible. You will be presented with a series of multiple-choice questions for any benefit program that you are interested in. Once you answer them, *QuickCheck* will then quickly determine your eligibility.

If you are eligible you can obtain an application on-line through *QuickCheck*, as well as the names and addresses of the certifying agencies and the documentation requirements. All of the information is completely confidential; no user information is stored in a database server or shared with certifying agencies.

If the Internet isn't for you, you may want to check out another benefits screening program administered by the Department For the Aging called UNIFORM. UNIFORM is also an Internet program; it is an expanded version of *QuickCheck* that covers 18 Federal, State and City benefits programs. The big difference is that a trained service professional will interview you and enter the necessary data into the computer to determine your eligibility for any particular benefit program.

If you are eligible for the program of your choice, the worker can print out an application and assist you with its completion. This includes making sure that the application is signed and includes the necessary accompanying documentation to be sent to the certifying agency.

UNIFORM is currently available at the Department For the Aging's 165 community-based sites throughout the City's five boroughs. The Department For the Aging also dispatches case managers with laptop computers and traveling printers to the homes of seniors who are interested in the UNIFORM program but are unable to leave their home to attend an interview.

More than 30% of New York City Housing Authority households are headed by a person over the age of 62. If you live in one of them, take advantage of *QuickCheck* and UNIFORM to make sure that you are receiving all of the benefits you are entitled to. **For more information about either of these programs, call the Department For the Aging's Helpline at 212-442-1000.**

Michael R. Bloomberg

NYCHA Residents Lobby Against Budget Cuts

(Continued from previous page)

floor and couldn't make it to the Hyatt, the tone throughout the afternoon remained upbeat. Congressman Anthony D. Weiner, who represents parts of Brooklyn and Queens, addressed the residents directly.

"We have to make sure that we preserve the housing stock we have now and we have to build more housing, not just for the very poor," Mr. Weiner said. "We can get the bad guys in the caves of Tora Bora, but we can also maintain our public housing."

Led by Representative Charles B. Rangel, members sent staff to the Hyatt to show their support. Congressman Major R. Owens' Chief of Staff Jacqui Ellis commended the residents for making the trip. "Public Housing is not going to be a dominant theme until we make it a dominant theme by coming out in numbers," she said.

Groups of residents were successful in meeting with Charles B. Rangel, Eliot L. Engel, Nydia M. Velásquez and Gregory W. Meeks, from the New York City Congressional delegation earlier in the day.

Julio Barreto, Jr., Director of Legislative and Program Development for the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), and a former resident of Edenwald Houses in the Bronx, said, "I recognize that who I am today is because of growing up in the projects." Like Ms. Ellis, he encouraged audience members to make their voices heard. "If members of Congress feel they can cut public housing it's because they feel there is no voice in public housing. Get to the polls in November and vote!"

And CLPHA Executive Director Sunia Zaterman spoke of the potential consequences of the cuts in very human terms. "When you cut capital funds," she said, "children don't have a safe place to live and seniors don't have a safe place to age in place. We have a new generation coming up in public housing. If we abandon them now, we'll all pay the price later."

A final outcome on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2003, which is currently before Congress, is not expected until the fall.

NYCHA residents also lobbied in Washington last May for the suspension of the Community Service requirement of the 1998 Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act (QHWRA). The requirement—that some public housing residents perform eight hours of community service, or



(Top, left to right) Resident Association Treasurer Carolyn Tolbert, Janie Halls and RA President Leona Draper were three of the 26 residents who made the trip from St. Nicholas Houses in Manhattan. "We want elected officials to tell President Bush that we don't want budget cuts," Ms. Tolbert said. (Bottom, left to right, standing) COP Chairs Nikki Azure and Connie Taylor are recognized by their peers at the Hyatt.

participate in eight hours of self-sufficiency training a month as a condition of their tenancy—was effectively shelved for one year, thanks primarily to Representative Rangel. The suspension is scheduled to expire on September 30, 2002.

The Housing Authority
Journal

68
years
of Public Housing
in New York City

ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority
Department of Public and Community Relations
250 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007
Tel. (212) 306-3322 • Fax (212) 577-1358

Michael R. Bloomberg Mayor

Tino Hernandez Chairman
Earl Andrews, Jr. Board Member
JoAnna Aniello Board Member
Frank Marín Secretary
Douglas Apple General Manager
Sheila Greene Director of Public and Community Relations
Ruth Noemí Colón Editor, Spanish Edition
Howard Marder Public Information Officer
Eileen Elliott Editor
Allan Leicht Staff Writer
Deborah Williams Staff Writer
Carlos M. Casanovas Translator
Peter Mikoleski, Kevin Devoe Photography

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the *Journal*, please call our marketing representatives in the Department of Economic and Business Initiatives at (718) 250-5907. The inclusion of any advertisement in this *Journal* does not constitute any endorsement by the Housing Authority of the advertiser or its products or services or any other representation by the Housing Authority with respect to such products or services.

Message From The Chairman

Make The Most Of Summer With Citywide Programs



Summertime is a great time to have fun, especially for young New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents. *Why?* Because NYCHA's Department of Community Operations' Citywide Programs hosts a series of summertime activities that shouldn't be missed.

This year, for the first time, Citywide Programs along with Coca-Cola, The New York Knicks and Brookdale Hospital, among others, is sponsoring

a Kids Walk. On July 25th, 1,200 youth from NYCHA community centers all over the city will come to Brooklyn's Prospect Park for the 3.3 mile walk. The purpose is to promote health and exercise for young people. These youth, aged 6-12, are guaranteed to have a good time, as long as the weather holds up. Participants will learn about the importance of good health, exercise and proper nutrition before the walk begins. They will then receive a low-calorie breakfast of fruit and water. Once they've completed the walk they will be fed a lunch provided by NYCHA's Summer Lunch Program (see page 8 of your *Journal*).

Inner-City Games Summer CampUS is another big draw for NYCHA youth, aged 7-12. This two-week summer camp is held at St. John's University in Queens. Residents from Manhattan and the Bronx will participate on July 8th through July 19th, and residents from Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island will participate from July 22nd through August 2nd. All-in-all 1,200 youth from NYCHA's community centers will participate in academic and athletic activities that are part of a curriculum designed to help them improve their life skills as well as their athletic and academic abilities.

These are just two examples of special opportunities for summer fun that NYCHA provides. Look for the calendar in next month's *Journal* to find out more about the Housing Authority's many summertime activities.

Tino Hernandez

New York Power Authority's KEEP COOL Program

If you are a New York residents you can receive \$75 by trading in an old working air conditioner and purchasing a new one with the ENERGY STAR® label from a participating retailer, through the New York Power Authority's (NYPA's) KEEP COOL Program. Not only will you receive \$75, your electricity bill will be lower. Purchases must be made before September 20, 2002, and the old units must be turned in before then.

Once you have purchased your new ENERGY STAR® labelled air conditioner and turned in your old working unit to a participating retailer or other official drop off site, submit your application and receipt to receive the \$75.

To find out more call 1 (877) NYSMART or visit www.GetEnergySmart.org

This program is made possible by The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and the New York Power Authority (NYPA).

Remember, if you are a New York City Housing Authority resident and do not pay for your own electricity then you must get permission from your Management Office before purchasing an air conditioner. Once you receive permission, you must pay the Housing Authority \$7.00 each month for each air conditioner you have in your apartment.

Deborah's Diary



By Deborah Williams

INSPIRATION Henry Diaz of the Pink Houses, in Brooklyn, has a message of encouragement and inspiration that he would like to share with you, the readers of *Deborah's Diary*. It is his personal story of despair and triumph.

"In December of 1997 as I was on my way to work, I suddenly felt ill and passed out on the train. I have no recollection of the events thereafter for quite sometime. It was as though I was in a comatose state. It was later discovered that I had two tumors in my head and after a few operations, actually four months later, on March 9, 1998, I was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). I was helpless. I felt like a baby learning how to do things. Walking, talking, eating, holding things, etc. All the steps that are part of the infant's cognitive learning process and those things that most folks take for granted I had to learn over. My heart ached and my muscles were sore from the exercise during my physical therapy sessions but I was determined to prevail because God had given me another chance at life. I did not give up hope because I wanted a normal life, a life like everybody else has. When I left the hospital I didn't have any money, only a few pieces of clothing, and no place to call home. Hungry and sad, I found myself at the doorstep of a New York City shelter. Eventually I got an apartment in a New York City Housing Authority development (Pink Houses) and I have been living there ever since. I am self-sustaining now and I'm proud to say that I can do things for myself without the assistance of a physical therapist and home health aide. I am presently attending the Bridge Career Training Program where I receive job training and take PRE-GED courses. Although I take daily medication I am grateful that I am able to fulfill dreams that I thought would never be filled and reach goals that I thought couldn't be reached. I want to send an inspirational thought to everyone and that is, "Never Give Up Hope."

Henry, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on overcoming many obstacles and more importantly for staying focused and reaching your goals and fulfilling your dreams. You deserve a round of applause!

A STORY THAT TOUCHES HOME When I say home I mean the Department of Public and Community Relations, home of the *Journal*. We have someone to boast about. Regina Figueroa, resident of Throggs Neck Houses in the Bronx and the Assistant to NYCHA's Public Information Officer, graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, in Manhattan on May 30, 2002, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Legal Studies. Regina, who is physically challenged, plans to attend law school. Once she receives her law degree she will pursue a career as an advocate for the physically challenged. *Regina, I, along with the staff at the Department of Public and Community Relations, congratulate you on your success and wish you all the best in your future endeavors. You are sure to be a great success!*



A PERSONAL NOTE TO MY DAUGHTER, HAPPY GRADUATION DAY I have so much to say to you and so little space to say it in. First I want you to know how very special you are to me. How much joy and happiness you have brought into my life. You have come such a long way from being that little bundle I brought home from the hospital. You have developed into a fine and wonderful young lady. Seeing you graduate on June 25, 2002, from the High School of Health Professions and Human Services will probably bring tears to my eyes but they will be tears of joy. Genice, I know you have worked very hard during the past years and graduating will bring more joy to you than you can imagine. You will feel a sense of accomplishment and achievement and honor you rightfully deserve. You will be taking a very important step on your way to success. In August, when you will leave your comfortable surroundings and venture off to Benedict College, in Columbia, South Carolina, you will again be working towards another goal—becoming a journalist—and I am confident that you will reach that goal. I am so proud that you are my daughter and I love you very much. I know all your neighbors and friends at the Farragut Houses in Brooklyn wish you great success in the coming years and so do I. CONGRATULATIONS GENICE MOODY on a job well done!

BETANCES HEALTH CENTER

COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

PRIMARY CARE	SPECIALTY CARE	COMPLEMENTARY CARE
 Family Practice Pediatric Medicine Women's Care Senior Care Internal Medicine Family Planning	 OB/GYN Prenatal Care Physical Therapy HIV/AIDS Care Cardiology Podiatry Ophthalmology	 Physical Therapy Acupuncture Vitamin Therapy Nutritional Care Weight Control Social Services Psychiatry

Near Vlodeck, Smith, Gompers, La Guardia, Seward Park & Baruch Houses

VISIT OR CALL 280 Henry St. Mon., Wed., & Thurs.: 8 am-8 pm
 FOR AN APPOINTMENT NY, NY 10002 Tues.: 9 am-5 pm
 (212) 227-8401 Fri.: 8 am-6 pm

New Patients: bring in this ad and get a free gift while supplies last.

We accept Medicaid, Medicare and most other health plans.

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 NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of our 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 February 14, 21, and 28, 2001 and March 7 and 14, 2001. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE PERSONS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LIST IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of February 14, 2001

- Todd Morris Case 371/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 441-18 Vernon Blvd., Queensbridge South Houses, Long Island City.
- Joseph Nieves Case 390/01 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 345 Clason Avenue, Lafayette Gardens, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of February 21, 2001

- Edwin Ramirez Case 459/01 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 3204 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights, the Bronx.
- Juan Soler Case 465/01 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 217 Alexander Avenue, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of February 28, 2001

- Jacquelyn Skipper Case 572/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 21-09 35th Avenue, Ravenswood Houses, Long Island City.
- Jermaine Richard Case 586/01 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 375 Blake Avenue, Van Dyke Houses, Brooklyn.
- Dunstan Henry Case 620/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 410 William Street, Unity Plaza, Brooklyn.
- Heriberto Pratts, Jr. Case 621/01 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 125 West 228th Street, Marble Hill Houses, the Bronx.
- Carl Harrison Case 4540/01 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 307 East 101st Street, Metro North Houses, Manhattan.
- Raul Romero Case 575/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 418 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.
- Jaisheim Daniels Case 603/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 61 Jersey Street, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.
- Benjamin Santiago Case 605/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 18 Jackson Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan.
- Kashawn McClaurin Case 618/01 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 2926 West 25th Street, Surfside Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
- David Knight Case 641/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 67 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of March 7, 2001

- Donelle Trotman Case 706/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 150 Lamport Street, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of March 14, 2001

- Andrew Hamilton Case 771/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 830 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglass Houses, New York.

NOTICE

New York City Housing Authority Agency Plan 2003

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 2003. The draft plan was developed following weeks of meetings and discussions with the 54 members of the citywide Resident Advisory Board.

Availability of Plan for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the proposed plan 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 28, 2002 through August 15, 2002 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 www.nyc.gov/nyccha
- 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 13 th Street New York, New York	Moore Community Center 515 Jackson Avenue Bronx, New York	Atlantic Terminal Community Center 501 Carlton Avenue Brooklyn, New York
King Towers Community Center 2 West 115 th Street New York, New York	Bland Community Center 133-36 Roosevelt Avenue Flushing, New York	Breukelen Community Center 715 East 105 th Street Brooklyn, New York
Gun Hill Road Community Center 744 East Gun Hill Road Bronx, New York	Arverne/Edgemere Community Center 57-10 Beach Channel Drive Far Rockaway, New York	Todt Hill Community Center 255 Westwood Avenue Staten Island, New York

Public Comment

NYCHA will hold five Town Hall meetings at which the public is invited to raise questions regarding the draft plan to senior NYCHA officials. These meetings will be held between 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM at the dates and locations shown below:

Thursday, July 11, 2002		Tuesday, July 16, 2002	
Brooklyn New York Technical College Klitgord Auditorium 285 Jay Street at Tillary Street Brooklyn, New York		Manhattan Pace University Schimmel Theater Spruce Street Bet. Park Row and Gold Street New York, New York	
Tuesday, July 23, 2002		Tuesday, July 30, 2002	
Queens Elechester Industrial Center 67-35 Parsons Blvd at Jewel Ave Flushing, New York		Staten Island I S 49 Dreyfus Intermediate School 101 Warren Street at Gordon Street Staten Island, New York	
		Monday, August 5, 2002	
		Bronx Melrose Community Center 286 E. 156 th Sreet at Morris Ave Bronx, New York	

NYCHA also invites public comment on the proposed plan at a public hearing to be held on Thursday, August 15, 2002, from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at

The Hilton New York
1335 Sixth Avenue
(Use Entrance on 54th Street)
New York, New York

Each location listed above is both 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 15, 2002**. 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

학교 리더십 팀
Equipos de Liderazgo Escolar
Группа для управления Школ
學校領導小組
ÉQUIPES D'ANIMATION SCOLAIRE
Ekip Direksyon Lekòl
School Leadership Teams

In any language...



School
Leadership
Teams
mean
powerful
partnerships
for our
children

877-NYC-SLT6
(877-692-7586)

www.nycslt.org

New York Urban League, NYC School Leadership Teams

A Project of the New York Urban League in collaboration with ASPIRA of New York, United Federation of Teachers, United Parents Associations. Funding provided by the NYC Board of Education



Prevailing Wage Enforcement Getting The Money You're Owed

As a resident of public housing you've probably seen construction workers perform various jobs in your development throughout the years. NYCHA, through its Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO), is committed to making sure that employees of construction contractors, who may also be NYCHA residents, are treated equitably and without discrimination. This includes making sure that contractors comply with the terms of their contracts relating to their workforces. DEO's Office of Contract Compliance (OCC) monitors contractor payments to workers to ensure that the correct wages are paid. Every construction contract over \$2,000 includes a prevailing wage requirement and a corresponding pay schedule that must be adhered to.

Why Prevailing Wages?

Federal and state prevailing wage laws set the minimum wage rate and fringe benefits contractors are required to pay each tradesperson working at a Housing Authority construction site. Since NYCHA, like other government agencies, selects the lowest responsible bidder to perform each contract, prevailing wage rates are set to ensure that all employees are paid fairly.

The U.S. Department of Labor publishes the Davis-Bacon wage schedule, which NYCHA's Design and Capital Improvement Department includes in all of its federally funded contracts. The equivalent publication for state and city-funded contracts is the Section 220 schedule, published by the City Comptroller. The Davis-Bacon schedule applies to jobs performed at developments that are federally funded, and Section 220 applies to those developments that are state and city funded.

Office of Contract Compliance's Successes

Prevailing wage is the law. NYCHA takes its responsibility to enforce that law very seriously. OCC's Compliance Officers visit developments where contracts are being performed to interview the workers about their pay. OCC takes complaints from workers and also receives complaint referrals from other government agencies. When an underpayment is alleged, our compliance staff conducts a thorough investigation and determines whether the workers were underpaid.

In the past six years, \$2.4 million has been recovered for underpaid workers, ranging from a few hundred dollars to \$85,000, which a plumber, who had worked at a construction site for three years, was owed. Some further examples follow:

- A \$60,000 payment was made to four electrical workers from Marlboro Houses by the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL). The case was referred to the USDOL for an Administrative hearing by OCC, because the contractor contested, saying the workers weren't underpaid. The \$60,000, which came from the original contract, was withheld by OCC and given to the USDOL, which then distributed it to the four workers.
- A worker employed by a paint contractor at South Jamaica Houses contacted OCC claiming to be underpaid. OCC performed an investigation and the worker recovered \$33,725.76.

To find out more about prevailing wages, contact Alvin Reinstein at (212) 306-4632 or Norma Ramos at (212) 306-4635.

What's Happening In... The Bronx?

In an effort to keep NYCHA's residents informed about improvements in their developments, the Journal will be running a new monthly column called, "What's Happening In..." Each month it will feature a different borough, listing some of the recently awarded modernization contracts.

Bronxdale Houses To Get New \$10 Million Community Center

There's a brand new Community Center coming to the 3,497 residents of Bronxdale Houses in the Bronx under \$9.9 million in new contracts.

A two-story, 23,000-sq.-ft. building will be built on a former parking lot in the midst of the 28, seven-story buildings on the 30-acre complex. The parking lot is being moved to a nearby location. The first floor of the new facility will have a full gymnasium with a stage, spectator seating and a locker room.

Also there will be a kitchen and adjoining dining room that will double as a multi-purpose room for other activities. There will also be public toilets and an office for the center director. The second floor will have classrooms, arts and crafts areas and an exercise room overlooking the two-story gym space. The Bronxdale center will take two years to complete once work begins this summer.

Bronxdale Houses, completed January 31, 1955, has 1,496 apartments and is bordered by Bruckner Boulevard, Watson, Soundview and Leland Avenues.

Clason Point Gardens To Get A Facelift

The 46 buildings that make up Clason Point Gardens will be undergoing a major overhaul of their brick exterior walls under a \$1.57 million contract.

The contract includes power washing the walls and repairing the brick stucco facade. It also calls for replacing the aluminum vents and waterproofing the buildings. The contract was awarded to East Coast Construction & Design Inc. and is expected to take about two years to complete once work begins.

Clason Point Gardens has 46, two-story buildings on 17.03-acres with 401 apartments. It is home to 946 residents. Completed in December 1941, it is boarded by Story, Seward, Noble and Metcalf Avenues.

Grounds To Be Upgraded At Morris Houses

Gouverneur Morris Houses I and II will be getting major grounds improvements under a new \$908,000 contract.

The improvements include new steel bar fencing, concrete curbs and concrete and asphalt pavement, louver panel fencing, exterior refuse compactors, a spray shower and safety surface for the shower area. The contract was awarded to C. and F. Iron Works, Inc. and is expected to take six months to complete, once work begins.

Gouverneur Morris I consists of ten buildings, 16 and 20 stories high, with 1,084 apartments housing some 3,041 residents. Gouverneur Morris II has seven buildings, 16 and 20 stories tall, with 801 apartments housing an estimated 2,183 people. Both developments were completed August 31, 1965. They are located between Third and Park Avenues from East 169th to East 171st Streets.

New Closet Doors for Mill Brook Houses

All 1,380 apartments at two Bronx developments, Mill Brook Houses and Mill Brook Extension will get new closet doors under a new \$2 million contract.

The contract calls for replacing over 7,000 closet doors of various sizes. Over 2,000 new swing doors will be installed in existing doorframes; over 3,000 new swing doors will be installed with new frames, and more than 1,000 plastic laminated sliding doors will replace older doors. The contract was awarded to Prestige General Construction Corp. and is expected to take one year to complete once work starts.

Mill Brook Houses has 1,255 apartments in nine, 16-story buildings housing some 3,026 residents. The 12.38-acre complex was completed May 31, 1959 and is between East 135th and East 137th Streets, Brook and Cypress Avenues. Mill Brook Extension is a 16-story building completed January 31, 1962. The .52-acre complex is on Cypress Avenue between East 135th and East 137th Streets.

SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption 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 ("IG") at 212-306-3355. The IG conducts investigations independently and together with other law enforcement agencies and prosecutors' offices. In fact, the IG is supervised by the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"). The IG conducts investigations using a staff of attorneys, investigators and auditors. Although the DOI and the IG initiate and develop their own investigations, they encourage and rely upon NYCHA employees, residents, people who do business with NYCHA, and the public at large, to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear. **TO REPORT FRAUD AND CORRUPTION CALL THE IG at 212-306-3355, or DOI at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.**

If you are looking to buy a home, Chase has the mortgage that's right for you!

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Residential Lending

Chase DreamMaker® Plus
1-2 Program

- 1% Down payment from borrower's own funds
- 2% Gift from a family member, unsecured loan or seller concession can be used for down payment
- 1-2 Family house, Condo, PUD
- 30 Year fixed rate
- No minimum loan amount
- Property must be owner occupied
- Purchase transactions only

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

Thursday, June 27 6pm - 8pm Van Dyke Community Center 392 Blake Ave. Brooklyn, NY	Thursday, July 18 6pm - 8pm Rutgers Community Center 200 Madison St. NY, NY	Tuesday, July 30 6pm - 8pm Melrose Community Center 286 East 156th St. Bronx, NY
---	---	--

Seating is limited. Please RSVP to 1-800-636-6395.



THE RIGHT RELATIONSHIP IS EVERYTHING.®

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

Equal Housing Lender



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



HOTLINE for AUDITIONS
(212) 427-8603 24hr
or
GENERAL INFORMATION
(212) 427-6648

ARE YOU BETWEEN 8 AND 21 YEARS OLD?
DO YOU SING? DANCE? OR PERFORM?
ARE YOU LOOKING TO LAUNCH A
MUSICAL CAREER? THE N.Y.C.H.A.
CHORUS IS THE PLACE TO BE.

OUR ADDRESS
1385 FIFTH AVENUE
@ 115TH STREET

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES:

- Meet and work with Music Artists and Producers
- Develop stage presence working with experienced staff
- Employment Opportunities
- Television, Film and Video
- Touring & many perks
- Travel reimbursement for rehearsals



Senior Coordinator: Malik K. Bellamy
Art. Coordinator: Carmen R. Rgman
Adm. Coordinator: Peggy A. Morales

WE WANT YOU!!!

You took the first step - Now take the next. We are waiting to hear from you!!!

New Higher Income Limits!



If your parents need help with their prescription costs, find out about Epic!

EPIC, New York State's Prescription Plan, has been improved so your parents may now be eligible even if they weren't before!

If you know someone 65 or older whose income is under \$35,000 a year if they're single or under \$50,000 if they're married, find out how EPIC can help them cut prescription costs.

For more information, call EPIC at 1-800-332-3742 or mail the coupon to EPIC, P.O. Box 15018, Albany, N.Y. 12212.

Yes, I'm interested in saving money on prescription drugs. Please send me a free EPIC brochure.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

State of New York • George E. Pataki, Governor

EPIC • P.O. Box 15018 • Albany, NY 12212

Free mammograms right in your neighborhood!



You may be eligible for a free mammogram if:

- you are over the age of 40, and
- have no health insurance

Referrals provided for low-cost mammograms if you are not eligible.

Please call us to learn more:

Breast Examination Center of Harlem: 212-531-0000	Kings County Hospital Center: 718-245-3287	Chinese Hotline: 718-888-8890	Korean Hotline: 718-263-1532	Queens: 718-263-2224
Brooklyn: 718-237-7860	Bronx: 718-863-9809	Columbia University: 212-305-0163	Manhattan: 212-586-8700	Staten Island: 718-987-8871

Detecting breast cancer early can save your life... get a mammogram every year!

Funded by the New York State Department of Health

The NYCHA Symphony



Although only a select audience could afford the ticket price of the special benefit concert given by distinguished alumni of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Symphony on May 13, 2002, the rest of us can enjoy the music free of charge when the Symphony comes to NYCHA developments throughout the summer. The benefit concert, which took place in Victor Borge Hall at Scandinavia House on Manhattan's Park Avenue, was performed as a salute to Janet Wolfe (inset, center), the honorary Executive Director of the Symphony. Ms. Wolfe, still sparkling at age 88, turned the directorship over to W. Marshall Sealy last year but keeps in close touch with the music she helped generate for three decades. As NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. (inset, right) said in presenting Ms. Wolfe with a plaque for dedicated service during intermission ceremonies, "Janet is a ray of sunshine who has made the City a better place." Maestro Sealy praised his predecessor not only for bringing sublime music to those who might otherwise never hear it but for "all the years of employment" she made possible for musicians striving to build their careers. And the musicians filled the evening with the joyful sound of Austrian W.A. Mozart, American W.G. Still, German Felix Mendelssohn and Scandinavian Carl Nielsen. Be on the lookout for the NYCHA Symphony, coming to a development or community center near you this summer. Pictured above (left to right) are Hal Archer, flute, Ashley Horne, violin, Eugene Moye, cello, and Lena Fankhauser, viola. Also pictured here in the inset (left) is Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence.

by Allan Leicht

The New York City Board of Education
THE DIVISION OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Step UP

This summer, make sure your kids learn the skills they need for promotion to the next grade. Summer School 2002 will give your kids the necessary academic instruction to prepare them to Step UP. Summer School 2002 will give them the chance to Step UP. Call 718-482-3777.

Summer School 2002

Call the Chancellor's Parent Hotline at 718-482-3777 to find out more about registration for Summer School 2002.
Help your child Step UP and move forward in school!

NYCHA's Annual Talent Show (Continued from Page 1)

19 and Up Category

Little Hector's father, Julio Reinoso, also from Gowanus Houses in Brooklyn, won the first-place prize in the 19-and-up category for his smooth salsa vocal stylings. Eric Darby of Wagner Houses in Manhattan came in second with his heartfelt rendition of "Wind Beneath My Wings." The third-place winner in the category was vocalist Carlos Mercado of Edgemere Houses in Queens. Mr. Mercado sent a ripple of excitement through the audience when he tossed a rose to the ladies.

Let's Not Forget...

The rose toss also made an impression on MC Brooklyn Mike,

who joked about it throughout the afternoon as he kept the show rolling along with his own unique brand of hip-hop humor. Once again, the indomitable Ray Chew and The Crew provided the back-up music.

The yearly extravaganza is made possible by NYCHA's Department of Community Operations, Citywide Programs. Community Operations is led by Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, and Senior Director Michelle Pinnock-Clerk. Citywide Programs has a new Citywide Programs Director, Denise Lara.

Before the show was over Chairman Hernandez and Mr.

Spence presented Deidra Gilliard, former Citywide Programs Director, with a bouquet of flowers in gratitude for her "dedication and integrity." Ms. Gilliard is now Community Operations' Bronx Borough Director.

The whole cast, including Mr. Hernandez, Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Assistant Deputy General Manager for Operations Rowland Laedlein and Ms. Lamb, came on stage for the grand finale singing, what else, "New York! New York!" The afternoon's performance made it clear that this very talented group of individuals had indeed made it there and can make it anywhere.



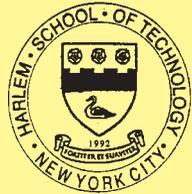
First-Place Winners: "Foot Notes," from Clinton Houses in Manhattan, took the stage by storm and came in first in the 14-18 age category.

NYC Drought Emergency, Save Water!

HARLEM SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

215 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027 • (212) 932-2849

**Financial aid available for those who qualify
Registration open for September 9, 2002 Class**



- Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Service
- Heating Systems Technology
- Plumbing Technology
- Preparation for NYC Refrigeration License

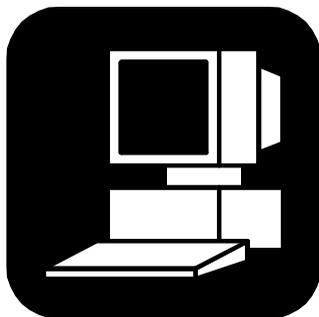
**Excellent Hands-on Training Programs
Lifetime Job Placement for Graduates
Reasonable Tuition**

Licensed by the NYS Education Department and Accredited by ACCSCT

Call (212) 932-2849 for More Information

Visit the New York City
Housing Authority's
Web site at:

www.nyc.gov/NYCHA



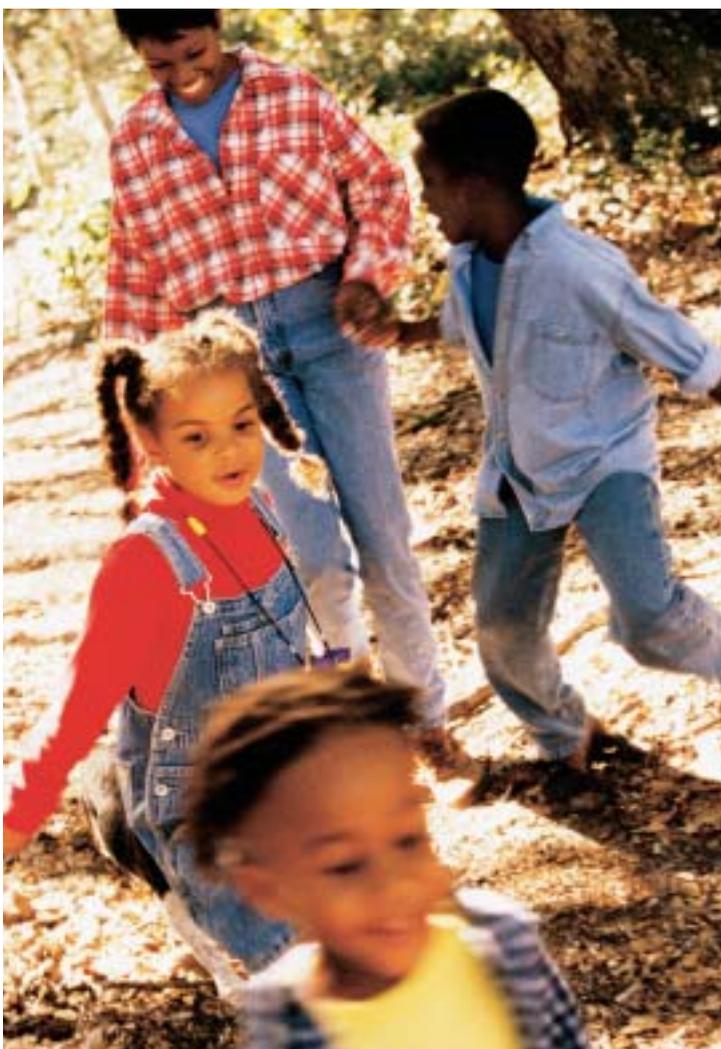
NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY OPERATIONS Citywide Programs & Contract Management SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM



**FREE
SNACKS & DINNERS**

FOR THE LOCATION NEAREST YOU
CALL (212) 306-4079

CHILDREN Ages 6 THROUGH 18
AVAILABLE CITYWIDE
BEGINNING JULY 9, 2002



You have your hands full. Can we help?

If you're on Medicaid or are eligible for Child Health Plus or Family Health Plus and are thinking about a health plan, think about AmeriChoice.

Get your own personal doctor. Dental care. Vision exams and eyeglasses. A toll-free helpline you can call any time. And real help from real people who want to make health care easier for you.

1-800-493-4647



Participation in a Medicaid managed care health plan is voluntary until you receive an official notice from New York Medicaid Choice that you must enroll in a health plan. For more information, call New York Medicaid Choice at 1-800-505-5678. The AmeriChoice service area includes Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx.