



Journal

H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. KICK-OFF CEREMONY



ALL THAT JAZZ H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Program Director Anne Fitzgibbon (left) joins young NYCHA residents after their first class and a special jazz concert on February 8 at the New School. Deputy Mayor for Policy Dennis M. Walcott (right) brought greetings from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

By Eileen Elliott

A new pilot program called the Housing Authority Resident Musicians Of New York, or H.A.R.M.O.N.Y., had its Kick-Off Ceremony at the New School For Social Research on Saturday, February 8, 2003. New York City's Deputy Mayor for Policy Dennis M. Walcott made a special appearance at the event. As he presented a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg commending the program's young participants, he told them, "You're going to take the best ride of your life, learning instruments and enjoying music. Stick with it!"

H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, the New School For Social Research and the Housing Authority. It's overall goal is to provide NYCHA residents in grades five through eight with basic instruction in a musical instrument, while helping them develop an appreciation for music.

New School H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Supervisor Dan Greenblatt introduced the student-teachers who treated the audience to a brief concert that was the highlight of the kick-off, saying, "We're going

to play the kind of music we like best — jazz."

And play they did. "Take The A Train," was the first number, followed by "Blues In D Flat" by Thelonious Monk, and a song that sounded suspiciously like a jazzed up version of the theme song for "The Flintstones" cartoon.

This eight-week pilot program is comprehensive, providing more than just music instruction. The 31 participants will meet every Saturday from 9 AM until noon. During this time they will have an optional hour of practice time be-

fore receiving musical instruction in group classes, free of charge, from music education students enrolled at the New School.

"It's a win-win situation," said New School Jazz and Contemporary Music Program Executive Director Martin W. Mueller. "Our young people will always have a means of passing on music."

Following the instruction period each week, distinguished guests will perform and/or speak to the students and their parents about their musical backgrounds and careers. In addition, amateur and professional musicians will serve as mentors to students. These mentors will be invited to attend the guest speaker period of each session and will join program participants in group excursions and social events.

"I thought the first day went exceptionally well," said H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Program Director Anne Fitzgibbon. "We had a
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HOW HAPPY ARE YOU WITH YOUR NYCHA APARTMENT?

The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey

On March 17, 2003 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) will send out surveys to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents living in the Housing Authority's 324 federally funded developments. The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey (RASS) is sent each year to a random sampling of public housing residents nationwide to find out how satisfied they are with public housing. It focuses on five areas of life in public housing developments: maintenance, communications, safety, resident services and neighborhood appearance.

RASS is part of the Public Housing Assessment System, or PHAS. PHAS, in its entirety, evaluates the physical condition, financial health, management operations and resident services of public housing agencies in the United States.

The RASS accounts for 10 of a total 100 PHAS points. Poor PHAS scores could result in serious consequences, such as the denial of certain federal funds. In Fiscal Year 2001, the last year for which data is available, NYCHA

received 8 out of 10 points.

If you receive a survey, please answer all 26 questions on the four pages and mail it back to the address indicated by April 24, 2003. The results will be analyzed by a private company and will provide an overall impression of resident satisfaction in the areas specified, which will be included in HUD's yearly evaluation of NYCHA.

It is then up to the public housing authority's management to use

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**2003
RESIDENT ART SHOW
NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY**

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HARBORVIEW VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

CITYWIDE ART COMPETITION
OPEN TO PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS

ARTWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED DURING THE WEEKS OF APRIL 14 TO 25, 2003
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FOR INFORMATION AND/OR TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT CALL (212) 541-5172.

ART WORK: KING TOWERS, R. GOYETTE

March Is Women's History Month

Message From The Mayor

Understanding the New Fares For Subways and Buses



The fare increases approved by the MTA board this month will strain already pinched family budgets when they go into effect in May. There are nearly eight million people who use subways, buses and commuter trains to get around the region, and who are wondering if there's anything they can do to lessen the impact of these increased fares.

There are. The best way to beat the fare increase is to look for the discounts. Arrange your

budget so you can buy 30-day unlimited-ride MetroCards instead of paying for individual rides or buying pay-per-ride cards. The fare increase for the 30-day cards was only 11% compared to the 33% increase for individual rides and the 22% hike in pay-per-ride cards. The City's representatives on the MTA board also fought for and won an off-peak \$2.50 fare on the LIRR and MetroNorth lines for passengers getting on and off in New York City, making riding these trains more of a bargain.

It's also a good time to look into something called "TransitChek." That's an employee benefit program run by Transit Center, Inc., a non-profit public-private partnership that includes the MTA, New Jersey Transit, the PATH train system and major business organizations. TransitChek provides double benefits: it helps more than half a million people in the New York region save money on commuting while also lightening the payroll tax burden on some 14,000 area employers.

Here's how TransitChek works. Once your company enrolls in the program, you as an employee decide how much you want deducted from your pay before taxes are taken out — up to \$100 a month, \$1,200 a year. Once you've signed up — congratulations! You've now cut the annual tax bite out of your paycheck; you could be saving \$400 a year. At the same time, your company will be reducing its own tax liability by an amount that could total up to many hundreds of dollars per employee — definitely a win-win situation.

TransitCheks come in two basic forms. There are vouchers that can be used like cash to pay for MetroCards or commuter rail, bus or ferry tickets. There also are unlimited ride MetroCards that go directly to the employee. The more you use those cards, the more you save. You also eliminate the hassle of having to stop at subway station machines or station booths to put more money on your MetroCard — a real convenience during those rush hour commutes when every minute counts. TransitChek is a smart way to keep the cost of using that system affordable for everyone. For more information about TransitChek, call 1-800-331-CHEK, or visit their web site at: transitcenter.com.

The MTA runs what is far and away the largest and most complex mass transit system in the nation. It operates the country's biggest bus fleet and more subways and commuter trains than the rest of the nation combined. And although we're all disappointed that the MTA decided to increase its fares, I hope these tips help you fit your mass transit trips into your budget.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Black History Month Celebrated by Bronx Seniors
Remembering African-American Musicians From Yesterday And Today



A RICH HERITAGE was expressed (left to right) in song by NYCHA residents Doris Beavers and Frances Muse; in music by the Reverend Chief Alagba Egunfemi Adegbolola, and in dance by Bronx Dance Consultant Leona Hull at the Black History Celebration at the Melrose Community Center.

By Allan Leicht

Seniors from seven NYCHA Senior Centers assembled in celebration of Black History Month at the Melrose Community Center in the Bronx on a sunny February 20, 2003. They navigated pools of melting snow and came for drums, dance, song and a proud, vital heritage, depicted in images of African-American legends from Harriet Tubman to Louis Armstrong that ringed the Melrose gymnasium.

"New York City is the Capitol of the World because of the diverse ethnic groups that live here," Chairman Tino Hernandez told over 200 seniors. "We owe the progress of the civil rights movement, our social progress, to African-Americans and I am honored to share your pride." Commenting on the overall theme of the program, entitled, "Remembering African-American Musicians from Yesterday and Today," the Chairman noted how African-American music has influenced all music, concluding, "It is fitting to remember Black History through music."

Organized and introduced by Bronx Borough Administrator for Senior Programs Kenneth Aytch, the remarks soon gave way to music, or as Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence said, "the drums and the voice, among the first sounds known to man." Mr. Spence then introduced the Reverend Chief Alagba Egunfemi Adegbolola and his young Bronx African drum corps.

The Reverend Chief spoke briefly of his spiritual roots in the Kingdom of Oyotunji African Village in Sheldon, South Carolina, calling the 30-year-old living history museum, cultural and educational center, "30 acres of pure Africa in South Carolina."

"The first drum you ever heard," he said speaking of the power of the drums — a theme which resonated throughout the program, "was your mother's heartbeat. These are the rhythms that start life."

Through dance and narrative Bronx Dance Consultant Leona Hull told the story of African-

American history beginning with the Portuguese slave trade in 1441, and tracing the subsequent migration of Africans to the Caribbean Islands and into North America.

Residents Frances Muse, Doris Beavers and the NYCHA Senior Choir sang gospel songs to the accompaniment of the keyboard, a drum and two guitars. Soloist Gloria Geddie and narrator Geri Gardner carried the program from gospel through rhythm and blues.

Songs included such contemporary classics as "Unchained Melody," first sung by Al Hibbler in 1955 in the movie by the same

name, and "I'll Take You There," popularized by the Staple Singers.

The finale "Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now," has become the signature song of the Senior Choir. Senior Choir Director Carrie Payne, who had opened the event with a stirring "Lift Every Voice," directed the musical selections from the 1950s through the 1970s.

Black History Month got its start in 1926 when educator and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week to honor the cultural contributions of African-Americans. Black History Week became Black History Month, officially, in 1976.

The Housing Authority
Journal
69 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

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24-HOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE
1-800-621-HOPE

Message From The Chairman

The Financial Forecast



It's not news to most of you that just as the City of New York must call upon all of its resources to meet its significant fiscal challenges, so must the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). NYCHA will work very hard to maintain the most stable public housing authority in the country and deliver quality services to the 420,000 residents who make their homes in our 345 developments.

As many of you are aware, most of NYCHA's funding — 98% — comes from Washington. This money is used to operate, maintain and modernize NYCHA buildings and grounds throughout the City. Our estimated federal operating subsidy for Fiscal Year 2003 of \$658 million is a 12.5% reduction below last year's allocation. The operating subsidy is the money needed to run day-to-day operations and programs at the Authority. This reduction clearly will not keep pace with rising operating expenses and we will have to economize and be innovative to stay within our means.

There is also a significant reduction in federal funding for capital projects. Capital funds are used for maintaining our housing stock — the infrastructure of our buildings and grounds. For FY 2003 the estimated allocation is \$372 million — an 11.5% reduction, or a loss of \$48 million over the last two years. Here again we will have to make tough choices to stay within our means.

The Authority receives 2% percent of its operating subsidy, or \$17 million from the City of New York. Since FY 2001, our City funding has been reduced by 50%. The City has reduced NYCHA's capital funding for FY 2003 by \$13.6 million, to \$40.2 million, down from \$53.8 million. NYCHA recognizes the necessity of these reductions and will work with the Mayor to put our share of the City's resources to the best advantage of our residents.

Given these realities, how will we meet our responsibilities?

For a start, we have initiated a targeted hiring freeze focused on NYCHA's central office. We are reducing overtime expenditures by 15%, and we are suspending the practice of keeping development management offices open on Wednesday nights. We will implement these measures without any impact on resident services. We will continue to look for further cost saving measures to ensure that the Authority remains financially stable.

It's not all bad news. NYCHA has had major achievements over the past year. To date, our Community Center Modernization Program has opened 48 new and renovated facilities. In the last two years alone we have opened several state-of-the-art community centers. Melrose in the Bronx and Van Dyke in Brooklyn are completely new facilities. Baychester in the Bronx and St. Nicholas in Manhattan were very extensive expansions of smaller centers. In Staten Island new community centers are scheduled for completion at South Beach in the coming months and Stapleton next year. Hammel Houses in Queens is an expansion that will be open shortly, as will Williamsburg Community Center, a very impressive facility in Brooklyn.

In addition, we are working to complete a two-year program to resurface the stairhalls in our developments. This program is already 60% complete. To increase resident security and safety, we have begun a major \$10 million initiative to address the need to maintain the intercom systems in our developments Citywide.

NYCHA strives to maintain a healthy economic mix in our developments. Last year, in 2002, 45% of new residents moving into our developments were working families, bringing the number of working families to a 12-year high. While we will continue to maintain our historic commitment to provide housing to New Yorkers with special needs, a good balance benefits everyone.

These are a few of the many good things that are happening at NYCHA. While we are mindful of the financial challenges that lie ahead, NYCHA will continue to build on our successes and move forward.

Tino Hernandez

DOI ANNOUNCES 12 MORE ARRESTS FOR FRAUD

The Department of Investigation's ongoing City-wide crackdown on fraud has resulted in 55 arrests since January 2003, involving more than \$1 million of improperly obtained housing benefits. Twelve of those arrests were announced on February 27, 2003 by the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York James B. Comey and Commissioner for the New York City Department of Investigation Rose Gill Hearn.

The 12 defendants surrendered to federal and state authorities on charges of obtaining public housing benefits to which they were not entitled. Their fraud is alleged to have cost the federal government more than \$130,000.

Three of those arrested were residents of New York City Housing Authority developments — Beverly Avery, William Taylor and Thelma Young. Each has been charged with making false statements concerning their income, which resulted in reduced rents to their public housing apartments. Each faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison.

"Federal subsidies are a crucial component of New York's efforts to provide affordable housing to the needy. This office will continue to identify and prosecute those who take advantage of these programs for their own gain at the expense of those who often are desperately in need of assistance," said U.S. Attorney James B. Comey. Commissioner Gill Hearn added, "The lesson these defendants and others would be wise to learn is that, with so many needy New Yorkers on long wait lists for affordable public housing, the City will not be deceived into providing apartments to people who do not qualify for the scarce subsidized housing."

Eleven separate criminal complaints were made against the 12 defendants who included nine participants in the federally funded leased housing program administered by the New York City Housing Authority, known as Section 8. Eight of these defendants — Wanda Alexander, Vivian Carter, Elaine Davis, Kimberley King, Tammie O'Neal, Calvin Powell, Debo Rah Priester, and Pamela Reddick — face a maximum of 10 years in prison. With the exception of Davis and Powell, all of the above were charged with concealing income from NYCHA. Davis and Powell were charged with illegally subletting Davis' Section 8 apartment.

(Continued on page 5)



Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

Alternative High Schools — Many teens today might find City high schools overcrowded so that they do not get the individualized help they need. That's where the Alternative High Schools make a difference. In collaboration with the Department of Education, the New York City Housing Authority has set up several Alternative High School programs throughout the City to help teens and young adults get the individualized attention they need and move on to become success stories. In September of 2002, eight students became graduates of NYCHA Alternative High Schools and received their General Equivalency Diplomas (GEDs). James Esteves, a resident of Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx, graduated from the Betances Alternative High School and has since made arrangements to join the Armed Forces. Dwight Manuel, a resident of Marble Hill Houses, also in the Bronx, also graduated from the Betances Alternative High School and is currently enrolled at Monroe College where he is majoring in Business Administration. Tuni Begum, a resident of Harborview Terrace in Manhattan, graduated from the Chelsea-Elliott Alternative High School and on Wednesdays she returns to Chelsea-Elliott where she provides a valuable service by volunteering as a math tutor. She is also involved in the United Nations Project where she receives diplomatic training. Davon Carter, a resident of Stanley Isaacs Houses in Manhattan, graduated from the East River Alternative High School and plans to attend John Jay College in the fall and major in Forensic Science. Until then, he enjoys playing his guitar. Karen Gines, a resident of Gowan Houses in Brooklyn, graduated from the Gowan Alternative High School and plans to attend Taylor Business Institute. Babette Williams, a resident of Ocean Hill Houses in Brooklyn, graduated from the Ingersoll Alternative High School. Kevin Parker, a resident of Ocean Bay Houses in Far Rockaway, Queens, graduated from Redfern Alternative High School and has applied to Buffalo State University and Sullivan County College. Another graduate of the Redfern Alternative High School is Jacqueline Turner, who just happens to be a resident of Redfern Houses in Far Rockaway, Queens. She has also applied to Sullivan County College and is awaiting acceptance. *I'd like to take this time to congratulate each and every one of you on your achievement. Obtaining a GED is a real achievement but just one step on the ladder of success. I wish you well in all your future endeavors.*

Congratulations to members of the Betances Boxing Gym. In November of 2002, they were invited to Puerto Rico where they competed in their first international tournament for the Roberto Clemente Cup. With a little bit of dazzle, some fancy footwork and a lot of skill the Betances Boxing Gym came home victorious winning First Place. Manny Gonzalez, 106 lbs. straw-weight, won by decision; Luis Pena, 119 lbs. bantamweight, won by KO; Shawn Patterson, 126 lbs. featherweight, won by decision; Javier Monserrate, 148 lbs. won by decision and Luis Reyes, 180 lbs. heavyweight, won by decision. *In the words of Mohammed Ali, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee!" Nobody can beat the Betances Boxing Team! Congratulations and keep the "fight" alive.*

Basketball Extravaganza — On February 19, 2003, NYCHA's Department of Community Operations, Sports Unit held an all-day Basketball Extravaganza. Approximately 500 youth from developments Citywide gathered at Pace University for what promised to be an exciting event. Selected all-star players from the previously held Citywide Basketball Tournaments participated in the five scheduled games. After each game two players were selected to receive the Most Valuable Player Award. Move over Theresa Witherspoon and make room for Esha Nixon or Sharlyn Harper (both from Samuel Community Center) or Tamesha Briggs or Jessica Gatling or Jasmine Wise or Ariel Guzman because all these young ladies were named "Most Valuable Player" and received trophies. *You Go Girls!* Jaquan Jones, Ramel Harris, Step Colon, Oviel Olevian, Shaquille Stokes, and Dashaun Herring also received "Most Valuable Player" trophies. *Guys keep up the good work. For all you other upcoming basketball stars if 'you got game' and are a resident interested in joining NYCHA's Basketball Team please call 212-306-7935 for additional information.*

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 for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on October 31, November 21 and 28, and December 12, 19, and 27, 2001 and January 2, 2002. **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 October 31, 2001

Cory Flowers	Case 3580/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 67-34 Parson Blvd., Pomonok Houses, Flushing, Queens
Jules Desselle	Case 3584/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 159-06 109th Avenue, South Jamaica Houses, Jamaica, Queens.
Chris Poquee	Case 3582/01 formerly associated with 464 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hill Houses, Brooklyn.
Johney Smalls	Case 3586/01 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 350 East 143rd Street, Mott Haven Houses, the Bronx.
Martin Lasalle	Case 3588/01 formerly associated with the eighteenth floor of 1385 Fifth Avenue, Taft Houses, Manhattan.
Willie Sanchez	Case 3589/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 197 Gordon Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Andy Delvalle	Case 3590/01 formerly associated with the seventeenth floor of 350 East 143rd Street, Mott Haven Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of November 21, 2001

Victor Moreno	Case 3662/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 18 Avenue V, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.
Naquone Taylor	Case 3692/01 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 3025 West 32nd Street, Coney Island Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of November 28, 2001

Eduardo Medina	Case 3739/01 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 90 Avenue D, Riis Houses, Manhattan.
Zelda Sands	Case 3742/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 530 Olmstead Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Natasha Collins	Case 3764/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 27-25 1st Street, Astoria Houses, Long Island City.
James Griffin	Case 1942/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 740 East Gun Hill Road, Gun Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Shammon Cook	Case 3803/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 1239 Stanley Street, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of December 12, 2001

Ray Smith	Case 3318/01 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 709 FDR Drive, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
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Prohibited as of December 19, 2001

Stacy Hall	Case 3875/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 60 Moore Street, Borinquen Plaza, Brooklyn.
Yusef Harrison	Case 3894/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 54-64 Rutgers Street, Rutgers Houses, Manhattan.
Andre Oviedo	Case 3894/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 456 Richmond Terrace, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of December 27, 2001

Omar Greatheart	Case 3999/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 3845 Baychester, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
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Prohibited as of January 2, 2002

Josean Martinez	Case 1564/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 300-302 East 138th Street, Mitchell Houses, the Bronx.
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H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. KICK-OFF CEREMONY

(Continued from page 1)
great turnout from the kids and their parents."

Ms. Fitzgibbon explained that the children were chosen only after an extensive application process. Applications included an essay written by the children explaining what they hoped to get out of the program, and a letter of recommendation from a teacher or community center staffer. Then came an interview at City Hall.

The program encourages parental involvement. Once a child is accepted parents must sign a "contract" promising that the child will miss no more than three classes, that the instrument will be properly maintained and returned at the end of eight weeks, that the student will be respectful and courteous during all H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. activities, and that the parent will attend at least one parent/teacher conference.

One of those parents was Tammy Futch of Patterson Houses in the Bronx, who said she was pleased and excited that her nine-year-old daughter, Darlenique Whitley, had been accepted into the program.

"I'm trying to keep my kids



THE JOHNSON FAMILY Everyone in the Johnson family turned out for the H.A.R.M.O.N.Y. Program Kick-Off Ceremony at the New School for Social Research. Shown here are (clockwise) Nehemiah Johnson, his wife Claire, and their daughters Martine and Annie. Martine is learning the drums through the program.

busy, take them out of the projects and get them involved in something else," said Ms. Futch, who is the mother of three girls and two boys.

Claire Johnson and her husband Nehemiah Johnson, who have lived at Queensbridge Houses North for 18 years, were also enthusiastic about the program.

Their nine-year-old daughter Martine is taking the drums. "We don't know what it might lead to. Only God knows," said Ms. Johnson. Martine added, "I want to play for my church."

Organizers thanked the Music For Youth Foundation and Sam Ash Music for their contributions to the program.

Resident Photo



Ms. Bien King of Gun Hill Houses in the Bronx sent in this photo of a peregrine falcon that was on the roof of her building. Ms. King wrote, "I thought there was a ne'er-do-well on the roof throwing burning paper that was falling past my 11th floor window. I thought to get a photo of him or her. The last thing I expected to see was a predator bird plucking its prey. What was falling was not paper, but black and white feathers from a pigeon. Now that I know that they're out there, I look for and see peregrine falcons just about every day. If you are in a tall building, you might see them hunting. They fly very high with their outstretched wings curled back just a bit at the tips. A pretty sure sign

it's a peregrine is that when they are hunting they do not flap their wings much. They glide on air currents and only flap when they want to change direction. Up close, they are unmistakable. They have dark coloring around their eyes, like a raccoon, an unforgettable hooked beak, and long, feather-covered legs. They're endangered, they're the fastest bird in the world — they have been clocked to attack at up to 220 miles per hour — and they like tall buildings like mine at Gun Hill Houses!"

Please remember that residents are not allowed on the roofs of their buildings, but nevertheless, we thank Ms. King for this great shot and for thinking of us.

Have you taken a photo that you would like to share with Journal readers? Please send it to:

Eileen Elliott, Editor
NYCHA Journal
250 Broadway, 12th floor
New York, New York 10007.

Include your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address, and a little background on the photo; or e-mail the photo to: elliott@nycha.nyc.gov.



Ask Mr. Maintenance...

Use and Care Of Your Refrigerator

Since the start of the the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Energy Efficient Refrigerator Program in January of 1996, a total of 156,716 refrigerators in NYCHA apartments have been replaced with new energy efficient refrigerators. NYCHA expects to replace all refrigerators by the end of the year, so if you don't have your new refrigerator yet, it won't be long! Here are a few tips to keep your new refrigerator working at its best.

Don't Pack Too Much Into Your Freezer!

Your freezer works best when it is two-thirds full. Packing too much into your freezer prevents the cold air from circulating so that your food does not freeze properly. Packing too much into your freezer will also prevent the freezer door from closing completely, which will force the compressor to work too hard and in turn, will eventually cause the refrigerator to break down.

Defrosting And Cleaning Your Freezer

Your freezer is self-defrosting. There is no need for you to defrost the freezer. If liquids should accidentally spill in the freezer compartment simply turn off your refrigerator and wait until the liquids melt then wipe them up with a dish or paper towel. NEVER try to scrape or chop the ice with a sharp implement.

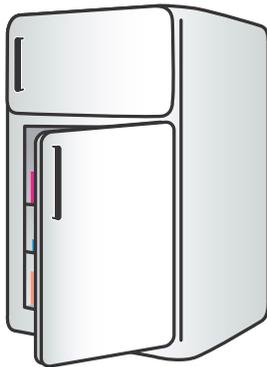
Cleaning Your Refrigerator

When cleaning your refrigerator always use a mild soap and water solution or a solution of baking soda and water (1 to 2 tablespoons of baking soda to 1 quart of water). NEVER use steel wool or abrasive cleaners to clean any part of the refrigerator.

A Word About Rubber Gaskets

The rubber seal around the door of your refrigerator is called a gasket. These rubber gaskets keep the cold air in and the hot air out. It is important that you clean the rubber gaskets and the metal frame they seal against on a regular basis. Clean spills of sticky juices and sodas when they happen to prevent the gaskets from sticking and tearing when opened.

By following these few use and care guidelines you will prolong the life of your refrigerator.



Do you have a maintenance question? Please send it to: Mr. Maintenance, c/o New York City Housing Authority Journal, New York City Housing Authority, 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, New York 10007.

Editor's Note: In response to earlier Mr. Maintenance articles, we have received a number of letters from residents about outstanding repairs in their apartments. *Please keep in mind that Mr. Maintenance is here to provide answers to general maintenance issues and procedures in your developments, not to address individual residents' specific problems obtaining repairs or services.* If you are having difficulty obtaining a needed repair or service, please contact your development's Management Office first. If you are not satisfied with the response you receive at the development, you should then contact your Borough Management Office. Thank you.

MORE ARRESTS FOR FRAUD

(Continued from page 3)

The remaining defendant, Sandra Bernard is charged with concealing from NYCHA the fact that she had moved out of her Section 8 housing and was living in New Jersey with her husband, with whom she shared three cars including a BMW. According to the complaint against her, Bernard received thousands of dollars in rent subsidies for the Section 8 housing she no longer occupied.

Mr. Comey praised the Department of Investigations and Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked NYCHA's Leased Housing and Borough Management Departments for their cooperation, as well as the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The charges in the Complaints are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. **To make complaints about someone ripping off the City, call the Department of Investigation at 212-825-5959.**

RAVENSWOOD RESIDENT CELEBRATES 103RD B'DAY



CENTENARIAN GENEVIEVE SYRING with City Councilman Eric Gioia at her birthday party. (Photo courtesy of Councilman Gioia's office.)

One century and three years ago Genevieve Syring was born in Brooklyn to Irish immigrant parents from Dublin and County Cork. Today Ms. Syring lives at Ravenswood Houses in Queens and looks forward to her regular visits to the Ravenswood Senior Center, where she celebrated her 103rd birthday on February 25, 2003. New York City Council Member Eric Gioia brought flowers and Ms. Syring's friends and neighbors paid tribute to the 23-year NYCHA resident. Ms. Syring's love of people, music and life in her corner of the world has established her as a colorful figure of stability in the Long Island City community. As she often says, "I'm not going anywhere."

Soon after moving to Ravenswood when she was in her mid-80's, Ms. Syring, who had never received an education beyond the seventh grade, decided to attend college classes. "She was always an avid reader," said her daughter, Barbara, who now lives with her mother in Ravenswood after having relocated from Florida. Ms. Syring has two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, courtesy of Barbara, and the centenarian's son, James, a film editor who lives in Denver. This is the family raised by a woman who was widowed in 1947 and worked all her life as a secretary. After the Great Depression of the 1930's, which remains in Ms. Syring's memory as a defining phase of life, work was a great blessing.

"She did not have an easy life as a child," said Barbara, who has retired from her career in special education. "She remembers that her father had one suit and one pair of shoes, which he shared with a relative so that they could each look presentable when searching for work."

"Genevieve Syring should be an inspiration to all of us. As a long time community activist who has attended Ravenswood Senior Center for many years, Ms. Syring's fortitude and example deserve our recognition. I look forward to celebrating her 104th birthday next year, and am honored to represent her and Ravenswood in the New York City Council," said Council Member Gioia.

To be sure, there are many decades of memories, which Ms. Syring shares with her younger brother, who is 93, but her alert mind is very much focused on the present.

- Allan Leicht

RASS SURVEY

(Continued from page 1)

this information to help identify areas that need improvement within a development, and to create a Follow-up Plan.

Not all residents will receive a survey. Last year, 18,610 surveys were mailed out to NYCHA residents and 5,829 were returned. Those residents who do not receive a survey this year may receive one in the future.

HUD is committed to ensuring that your public housing authority's management will not know who participated in the survey, or how individuals responded. Your identity will remain confidential. Only the overall results of the survey will be shared with PHA management. You should not write your name on the survey if you receive one. **If you have any questions about the Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey, call HUD's REAC's Customer Service Center at 1-888-245-4860 (calls are toll free).**



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TRIBUTE TO FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLICE COMMISSIONER BENJAMIN WARD



In honor of African-American History Month, the NYC Police Museum and the New York Police Department (NYPD) Guardians Association paid tribute to the extraordinary life and career of Benjamin Ward (1926-2002), former Chief of NYCHA's Housing Police (which later merged with the NYPD) from 1978 to 1979. Commissioner Ward's outstanding 40-year career as a civil servant began in 1951 as the first African-American patrolman assigned to Brooklyn's 80th Precinct, and was capped by his rise to the top position as New York's first African-American Police Commissioner, from 1984 to 1989. Between those two milestones, Commissioner Ward held leadership positions as NYC Traffic Commissioner, NYS Correctional Services Commissioner and Commissioner of the NYC Department of Correction.

Former colleagues, friends and family members of Commissioner Ward praised the remarkable personal and professional qualities responsible for his historic contributions. Tributes were delivered by former Mayors David Dinkins and Ed Koch, NYC Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and the daughter of Commissioner Ward, Ms. Mary Ward. The Authority was well represented by Chairman Tino Hernandez and many Executive Staff members including Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr. and Board Member JoAnna Aniello. An uplifting musical motif was provided by the NYCHA Youth Choir.

The museum exhibit, which chronicles Commissioner Ward's career, was presented in conjunction with the Authority and other agencies distinguished by his service. In the above photo (l-r) are: **Ninfa Segarra, Executive Director of the NYC Police Museum; Ms. Mary Ward; former Mayor David Dinkins; Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Chairman Tino Hernandez. In front is Tremaine Ward, age 9, future standard bearer and grandson of Commissioner Ward**

- Howard Silver

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