



New York City Housing Authority

# Journal

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November 2003

## St. Mary's Park Community Center Opens



St. Mary's Park Community Center in the South Bronx.

By Allan Leicht

**O**n October 30, NYCHA residents, executives and New York State Assembly members came to cut the ribbon inaugurating the new St. Mary's Park Community Center, which sits like a castle on a hill overlooking the bustle of the surrounding Bronx neighborhood.

"We have come from the bottom of the hill to the top of the hill," said St. Mary's Resident Association President John Lemon, "from the back of the house to the front of the house." Mr. Lemon was referring to the fact that the previous community center was in a basement and that this new one, bathed in sunlight, seems to float above its setting. This sunny, weightless feeling was exactly what the NYCHA architects, designers, engineers and builders wanted.

"This was a true team effort," said Project Architect Alfredo Lavergne, who represented NYCHA's Department of Design and Capital Improvement. To emphasize the scope of their collaboration, Mr. Lavergne proudly named and thanked each member of the Design, Construction

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## NYCHA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BOROUGH CONFERENCES More Than 800 Residents Attend Authority-wide

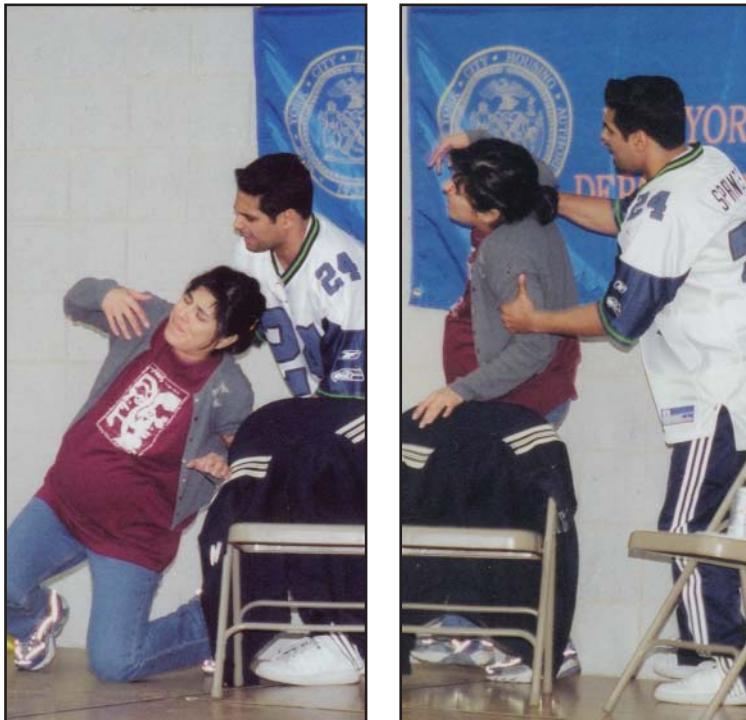
By Eileen Elliott

**F**or the second year in a row, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) hosted conferences in each borough during National Domestic Violence Awareness month, starting at the Van Dyke Community Center in Brooklyn on October 20th. The goal of the half-day conferences, each of which featured speakers, a panel discussion, a dramatic presentation and a resource fair, was to raise resident awareness around the central theme, "Domestic Violence: It Is Your Business."

Dr. John Aponte, a former police psychologist and an expert on male roles, offered a single example at the Brooklyn conference as an illustration of that theme.

"I did a conference at a senior center once," he told over 200 NYCHA residents, many of them seniors themselves, who filled the audience. "A woman came up to me and showed me her ear. She had a cauliflower ear, like a boxer. She said her husband was a boxer

(Continued on page 6)



Plays For Living's actors Kelli Cruz and Ken Mayo, as the troubled couple Desriee and James, in the dramatic presentation entitled, "Apartment #3G." The nonprofit organization's award-winning dramas allow viewers to explore tough issues from a safe distance. The scene shown above was staged at the Van Dyke Community Center in Brooklyn on October 20, during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

**A**s we reported in last month's *Journal*, the U.S. Congress has reinstated a federal law, known as Community Service, which requires that certain adult residents of public housing perform voluntary work or other activities that are of a public benefit or enhance resident self-sufficiency. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is required by federal law to implement Community Service.

The Community Service law includes five (5) categories that would exempt public housing residents from performing Community Service. As a result of input from the NYCHA Resident Advisory Board, advocacy groups and the public during the recent Agency Plan process, NYCHA has significantly expanded the number of exemptions from five (5) categories to more than twenty (20). A full list of the exemption categories is printed on page 6. Please note that many of the listed categories have additional conditions or qualifications. A more comprehensive listing of the exemptions will be available from your Management Office once the program gets underway.

We believe that most NYCHA residents will qualify for an exemption and will not have to perform Community Service because they are working, are in school, are receiving public assistance and are in compliance with the requirements, or are of a certain age. Again, see the attached chart for a full list of the exemption categories.

An adult resident who is not eligible for an exemption will be required to perform eight (8) hours of Community Service each month (that is 96 hours in a year). This requirement can be met by any combination of voluntary work or participation in an Economic Self-Sufficiency Program.

Residents who NYCHA believes are required to perform Community Service will receive a letter asking that they contact the Management Office. The letter will arrive close to the time of the family's annual income recertification. (The first of these letters will go out in January 2004.) Recognizing that our files may not have sufficient data to determine each individual's qualifications, some residents will be asked to meet with the Management Office to discuss whether they qualify for an exemption.

No one will be required to perform Community Service without being afforded an opportunity to show that they qualify for an exemption. **Residents should not visit the Management Office yet to discuss Community Service. Rather, you should wait until you receive a letter asking you to contact the Management Office.**

*Once again, the chart listing exemptions, is on page 6.*

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# Remember Our War Veterans!



**MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR****Let's Fight For Affordable Prescription Drugs**

**I**t was my pleasure to join Illinois State Governor Rod Blagojevich in a press conference at City Hall on October 29th, to urge fellow New Yorkers to petition the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to permit states and cities to import prescription drugs from Canada. The Illinois Governor is at the forefront of this initiative, but having the support of New York City, the largest city in the country, will send a powerful message to Washington.

All of us have an intense interest in maintaining or lowering the costs of prescription drugs. In this time of budget crisis,

importing the drugs from Canada will save the City up to \$108 million a year on Medicaid drug costs alone. The drugs I'm talking about are American manufactured drugs that have been sent to Canada for resale. The fact of the matter is that these drugs are 25% more expensive in the United States than they are in Canada. The drugs would simply be reimported back into the United States.

A new report recently released by Governor Blagojevich showed that Canadian procedures for distributing and labeling prescription drugs are as safe as those here in the United States, and in some cases safer. The report also showed that consumers participating in the proposed Illinois plan could save \$1,000 a year.

The basic trend in medicine has been to treat more people with drugs rather than surgery. This has contributed to people living longer lives, but it has also put a strain on everyone's pocketbooks. Prescription drug costs have been going up dramatically for the City, as they have for all New Yorkers. New York City spends billions of dollars on drug costs each year, both directly and indirectly. Medicaid pays \$2.5 million a year for prescription drugs for its clients, here in New York City. Over the last five years, Medicaid expenses on pharmaceuticals has grown by 20%. Ultimately, these costs get passed onto the taxpayer. One-quarter of this expense is paid for by the taxpayer in City taxes, and another quarter is paid for by the taxpayer in New York State taxes.

The rising costs of prescription drugs is draining our City's finances and bankrupting our senior citizens. The average cost per prescription for seniors in America rose by 48% between 1992 and 2000. It is expected to continue increasing another 72% by 2010, according to a Families USA study. Another study, by The Health Institute at Tufts, found that 22% percent of American seniors let prescriptions go unfilled and skip doses of medicines to make prescriptions last longer, and close to one in four seniors report spending at least \$100 per month on their prescription medicine.

There is no reason why New Yorkers should be denied the right to purchase safe prescription drugs at reasonable prices. Too many of our seniors are forced to make the terrible choice between food and their prescription medication.

I'm hoping that this issue will find a particularly supportive audience among the residents of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments, since so many NYCHA residents are seniors.

Illinois was the first state to petition the FDA to permit the importation of prescription drugs from Canada, and Governor Blagojevich recently launched an electronic petition drive to persuade the FDA on this matter. By encouraging you to participate in this electronic petition my goal is simple — it is to help millions of seniors and other consumers in New York City afford the ever-rising costs of prescription drugs.

The petition is available at [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) or at [www.affordabledrugs.il.gov](http://www.affordabledrugs.il.gov). So, log on and let your voice be heard. If you don't have Internet access at home, perhaps you can log on at your local library or community center. Making prescription drugs available at a lower cost will benefit everyone.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**Residents and Staff Work Together To Maximize Effectiveness of Annual Plan for FY2004**

**T**he New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2004 was sent off to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on October 17th. After a 75-day waiting period if NYCHA does not hear anything to the contrary from HUD, that means the Plan has been accepted. There are many diverse elements in the Annual Plan, encompassing a wide range of NYCHA activities. It reflects the collaborative efforts of Housing Authority staff, and the 45 elected public housing residents and nine participants from the Section 8 Leased Housing Program that constitute the Resident Advisory Board (RAB).

The RAB was created specifically to work with NYCHA on the Annual Plan. RAB members put a lot of hard work and effort into the creation of the Plan, devoting many hours away from their families, and gathering in more than 15 meetings to address the most pressing issues facing the Authority. This article highlights some of the accomplishments resulting from this process, and ongoing NYCHA initiatives that seek to improve the quality of service to our residents. Many of these initiatives were developed in response to concerns expressed by residents.

**Construction Management/Build Program**

NYCHA is committed to improving the quality of our construction program. To improve our efforts under Section 3 and to create long-term career opportunities for NYCHA residents, as well as to improve the quality and timeliness of NYCHA capital projects, the Housing Authority has introduced the CM/Build Program. Under the program, pre-qualified subcontractors who perform capital projects for NYCHA will be required to participate in state approved apprenticeship programs. In order to give residents the best possible opportunity to succeed in the apprenticeship program, a pre-apprenticeship program component will be offered.

**Community Service Exemptions**

NYCHA residents were generally opposed to the Community Service requirement, which was reinstated by Congress and must be implemented in the near future. (See article on page 1.) Briefly, under the law, obligated adult residents will be required to perform eight hours of Community Service each month or participate for a similar period in Economic Self-sufficiency Programs.

Almost any form of service to the community will qualify, including participation in the tenant patrol, volunteering at a church food bank, a senior center, or for organizations that visit the sick in hospitals. A listing of activities and of numerous organizations that seek volunteers is being assembled by NYCHA and will be available at Management Offices for those residents who have not been found

to be exempt from this requirement.

There are five categories of exemptions within the Community Service statute. Through the Annual Plan process, the Authority has been successful in expanding the number of categories that will be allowed as exemptions. There are now more than 20 exemption categories for the NYCHA program. A summary listing of the exemptions appears on page 6. NYCHA will allow residents providing more than 96 hours of service in any given year to carry excess community service hours forward into the following year.

**Community Centers**

NYCHA recognizes the importance of community space for residents of all ages. NYCHA continues to allocate approximately \$20 million per year in its capital budget for the construction of new community centers as well as upgrading and expanding existing centers. There are far too many of these projects to go into here, but just about every month, NYCHA residents can open their *Journal* and read about ribbon-cuttings for new or newly renovated community centers. (See "St. Mary's" article, page 1.)

**Applicant Review and Orientation Committee (AROC)**

Based on recommendations by residents, NYCHA is preparing to expand the AROC to additional locations and to provide training and support. AROC stands for Applicant Review and Orientation Committees. An AROC is made of a group of residents from a particular development who help orient and welcome new residents to the development and the community. While the ultimate responsibility for determining eligibility lies with the Housing Authority, the AROC is an opportunity for residents and management to discuss with applicants the responsibilities of tenancy.

**Dogs (...and other "Pets")**

NYCHA takes responsible dog ownership seriously. Managers are aware of the importance of enforcing the dog registration policy and have significantly increased the number of dogs registered. When dangerous dogs are identified that are not registered, management is proactive in initiating termination of tenancy proceedings. **To report a dangerous dog**

*(Continued on page 6)*

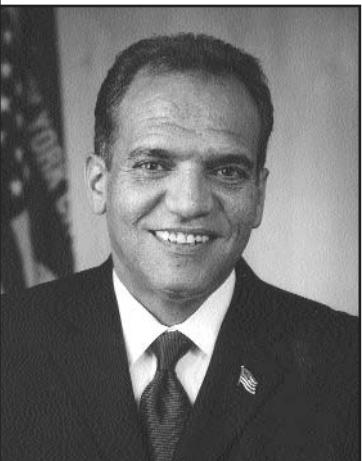
**The Housing Authority Journal**

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN****Creating Affordable Housing**

throughout the five boroughs.

If you read this paper regularly, you're probably aware by now that a large number of New Yorkers live in NYCHA's public housing developments — the current figure is nearly 419,000. We provide quality housing and are always seeking innovative ways to increase affordable housing. But it's not easy, especially here in New York City, where space is always at a premium. The Housing Authority is making strides in its efforts to increase the number of affordable housing units, or to vastly improve the condition of our existing housing, much of which was built right after World War II.

In early December, NYCHA will join Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) and the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSF) for the groundbreaking of an innovative, new 50-unit intergenerational development, which will be known as the PSS GrandParent Family Apartments. This facility will combine housing and services for elderly NYCHA residents who are responsible for raising minor-aged children. Located in the Morrisania Area of the Bronx, the development will be owned and managed by PSS and WSF and will be located on NYCHA property, under a 99-year ground lease. Each unit will receive a public housing operating subsidy, and rents will be set in the same way as public housing rents.

NYCHA will also be redeveloping four buildings on University Avenue in the Bronx that are currently vacant, along with an adjacent lot, to create a total of 210 units. The total development cost for the project, estimated at approximately \$24.5 million will be financed with a combination of public and private funds with the help of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, and the Housing Development Corporation.

At Whitman and Ingersoll Houses in Brooklyn, NYCHA is preparing to move forward with an \$86 million renovation project which will enhance elevator service, modernize kitchens and bring apartments up to present-day standards.

In Manhattan, the redevelopment of Fabria Houses on the Lower East Side, will create a total of 63 new units in three walk-up buildings at East 11th Street, and two newly constructed buildings on two vacant, city-owned lots located at East 7th Street and East 9th Street. The development will be equipped with elevators and made accessible to people with mobility impairments.

You may have read about the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Prospect Plaza Townhouses in Brooklyn, in the August issue of the *Journal*. The completed Prospect Plaza Hope VI Revitalization Plan will account for approximately 616 units, including 323 public housing units, 255 non-public housing rental units and 37 homeownership units. The 37 new two-family townhouses are expected to be ready for occupancy by the spring of 2004.

And you can read all about Ocean Bay Apartments in Queens, another HOPE VI project, formerly known as Arverne and Edgemere Houses, in this month's *Journal* on page 4. Look to future issues of the *Journal* to see how NYCHA is continuing to progress on these exciting new initiatives.

By the way, the next issue of this paper will be out in mid-January, so please accept my wishes now for a great holiday season.

*Tino Hernandez*

**TO REPORT DANGEROUS  
DOGS, CALL 311**

## **NEW INTERCOMS FOR 24,000 NYCHA APARTMENTS**

**N**YCHA residents living in 24,000 apartments in 18 developments citywide will soon have the benefit of new intercom systems. The \$40.5 million telecommunications project will bring the intercom systems up-to-date in the developments that have some of the most significant problems with existing intercoms. New, dedicated lines will be installed to replace the intercom function formerly performed through Verizon telephone lines. This is part of NYCHA's long-term commitment to upgrade intercoms throughout the city

This means that unlike before, residents in the developments with the new system will be able to buzz someone in while they're on the telephone. First and foremost, the intercoms will enhance security and convenience, but there's an added bonus — the new cabling infrastructure also has the capacity for many other uses, such as video, telephone, Internet and entertainment.

Installation of the state-of-the-art telecommunications system began at Castle Hill Houses in mid-September. "Work is progressing well at the site," said NYCHA's Chief of Security John Andalcio, "and we anticipate the new intercoms will be in operation at Castle Hill Houses within three or four months."

Also in the Bronx, installation of the new intercom system is underway at St. Mary's Park Houses, and slated for Marble Hill and Edenwald Houses.

In Brooklyn, the new system will be installed at Glenwood, Coney Island, Brownsville and Tompkins Houses. The Manhattan developments that will receive the new system are Jefferson, Drew Hamilton, Rangel, Wald and Fulton Houses. In Queens, Queensbridge Houses North and South will get the new intercoms, as will Mariner's Harbor and Todt Hill Houses in Staten Island.

Management offices at the developments where intercom work is being done are alerting residents that the contractor will need to enter their apartments to complete the installation and that a responsible adult must be at home at that time. In addition, in certain cases, the contractor may require residents' telephone numbers in order to trace lines from an apartment to the basement. For that reason residents should be sure that management has up-to-date telephone information.

*(Continued on page 7)*



## **Deborah's Diary**

*By Deborah Williams*

**N**umber One — The word circulating in the Van Dyke Houses in Brooklyn, where 12-year-old Travis Peterkin lives, is that he is well on his way to success. On August 31, 2003, Travis won the National Amateur Boxing title at the Ringside National Labor Day Championship in Kansas City, Missouri. Travis received his training with the Police Athletic League at Howard Houses, also in Brooklyn, where enthusiasm is at an all time high because it's been 30 years since the Howard Houses PAL had a National Champ. The number "1" now has multiple meaning for Travis — he not only ranked #1 in the country in the 12-year-old, 119 lb. weight class, he is also in the #1 eighth grade class at P.S. 284. "I feel if I respect my parents, stay in school and train hard I'll be not only a good fighter, but a productive person in life," said Travis. Travis's dad, Bernard Peterkin, who is also Travis's trainer says, "Travis is a good kid who stays off the street and we are all proud of him. When he fought his first bout on August 29, 2003, against Siulaman Habeel from Chicago, he won by a knockout. The whole crowd went silent, thinking, 'Who is this kid?'" Although Travis enjoys boxing he hasn't limited himself to just one sport. He also finds the time to play football, another sport he equally enjoys. With great enthusiasm Travis said, "I love being a champion!" Well, congratulations young man! It's all good news when I hear that our youth are triumphing in sports while excelling in their school work. Never let one outweigh the other. Treat both with equal importance and strive for excellence and you will retain that #1 title. Keep up the good work!



**Congratulations** to the New York City Housing Authority youth who danced and stepped their way onto the Lovinger Theater stage on August 22, 2003, at Lehman College in the Bronx. It was the very first Stepping/Dance Competition sponsored by the Department of Community Operations' Performing Arts Unit. A point system was used to judge each group on showmanship, originality, precision of movement, choreography, and teamwork. Trophies were presented to the top three winners in both the dance and step categories.

The winners in the stepping category were: First Place, "Anonymous," from Melrose Houses in the Bronx; Second Place, "Wild Cats," from the Gowanus Houses in Brooklyn; and Third Place, from University Avenue Consolidated in the Bronx, "Baby Girls." The winning dance troupes in the dance category were: First Place, "Something New (Harlem Stars)," from Taft Houses in Manhattan; Second Place, "Untouchable Shorties," from Douglass Houses in Manhattan; and in Third Place, "Shades of Soul 2," from Polo Grounds Houses in Manhattan. Everyone who participated received gifts that included T-shirts, caps and small trophies. If you are interested in learning to dance or to learn a step routine, you can contact your local community center or call 212-427-6648 and ask for the Performing Arts Unit.

**Lights, camera, action!** These were the words that rang in the ears of Sydney Williams of Brooklyn's Atlantic Terminal in Brooklyn as he started his first day of work — work that took him to the set of an Alicia Keys video production. It all began with Sydney's dream of becoming a model or an actor. Sydney went to Sylver Productions Studio to have his stage photos taken and was referred to Creative Auditions in Manhattan. On October 20, 2003, he was called in to audition for a part in the Alicia Keys video production. The very next day he received a call telling him he had got it! Sydney and his family were ecstatic. His dream was finally taking form. On October 23, 2003, Sydney arrived at the YMCA on 135th Street and Lenox Avenue ready to begin his first day of video production. The video for her song entitled, "You Don't Know My Name" began airing at the end of October on BET (Black Entertainment Network). Look for Sydney in the dinner scene in the video. Sydney, congratulations on your success. If you want your dream to become a reality hold on to it and never ever let go!

## 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 follow a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on September 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, and November 6, and 13, 2002. **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 September 25, 2002**

Christian Barragan	Case 4532/02 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 665 Westchester Avenue, St. Mary's Park Houses, the Bronx.
Andre Espy	Case 4604/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 151 Jersey Street, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.
Dathress Holland	Case 4607/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1750 Prospect Place, Prospect Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Tyshawn Warren	Case 4609/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 423 Baltic Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
Joseph McCoy	Case 4571/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1760 Lexington Avenue, Clinton Houses, Manhattan.

### **Prohibited as of October 2, 2002**

Doris Aviles	Case 4669/02 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 182 South Street, Smith Houses, Manhattan.
Kendal Kelly	Case 4695/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 107 East 105th Street, Clinton Houses, Manhattan.
Buddy Marin	Case 680/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 40-15 12th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City.

### **Prohibited as of October 9, 2002**

Christinay Hodges	Case 4838/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 37 Centre Mall, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Eric Nesmith	Case 4789/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 40-12 10th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City.
Keil Ortiz	Case 4790/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 2045 Schmidtts Lane, Todt Hill Houses, Staten Island.
Lawrence Beau	Case 4791/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2861 Exterior Street, Marble Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Jerry Frith	Case 4808/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 257 West 114th Street, Randolph Houses, Manhattan.
Shanon Mckinney	Case 4811/02 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 131 Moore Street, Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.
Frank Opong-Wiredu Kofi	Case 4813/02 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 810 Henderson Avenue, West Brighton Houses, Staten Island.

### **Prohibited as of October 16, 2002**

Jemar Johnson	Case 4950/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 31-31 51st Street, WoodsideHouses, Woodside.
Ruben Jimenez	Case 4965/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 7 St. James Place, Smith Houses, Manhattan.
Carlton Woods	Case 5028/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 439/02 Beach 54th Street, Ocean Bay Apartments, Far Rockaway.

### **Prohibited as of October 23, 2002**

Donovan Henry	Case 5140/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 210 West 230th Street, Marble Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Donald Handelman	Case 5161/02 formerly associated with 45 Broadway, Markham Gardens Houses, Staten Island.
Jamel Washington	Case 3980/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 750/02 Gates Avenue, Stuyvesant Gardens, Brooklyn.

(Continued on page 7)

## OCEAN BAY DAY COMMEMORATION IN QUEENS

**I**t's official! The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments formerly known as Arverne and Edgemere Houses in Far Rockaway, Queens, have been renamed Ocean Bay Apartments. NYCHA staff, elected officials, and up to 300 residents gathered together under an enormous blue-and-white striped tent to celebrate "Ocean Bay Day" on a rainy October 4th. In addition to the renaming of the developments, the event marked the completion of Phase I of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) HOPE VI Revitalization Plan for Ocean Bay, consisting of the modernization of 1,803 apartments, as well as the kickoff of the next phase of the project. Phase II will focus on the installation of a state-of-the-art security system, facade improvements, new entrances and a program to encourage resident homeownership.

Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence served as moderator, introducing a series of distinguished guests including NYCHA's Chairman Tino Hernandez, Deputy General Manager for Capital Projects Joseph Farro, State Senator Malcolm A. Smith, Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, State Assembly Members Audrey Pheffer and Michele R. Titus, City Council Member James Sanders, Jr., and the Ocean Bay Resident Association Presidents Connie Taylor and Sylvia Jackson.

"The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development created the HOPE VI program to revitalize urban neighborhoods with distressed public housing in the late 1990s," Mr. Farro said, explaining how the project came to be. "It awarded NYCHA about \$68 million to revitalize Arverne and Edgemere Houses because the developments were located in distressed areas."

NYCHA added \$117 million of its own funding and leveraged an additional \$49 million in private and public funds, bringing the total budget for the project up to \$233 million.

"I want to take this opportunity on behalf of NYCHA and the Board, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., and Board Member JoAnna Aniello to thank all of the partners who have helped in this endeavor," remarked NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "It is a very complex undertaking; it is an ambitious and bold undertaking and it couldn't be done without all of the governmental, community, and resident partnerships that we have been able to forge here." In addition to thanking the elected officials present, the Chairman also mentioned Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, who he called, "a key player in being able to pull all the entities together."

Residents of the new development have served as active partners in the planning of their neighborhood. The Chairman also thanked Resident Design Group Chairperson Lynn Harrison and the members of the Resident Design Working Group, for the work they have done with NYCHA staff, and NYCHA's Director of Housing Finance and Development Sharon Ebert.

Although Arverne and Edge-  
mere Houses have been consoli-



**RA Presidents Sylvia Jackson (left) and Connie Taylor join NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez and Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. (back row), for this shot during Ocean Bay Day on October 4th. Ms. Jackson is RA President for Bayside Apartments, formerly known as Edgemere Houses, and Ms. Taylor is RA for Oceanside Apartments, formerly known as Arverne Houses, which together form Ocean Bay.**

dated into one development, there remain two separate Resident Associations. The Resident Association President for Oceanside Apartments, formerly known as Arverne Houses, Connie Taylor, and the Resident Association President of Bayside Apartments, formerly known as Edgemere Houses, Sylvia Jackson, both had emphatic messages of thanks.

"Thank God we are living in public housing and that we don't have to pay \$1,800 or \$2,000 a month," said Ms. Taylor. "The people that work for public housing...have really been a help to the people who live here." And Ms. Jackson expressed her gratitude to the managers and staffs of Oceanside and Bayside Apartments. Chairman Hernandez presented both women with "NYCHA apples" — mementos in appreciation for the work they have done.

The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of the new Ocean Bay Apartments sign, which, as DGM Hugh Spence said, "signifies that Arverne and Edgemere Houses are consolidated into one development to be known as Ocean Bay Apartments." Everyone applauded as the blue velvet covering was pulled down, revealing the turquoise wave that forms the "O" in the development's name.

There are many other phases in the Ocean Bay HOPE VI Revitalization Plan. They include the completion of a new 29,000-square-foot community center, a health center, which will also house classrooms for college courses, the renovation and expansion of a day care, and commercial establishments. Construction on the project began in January 2001 and is expected to be completed in December 2005.

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[www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha)**

## Statue at Kingsborough Houses

By Allan Leicht

Kingsborough Houses, in the person of Resident Association President Carolyn McLean, welcomed officials of the Jewish Child Care Association (JCCA) and a group of special visitors on October 9, 2003. The visitors, all in their 80's and 90's, came to unveil a new statue in a new garden and recount some very old memories at this corner of Ralph Avenue and Pacific Street in Brooklyn. The statue — "Rebeka," by sculptor Maurice Hexter — is of a young girl, an orphan, representing many thousands of children who at one time or another between the years 1892 and 1939, lived in an imposing building that stood on that corner before Kingsborough Houses was there. This was the gabled, turreted Brooklyn Hebrew Orphans Asylum (BHOA) and several of the children who lived in it, now with children and grandchildren of their own, returned on this October morning to what their spokesman, Joe R. Gerson, described as "hallowed ground."

"The Brooklyn Hebrew Orphans Asylum took in little rats like me," Mr. Gerson, retired Commissioner of Ports for the State of Indiana, told the gathering of NYCHA residents, executives and friends. Mr. Gerson spoke of his troubled childhood in the 1930s and of finding safe harbor at "The House on the Hill," as the Asylum was called. "The BHOA was my first family," he said, remembering the hot cocoa, mashed potatoes and sense of security he experienced there for the first time at the age of five.

The BHOA was the precursor of the Jewish Child Care Association, whose Communications Director, Jane Barowitz, conducted the ceremonies, which included greetings from JCCA President

Barbara Mann, NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, and presentations by social service professionals specializing in child care.

State Senator Montgomery spoke of the emotional content of the moment. "We have all shared a neighborhood," the Senator said, "and now we have an appropriate monument to a different time so that our children know that there was once a castle here that was for children. We can keep the story going."

Bringing greetings from NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Board Member Aniello thanked the JCCA for the "honor" of having the statue, which, she said, "will beautify and enrich our development."



"REBEKA" Jewish Child Care Association President Judith Mann (on left) and Kingsborough Houses Resident Association President Carolyn McLean (on right) unveil the sculpture of the orphan girl. They are flanked by NYCHA residents and staff and former residents of the Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum, among whom is Joe R. Gerson (second from right). State Senator Velmanette Montgomery looks on from Mr. Gerson's right.



## HOPE VI

### Section 3

#### Construction Jobs Available at Prospect Plaza Houses!

##### What is Section 3?

Section 3 is a HUD requirement that employment and other economic opportunities be directed to public housing residents. It requires that for contracts in excess of \$100,000 for modernization, new construction and building maintenance work at public housing developments that 30% of all new hires be residents of public housing.

##### Who is eligible for Section 3 construction jobs at The HOPE VI Revitalization Development – Prospect Plaza?

All NYCHA residents. However, you should know that there is a hiring order. This order for hiring is:

1. Relocated residents of the Prospect Plaza Housing development;
2. NYCHA residents from NYCHA developments within Community Board # 16;
3. NYCHA residents residing within the borough of Brooklyn; and
4. NYCHA residents residing in other boroughs of the city.

##### How can a resident be placed on the Section 3 list for any job citywide?

To place your name on the list please:

1. Contact your management office for a Job Training/Section 3 Employment for both a Job Training/Section 3 Employment Referral Intake and a Resident Experience form;
2. Indicate your interest in Section 3 Employment by checking "Yes" in the box on the Intake Form marked Section 3: Yes or No; and'
3. Return the Intake Forms to your Management Office so that your residency "in good standing" can be confirmed. The Management Office will forward the Intake Form for processing by NYCHA Department of Economic and Business Initiatives.

Intake Forms are also available by calling: NYCHA DEBI's Recruitment Unit at 718-250-5904 or DEBI's 24-hour Hotline at 212-306-3800. Leave your name, address (including apartment number), zip code and daytime telephone number if you call the Hotline. You will be contacted by DEBI's Recruitment Unit to attend an orientation to complete the intake process.

If you are interested in the Section 3 employment opportunities, contact you management office or call DEBI now! This may be the opportunity you were waiting for! Your dream is here!

## New ATTAIN Computer Lab At Farragut

By Deborah Williams

**O**n October 28, 2003, residents of Farragut Houses joined a host of distinguished guests to commemorate the opening of a new Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) computer lab with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the development's Community Center. The event was hosted by State Assemblyman Roger Green who secured \$500,000 for the project.

Along with the Assemblyman, guests included NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, State University of New York (SUNY's) University Center for Academic & Workforce Development (UCAWD) Director Vijay Macwan, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Director of Community Development and Planning Robert H. Cardillo, and the Reverend Mark Taylor from the Church of the Open Door.

During the ceremony, the Farragut Houses Seniors sang, "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let It Shine," and UCAWD Director Vijay Macwan, who has been involved in developing the ATTAIN Lab since its proposal stage said, to the audience, which in-



State Assemblyman Roger Green and Farragut Houses Resident Association President Mary Andrews at the Farragut Houses ATTAIN Computer Lab.

cluded youth from the Community Center, "Turning on a computer is like flicking a switch that can connect your light to the world. Today our dream of an ATTAIN Lab at the Farragut Community Center has become a reality."

The Farragut Community Center underwent renovations that included the installation of high speed Internet lines, and 24 computer stations. Participants in the ATTAIN program will train themselves on one of a number of multimedia computer-based courses in areas such as child care, cosmetology, or nursing. There will be two instructors at the

(Continued on page 8)

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONFERENCES

(Continued from page 1)

and used to beat her. ‘Used to? Has he died?’ I asked. ‘No,’ she answered, ‘I’m a boxer now.’” The moral of the story — what goes around comes around; violence perpetuates violence.

NYCHA’s Social Services Administrator for Brooklyn, Frances Bultron, served as moderator for that borough’s conference. She welcomed everyone and began with a definition. “Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behavior that crosses all ethnic, racial, social, economic and sexual orientation boundaries,” she said.

Ms. Bultron provided some background on the evolution of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which, she said, began as a single day “of unity” in 1981. Its purpose, she said, was, “for people to mourn those who had died as a result of domestic violence, to celebrate those who had survived domestic violence, and to connect with those who work to put an end to domestic violence.”

“I’m really delighted to see residents here,” Chairman Tino Hernandez began. “For many years domestic violence has been a very misunderstood problem.” Expanding on that, he remarked that domestic violence occurs not only between people who are in relationships, but also includes teen violence and elder abuse.

Mr. Hernandez commented on the array of social services NYCHA provides to assist victims and thanked the organizations the Housing Authority collaborates with in this endeavor. These include the nonprofit victims assistance, advocacy and violence prevention agency Safe Horizon, the New York City Police Department Housing Bureau, the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, and the District Attorneys’ offices.

“The Kings County DA has really been on the forefront of providing innovative services to combat domestic violence,” the Chair-

man said, “but the residents are really on the forefront.” Speaking directly to the audience he continued, “You have to have some sense of how to identify this problem so you can help.”

The Chairman thanked the many people who worked to put the conferences together, including Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence, Social Services Director Nora Reissig-Lazzaro and Community Coordinator Zobeira Martinez, among others.

The effects of domestic violence, not only on the couple involved, but on family, friends and neighbors, was explored through a dramatic presentation, entitled, “Apartment #3G.” The play was presented by the nonprofit acting troupe, Plays For Living, which has been presenting dramatic performances on social issues for over 60 years. A discussion led by Plays For Living’s Twinkle Burke followed, during which Ms. Burke drew upon the audience to emphasize the more important points of the story.

The point that domestic violence is everyone’s business was made most dramatically by Safe Horizon’s Domestic Violence Education and Intervention Program (DVIEP) Director Maureen Curtis. “Last year there were 78 domestic violence homicides here in New York City,” she said. “For 65% of those homicides, there was no prior police record.” That means that family, friends and neighbors might have been the only ones who were in a position to help.

Other panelists at the Brooklyn conference included the Mayor’s Office To Combat Domestic Violence Project Heal Director Tracey Weber, Kings County Assistant District Attorney Sandra Fernandez, and NYCHA’s Emergency Transfer Program Coordinator Mary Sims. The discussion was moderated by NYCHA’s Aftercare Program Coordinator Kim Halpern.

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

## Residents and Staff Work Together on Annual Plan

(Continued from page 2)

(or other unauthorized “pet” on NYCHA property) call your Management Office or the City’s new non-emergency hotline, “311.”

### Fiscal Issues

Similar to other governmental agencies, NYCHA faces a serious financial shortfall during the coming year. From Fiscal Year 2001 through the proposed budget of 2004, the Authority has experienced an unprecedented overall reduction of \$222 million in funding. Basically, NYCHA has lost nearly 10% of its budget, 70% of which is used for the core mission of managing developments.

To cope with these reductions, the Authority has developed a series of initiatives to lower costs. The Resident Advisory Board provided valuable input on these issues. Among the measures NYCHA has undertaken, are the following:

- Reduction of overtime expenditures by 15%.
- A targeted hiring freeze at NYCHA’s central office. This will not affect personnel in the field who are responsible for providing core services at the developments.
- Suspension of the practice of keeping development management offices open on Wednesday nights. NYCHA will accommodate residents who must have evening appointments as needed.
- Curtailing all new vehicle purchases.
- An across-the-board, 10% reduction on all contracts and an 18% reduction in expenditures for materials and supplies.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE EXEMPTIONS SUMMARY

(Continued from page 1)

New York City Housing Authority

Summary of Exemptions From Community Service	
Categories	Exemptions
<i>Age</i>	1. Individuals who are below the age of 18. 2. Individuals who are 62 years of age or older.
<i>Disability</i>	3. Persons who are either blind or disabled and unable to perform community service or self-sufficiency activities. 4. The primary caretaker of a public housing resident who is exempt due to blindness or disability. 5. Pregnant women, where their physician certifies that participation in community service or self-sufficiency programs would cause serious injury to the health or life of the mother or child. 6. Recipients of assistance under the Supplementary Security Income (SSI) program.
<i>Welfare Work Programs</i>	7. Participants in the New York City Work Experience Program (WEP). 8. Welfare recipients who are exempt from performing work activities under any State welfare program, including a State welfare-to-work program.
<i>Welfare Assistance</i>	9. Members of a family receiving welfare assistance who have not been found to be in noncompliance with the program.
<i>Employment</i>	10. An individual who is employed at least 30 hours per week. 11. A single adult, with a child below the age of 13 in the household, who is employed for at least 20 hours per week. It may be good cause for a single parent with a child below the age of 13, who is unable to secure qualified and affordable childcare, not to participate in a work activity. 12. Two adults, with a child below age of 13 in the household, who are employed for a combination of 35 hours per week. The 35-hour figure is a total that may be divided in any manner between the two adults. 13. Persons who are engaged in job search, but not to exceed six weeks in any year. Receipt of unemployment benefits qualifies as job search. 14. Provision of childcare services to an adult public housing resident who is required to provide community service or participate in self-sufficiency programs. 15. Provision of childcare services to an adult public housing resident who is exempt from community service under categories 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.
<i>Education</i>	16. Persons who are engaged in vocational training, but not exceeding a maximum of 12 months. 17. Persons who are engaged in job readiness assistance (training preparing the individual for employment), but not exceeding six weeks in any year. The phrase <i>job readiness training</i> includes job-seeking skills, preparation of resumes or job applications, interviewing skills, participation in a job club and other activities that help the individual to secure competitive employment. 18. Persons who are engaged in on-the-job training. 19. Persons who are engaged in job skills training directly related to employment. In such instances, the individual is not currently employed, and employment is conditioned on successful completion of the job training course. 20. Persons who are engaged in education that is directly related to employment, where the individual has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency. 21. Persons who are in satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or higher educational school. 22. Persons who are in satisfactory attendance in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalency (GED), where the individual has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.

*Note: The reader is cautioned that this document is merely a “plain English” summary of the exemptions from Community Service the Authority will utilize in administering the program. A more precise and detailed explanation of the particular characteristics required of an individual seeking to qualify for one or more of the foregoing exemptions categories will be published by NYCHA with its issuance of formal procedures governing the program’s administration.*

## The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

(Continued from page 4)

**Prohibited as of October 23, 2002**

Darrell Braxton	Case 5035/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 168 Brabant Street, Mariners Harbor Houses, Staten Island.
Paris Bullock	Case 5157/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 218 Broad Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Rasheen Clyde Oliver	Case 5015/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 385 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Jose Calcano	Case 5142/02 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 228 East 115th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.
Jarette Jacobs	Case 5151/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1077 Castleton Avenue, West Brighton Houses, Staten Island.
Eric Little	Case 5156/02 formerly associated with the second floor of 60 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Lamont Weaver	Case 5225/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 130 Moore Street, Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.
Menelek Edwards	Case 5227/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 300 Wortman Avenue, Linden Houses, Brooklyn.
Jose Acevedo	Case 5232/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 360 Morris Avenue, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.
Gill Jamison	Case 5309/02 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 24-30 Seventh Avenue, Drew-Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.
Erika Peters	Case 5310/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 456 Beach 40th Street, Beach 41st Street Houses, Far Rockaway.
Jonathan Howell	Case 5318/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 40-25 College Point Blvd., Bland Houses, Flushing.
Khayman Murph	Case 5308/02 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 735 East 165th Street, Forest Houses, the Bronx.

**Prohibited as of October 30, 2002**

Terrance Harrison	Case 5427/02 formerly associated the first floor of 50-31 Newton Road, Woodside Houses, Woodside.
Cesar Masara	Case 5393/02 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 3565 Bivona Street, Boston Secor Houses, the Bronx.
Taishawn Ambrose	Case 5338/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 505 Columbia Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrell Polk	Case 5348/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1145 University Avenue, Highbridge Houses, the Bronx.

**Prohibited as of November 6, 2002**

Francisco Santiago	Case 5510/02 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 460 East 147th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.
Maria Perez	Case 5503/02 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 240 Madison Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.
Gregory Haskins	Case 5511/02 formerly associated with the first floor of 175-177 Alexander Avenue, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.
Malcolm Willis	Case 5546/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 3204 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights, the Bronx.
Eric Evans	Case 5115/02 formerly associated with the third floor of 2185 Second Avenue, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.

**Prohibited as of November 13, 2002**

Jermaine Waring	Case 5663/02 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 695 East 163rd Street, Forest Houses, the Bronx.
Timothy Rowe	Case 5684/02 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 95 Old Broadway, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.
Roy Morales	Case 5726 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 60 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan.

## Resident Advisory Board Retreat at Camp Mariah

By Allan Leicht

Thirty residents who were instrumental in developing NYCHA's Agency Plan for 2004 shared a unique weekend in the country from September 26th through the 28th. This was the second annual Resident Advisory Board (RAB) Retreat at Camp Mariah in the Hudson Highlands at Fishkill, New York. After a demanding investment of time and energy serving on the RAB over the course of the past year, the residents spent two days in team building workshops, leadership training, and discussions, balanced with a schedule of boating, fishing, arts, crafts, hiking, and games.

"They are very dedicated," said NYCHA Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence. "They put in many hours and take the work of the RAB very seriously. This is our way of thanking them."

The Resident Advisory Board includes residents of NYCHA developments and Section 8 leased housing, who provide advice and recommendations to NYCHA as the Housing Authority develops its Annual and Five-Year Plans, which are collectively known as the "Agency Plan." Required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Agency Plan sets out NYCHA's priorities and policies.

"Over the past five years during which this process has been required by the federal government, the RAB committees have matured to the point where compromise,



**RESIDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS AT LEISURE** at Camp Mariah on the Resident Advisory Board Retreat are, left to right, Rose Clifton of Howard Avenue Rehab in Brooklyn, Sylvia Cunningham of Markham Gardens in Staten Island, Loretta Masterson of Sackvern Houses in the Bronx, and Nikki Azure of Smith Houses in Manhattan and Elizabeth Stanton of Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island, both of whom are also COP Chairs representing their districts.

give-and-take, and group thinking have become second nature," said Deputy for Resident Relations Joyce Harrison. This was evident in the team spirit the residents brought with them, which also extended to the NYCHA executives who joined them. In addition to Mr. Spence and Ms. Harrison, they were Deputy General Manager for Operations Robert Podmore and Senior Director of Community Operations (now Assistant Deputy General Manager) Michelle Pinnock-Clerk.

"Staff came in jeans," said Nicoletta "Nikki" Azure, Resident Association President of Smith Houses and Manhattan South Chair of the Citywide Council of Presidents. "You forgot about 'Mr. Spence' and 'Mr. Podmore,' they became 'Hugh' and 'Bobby.' We were like family, all together. You forgot about 'Authority.' This was my first time," Ms. Azure added, "and I had a great time. We all had a great time from the workshops to the marshmallow roast."

## St. Mary's Park CC Opens

and Landscape staff who contributed to the success of the building.

NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello brought greetings from Chairman Hernandez and remarked on the center's programs. There was ample evidence of that programming in the computer stations, arts and crafts rooms, and the full calendar of activities, like Partners in Reading, posted throughout the center, which has been in use since April.

St. Mary's Park Houses is represented by two state assembly members, Carmen Arroyo and Michael Benjamin. Assembly Member Arroyo thanked NYCHA for bringing

the much-needed facility to the district. "It is great to see the money go to where it is really needed," Ms. Arroyo said. And Assembly Member Benjamin recalled his boyhood growing up across the street in John Adams Houses, where, he said, "I learned to feel good about myself. Now it is my good fortune to represent my neighborhood in the New York State Assembly. NYCHA and centers like this give people that leg up."

Bronx Borough Community Operations Director Deidra Gilliard served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Ms. Gilliard expressed her particular appreciation to her predecessor Ernesto

(Continued from page 1)

Lozano, under whose leadership the construction of St. Mary's Park Community Center was begun, to her Deputy Director John Hall, and to the Manager of St. Mary's Park Houses Carl Walton.

"Each of us must come to care about everyone else's children," said Ms. Gilliard, quoting educator Dr. Lilian Katz. "The good life for our own children can be secured only if it is also secured for all other people's children." With that, Ms. Gilliard sounded the spirit behind the St. Mary's Park Community Center, and the commitment of all who came to cut the ribbon of a little castle on a hill in the Bronx.

## NEW INTERCOMS FOR 24,000 NYCHA APARTMENTS

(Continued from page 3)

The transition to the new system may also affect Verizon high-speed connections used to transmit information via the Internet at high speeds. Residents who have such connections should consult their management offices to avoid any disruption in their high-speed service.