



**HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES** (Left to Right) City Council Members Daniel R. Garodnick and Melissa Mark Viverito, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Holmes Houses Resident Association President Sally Maldonado, Assembly Member Jonathan L. Bing and Council on the Environment of New York City Executive Director Marcel Van Ooyen cut the ribbon on a new greenmarket at NYCHA's Holmes Towers.

## Greenmarket at Holmes Towers

By Heidi Morales

RIPE, RED STRAWBERRIES, APPLES OF ALL KINDS, CRISP GREEN BEANS AND RHUBARB TO YOUR HEARTS DESIRE. This was just some of the fresh produce sold at the Greenmarket Kick-Off event on June 25th at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) John Haynes Holmes Towers on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

In an effort to bring affordable and fresh produce to underserved communities, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Council Member Daniel R. Garodnick (Council District 4) and NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, among other key organizers, announced the opening of the Holmes Towers Greenmarket along with nine other farmer's markets throughout the

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## STARS SHINE AT THE ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

By Deborah Williams

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) ANNUAL TALENT SHOW HAD A NEW TWIST THIS YEAR: "REALITY TV MADNESS." Staged as though it was a television production for "Channel 36," the 36th Annual Talent Show, held at Manhattan's Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) on June 25th, featured parodies of popular reality TV shows, interspersed with the resident performances. And the versatile Comedian Brooklyn Mike, whose real name is Mike Troy, was the host.

The program began with "NYCHA Idol," accompanied by almost the same degree of excitement as the real "American Idol." As Brooklyn Mike said, "We don't have Paula, Randy or Simon, but we do have songwriter, author and poet Eugene Kitt; actor and songwriter Danny Madden; actor Jesus Martinez; actor, singer and former Rockette Erika Vaughn; and director Jesse Wooden, Jr., here to judge the competition."

It's not easy to get up and perform even in front of a small group, let alone the crowd in FIT's enormous Haft Auditorium, but the NYCHA contestants pulled it off without a hitch.



**FIRST PLACE** The graceful LaGuardia Dancers from the Lower East Side won first place in the 55 and Up Age Category.

In the 6-12 Age Category, Tytiana Brown of Brooklyn's Gravesend Houses took first place for her rendition of "If It's Loving That You Want." The second-place prize went to the dance group Latino Kids of Brooklyn's Morris Houses and the third-place winners, also from

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**HONORING AN ICON** (Left to Right) Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito, Movie Place's Gary Dennis (partially hidden), Resident Association President St. Clair Clement, Lauren Bacall, Chairman Tino Hernandez and Stephen Bogart with the new street sign honoring the actor Humphrey Bogart. At right, the plaque NYCHA installed at the site of Bogart's former home.

## City Renames W. 103rd Street In Honor Of Humphrey Bogart's Childhood Home

DESPITE THE RAIN ON THE EARLY AFTERNOON OF JUNE 24TH, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) JOINED MOVIE-LEGEND LAUREN BACALL, HER SON STEPHEN BOGART, AND GARY DENNIS, WHO IS THE OWNER OF THE UPPER WEST SIDE VIDEO STORE MOVIE PLACE, FOR A STREET RENAMING CEREMONY ON WEST 103RD STREET IN HONOR OF ITS MOST FAMOUS RESIDENT AND MS. BACALL'S LATE HUSBAND, HUMPHREY DEFOREST BOGART. The ceremony included a plaque unveiling at 245 West 103rd Street, where the film icon, who starred in such classics as "Casablanca" and "The Maltese Falcon," lived from the time of his birth in 1899 until

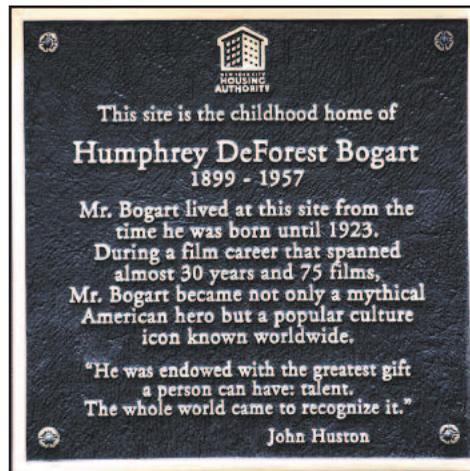
he was 23. The brownstone now on that site is part of NYCHA's Douglass Houses Rehab.

"It is an honor to be here with Ms. Bacall, a legend in her own

right," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "Once we were made aware of this request we worked diligently to install a plaque."

Also present were Records Commissioner Brian Anderson, City Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito, Assembly Member Daniel J. O'Donnell and Resident Association President St. Clair Clement.

The effort was initiated by Mr. Dennis, who said that he was thrilled with the City's response. The street's new secondary name between Broadway and West End Avenue is now "Humphrey Bogart Place."



**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**Setting Priorities in the City's Budget for Fiscal Year 2007**



CREATING JOBS AND OPPORTUNITY IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS AND CONTINUING FISCAL RESTRAINT AT CITY HALL — THAT'S THE RIGHT FORMULA FOR NEW YORK'S LONG-TERM STABILITY AND GROWTH. And it's the foundation of the \$52.9 billion budget agreement we worked out this summer with the City Council. It covers Fiscal Year 2007 — the 12-month period that began on July 1, 2006, and it funds key investments that will help make the nation's safest big city even

safer, enhance neighborhood quality of life, continue the historic turnaround of our public schools and fuel our growing economy. It also makes down payments now on big future costs.

The budget deal gives the go-ahead for putting 1,200 more police officers on our streets by next July: 800 newly hired officers and 400 officers re-assigned from desk jobs to patrol duty. We'll also keep our police officers safer by purchasing 18,000 new bulletproof vests over the next two fiscal years. These vests are designed to the NYPD's own exacting specifications. And we'll continue to build new police, fire and EMS stations throughout the City.

The budget agreement also green-lights major improvements to neighborhood quality of life. That includes developing Brooklyn Bridge Park, and a major new park at Fresh Kills on Staten Island, as well as continuing our ambitious \$200-million plus expansion and improvement of parks across the Bronx. Together with Council Speaker Christine Quinn, we're also locking in annual City funding both for five-day-a-week services at all our public libraries and for summer jobs for young people across our City.

The new budget also continues the City's largest-ever school construction program. It's a five-year, \$13 billion plan (and earlier this year, we persuaded the State to pay for half of it). We're on course to create 66,000 new classroom seats throughout the City, and build the labs, libraries, gyms and other facilities our youngsters need for a first-class education.

Better schools are essential to the City's economic future. So are the job-creating projects funded in the budget — projects like extending the Number 7 subway line, building the new East River Science Park, and redeveloping the Homeport on Staten Island. And the \$400 property tax rebate once again included in this year's budget will not only be good news to our hardworking homeowners; it will also support neighborhood businesses and jobs in all five boroughs.

As many New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents are aware, the City's budget for Fiscal Year 2007 also includes \$120 million for NYCHA, as it works to implement its "Plan to Preserve Public Housing." I was happy to be able to allocate this transitional funding to preserve one of New York City's most valuable resources: the 344 public housing developments which house 400,000 New Yorkers.

But we're not only making investments; we're also practicing rigorous financial responsibility. We're reducing long-term debt by funding some big projects on a "pay as you go" basis. And this year, we're adding \$1 billion to the \$1 billion we've already committed to our unprecedented trust fund to cover future costs of health benefits for retired City workers.

New Yorkers can be proud of the tremendous progress we've made over the past four-and-a-half years. We've come further faster than anyone ever thought possible. Now, by continuing to make sound investments and responsible decisions, we can lock in and build on everything we've achieved. That makes this new budget good news for all New Yorkers.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**Drew-Hamilton's Tavell Fox: Success Knows No Limits!**

By Heidi Morales

TAVELL FOX NEVER BACKS DOWN FROM A CHALLENGE. He is a determined young man who believes in facing obstacles head on. In fact, his motto is, "As long as I can say it I can do it!" And that's how he lives his life.

This 18-year-old Harlemit and resident of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Drew-Hamilton Houses has wisdom beyond his years. Like many young men his age—he wears his pants baggy, he sports the latest Nike Jordans, he loves to talk on the phone, is charming and has a killer smile. But what makes Tavell Fox "unique" is not his sense of humor or his academic achievements, which are many, not his chess-playing skills, which are superb, not even Cerebral Palsy—a condition he was diagnosed with when he was two years old. What makes Tavell stand out is his positive attitude and his desire to succeed.

Cerebral Palsy, also known as CP, is a condition caused by injury to the parts of the brain that control the ability to use the muscles and the body. "A lot of people in my situation get scared and don't know what to do but as soon as I was born and my family realized that I wasn't doing the normal things like walking when I turned one, they immediately took action," said Tavell. And thanks to this quick responsiveness his family was able to get Tavell the care he needed very early in his life.

"Being diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy—I just never let it stop me; it actually means nothing to me. I use it as an advantage and a motivator," Tavell said with a slight speech impediment and a grin from ear to ear.

Tavell has proven that he has never been defeated by his disability. He not only has a "can do" attitude, he does. He recently graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School and is getting ready to attend John Jay College of Criminal Justice in the fall.

Tavell graduated at the top of his class with a 94 average, and was the recipient of the CUNY-Vallone Scholarship—a monetary award to help pay for college.

Besides the unconditional and constant support of his family, Tavell has a special man in his life who has made it possible for him to receive a top rate education, Joseph Grano. Mr. Grano is Chairman and CEO of Centurion Holdings LLC, a financial advising company for private and public businesses, and the Chairman of the Homeland Security Advisory Council under the U. S. Department of Homeland Security. To put it in Tavell's words, he is "a man that is so nice."

When Tavell was in the sixth grade and attending P.S. 92, Mr. Grano was invited to be principal for the day and Tavell was chosen to escort him around the school. "At the end of the day we were talking about my life aspirations and I told him I wanted to be a lawyer because there are so many people in this world who are treated unfairly and I'm inspired to change that. He said, "You are a man of great courage. I want to help you pay for college."

Mr. Grano has been a great financial supporter of Tavell's ever since. In fact it was with Mr. Grano's help that Tavell was able to attend Catholic middle and high schools. "Mr. Grano paid for everything—uniforms, books, Christmas, whatever it was I did. He's been unbelievable," Tavell said.

It doesn't take much to feel inspired by Tavell. His words are purposeful and his character is incomparable. Perhaps this is the reason he has such a solid support system. "In school I have a whole lot of friends. They're always supportive; whatever I need they help me with. I have a great foundation. Everybody is always there, willing to help me."

However, not everything is pleasant for Tavell. Like all of us he encounters difficulties that perhaps are intensified because he uses a wheelchair. However, overall, Tavell is very independent and says that his daily tasks are no different than any other person's. "It may take me a little bit more time, so I have to plan ahead based around how quickly I do things."



**TAVELL FOX WITH HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND TROPHIES.**

Tavell shares his home life with his mother Laverne, his 13-year-old brother Bernard, his grandmother Shirley, who visits often and who is very protective of him, and an extended family that is very encouraging.

"Whatever I need, whether it's something small like cooking me a meal, or taking me around the world, I can just pick up the phone, call someone and they're always there at the drop of a hat. They're there and they show me love," Tavell said.

It's obvious that his relationship with his mother is one very dear to his heart. "My mother, she's my  
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**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

**NYCHA Board Adopts Budget and Annual Plan for Fiscal Year 2006**



I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ON JUNE 28TH, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) BOARD ADOPTED THE FINAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 AND THE AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2006, WHICH INCORPORATED SOME ASPECTS OF THE "PLAN TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HOUSING." As many of you are aware, this was the culmination of a process that included over 200 public meetings and a tremendous amount of input from NYCHA residents, advocates, elected officials and other stakeholders.

I am confident that by adopting this Plan, NYCHA is ensuring the future of public housing in New York City. The Plan is a testament to the hard work, thoroughness and dedication of NYCHA staff, as well as the diligence and responsiveness of residents.

Many of you are aware of the highlights of the Plan, which was designed to address a \$168 million budget deficit for 2006 and provide structural fiscal balance to the Authority. This deficit was created largely by flat federal funding that has not met the needs of rising operational expenses, which include maintaining units in 21,000 State- and City-built developments that no longer receive any subsidy.

Foremost among those I have to thank for their contributions to the Plan is Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, who has made affordable housing a priority of his Administration, and who recognizes how invaluable public housing is to maintaining the fabric of New York City. Not only did the Mayor spend hours in discussions with myself and others on the Plan, he made the unprecedented decision to provide \$100 million of funding to NYCHA as we work to put the elements of the Plan in place. I would also like to thank the City Council which, as I announced on the 28th, allocated an additional \$20 million to NYCHA. This money will allow NYCHA to provide Section-8 vouchers to an additional 3,000 people who are on the waiting list.

Briefly, the seven-points of the "Plan to Preserve Public Housing" are: the aforementioned \$100 million in transitional aid from the City, which has recently increased to \$120 million; achieving long-term structural balance by increasing rents for the 27% of NYCHA residents who are already at the ceiling rent and pay less than 30% of their incomes; the creation of a permanent funding stream to subsidize the operations of 8,400 non-federal apartments by transitioning them to the Section 8 program; an accelerated and comprehensive construction program to keep building infrastructure in good repair; efforts to improve the quality of service to residents through increased efficiency and strategic uses of technology; the diversification of NYCHA's revenue streams so as to create a cushion against potential future subsidy reductions; and aggressive efforts to push legislative and executive actions in Washington and Albany to generate new and expanded funding for low-income housing and to provide relief from burdensome regulations and unfunded mandates.

From the time I first announced the Plan, our goal at NYCHA has been to send a loud message that we are committed to preserving public housing. And although the day the Plan was approved was a great day for NYCHA, our work is not done. We must still await approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) before some of the key elements of the Plan can be put in place. Funding from Washington continues to be a challenge and could still have a significant impact on public housing in years to come. The "Plan to Preserve Public Housing" was created with you, the residents in mind. Please work with us as we continue to lead the great pioneering program of public housing into the 21st Century.

*Tino Hernandez*

**BOROUGH DIGEST**

**Brooklyn:** The Fourth Annual Citywide Chess Competition Award Ceremony was held on the evening of June 15, 2006 at the Williamsburg Community Center. Players competed in tournaments at 25 sites throughout the boroughs to choose the two teams that would represent their borough in the Citywide Competition. The Bronx's Bronxdale Community Center won First Place, and Manhattan's Seward Park and Jacob Riis Community Centers took Second and Third Place, respectively. The NYCHA Chess Program, which is open to youth between the ages of 9 and 12, begins again in October. Call Bafour Adjei at: (212) 306-3322 to find the participating Center nearest you.



**The Bronx:** On April 11, 2006, East 170th Street between Webster and Third Avenues was renamed Thelma Boyd Boulevard in honor of the late, long-time Morris Houses resident. Since moving to the development in 1963, Ms. Boyd worked for over 50 years to improve the lives of Bronx residents, primarily in Claremont Village. Among her accomplishments, Ms. Boyd was instrumental in obtaining health services for seniors at the Martin Luther King Health Clinic. As a member of the Claremont Village Board she advocated for the development of a youth center on East 168th Street, and for the state-owned Butler Houses to become authorized as a federal development, thereby increasing its subsidy. Ms. Boyd passed away in August 2005 at the age of 72.

*(Continued on page 5)*



**GOOD NEIGHBORS** NYCHA's newest Board Member Margarita López addresses the crown at NYCHA's Annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon.

**26th Annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon**

*By Eileen Elliott*

FOR THE 26TH YEAR IN A ROW THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) HELD A SPECIAL LUNCHEON TO THANK THE SENIOR VOLUNTEER RESIDENTS WHO WORK TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF THEIR ELDERLY AND NON-ELDERLY DISABLED NEIGHBORS ON A DAY-TO-DAY BASIS. This year's Annual Senior Volunteer Floor Captain Recognition Luncheon, once again held at the lavish Leonard's in Long Island, honored 863 senior volunteers from 53 senior and mixed population developments.

Special guests included NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member Margarita López and Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, as well as Social Services staff and development managers. Also in attendance were resident leaders Gerri Lamb, Connie Taylor, Rosia Wyche and Barbara G. Barber.

Department of Social Service Director Nora Reissig-Lazzaro welcomed the guests and served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the afternoon. "Senior Volunteer Floor Captains provide critical and support services for over 3,800 elderly residents," Ms. Reissig-Lazzaro began. "They serve as escorts to appointments, help with light shopping and alert

others if something is amiss. Just about every month we get a call about a neighbor who often needs medical help. You are our eyes and our ears. I want to thank you. You do it because of the spirit in your heart."

NYCHA's newest Board Member, Margarita López, brought greetings from the Chairman who was unable to attend. The Board Member emphasized that NYCHA owes a special debt to its seniors. "You are the generation that saw public housing being built brick by brick. You are part of a society that fought hard to create a better life. You, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and me all believe in a social contract: that if you contribute today, tomorrow we will take care of you."

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**Tavell Fox**

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everything; she's a very special woman... She chose to keep me and love me... that's a big thing," Tavell said with a shy grin on his face.

Tavell is enjoying his summer, playing chess, talking on the phone, going to the movies with friends and hanging out with his girlfriend of a year and a half. He is excited about his future and can't wait to start college. He said that besides his family, one thing is always a constant in his life — God — and he's thankful. "No matter what I do in life, I know that God made it possible."

*Tavell Fox's achievements are many. Here is a list of some of his triumphs: Coretta Scott King Award, Mr. Black History Award, Monroe Award for Academic Achievement, National Honor Society, New York State Attorney General's Award for Character, Courage and Community Concern, Father Sheehan Memorial Award for Religion, Principal's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, and the CUNY-Vallone Scholarship.*

## 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. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort 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 July 20 and 27, and August 3 and 10, 2005. **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

**REMEMBER,  
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON  
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL  
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA'S  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.**

### Prohibited as of July 20, 2005

Willie Miller Case 5153/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 81-03 Hammel Blvd., Hammel Houses, Queens.  
Christopher Alvarez Case 5247/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 751 East 161st Street, McKinley Houses, the Bronx.

### Prohibited as of July 27, 2005

Ajaron Beauford Case 5111/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 40 Paladino Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.  
Robert Daniels Case 5135/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 29 Warren Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.  
Romale Felder Case 4132/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1435 Harrod Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.  
Renee Reeder Case 5226/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Gardens, Brooklyn.  
Andre Ociedo Case 5254/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 456 Richmond Terrace, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.

### Prohibited as of August 3, 2005

Jonathan Joubert Case 5366/05 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 90 Baruch Drive, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.  
Rasheem Zeigler Case 5370/05 formerly associated with the twenty-first floor of 2698 Eighth Avenue, Drew-Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.  
Leslie Reese Case 5405/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 482 Marcy Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.  
Ryan Squires Case 5425/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 2977 Avenue W., Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn.  
Keith Squires  
Larry Duhon Case 5428/05 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 681 Courtlandt Avenue, Melrose Houses, the Bronx.  
Kwane Dower Case 5473/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 3042 Avenue V., Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn.  
Ato Parsons Case 5557/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 67-14 Parsons Blvd., Pomonok Houses, Queens.

### Prohibited as of August 10, 2005

Ernesto Trossi Case 5461/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 411 Lafayette Avenue, Lafayette Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.  
Ernesto Rivera  
Heriks Agosto-Ramos Case 5463/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 165 St. Ann's Avenue, Mill Brook Houses the Bronx.  
Samuel Velez  
Thomas Patterson Case 5505/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 520-522 East 156th Street, Bronxchester Houses, the Bronx.  
Dijenaro Williams Case 5722/05 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 100 Pitt Street, Gompers Houses, Manhattan.

## Senior Volunteer Luncheon

(Continued from page 3)

Ms. López then elaborated briefly on the four senior programs at NYCHA: The Senior Resident Advisor/Service Coordinator Program, which provides supportive services to elderly and non-elderly disabled residents in selected sites to help them maintain independent living; the Elderly Safe At Home Program, which provides comprehensive crime prevention services and crime victim assistance to elderly and non-elderly disabled residents in the South Bronx; the Senior Network Program, which is staffed by Department for the Aging workers who serve as Senior Advocates to assist elderly residents with social service referrals, entitlement assistance, crisis intervention and crime victim assistance; and the Congregate Housing Services Program at Saratoga Square Houses in Brooklyn, which is designed to meet the needs of the frail elderly or persons with disabilities who would otherwise be vulnerable to premature institutionalization.

After the awards were presented and the dessert plates cleared away, the seniors danced to the music of the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra. Leonard's was truly the perfect setting for the celebration, with its crystal chandeliers and mirrored walls reflecting the youthful hearts of those residents who represent the best of public housing.

## Greenmarket

(Continued from page 1)

summer within the five boroughs. Beside the food stands, the kick-off featured a health fair complete with tables offering educational materials on nutrition, health, diet and exercise.

"This new Greenmarket is a great thing for the tenants of the NYCHA facility and people all over the neighborhood. Farmer's markets are one way we can address the widespread epidemics of obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure by making healthy foods readily available within our communities," said Mayor Bloomberg.

The ten new markets will be open by summer's end and will operate through Thanksgiving weekend.

"This market will make available tasty, affordable and healthy food choices to Isaacs/Holmes residents on a regular basis, right outside their door," said Chairman Hernandez.

## West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority is in the process of treating all of the catch basins located in Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These applications will take place between June and October of 2006. The larvicides being used are:

Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category - "Caution"  
Bactimos Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category - "Caution"

Contact names and numbers for this application are:

New York City Housing Authority:  
Jamal Rashid, Coordinator - 718-707-5808  
Available from 8:30 am -4:30 pm  
Luis Ponce, Deputy Director - 718-707-5323  
Available from 9 am -5 pm

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2,  
Bureau of Pesticide Management - 718-482-4994

National Pesticide Telecommunications Network -  
1-800-858-PEST

Inquiries concerning symptoms of pesticide poisoning should be directed to the Poison Control Center - 1-800-222-1222.

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NYCHA residents and the surrounding community will be able to use senior coupons, WIC coupons and EBT cards at many of the markets for the purchase of fruits and vegetables. Greenmarket organizers also encourage the public to participate in the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene's Health Bucks Program, which distributes vouchers redeemable for the purchase of produce at farmer's markets.

The Holmes Towers Greenmarket opened for business on July 9, 2006. **For a list of other Greenmarket locations, log onto the Council on the Environment at [www.cenyc.org/site](http://www.cenyc.org/site)**

## CULINARY ARTS GRADUATION CEREMONY AT WILLIAMSBURG



**CHEFS A LA NYCHA** Chef Kate Wayler (left) with the first class of Culinary Arts graduates, posing with their chefs' hats and certificates.

By Deborah Williams

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) DEPARTMENT OF RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES (RES) HELD ITS FIRST CULINARY ARTS TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATION CEREMONY AT THE WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER ON JUNE 15, 2006. As Community Operations' Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence told the graduates, what makes this program particularly exciting is that, "NYCHA can assist the Culinary Arts Program graduates in establishing a catering service that will cater events at NYCHA Community Centers. Mr. Spence called the nine graduates, "pioneers," and said their success would serve as a model to launch similar programs throughout the five boroughs.

Other special guests at the ceremony included Board Member Margarita López, RES Director Sonia Torruella and City Council Member Diana Reyna.

Speaker after speaker encouraged the new chefs to become entrepreneurs and create their own businesses — not to be satisfied with just having a job. Board Member López said, "I am looking forward to one day being invited to your place of business for breakfast, lunch or dinner." She called the graduation a rite of passage and emphasized that "moving forward towards self-sufficiency is the name of the game." And Council Member Reyna pointed out that gentrification in New York City's neighborhoods is creating the need to "become more advanced in our communities by creating businesses of our own."

Amanda Hamlet of Brooklyn's Armstrong Houses was enthusiastic about the program. "I learned to cook international dishes like Spanish and French cuisine, and exotic wraps. I learned knife skills but more importantly, I have learned that cooking is an art and a science. I encourage anyone to take the course."

Although the graduates were thrilled to receive their chefs' hats and certificates, it seemed they were just as eager to have the audience taste the dishes they had

prepared for the event in the Community Center's sparkling kitchen. The sumptuous menu included: cheese tortellini, grilled chicken breast with fresh herbs, roasted turkey with cranberry-orange chutney, Mediterranean style tuna salad, and an assortment of wraps and quiches. More international dishes included Guianese peas and rice with coconut milk, baba ganoush, and Asian-style noodle salad with peanut sauce.

The six-week Culinary Arts Training Program was a joint initiative between the United Way, NYC Works, the Consortium for Worker Education and its Artisan Baking Center, and NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services. Funding for the program was provided through a grant from the New York City Council.

The experience was summed up best by resident and graduate Rebecca Fleming of Brooklyn's Marcy Houses. "I'm so happy today. I owe it all to RES and my teacher Chef Kate Wayler, who encouraged me and kept me afloat. This is the first thing that I have completed since the fifth grade and it's the best thing that has ever happened to me!"

NYCHA hopes to assist the residents obtain 501c(3) [non-profit tax exemption status] or a license agreement for catering.

## BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

**Manhattan:** The Harlem SummerStage Concert Series has taken over Thursday nights on the plaza at the Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. State Office Building on 125th Street. On July 6th, it was jazz and R&B with the Bill Saxton Quartet, NuQ-Leus and P.J. Morton; on July 13th, gospel by the Singletons and the NYCHA Senior Chorus; July 20th brought R&B with Shanice, The Untouchables and NYCHA's own Hip Hop Story; and Calypso was featured on the 27th with the Mighty Sparrow and the United Sounds Steel Band. The free Concert Series, which is sponsored by NYCHA, the Apollo Theater and the New York State Office of General Services, continues through September 7th on Thursday evenings from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. See page 6 for more on upcoming performances.

**Queens:** Longtime Queensbridge Houses Resident and former Resident Association President, the late Lillian Brown, was honored with the installation of a plaque on the bench where she loved to sit and chat with her neighbors in the development. The dedication, held on June 16th, was initiated by Assembly Member Catherine Nolan of the 37th Assembly District, for whom Ms. Brown worked. In addition to the Assembly Member, the brief ceremony was also attended by NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, Queens Borough Manager Michael Cornelius, Queensbridge Manager Antonia Caraballo and Resident Association President Nina Adams.



**Staten Island:** On June 29th the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) joined the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the Housing Development Corporation (HDC), City Council Member Michael McMahon and State Senator Diane Savino for a press conference at the nearby Richmond Terrace to announce the development team that will rebuild Markham Gardens in West Brighton.

(Continued on page 6)

## NYCHA'S TALENT SHOW

(Continued from page 1)



**Tytiana Brown**

Saundra Amayo of Manhattan's Straus Houses took the second-place prize with "To Sir With Love." The third-place winner was dancer Elaini Rodriguez of Manhattan's Baruch Houses.

"I love to perform and write my music. When I get the inspiration it just comes out. Performing makes me happy because I get to touch people's lives. This world has a lack of love and through music I can provide love," said rapper and first-place winner in the 19-54 Age Category Rasheem Richardson

of the Bronx's Mill Brook Houses. Singer Henry Watkins of Brooklyn's Albany Houses took second place with his rendition of "The Greatest Love." Singer Debra Rodriguez of Manhattan's Douglass Houses came in third with "Killing Me Softly."

The LaGuardia Dancers of Manhattan's LaGuardia Houses took first place with an Asian folk dance in the 55 and Up Age Category. James Dickson of Manhattan's Drew Hamilton Houses took second place for his dramatization of a conversation he had with his brother who died in the war. The Golden Girls — that is, Francis Braxton, Henrietta Bryant and Lois Credle of Brooklyn's Pink Houses — took third place for their skit based on the television sitcom.

In honor of Mel Edwards, who was Director of NYCHA's Talent Search Competition for 27 of its 36 years, the Mel Edwards Award is reserved for the special contestant who demonstrated the most initiative, enthusiasm, show biz spirit, and congeniality, and who wins the heart of the audience. This year's Mel Edwards Award was presented to Tytiana Brown, first-place winner in the 6-12 Age Category.



**Rasheem Richardson**

Each winner will receive either dance, acting or vocal lessons. The last program to "air" on Reality TV Madness Channel 36 was a surprise performance by Universal Motown Recording Artist, Elijah — the real Elijah! With the help of a young female assistant from the audience, Elijah rapped his way into the hearts of the audience. After the show was over he handed out autographed photos.

Musical accompaniment was provided by Bobby D. And The Family. Present at the Talent Show were Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence and Director of Citywide Programs Ernesto Lozano. In his opening remarks Mr. Spence told the audience they were in for a really great show and indeed it was!

Morris Houses, were the dancers Too Cute.

After each age group performed another Reality TV Madness program "aired," starting with "Dogg: The Bounty Hunter." "Dogg" captivated the audience. Additional programs on Channel 36 that afternoon were "Survivor — Then and Now," "Girlz Behaving Badly" and "So You Think You Can Dance."

In the 13-19 Age Category, first place went to a troupe of dancers whose performance stole the show—Dance Factory of Queensbridge Houses. Singer

Saundra Amayo of Manhattan's Straus Houses took the second-place prize with "To Sir With Love." The third-place winner was dancer Elaini Rodriguez of Manhattan's Baruch Houses.

"I love to perform and write my music. When I get the inspiration it just comes out. Performing makes me happy because I get to touch people's lives. This world has a lack of love and through music I can provide love," said rapper and first-place winner in the 19-54 Age Category Rasheem Richardson



**Dance Factory**

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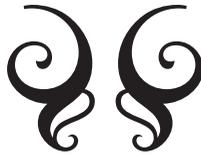
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**BOROUGH DIGEST**

*(Continued from page 5)*

The original buildings, completed in 1943 as temporary housing for World War II shipyard workers, will be replaced with \$60 million in new apartments and houses to be completed within the next two years. The Arker and Domain Companies have been selected to do the work, in conjunction with Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island. The new complex will include 240 apartments, 25 two-family houses and a recreation center. One hundred and fifty of the new apartments will be set aside for Section 8 voucher recipients referred by NYCHA.

In his remarks, Chairman Hernandez said, "The NYCHA residents who have lived in this neighborhood and made it a community over the years will have the opportunity to come back to a new and better Markham Gardens." At left: Council Member McMahon, Chairman Hernandez and HDC President Emily Youssouf.



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PJ MORTON
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THE SINGLETONS  
NYCHA SENIOR CHOIR
- July 20 - R&B  
SHANICE  
THE UNTOUCHABLES  
NYCHA HIP HOP STORY
- July 27 - Calypso  
MIGHTY SPARROW  
UNITED SOUNDS STEEL BAND
- August 3 - Tribute to Hal Jackson  
RAY GOODMAN & BROWN  
CHUCK JACKSON  
GQ  
THE PERSUADERS
- August 10 - Jazz/R&B  
JAZZ MOBILE  
THE GEORGE GEE ORCHESTRA  
AND THE JITTERBUG KIDS  
OMAR EDWARDS  
BOBBI HUMPHREY
- August 17 - Dance  
FAISON FIREHOUSE THEATER  
ENERGY IN THE MIDDLE  
UPTOWN DANCE ACADEMY
- August 24 - Gospel  
HEZEKIAH WALKER &  
THE LOVE FELLOWSHIP CHOIR  
GOSPEL FOR TEENS
- August 31 - R&B  
CARL THOMAS  
RASHEEDA WALLACE
- September 7 - Mixture of Music  
SELENO CLARK  
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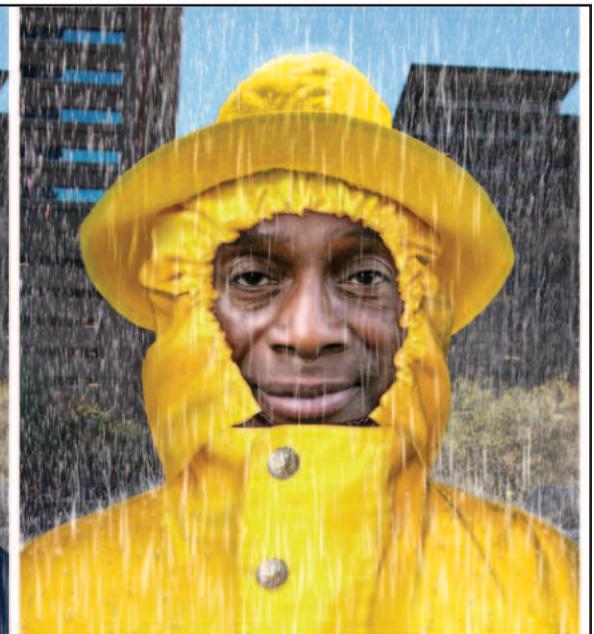
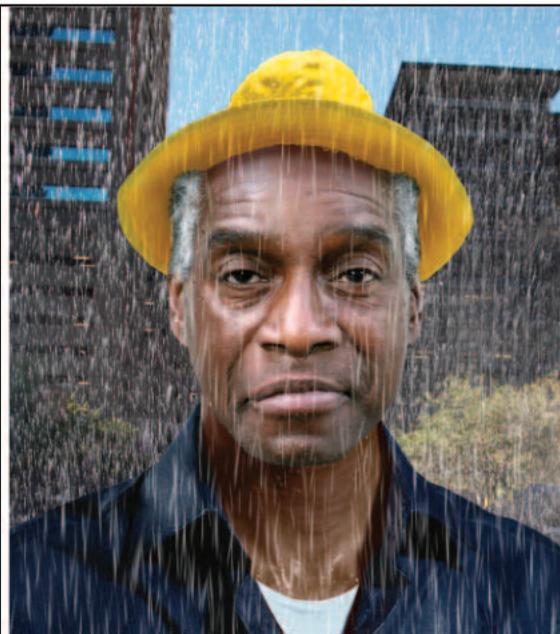
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