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JULY 2006

26th ANNUAL RESIDENT ART SHOW



THERE WERE NO FEWER THAN 250 WINNERS FROM A TOTAL OF 1,000 ENTRIES TO THIS YEAR'S RESIDENT ART SHOW. THE WORK WAS ON EXHIBIT FROM JUNE 7TH THROUGH THE 16TH AT THE RUTGERS COMMUNITY CENTER ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE. Winning seniors and adults from all boroughs collected their Excellence In Arts awards at the Opening Ceremony, which was held at the Center on June 7th. The younger award winners picked up their awards and prizes the

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15 Residents Prepared for Apprenticeships

By Allan Leicht

Fifteen newly certified and empowered young New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents were showered with diplomas, certificates, licenses, awards, applause, laughter, cheers and tears in the ceremonial room of NYCHA's Resident Employment Services in Brooklyn, on the after-

noon of May 19th. The graduates are now prepared for full-fledged union apprenticeships in the construction trades. They are the Minority Worker Training (MWT) Class of 2006.

Master of Ceremonies and MWT Program Coordinator David Meyers welcomed the graduates, their

families, and MWT faculty and Housing Authority officials, urging the graduates to build on their success. "You are on the frontier of a new initiative," Mr. Meyers said. "Be great. Be excellent."

MWT is a not-for-profit organization that is run by the Chicago-

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BUILDING FUTURES Minority Worker Training graduates shown here are (left to right, back row): Brandon Butts-Green, Courtland Coleman, Troy Riley, Troy Watson, Tenasha Chambers, Anthony Lashley, JaShawn Wiggins, Mitchell Martinez and Anthony Gonzalez. And in the front row (left to right): Pedro Rodriguez and Jorge Borges. Not shown are: Desmond Rivers, Robert Santana and Anthony Williams and Tarik Williams.

Public Hearing On the 'Plan To Preserve Public Housing'

By Eileen Elliott

MORE THAN 1,000 NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND ADVOCATES CAME TOGETHER IN THE HAMMERSTEIN BALLROOM OF THE MANHATTAN CENTER IN MIDTOWN FOR TWO-AND-HALF HOURS ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 8TH TO EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT NYCHA'S SEVEN-POINT "PLAN TO PRESERVE PUBLIC HOUSING (PPPH)." The areas of greatest concern were the proposed rent increase for the 27% of NYCHA households which pay ceiling rent (and on average pay less than 17% of their incomes in rent); NYCHA's plan to use Section 8 funding to subsidize operations for its unfunded City and State units; and the recent increases in fees for heavy duty appliances, charges for material and labor costs associated with repairing damages caused by residents, and parking fees.

The Public Hearing is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and is held annually to give residents the opportunity to comment on the Annual Plan, which covers the Housing Authority's major initiatives for the coming year. The Hearing this year was on the FY2007 Annual Plan, as well as the PPPH, the main points of which are included as an amendment to the FY2006 Annual Plan.

Traditionally, the Public Hearing has been the culmination of a process which includes five Town Hall meetings, one in each borough. This year, because of

the important issues covered in the PPPH, NYCHA staff also participated in 175 meetings with residents and other stakeholders to respond to questions and explain the Plan.

NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence served as moderator for the evening. Mr. Spence began by providing a short overview of the PPPH, noting that NYCHA has been facing recurring annual deficits because of federal funding that has not kept pace with increasing expenses, like energy and healthcare, and

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE CHARGES, FEES, AND POSSIBLE RENT INCREASE

IF HUD ACCEPTS THE AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL PLAN FOR FY2006, WHEN WILL THE NEW RENTS BECOME EFFECTIVE?

First, it is important to note that the proposed rent increase, if it is approved by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will affect only 27% of NYCHA residents—those residents who already pay ceiling rent. By definition this is less than the 30% limit. If HUD approves, the earliest any residents will see the new rent charge in their monthly bill is February 2007. If your rent has gone up recently, it is because of additional household income reported at your last quarterly review. PLEASE NOTE THAT WHENEVER THERE IS A CHANGE IN YOUR RENT, YOU WILL RECEIVE A LEASE ADDENDUM AND RENT NOTICE.

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

**\$28 Million Project Will
Bring Quality Market
And 200 Jobs To Red Hook**



THIS SPRING, I WAS JOINED BY SENATOR CHARLES E. SCHUMER, BOROUGH PRESIDENT MARTY MARKOWITZ AND FAIRWAY PRESIDENT HOWARD GLICKBERG TO CUT THE RIBBON ON THE NEW FAIRWAY MARKET ON THE FOUR-BLOCK LONG BEARD STREET PIER ON BROOKLYN'S WATERFRONT IN RED HOOK. The project, in what was a pre-Civil War coffee warehouse, includes a 52,000-square-foot food market, a 22,000-square-foot food preparation area on the second floor, parking for more than 300 cars, and waterfront landscaping including a half-mile path connecting the Beard Street Pier to Pier 41.

Fairway and the City's Department of Small Business Services (SBS) worked with the Fifth Avenue Committee — a not-for-profit that creates links to employment for residents of South Brooklyn — on community outreach to recruit, train and refer candidates for jobs at Fairway. Of the 300 potential new Fairway employees: 180 are from Brooklyn and about 110 are from Red Hook, including five of the store's assistant managers. Forty-two of the new employees live in New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments including Red Hook, Wyckoff, Gowanus, Albany and Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses. NYCHA residents should call the Resident Employment Services Hotline listed on page 9 for more on job opportunities and training.

Revitalizing our waterfront and connecting it to neighborhoods is one of our primary economic development goals, and there is no better example of what we can accomplish than what is underway along the Brooklyn Waterfront in Red Hook. Improving the quality of life also means improving the quality of housing, and NYCHA has been busy improving its massive Red Hook Houses I and II, which together have 2,879 apartments in 25 buildings. Red Hook I was completed in 1939 and Red Hook II in 1955. This \$45 million capital improvement project focuses on roof and building exterior repairs.

This area has a long history as a working waterfront, and I'm pleased the vast majority of new jobs at Fairway will be filled by Brooklyn residents, as is the case at the new Brooklyn Cruise Terminal on Pier 12. By promoting quality amenities like Fairway on previously City-owned land, creating a world-class waterfront park and placing job-intensive, maritime industrial companies on Piers 7 through 10, we are adding to Red Hook's increasing lure as a great place to live and work.

The new Fairway is not just for residents of Brooklyn. Manhattan residents will be able to travel to the new market by water on weekends when New York Water Taxi will run ferry service from Battery Park, World Financial Center, South Street Seaport and other Manhattan stops right to the dock outside the store. The seven-minute ride, which is partially subsidized by Fairway, will cost \$5 each way.

The new Fairway Market is joining a number of other projects that are bringing new life and jobs to the Brooklyn Waterfront. Last month, the Queen Mary 2 was the first ship to berth at the City's new \$56 million Brooklyn Cruise Terminal. North of the cruise terminal on Piers 1-6, the City and State are investing \$150 million to create Brooklyn Bridge Park, replacing obsolete piers with a vibrant public space and reconnecting the community to New York Harbor. To the South in Sunset Park, the City reached an agreement with Lafarge North America, in 2003, one of the world's largest cement distribution companies, to develop a new facility on the 25th Street Pier. In 2004, the City signed agreements with Sims Hugo Neu Company and the Axis Group to develop a marine-based recycling center and an automobile processing facility at the South Brooklyn Marine Terminal in Sunset Park. Combined with the Fairway development, these projects are bringing more than 920 jobs and more than \$330 million in public and private investment to the Brooklyn Waterfront.

Michael R. Bloomberg

ART SHOW

(Continued from page 1)

following day at a reception. Long-time Harborview Visual Arts Program Coordinator Wiley Lucero, who began the program, estimated that New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents created 10,000 works of art over the course of the year with the help and guidance of the Harborview artist/educators who held weekly workshops in 60 Community Centers across the city.

The work itself was spectacular, covering the walls of the gymnasium from floor to ceiling and extending down one of the hallways. There were watercolor, tempera, and acrylic paintings in bright, vibrant colors, photographs shot with digital cameras, prints created with computer graphics programs, sculptures made from papier-mâché and various other materials, including popsicle sticks, and mobiles of straws and seed pods.

In explaining why the Housing Authority has funded art programs for the past 26 years, Mr. Lucero used the incredible transformation of the gymnasium at Rutgers — from a gym to a museum — as an example, and said, "I believe you can do very simple things like this and change the world."

Department of Citywide Programs Director Ernesto Lozano served as Master of Ceremonies for the event, reminding the residents in the audience that it was being held in their honor. Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence thanked the NYCHA Board and General Manager, all of whom, he said, have always recognized the importance of and supported the Harborview Visual Arts Program. Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. seconded Mr. Spence's remarks. The Deputy General Manager then had the honor of introducing the Housing Authority's newest Board Member, "a child of the Lower East Side," as he described her, Margarita López.

With her characteristic passion, Ms. López noted that the first art ever discovered was painted on the walls of caves, and depicted hunting scenes. "It was about teaching generation to generation how to maintain society, to guarantee the existence of the species. When we embrace art we embrace life," she told the crowd, "and you are life."

Special thanks went out to Mr. Lucero along with Harborview Art Coordinators Josephine Gonzalez and Mildred Beltré. The event concluded with the magnificent songs of the NYCHA Senior Chorus, Voices Across the City, led by Carrie Jones.

**2006 Garden Competition
Garden & Greening Program**

FREE

- Flower & Vegetable Seeds in the Spring
- Gardening Technical Assistance
- Gardening Tip Sheets and Curriculums
- Spring Flowering Bulbs in the Fall



Open To All NYCHA Residents
COMMUNITY OPERATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE PROGRAMS
Entry Date: March 31, 2006 - July 7, 2006
for additional information, please call
(212) 306-3511

Three professional artists served as judges for the show. The works shown on page one, from left to right, are: "Tiger Mask," mixed media, by Tajanae Small in the 6-12 age group from the South Jamaica Community Center in Queens; "Africa," a tempera painting by Frank Ramos from the Sedgwick Senior Center in the Bronx; and an untitled water color painting by Britani Scott, in the 6-12 age group, from the Whitman Community Center in Brooklyn. Visit www.nyc.gov/nycha to view more art.

**The Housing Authority
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in New York City

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**The New York City Housing Authority
Has A Lot To Offer Young
Residents In July and August**

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) HAS A LOT TO OFFER YOUNG RESIDENTS DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST. There are many recreational and educational activities to help NYCHA youth make the most of the hottest summer months.

Recreational

Summer Camp is open to youth ages 6 to 12, beginning on July 5th and lasts through August 25th. Camp meets from 9AM to 5PM and is held at 111

NYCHA-operated Community Centers. Contact your Community Operations Borough Office to find a location near you. (See page 5 for the telephone numbers.)

Summer Camp brings with it the opportunity to participate in a host of activities, many of which are listed in the Education Through Sports Program Summer Schedule on page 6 of this *Journal*. Let me give you a little more detail about some of these events.

Among the special events hosted by the Education Through Sports Program, listed on page 6, is Education Through Sports Day, which is offered in all boroughs and is open to all NYCHA youth. It is a fun-filled day of free instructional clinics in soccer, lacrosse, flag football, martial arts, golf and other "non-traditional" sports. During the Citywide Carnival, which is also held in each borough, youth compete in traditional carnival-like games such as sack races and bean bag tosses. Youth who train in Track and Field at NYCHA Community Centers participate in borough-wide competitions during Track and Field Day that lead to the Citywide Olympics, which will be held on August 17th, at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan.

The Fishing Contest, which is open to NYCHA youth of all ages from all boroughs will be held on August 11th at Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island. Fishing poles and bait are provided along with trophies and prizes. And there's no need for guilt — all fish caught are also released. Kids Walk, a 5K walkathon to promote healthy living will be held on August 16th, also at Clove Lakes Park. The Softball League starts up on July 10th and runs through September 1st. Call any of the telephone numbers listed at the top of the Education Through Sports Summer Schedule on page 6 for more information.

The Police Athletic League (PAL), together with NYCHA, will turn regular streets into Play Streets at 40 developments for seven weeks this summer beginning on July 10th. The Play Street Program creates secure play areas located in streets or playgrounds around NYCHA facilities, with activities designed to be intellectually stimulating, build social skills and provide cultural enrichment.

Summer Food Service Program

If all of the summer fun makes your child or teen hungry, no need to worry. NYCHA begins its Summer Food Service Program which provides free nutritious breakfast, snacks and lunches, Monday through Friday, beginning July 6th and ending August 25th at 63 Community Centers. This program is available to residents 18 and under. See page 6 for details, or register by calling (212) 306-3358.

Educational Programs

Partners In Reading (PIR) is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, NYCHA and the Department of Education, currently serving approximately 2,500 children in the first, second and third grades at 78 NYCHA locations. The overall goal of the program is to improve the children's literacy skills through a combination of classroom instruction, homework help, individual tutoring, interactive projects and outreach to parents.

The PIR Summer Program will begin on July 10th. Contact the Department of Community Operations' Educational Services Unit at (212) 306-3358 if you are interested.

This article lists just some of what NYCHA has to offer this summer. For more information, visit the "Residents' Corner" on NYCHA's Web site at www.nyc.gov/nycha, contact your Community Center or call the numbers listed. Whatever you and/or your children do this summer, don't forget to stay safe and have fun.

Tino Hernandez

BOROUGH DIGEST

Brooklyn: On May 24th the Red Hook community came out to celebrate one of its "unsung heroes," Red Hook East Resident Association President Dorothy Shields. Ms. Shields has been Resident Association President at the development for an incredible 35 years! Among the many celebrants who crowded into the Police Athletic League's (PAL) Miccio Center on West 9th Street, were NYCHA's Brooklyn Borough Director Gloria Finkelman, Brooklyn Community Operations Director Wanda Gilliam, Red Hook Houses East Manager Boniface Ezeji, and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes. Ms. Shields received many proclamations commemorating her years of service to the residents of Red Hook, including one from Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz naming May 24th, "Ms. Dorothy Shields Day in the Borough of Brooklyn." Other highlights of the ceremony included songs and an original poem by the children of the center.

The Bronx: NYCHA is slated to receive \$225,000 of Community Development Block Grant funds through the City of New York, for use in its Elderly Safe at Home Program for seniors at seven developments in the South Bronx. The Program provides for crisis intervention and crime prevention services utilizing centralized networks of social workers, volunteers, resident patrol persons and paraprofessionals, to educate elderly and disabled residents about anti-crime tactics. The Program also provides comprehensive services to victims of crime. The objective is to enhance the quality of life for those residents, increase their ability to live independently, and make them less vulnerable to criminal offenders.

Manhattan: The Grand Street Settlement House on the Lower East Side celebrated 90 years of Senior Programs on May 20th. Among the speakers for the event were Manhattan Borough Administrators Rafael Rodriguez and Paul Christiani. Grand Street provides services primarily for residents of Baruch and Gompers Houses. In total, it assists approximately 1,000 seniors annually through a variety of programs. Grand Street's newest program for seniors is the Baruch Elders Services Team (BEST) Program, which began in 2003. BEST employs senior volunteers to conduct outreach to their homebound peers in the Baruch Houses.

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DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



College Tour—On April 16, 2006, NYCHA staff and 29 participants from 13 Bronx Community Centers boarded a bus that was headed for the Carolinas and an educational experience that not only provided a closer look at college life but inspired the participants to have new attitudes about attending college. It was Community Operations' Bronx Borough Administrator Christine Barnes

whose concern for the education of NYCHA youth prompted the idea of sponsoring a tour of out-of-state colleges. All anyone interested in the College Tour had to do was submit a 500 word essay and attend 11 workshops. Seventy-four essays were submitted and judged by Bronx Borough Community Operations Director Deidra Gilliard, Deputy Director Ilia Figueroa and Senior Program Manager Mario Hamblin.

The participants, all high school students from grades 9 – 12, began the trip with a visit to Orangeburg, South Carolina and South Carolina University. They were given information about the school, attended a question and answer session, and toured the campus. As a special treat they dined with Miss South Carolina State, who is a senior at the University.

The next day, the participants visited Johnson & Wales Culinary University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where they learned about culinary art and hotel management. "By the tour's end, not only did Johnson & Wales win everyone over with their PowerPoint presentation, the food sealed it," said Ms. Barnes.

The following day, the participants arrived at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, where they met youth from the New Jersey Housing Authority. The final stop on the tour was Saint Augustine's College, also located in Raleigh, North Carolina. It was here the participants learned how grants and ROTC benefits could make it possible to attend four years of college for free.

The essay requirement for the next cycle of college tours has been increased from 500 to 1000 words. Applicants must maintain a "C" average and each student involved must raise money. Ms. Barnes will begin recruiting during the end of August. The competition will be open to Bronx Community Center residents in grades 9 – 12 only.

"I feel the college tour was a great experience. I was highly impressed, but tired," Ms. Barnes said. "However, it felt good knowing I was able to make a difference in the participants' lives. You know one parent called me to tell me that her son had no direction in life and now he is so excited. Another parent stated that this trip is all she has heard about for the last couple of days." Out of the 29 participants, 12 have applied to colleges.

Congratulations to the 29 participants and also to you Ms. Barnes for making education a priority. To the participants, remember, the doors to colleges and universities are open to you — stay focused and committed to your goals and in four years you will be walking out of those doors with a college degree!

It's more than a birthday—They say age is nothing but a number but in this case that's not true because it's a big deal when you turn 100 years young, and that's exactly what Mrs. Alelia Stewart Murphy did on July 6, 2006. Alelia Stewart was born on July 6, 1906, in Grifton, North Carolina to Hattie and John Stewart. Leaving the love of her life, Fund Murphy, in North Carolina to complete college, Miss Stewart moved to New York City in 1926 to help her sister. However, the long distance romance was soon to end as Fund Murphy and Alelia Stewart were married on October 7, 1926. Out of the marriage she gave birth to two children, Fredrick Russell and Rose. Although her husband passed away in December of 1953, Mrs. Murphy said she has wonderful memories of him.

In 1963, Mrs. Murphy moved into Taft Houses and has been living there for the past 43 years. She was a member of the Tenant Association for five years. When I asked her what she attributes her longevity to, Mrs. Murphy replied, "All my life has been happy. I had no worries except for when someone dies, which is my greatest woe. It's something I experienced recently when my son Fredrick Russell died. Other than that my life has been good."

Mrs. Alelia Murphy is the proud grandmother of three and the great-grandmother of six. The family celebrated her 100th birthday at the famous Alhambra Ballroom in Harlem.

Wow! One-hundred years young. Who knows what the source of your longevity is, whether genes or eating the right food, but good living must be a part of it. Congratulations on your 100 years!

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 6, 13 and 20, 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 6, 2005

Joseph Metts	Case 5385/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1315 Amsterdam Avenue, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Anthony Peterson Carrel O'Garro	Case 4648/05 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 300 East 158th Street, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.
Davian Baker	Case 4933/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 2678 Linden Blvd., Pink Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of July 13, 2005

Bobby Mouzon	Case 4698/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1095 University Avenue, Highbridge Gardens, the Bronx.
Joie Rose	Case 9104/03 formerly associated with the twenty-second floor of 419 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.
Jorge Santiago	Case 4789/05 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 415 West 25th Street, Elliott Houses, Manhattan.
Marvin Bellamy	Case 4817/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 1611 Park Avenue, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
Charles Miller	Case 4880/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 2660 8th Avenue, Drew-Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.
Christopher Green	Case 4462/05 formerly associated with the eighteenth floor of 201 West 93rd Street, De Hostos Apartments, Manhattan.
Darren Holmes	Case 5065/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 123 Lorraine Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.
Carl Parker	Case 4650/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 3784 Tenth Avenue, Dyckman Houses, Manhattan.
Lamont Sneed	Case 5069/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 583 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of July 20, 2005

David Segarra	Case 2322/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 1830 Lexington Avenue, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
Shawn Terry	Case 4904/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 1147 229th Drive North, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Cahiem Harris	Case 1876/02 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1839 Lexington Avenue, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
Rensfield Jarvis	Case 660/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 1790 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.
Al Glover	Case 4836/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 264 10th Avenue, Elliott/Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.
Cedric Mosley	Case 4920/05 formerly associated with the 5909 Shore Parkway, Bayview Houses, Brooklyn.
Maria Oquendo	Case 5138/05 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 201 West 93rd Street, Wise Towers, Manhattan.

THREE PORT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES ARRESTED FOR DEFRAUDING NYCHA

On May 25th, New York City Department of Investigation (DOI) Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn and Inspector General of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) Robert E. Van Etten, announced the arrests of three PANYNJ employees who are New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents or recipients of Section 8 benefits administered by NYCHA.

Each employee was found, by way of a computer match of NYCHA tenant and PANYNJ employee records, to have concealed his/her PANYNJ income in order to fraudulently receive subsidized housing benefits from NYCHA. The arrests are a result of a DOI initiative to jointly work with other government entities to detect public employees illegally receiving housing benefits.

Bill Dewitt, Doreen Rose and Renee Taylor have each been charged with violating NYS Penal Law § 155.35, Grand Larceny in the 3rd degree, a Class D felony, and NYS Penal Law § 175.35, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the 1st degree, a Class E felony. Dewitt and Taylor also were charged with related crimes. If convicted, each defendant faces up to seven years in prison.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "DOI will continue to cooperate with other government entities, as we did here with the Port Authority, to stop costly abuses of public housing benefits and identify, arrest and prosecute public employees and others who steal."

Bill Dewitt, 35, a resident of a three-room apartment located on Andrews Avenue in the Bronx was found to have concealed from NYCHA his employment with the Port Authority while receiving Section 8 rent subsidies. Doreen Rose, 41, a resident of a five-room apartment at NYCHA's Wagner Houses in Harlem, allegedly concealed from NYCHA that she has been employed with the Port Authority since December 2000. Renee Taylor, 44, a resident of a four-bedroom apartment at NYCHA's Taft Houses, also in Harlem, failed to report her PANYNJ employment on yearly Affidavits of Income she filed with NYCHA for the years 1996 to 2004.

These arrests are part of an ongoing City-wide crackdown by DOI and New York area prosecutors that have resulted since 1995 in the arrest of 429 residents,

(Continued on page 5)

RECEIVING OR APPLYING FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE?

THINK ABOUT THIS... IS FRAUD WORTH IT?

Do You Realize...

If you commit fraud to obtain housing from NYCHA, you could be:

- **Evicted** from your apartment.
- **Required to repay** all overpaid rental assistance you received.
- **Arrested**, fined and/or imprisoned.
- **Prohibited** from receiving future assistance.

Do You Know...

You are committing fraud if you sign a form knowing that you provided false or misleading information.

The information you provide on a housing assistance application and/or Affidavit of Income **will** be checked. NYCHA **will** check the income and asset information you provide with other Federal, State, or local governments and with private agencies. **Certifying false information is fraud.**

So Be Careful!

When you fill out your application or Affidavit of Income for housing from NYCHA make sure your answers to the questions are accurate and honest. You **must** include:

All sources of income or changes in income you or any members of your household receive, such as, wages, bonuses, welfare payments, social security and veterans benefits, pensions, retirement, etc.

Any money you receive on behalf of your children, such as child support, public assistance income, social security for minors, etc.

All assets, such as bank accounts, savings bonds, certificates of deposit, stocks, real estate, etc., that are owned by you or any member of your household.

All income from assets, such as interest from savings and checking accounts, stock dividends, etc.

Any business you own or have an interest in.

The names of everyone in your household, including: adults or children, relatives and non-relatives, who are living with you and make up your household.

Ask Questions

If you do not understand something on the application or Affidavit of Income, always ask questions. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Watch Out for Housing Assistance Scams!

- Don't pay money to have someone fill out a housing assistance application and/or Affidavit of Income for you.
- Don't pay money to move up on a waiting list.
- Don't pay for anything that is not covered by your lease.
- Get a receipt for any money you pay.
- Get an explanation from your Housing Assistant if you do not understand why you are required to pay a specific fee or service charge.

Report Fraud

If you know of anyone who provided false information on a NYCHA housing assistance application or Affidavit of Income or if anyone tells you to provide false information, report that person to the NYCHA Office of Inspector General. **You can call NYCHA – Office of Inspector General (OIG) Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (212) 306-3355.** You can fax information to (212) 306-6484 or e-mail it to NYCHA_OIG@nycha.nyc.gov. You can write to the Office of the Inspector General at:

**NYCHA OIG
250 Broadway, Suite 2800
New York, NY 10007**

Barbecues and Picnics On NYCHA Grounds

Any resident interested in having a picnic or barbecue on NYCHA grounds must follow the procedures listed below.

First, NYCHA picnic areas are not available in all developments. Residents may use designated picnic and barbecue areas in those developments where they are available from May 1st to September 30th between the hours of 10 AM and 8 PM.

Authorization to use a picnic area must be obtained by the lessee from his or her Management Office by filling out the "Request to Use Picnic Area" form and submitting it to the Management Office at least 10 days in advance of the requested date. The Management Office must respond within two business days of receiving the request. Upon approval of the request, the requester will be issued a picnic area key on the day of the picnic, or on the business day before if the picnic is on a weekend or holiday, along with a copy of the request. The picnic area key must be returned the first business day after use.

The following regulations also apply:

- The resident must keep a copy of the "Request to Use Picnic Area" form available during the picnic to show to a police officer upon request;
- Only permanently installed charcoal grills may be used in the barbecue area;
- Open or campground fires are not permitted;
- The resident must make sure that the gates remain open when the picnic area is in use;
- The resident will be responsible for the conduct of all family members and guests, and for the supervision of minors;
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted;
- The resident must connect a garden hose to the water supply spigot or maintain a 16 quart pail of water within reach of the barbecue grill;
- Barbecue grills must be under the continuous care and direction of a person who is at least 18 years old from the time the fire is lit until it is extinguished;
- The resident must provide all necessary equipment to properly clean the picnic area and must clean the picnic area after each use, which includes disposing of all trash and extinguished charcoal in the proper receptacles (enclosed metal containers or drums).



HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance Program

Many New Yorkers want to buy a home but do not have enough money saved for the down payment. As part of Mayor Bloomberg's "New Housing Marketplace Plan," the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) has established the HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance program, which will provide qualified homebuyers with up to 6% of the purchase price of the home toward the down payment or closing costs on a new home.

To qualify for the loan, a prospective homebuyer must meet the following criteria:

- Be a first-time homebuyer;
- Complete a homebuyer education course taught by an HPD-approved counseling agency;
- Have their own savings to contribute to the down payment or closing costs;
- Meet program income eligibility requirements;
- Purchase a one-to-four family home, a condominium, or a cooperative for owner-occupancy in one of the five boroughs of New York City;
- Home purchased must be the homebuyer's principal residence for at least 10 years.

New York City Housing Authority residents interested in purchasing their first home may check the HPD website at www.nyc.org/hpd for the HomeFirst Down Payment Assistance Program to determine if they are eligible, or call 311.

BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

Queens: Queens is a winner when it comes to the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Annual Safety Awards. NYCHA gives these awards out each year to the Borough Management Office with the lowest employee injury rate for all developments in that borough, and to the individual developments that have the lowest number of employee injuries. An award was presented to Queens Borough Director Michael Cornelius on June 15th at NYCHA's Borough Management Office in Jamaica. Bland Houses and Latimer Gardens in Flushing were among the five developments throughout the City to also receive awards for being injury free. Awards are presented to all development staff from Managers, to Superintendents, to Housing Assistants, Caretakers and Maintenance Staff.

Staten Island: Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg kicked off the 2006 beach season on May 24th at Staten Island's South Beach. He was joined by Borough President James P. Molinaro, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe, and over 200 children from local public schools to announce the official opening of the City's seven beaches and 52 outdoor pools (which are free by the way) beginning May 27th through September 4th, from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Staten Island's beaches have benefitted from more than \$30 million in improvements over the past decade. There are three beaches in Staten Island: Midland Beach, South Beach and Wolfe's Pond Beach.

DEFRAUDING NYCHA

(Continued from page 4)

including 139 City, State and Federal employees, who were charged with stealing more than \$8.5 million in rent and welfare subsidies by hiding their income and assets from the City. So far, 333 cases have resulted in convictions and over \$4.7 million in restitution. Thus far in 2006 alone, 20 individuals have been arrested for illegally receiving approximately \$435,000 in government housing benefits.

These investigations were jointly conducted by NYCHA Inspector General Judith F. Abruzzo and members of her staff, and PANYNJ Inspector General Robert E. Van Etten and members of his staff, and Police Detectives John C. Noble and Danny DiPrimo. Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

The above article is a condensed version of a press release from New York City's Department of Investigation.

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	CITYWIDE CARNIVAL	TRACK & FIELD	SPORTS EDUCATION FIELD DAY	KIDS WALK WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16 AT CLOVE LAKES PARK SOFTBALL LEAGUE JULY: 10, 17, 24, 31 AUGUST: 7, 14, 18, 21, 23, 24, AND 28 - SEPTEMBER 1
BRONX	THURSDAY, JULY 20 AT CENTRAL PARK	WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 AT VAN CORTLANDT PK	TUESDAY, JULY 18 AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK	
BROOKLYN EAST	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 AT PROSPECT PARK	TUESDAY, JULY 25 AT RED HOOK PARK	TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 AT PROSPECT PARK	
BROOKLYN SOUTH/WEST	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 AT PROSPECT PARK	WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 AT RED HOOK PARK	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 AT PROSPECT PARK	
MANHATTAN	THURSDAY, JULY 20 AT CENTRAL PARK	THURSDAY, JULY 13 AT RIVERBANK STATE PARK	WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 AT CENTRAL PARK	
QUEENS	FRIDAY, AUGUST 4 AT BAISLEY PARK	THURSDAY, JULY 27 AT BAISLEY PARK	THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 AT BAISLEY PARK	
STATEN ISLAND	TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 AT CLOVE LAKES PARK	FRIDAY, JULY 28 AT CORPORAL THOMPSON PARK	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23 AT CLOVE LAKES PARK	
	FISHING CONTEST	FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 STATEN ISLAND FISHING CONTEST AT CLOVE LAKES PARK	CITYWIDE OLYMPICS	THURSDAY, AUGUST 17 AT RIVERBANK STATE PARK

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DEPARTMENT OF CITYWIDE PROGRAMS**

BRONX	BRONX Cont.	BROOKLYN	BROOKLYN Cont.	MANHATTAN	QUEENS
Boston Secor 3475 Bivonia Ave. Bronx NY 10475	Davidson (Union Ave) 819 E. 167th Street Bronx NY 10459	Belmont Sutter 616 Belmont Ave. Brooklyn NY 11207	Long Island Baptist 428 Sheffield Ave. Brooklyn NY 11207	Carver 1481 Madison Ave New York NY 10029	Carlton Manor 75-15 Beach Channel Rockaway NY 11692
Bronx River 5185 E. 174 Street Bronx NY 10472	Gun Hill Houses 3444 White Plains Rd Bronx NY 10467	Bushwick-Hylan 24 Humboldt Street Brooklyn NY 11206	Louis Armstrong 415 Lexington Avenue Brooklyn NY 11221	Dyckman 3784 10th Ave New York NY 10034	Beach 41st 433 Beach 40th Street Rockaway NY 11691
Webster/Morrisania 450 E. 169th Street Bronx NY 10466	Claremont Cons. I 1128 Findley Ave. Bronx NY 10455	Brooklyn I 106-09 Flatlands Brooklyn NY 11236	Marcus Garvey II. 10 Amboy Street Brooklyn NY 11212	George Washington 1955 2nd Ave New York NY 10029	Hammel 81-10 Rockaway Beach Blvd. Rockaway NY 11691
Edenwald II 1154 E. 229 Street Bronx NY 10466	Claremont Cons. II 1195 Clay Ave. Bronx NY 10456	Brownsville II 295 Osborne Street Brooklyn NY 11212	Park Rock I 1636 Park Place Brooklyn NY 11233	Douglass Houses 830 Columbus Ave New York NY 10025	Ravenswood 35-40 21 st Street Queens NY 11106
Eastchester 1216 Burke Ave. Bronx NY 10469	Mott Haven 340 Alexander Ave. Bronx NY 10454	Coney Island 3030 Surfside Ave Brooklyn NY 11224	Pink Houses I 1258 Loring Ave Brooklyn NY 11208	Johnson Houses 165 E. 112th Street New York NY 10029	South Jamaica II 159-07 159 Street Jamaica NY 11433
Forest I 980 Tinton Ave. Bronx NY 10456	Moore 535 Jackson Ave Bronx NY 10455	Cooper Park 275 Jackson Street Brooklyn NY 11211	Ralph Ave/Tapscott 1196 E. New York Ave. Brooklyn NY 11233	Taft I 65 E. 112th Street New York NY 10029	Queensbridge 4107 12th Street Long Island City, NY 11101
Mckinley 760 E. 163rd Street Bronx NY 10456	Pelham Parkway 975 Waring Ave. Bronx NY 10469	Fiorentino Plaza 2155 Pitkin Ave. Brooklyn NY 11207	Roosevelt 109 Lewis Avenue Brooklyn NY 11206	A. Phillip Randolph 251 W. 114th Street New York NY 10029	Woodside 50-19 Broadway Woodside NY 11377
Mitchel I 360 E. 137th Street Bronx NY 10454	Marble Hill 210 West 230 th Street Bronx NY 10463	Ingersoll 16 Fleet Walk Brooklyn NY 11201	Unity Plaza I. 580 Blake Ave. Brooklyn NY 11207	Wagner Houses V. 2370 1st Avenue New York NY 10035	<u>STATAN ISLAND</u> Stapleton 75 Hill Street Staten Island NY 10304
Morris I 1358 Washington Ave. Bronx NY 10456	Claremont Parkway 3820 Third Ave. Bronx NY 10457	Vernon Restored II 300 Vernon Avenue Brooklyn NY 11211	Tompkins I 65 Tompkins Ave. Brooklyn NY 11206	Fred Samuels I 2401 Adam Clayton Powell New York NY 10030	Richmond Terrace 121 Jersey Street Staten Island NY 10301
Morrisania Air Rights 3131 Park Ave. Bronx NY 10456	Highbridge Houses 125 West 166 th Street Bronx NY 10452	303 Vernon 303 Vernon Avenue Brooklyn NY 11211	Tompkins/Berry 442 Berry Street Brooklyn NY 11201		
Union Avenue 834 Eagle Ave. Bronx NY 10473	Andrew Jackson 285 Courtland Ave Bronx NY	Linden Houses 195 Cozine Ave. Brooklyn NY 11208			
Claremont I 1100 Teller Ave. Bronx NY 10456	Castle Hill 615 Castle Hill Ave Bronx NY 10473				



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15 Residents Prepared for Apprenticeships

(Continued from page 1)

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based Office of Applied Innovation (OAI), which collaborated with NYCHA on this program.

Emotions swelled as Program Manager Gregory Smith promised not to weep with pride over the achievements of the graduates. He then proceeded to choke up joyfully as he told them, "Never forget, nobody gave you anything, you earned everything."

NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Community Operations Hugh Spence noted the group's significance as, "The first seeds of success of a pre-apprenticeship program," as did Assistant Deputy Manager for Capital Projects Constantino Sagonas. Mr. Sagonas said that he looked forward to NYCHA resident apprentices working alongside union members on construction projects over the next few years. "This is a long-term opportunity," he told them.

NYCHA's Resident Employment Services (RES) Director Sonia Torruella commended the relationship between the Office of Applied Innovation (OAI) as NYCHA's partner, her own NYCHA staff and the graduates. "It is our responsibility," Ms. Torruella said, "to make sure NYCHA residents get access to these programs."

The MWT is made possible by a grant from The National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS). In addition to acquiring proficiency in industry-specific building trades, the graduates were awarded licenses in asbestos and lead abatement, and as hazardous waste handlers. Their State certificates in those areas of expertise were delivered from Albany that very morning.

Class Valedictorian Brandon Butts-Green and Salutatorian Pedro A. Rodriguez led the succes-

sion of remarks by the graduates. Mr. Butts-Green paid tribute to his mother, asking her to stand up in the audience, after he was awarded several prizes, including perfect attendance despite a two-hour daily commute from home in East New York, Brooklyn to the Melrose Community Center in the Bronx, where most MWT classes took place.

Each of the other graduates — Jorge Borges, Tenasha Chambers (applauded as the lone female graduate), Courtland Coleman, Anthony Gonzalez, Anthony Lashley, Mitchell Martinez, Troy Riley, Desmond Rivers, Robert Santana, Troy Watson, JaShawn Wiggins, Anthony Williams and Tarik Williams — were given individual awards for achievements ranging from overall excellence to carpentry, health and safety, and leadership.

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July 12, 3:00 PM	July 20, 10:00 AM	July 20, 3:00 PM	July 6, 9:30 AM	July 11, 6:00 PM	July 13, 9:30 AM
Yolanda Italian Rest. & Pizzeria	Charlie's Inn	Land & Sea Restaurant	Junior's Restaurant	Del Rio Diner	Tiffany Diner
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Public Hearing On the PPPH (Continued from page 1)

that this year the deficit reached \$168 million. He emphasized that the demolition of public housing in New York City is not an option, as it has been for other cities, nor can NYCHA afford to continue to use its cash reserves to cover deficits.

He then outlined the house rules to the audience, emphasizing that each speaker had three minutes to make his or her point.

Seated on the dais to hear the comments were NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member Margarita López, General Manager Douglas Apple, and Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe.

The Speakers

Residents, Resident Association leaders, advocates for Victims of Domestic Violence, and elected officials raised topics from the need for more federal and state funding for public housing, to the need for improved maintenance services and police protection.

The Housing Bureau Police Cadets were on hand to keep things running smoothly and tables were set up in the lobby with staff to provide information on Resident Employment Services, Social Services, the unsubsidized City- and State-built developments, Human Resources and Citywide Programs. There was also a table to register resident complaints and a special table with a "Rent Calculator" so that those residents who are among the 27% whose rents could increase if the Plan is approved could calculate estimates of their new rents.

Next Steps

After compiling the comments, NYCHA staff met once again with the 54-member Resident Advisory Board, a group of public housing and Section 8 residents, who work with NYCHA on the creation of the Annual Plan. The NYCHA Board then approved the Plan at the June 28th Board Meeting and forwarded it to HUD. HUD has 75 days to approve the Plan.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 1)

HOW CAN I FIND OUT HOW MUCH MY RENT WOULD INCREASE?

If you are among the 27% of residents who could be affected by the proposed rent increase and want to know the amount of your new rent, ask your Housing Assistant or visit NYCHA's Web site listed at the bottom of this article, and use the "Rent Calculator" link at the bottom of the article on the "Plan To Preserve Public Housing," or in the "What's New?" section of the "Residents' Corner." This will give you an estimate of the new rent.

WHEN DID THE NEW HEAVY-DUTY APPLIANCE SURCHARGE FEES AND INCREASES IN THE CHARGES OF MATERIALS AND LABOR FOR FIXING DAMAGES GO INTO EFFECT?

The new rates for appliance surcharge fees for the use of heavy duty appliances went into effect June 1, 2006 and were reflected in the June rent bill. The new charges for the costs of materials and labor for the repair of damages caused by residents also went into effect on June 1, 2006. THERE CONTINUES TO BE NO CHARGE FOR ROUTINE MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR.

WHEN DID THE NEW PARKING FEES GO INTO EFFECT?

The new parking fees went into effect on May 1, 2006. As yet, parking fees are not itemized on rent bills, but should be by the fall. For a complete list of the parking fees, visit NYCHA's Web site or check with your Management Office.

DOES MY MONTHLY RENT BILL ITEMIZE ADDITIONAL CHARGES?

The new utility fee for washing machines and charges for repair or replacement of damaged items are itemized on your monthly bill. NYCHA is in the process of revising the rent bills so that they will reflect all extra charges (air conditioners, freezers and dishwashers, and parking fees). This is expected to be completed in the fall. Please contact your Housing Assistant if you have any questions.

CHECK WITH YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, OR VISIT NYCHA'S WEB SITE AT NYC.GOV/NYCHA FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ALL CHARGES AND FEES.

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