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RESIDENTS IN THE LIMELIGHT AT THE 37TH TALENT SHOW!

BROADWAY, WATCH OUT! FOR THE 37TH YEAR IN A ROW, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) BEST SINGERS, MUSICIANS, DANCERS, ACTORS AND COMEDIANS CAME TOGETHER TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS AT THE ANNUAL TALENT SEARCH COMPETITION. This year's electrifying performances brought a crowd of family, friends and well-wishers to the auditorium of the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan on the afternoon of June 16th.

The contestants, 75 residents, all amateurs, performed in 17 separate acts that were judged by a panel of performing arts professionals. First-, second- and third-place winners were named in each of four age categories. See below for a list of the winners. As usual, the final awards presentation was filled with cheers

and tears of delight. Each winner will receive professional headshots; dance winners will receive studio lessons with the Mark Morris Dance company; singers and rappers will receive professional voice lessons; and actors received gift certificates to the Drama Book Store in Manhattan.

AGES 6-12		
First Place	No Name Necessary	Whitman Houses
Second Place	Lamar Hawkins	Redfern Houses
Third Place	Dancing Angels	St. Nicholas Houses
AGES 13-17		
First Place	Drama	Sheepshead Bay Houses
Second Place	EM Joffy	Boulevard Houses
Third Place	Divatude Ladies	Atlantic Terminal
AGES 18-54		
First Place	Word n' LQ	South Beach Houses
Second Place	Anthony Strickland	Ocean Bay Houses
Third Place	Dana Bland	Straus Houses
AGES 55 and Up		
First Place	Billie Elliot	Lincoln Houses
Second Place	Marion Sheppard	Soundview Houses
Third Place	Dove Dancers	Lincoln Houses



NO NAME NECESSARY took home first prize in the 6-12 age category. Here the young dancers from Walt Whitman Houses in Brooklyn pose for a brief shot before the show.

New Program Saves Money, Electricity and the Environment

By Eileen Elliott

SAVING MONEY AND ELECTRICITY WHILE REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF CARBON DIOXIDE RELEASED INTO THE AIR IS AS EASY AS CHANGING A LIGHT BULB! The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is doing just that with a new pilot program recently launched at Boulevard and Linden Houses in the New Lots section of Brooklyn. As part of the Con Edison Electricity Demand Reduction Program, 12,000 standard light bulbs in the developments' apartments, stairwells and stairways are being replaced with Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). You know, the spiral ones that look like this:



The new bulbs will cost NYCHA almost nothing — Con Ed is subsidizing the program — and benefit everyone. Most importantly, they will reduce the demand for electricity during the hottest summer months, when the need for electricity is greatest.

Eventually, the program will expand to cover 75 developments in the borough, and according to Public Energy Solutions Vice-President Jay Roemer, one of the contractors hired for the work, when that happens NYCHA will be responsible for reducing the amount of electricity used by an estimated 15,700,000 kilowatt hours per year. That's because a CFL uses only 18 watts of electricity
(Continued on page 7)

New Affordable Housing for Seniors in Crown Heights



ALL TOGETHER (left to right) Resident Mickey Lam, former City Council Member Una Clarke, resident Marjorie Aguilera, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple and Health and Hospital Corporation Board Member Josephine Bolus at the Kings County Senior Residence.

By Tischelle George

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS DOING ITS PART TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MAYOR'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING INITIATIVE WHILE ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF ONE OF ITS FASTEST GROWING POPULATIONS — SENIORS. NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, along with several other city, state and federal agency representatives, convened at the new Kings County Senior Residence in Crown Heights, Brooklyn on June 25th to celebrate its official opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

A collaborative, multi-pronged approach from various levels of government was required to bring the residence into being. "We looked at ways to get around our own bureaucracy, and now we have this beautiful development to show for it," said Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago, who was one of the guest speakers at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Many of the speakers paid homage to Council Member emeritus Una Clarke, who was also in attendance, for having the vision to foresee the need for residences where independent seniors could continue to live comfortably in their communities. Mr. Apple said one of the biggest challenges that NYCHA faces is finding ways to keep our senior residents thriving in their communities. Seniors, aged 62 and over listed as head of household, constitute a full 34.5

percent of NYCHA units.

NYCHA is playing an important role in this facility by providing project-based Section 8, vouchers for all 172 apartments in the residence, so that residents will only have to pay 30 percent of their income toward the rent. Also, if a resident decides to move to another location, NYCHA will maintain the Section 8 voucher for the apartment, as well as issue a voucher to the relocating resident to help them find affordable housing in another location of their choice. Residents were chosen by a lottery process.

Eliza Laing, who has been living in Kings County for a few months, said she is very pleased with her new home. "I like the privacy I have now, and the rooms are large enough," said Ms. Laing who used to live with her adult son in a studio apartment in Crown Heights.
(Continued on page 4)

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Help Conserve Electricity and Water During the Hottest Summer Months



THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OEM) ENCOURAGES NEW YORKERS TO TAKE STEPS TO KEEP SAFE AND COOL IN THE EXTREME HOT WEATHER. Remember to keep pets safe and cool, too. For New Yorkers who need relief from the heat, the City operates cooling centers throughout the five boroughs during heat waves; many are right on NYCHA property. Call 311 to find a cooling center near you. In the meantime, everyone can help keep the City running smoothly by conserving water and electricity. Here are a few conservation tips from the City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

Avoid Power Outages: Conserve Power

During periods of intense electrical usage, such as on hot, humid days, it is important to conserve as much energy as possible to avoid brownouts and other electrical disruptions. Here's how you can help conserve energy:

- Set your air conditioner thermostat no lower than 78 degrees; a 75-degree setting uses 18 percent more electricity and a 72-degree setting uses 39 percent more electricity. A 78-degree setting allows for sufficient cooling while still conserving electric power.
- Only use an air conditioner when you are home. If you want to cool your room down before you arrive home, set a timer to have it switch on no more than one-half hour before you arrive.
- Turn off all nonessential appliances.
- Turn off lights in unoccupied rooms.
- Only use appliances that have heavy electrical loads, such as dishwashers, early in the morning or very late at night.

While using less electricity might seem like an inconvenience, your cooperation will help to ensure that utilities can continue to provide uninterrupted electrical service.

Conserve Water

- Have any leaky faucets repaired and make sure taps are turned off tightly.
- Take short showers; only fill bathtubs halfway when taking a bath.
- Run dishwasher and washing machines only when they are full.
- Do not let water run while washing dishes, shaving or brushing your teeth.

Fire Hydrants

While it may be tempting to cool yourself off by opening a fire hydrant, open hydrants can lower local water pressure, hinder the efforts of firefighters, and endanger the lives of children who may be propelled into traffic by the force of the water. An open hydrant wastes 1,000 gallons of water per minute, overtaxes the sewer system and causes flooding of City streets.

- If you observe a running fire hydrant, please notify the City by calling 311 with its location.
- If you experience low or no water pressure, notify the City by calling 311.

"Spray caps" can be obtained from your local fire station and can be installed on any fire hydrant to produce a circular spray of cool water, reducing output to a safe level while still providing relief from the heat. To obtain a spray cap, visit your local firehouse. You must be 18 or older to obtain a spray cap.

For more information on keeping cool and conserving resources, visit OEM's website at nyc.gov/oem.

Michael R. Bloomberg

NYCHA Youth Chorus Kicks Off JVC Jazz Festival at Gracie Mansion

By Allan Leicht

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) YOUTH CHORUS TOOK CENTER STAGE AS HONOREES AT THE KICK-OFF OF THE JVC JAZZ FESTIVAL, HELD AT GRACIE MANSION THIS JUNE. Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, referring to himself as the "Deputy Mayor for Jazz," presided over the event, which featured the music of the Sonny Fortune Quartet and the New School Jazz Quartet. The JVC Jazz Festival-New York is recognized as one of the preeminent music festivals in the world, presenting audiences with the opportunity to hear the very best in jazz.

Each year JVC makes a donation to a City agency in appreciation for hosting the festival. This year, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez accepted a \$5,000 gift certificate from JVC Company of America Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer Craig Geiger on behalf of the Chorus. The certificate will be used to purchase audio and video equipment from JVC's catalogue. "The great equipment will be put to very good use," said the Chairman.

Also in attendance were NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and Board Member Margarita López.

Gifts from JVC include a 32-inch flat panel television screen, DVD video recorder, speakers, microphones and electronic accessories, all state of the art, all for the enhancement of the Chorus' Arts and Media Center, Practice Rooms and Multimedia Library.

The Chorus sang their thanks to JVC under the leadership of Chorus Director Larry Matthew and then went on to perform a song medley, giving the Gracie Mansion audience of 1,000 City employees, jazz lovers, sponsors and musicians, a taste of what has made the Chorus the pride of the Housing Authority since it was founded in 1997.

In addition to their performances at Gracie Mansion, the Chorus has also brought song to Mayor Bloomberg's Inauguration, Yankee Stadium, the Apollo Theater, Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, the Disney Epcot Center, and Radio City Music Hall.

There are currently 60 registered participants in the Youth Chorus, aged 12 to 19 years old, most of whom reside in NYCHA developments. Each Chorus member is required to pass a rigorous audition. Maintaining membership requires consistent attendance at rehearsals, pro-



UNITED IN SONG The NYCHA Youth Chorus with Director Larry Matthew, Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence and (right) Chairman Tino Hernandez and Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott.



DEPUTY MAYOR FOR JAZZ Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott served as master of ceremonies.



GIFT JVC Vice-President Craig Geiger presents gift certificate to Chairman Tino Hernandez

fessionalism, musicianship and academic excellence.

The Chorus' repertoire includes classical, jazz, Latin, gospel and pop selections. Vocal training, music theory, sight singing and ear training, performance prep and performance

technique are among the many components of the program.

"We are finally able to launch programs that have been on hold with materials for the music library, video archives, research and education," said Mr. Matthew.

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- Allan Leicht.....Staff Writer
- Deborah Williams.....Staff Writer
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Using New Technology to Provide the Best Possible Service to Residents



THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS LAUNCHED A SERIES OF INITIATIVES USING THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY SO THAT WE CAN PROVIDE THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO RESIDENTS. I'd like to take the opportunity in this month's column to highlight a few of them:

The Centralized Call Center

One of the Housing Authority's most wide-ranging innovations is our Centralized Call Center, or "CCC." As residents from Staten Island, Queens and Manhattan already know, the CCC allows you to call a single telephone number: (718)707-7771, to schedule maintenance or repair appointments, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Now we are completing 72% of scheduled work requests in less than five business days, and according to feedback from residents, the customer satisfaction rate is 98%. The CCC is scheduled to expand to Brooklyn and the Bronx by the end of this year.

Customer Relationship Initiative

NYCHA is about to embark on a comprehensive initiative that will expand the CCC and transform the way we serve residents. Our Customer Relationship Initiative will allow NYCHA staff to have computerized access to comprehensive resident information showing a resident's entire history, from first application to the most recent maintenance work completed, to the status of rent payments. This will allow staff to access the information needed to answer inquiries quickly and easily. We expect to implement the Customer Relationship Initiative by the end of 2009.

Smart Building Initiatives

NYCHA has also embarked on a set of "Smart Building" initiatives which take advantage of advanced technology to improve services and save money. A prime example is our award-winning Computerized Heating Automated System, known as "CHAS," which allows for the remote monitoring of NYCHA's 195 major central heating plants. CHAS also allows NYCHA heating plant technicians to be instantly notified of outages and other potentially disruptive conditions at these heating plants so that we can initiate a timely response. NYCHA residents reap the benefit of improved heating and domestic hot water service and reduced heating system downtimes. CHAS has already been implemented at 155 sites.

Remote Elevator Monitoring System

What CHAS does for heating technology our remote elevator monitoring system does for elevators. Once fully operational, this system will monitor the operation of NYCHA's 3,334 elevators with a wireless communication system that will alert supervisors of elevator outages. This will allow our elevator teams to respond more rapidly and reduce disruption times.

During these challenging financial times, NYCHA is working to find the best technology available to bring residents the best service we can. Keep an eye open for more on these and other exciting initiatives in future issues of your *NYCHA Journal*.

Tino Hernandez

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**August 23rd
Gospel**

**August 30th
Jazz & R&B**

**September 6th
Mixture of Music**

Raindate Fridays



DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Former After-School All-Stars (ASAS) Student Redeems Scholarship — Each year, St. John's University selects and awards 20 outstanding ASAS participants with a \$1,000 scholarship redeemable if the participant chooses to attend St. John's University upon completion of high school. ASAS of New York City (formerly Inner City Games) was created in 1997 and serves Housing

Authority youth between the ages of 7 and 13. Every summer, ASAS offers a two-month on-campus sports/educational camp at St. John's University's Queens campus and at CUNY's Manhattan campus, called "CampUs." Over 1,000 NYCHA youth from Community Centers Citywide participate each summer. A typical day at ASAS is divided into two educational components — half the day is devoted to literacy instruction, math instruction and computer technology, and the other half is spent at athletics and recreational activities. One scholarship winner was Shavone Williams, a member of Woodside Community Center in Queens. Now that Shavone has completed high school, she plans on attending St. John's University in the fall and will use her scholarship toward tuition. *Shavone has the honor of being the very first ASAS student to actually redeem her \$1,000 scholarship award. Shavone, congratulations on your graduation, acceptance into St. John's University, and on using your scholarship. You are a smart young lady and I expect you will do great at St. John's. Again, Congrats!*

NYCHA Youth Triumph at World Double Dutch Championships — When entering any competition you always hope to reach the top and take home the medal. The Hot Steppers of Stuyvesant Gardens Community Center in Brooklyn had that hope until they faced financial woes. After winning the State Competition on May 5, 2007, the Hot Steppers team — Imani Canteen, Eysis Elliott, Adriana Barnett and Iyana Jackson — merged with the Jammin' Jumpers, and both teams expected to board a bus bound for Sumter, South Carolina to compete in the World Championships, but the team lacked funding. "The girls desperately wanted a shot at the world championships, where kids from the U.S. and Japan compete, but funding was tight," wrote reporters Keren Dabush and Denise Romano in a *Daily News* article. Stuyvesant Gardens Community Center Director Vicky Lamb thought about holding a fund-raising event but knew that she could never raise the \$21,000 needed for the trip. Seeking funds from outside organizations, the Jammin' Jumpers received funding from The United Federation of Teachers and the Penny Harvest, "but that wasn't enough to get us there," said Betty Cooper, originally the Hot Steppers' coach. Miraculously, after a *Daily News* article ran telling of the Jammin' Jumpers plight, additional donations poured in from the City Council, local businesses, and residents from New York as well as neighboring cities. A local community organization provided funding for the uniforms but the greatest support came from the developer of Brooklyn's Atlantic Yards, Forest City Ratner, who graciously agreed to pay a whopping \$16,000 for transportation. "I feel like crying. I am just so happy. I had fun last year at the World Championships, but this year I know we are going to win," said 11-year-old Trudy Sharpe, one of the 20 members of the Jammin' Jumpers, in a statement to the *Daily News*. And win they did. The Jammin' Jumpers doubles team jumped into third place and the singles team landed in fifth place. What of the Hot Steppers? Well, they didn't win the World Championships but they were runners up, winning second place at World Championships in the sixth-grade doubles division. "I felt happy and I felt that we tried our best," said Imani Canteen, resident of Stuyvesant Gardens who was on the sixth-grade doubles team. "It was a thrill to go beyond the elimination round," she added in her statement to the *Daily News*. "This was a great achievement for the Hot Steppers. I started training the girls this year in April. Before that these girls had never competed and look what they have accomplished. I am so proud of them," said Ms. Cooper. *This is great! You girls did a fantastic job and deserve high praise. It gives me great pleasure to hear that the community came together to provide financial support. Congratulations Hot Steppers and Jammin' Jumpers!*

If you have good news you would like to share with your neighbors, drop me a few lines care of The NYCHA Journal/250 Broadway, 12th Floor/New York, New York 10007 or by fax at (212) 577-1358, or better yet, you can e-mail me at: williamd3@nycha.nyc.gov. Or hey, make it personal! Give me a call at (212) 306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it, but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.

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 March 29, and April 5 and 12, 2006. **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 March 29, 2006

Benicia Loyata Diaz	Case 9118/04 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 530 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.
Duwon Braithwaite	Case 1265/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 80 Dwight Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.
Ikim Brown	Case 945/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 117 North Oxford Walk, Whitman Houses, Brooklyn.
Trent Cook Bernard Cook	Case 1763/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 927 Dekalb Avenue, Roosevelt Houses, Brooklyn.
Lemmel Myers	Case 1762/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 104 Tapscott Street, Tapscott/Reid Houses, Brooklyn.
Nyjah Anthony	Case 1777/06 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 1373 Washington Avenue, Morris Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of April 5, 2006

Richard Martinez	Case 6717/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 311 Osborn Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
Reinaldo Crespo	Case 9581/03 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 765 Courtlandt Avenue, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.
Donnie Wright	Case 1829/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 40-07 Vernon Boulevard, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City.
Vaughn Armour	Case 1846/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 177 Nagle Avenue, Dyckman Houses, Manhattan.
Lorenzo Dixon	Case 6429/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 629 Kingsborough 6th Walk, Kingsborough Houses, Brooklyn.
Jason Cosme	Case 1881/06 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 869 Flushing Avenue, Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.
Terrance Burnett	Case 1924/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 333 Georgia Avenue, Unity Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of April 12, 2006

Devon Bryan	Case 472/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1430 Redfern Avenue, Redfern Houses, Far Rockaway.
Desi Stewart	Case 1973/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 328 East 145th Street, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.
Germaine Selby Tyreese Selby	Case 2964/02 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 428 Sheffield Avenue, Long Island Baptist Houses, Brooklyn.
Rosa Agosto Lusi Agosto	Case 2002/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 85-02 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Hammel Houses/Carlton Manor, Rockaway Beach.

Family Bodega Site Opens at Brooklyn's Unity Plaza



OPENING DAY (left to right) Office Manager Sonia Albarran, Family Services Coordinator Carmen Roman-Medina, and Family Bodega Case Managers Rafaela Santos and Chaquanna Vasquez at the Unity Plaza opening in East New York.

By Allan Leicht

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) WELCOMED FAMILY BODEGA TO UNITY PLAZA HOUSES ON MONDAY MORNING, JUNE 11TH, IN CEREMONIES UNDER A BIG WHITE TENT AT THE CORNER OF BLAKE AND WILLIAMS AVENUES IN THE EAST NEW YORK SECTION OF BROOKLYN. A service of the national nonprofit organization Family Justice, Family Bodega will provide support and counseling to the families of East New York and Brownsville. Family Justice is based in New York and works in diverse settings across the country, tapping the strengths of families, government, and communities to break cycles of involvement in the criminal justice system.

"This is a day of celebration," said Family Justice Founder and Executive Director Carol Shapiro to a gathering of over 200, "and it would not be possible without NYCHA's leadership in recognizing the value of engaging and supporting families that face severe challenges and risks." Given Family Justice's rich history of partnering with the Housing Authority, with law enforcement, and with families and the community, together we will chart a different course."

Ms. Shapiro was referring to the success since 1996 of this supportive approach at Family Justice's first center, La Bodega de la Familia on the Lower East Side, which has resulted in decreased drug use and arrest rates, as well as the improved overall well-being among participating families. La Bodega also has a satellite location at NYCHA's Jacob Riis Houses.

NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. brought greetings from Chairman Tino Hernandez and paid tribute to Ms. Shapiro, noting how difficult it is to start something new. Mr. Andrews went

on to express the Housing Authority's commitment to social services despite financial constraints.

"Family Bodega at Unity Plaza will be a valuable resource for NYCHA residents who are in need of the family-focused supportive services Family Justice provides," Mr. Andrews said. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to once again be partners with them and work to secure the health, safety, and advancement of our residents and the general community."

Family Bodega Program Manager Jenn Batterton served as mistress of ceremonies for the program and described the Family Bodega mission of providing family case management and walk-in referrals to area residents who face a range of complicated challenges, including involvement in the criminal justice system or risk of such involvement, unemployment, addiction, HIV/AIDS, and mental illness. Ms. Batterton also expressed special appreciation for the collaboration of Unity Plaza Resident Association President Cynthia Whitacker and to Intermediate School 328 Principal

Douglas Avila. The students of nearby PS/IS 328 created a colorful, dramatic mural for the front gate of the sparkling new offices of Family Bodega.

The grand opening of Family Bodega was a reunion of sorts for Carol Shapiro and NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, who had worked together before in New York City government. Mr. Apple observed that Ms. Shapiro "always had a vision" and that NYCHA was proud to share that vision. The General Manager also thanked NYCHA Director of Social Services Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, who is the key liaison between the Authority and Family Bodega. Family Bodega is located at 340-A Williams Avenue in East New York, telephone: (718)342-2650.

Senior Housing

(Continued from page 1)

She said she also enjoys the friendships she's developing with the other residents and staff.

The development has on-site staff who help with housekeeping and organize recreational activities. The location of the new senior residence, which is in between the Susan McKinney Nursing Home and Kings County Hospital Center, adds peace of mind to residents and their families alike should the need for medical assistance arise.

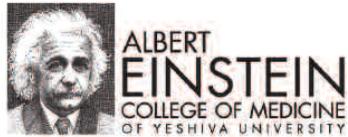


KINGS COUNTY SENIOR RESIDENCE in Crown Heights, Brooklyn had its Grand Opening in June. Residents of the facility's 172 apartments hold Section 8 vouchers.

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SENIOR NEWS



AVOID THE WEST NILE VIRUS

The West Nile Virus is spread to people by infected mosquitoes. In people older than 50, it can cause serious or fatal illness. To avoid West Nile Virus, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks. Also, use an insect repellent with DEET. If you have questions call 311 and ask for information on West Nile Virus.

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Family Health Plus, Medicaid and Child Health Plus are New York State-sponsored programs. For general information about Medicaid and Family Health Plus, please call New York Medicaid CHOICE at 1-800-505-5678.



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New Program Saves Money, Electricity and the Environment

(Continued from page 1)

to provide the same amount of light as a conventional bulb using 100 watts.

Boulevard Houses Resident Association President Inez Rodriguez said the resident response to the program at her development was overwhelmingly positive, when it was introduced at a Resident Association meeting. "People said, 'Come out, please! We want to do this.' So, far, no complaints," Ms. Inez said. (At the time we spoke to her, 80% of the bulbs in the development had been replaced.) "Everything worked out beautiful."

In addition to saving electricity, the program also reduces the amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, that is released into the environment. Greenhouse gases are largely believed to be responsible for global warming. The Linden/Boulevard project alone will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 366,000 pounds a year.

NYCHA Board Member Margarita López is an enthusiastic supporter. "The Mayor has been very clear about what we want to do with regard to saving the planet," said Ms. López. "When the Mayor put out his plan to reduce greenhouse gases, as part of PlaNYC, that was the single most incredible thing he's done. It's up to us to support him. It's up to us to make this planet safe."

Synester Goulbourne, a 73-year-old resident of Boulevard, who had just had her bulbs replaced that morning, said she was more than happy to participate for three reasons: "It's energy efficient, the bulbs last a year-and-a-half; and I can call NYCHA to replace the bulbs when they burn out." She added, "I saw Al Gore's movie and I've been watching the Mayor. I know that we're turning

everything green."

The bulbs are guaranteed to last for 8,000 to 10,000 hours, which is twice as long as conventional light bulbs.

And there's one more added benefit. The contractors are hiring up to 20 residents to do the work of replacing the bulbs in 75 Brooklyn developments. If you are interested, please call: Jay Roemer at Public Energy Solutions, toll-free at: (866) 818-1900.



WATTS UP? Boulevard Houses Resident Synester Goulbourne (seated) said she was happy to participate in the new light bulb replacement program. She is shown here with Board Member Margarita López who is a strong supporter of all things green.



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