

## RESIDENTS RALLY IN ALBANY TO RESTORE STATE FUNDING

By Eileen Elliott

CONCERN OVER THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) BUDGET SHORTFALL, CURRENTLY ESTIMATED AT \$195 MILLION, LED RESIDENTS AND ADVOCACY GROUPS TO MARCH ON THE STATE CAPITOL IN ALBANY ON MARCH 18TH TO DEMAND THAT THE STATE GIVE ITS FAIR SHARE OF FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HOUSING. Although NYCHA's structural budget deficit can largely be attributed to chronic underfunding by the Federal government, there are 21 State- and City-built developments in NYCHA's portfolio for which the Housing Authority receives no operating subsidy from any government source. Collectively, it costs NYCHA \$93 million a year to run these developments.

More than 1,000 public housing residents from all five boroughs boarded buses in the early hours of the morning for the two-plus hour trip to the Capitol. Wearing their signature day-glo orange hats with the slogan, "United We Stand, Divided We're Homeless," the coalition held a noon rally on the Capitol steps before meeting individually with elected officials.

Those officials included State Senators Liz Krueger, Diane Savino, and Andrew Lanza, Assembly Members Vito Lopez, Keith Wright, Aurelia Greene, Cathy Nolan, Brian Kavanagh, and Darryl Towns, and staff for Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senator Malcolm Smith.

Specifically, the residents and advocates requested that the State provide operating funds for NYCHA's 15 State-built developments.

"Residents recognize that they have a responsibility for preserving and maintaining their homes. They are not asking the State for a handout; they are demanding accountability from their elected officials to get what they are rightfully owed," said NYCHA Board Member Margarita López. "The overwhelming majority of people who live in public housing are the workers who keep the engine of this City going. They deserve to be able to live here."

Participating groups included NYCHA's Citywide Council of Presidents, The Resident Alliance, GOLES (Good Old Lower East Side), PHROLES (Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side), Community Voices Heard, and DC37 and the Teamsters Union.

Last year, NYCHA received \$3.4 million in the State budget for its State-built developments. This was the first allocation of

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**UNITED WE STAND** Public housing residents and advocates from all boroughs gathered in Albany to demand that the State provide funding for public housing. A noon-time rally was followed by meetings with members of the Senate and Assembly.



**A MODEL CENTER** DFTA Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago, City Council Member James Vacca, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr., former City Council Member Madeline Provenzano, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, RAIN Founder Beatrice Castiglia, Senator Rubén Diaz, civic leader Elias Karmon, Center Director Rosemary Durso, Assembly Member Naomi Rivera, NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, and Assistant Deputy General Manager for Capital Yianna Pavlacos, join together to cut the ribbon at the RAIN Senior Center in the Bronx, at right.



## Grand Opening for Renovated RAIN Boston Road Senior Center in the Bronx

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY JOINED THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE PELHAM PARKWAY SECTION OF THE BRONX ON FEBRUARY 19TH TO OFFICIALLY OPEN THE RAIN BOSTON ROAD SENIOR CENTER WITH A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY. With seniors our fastest growing population, we have kept in mind the specialized needs that they have and how best to serve those needs," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. "This is a great day for the Bronx, a great day for Boston Road, a great day for RAIN."

Gathered together in the Madeline Provenzano multi-purpose room, speaker after speaker referred to the center, which is now 3,950 square feet larger, as a model for senior centers across the City.

"We see our seniors as a vital part of the community, not people who retire from work retire from life. Centers like this give seniors tools to live vibrant lives," said DFTA Commissioner Edwin Méndez-Santiago.

"So many hands made this happen," said Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion. "We need to do this over and over again, with NYCHA, with DFTA, all over the City."

Former City Council Member Madeline Provenzano secured \$2.1 million for the center when she was on the Council, and Council Member James Vacca helped to keep the momentum going.

Council Member Vacca also thanked everyone involved, and

spoke about upcoming classes on the Internet and e-mail for the seniors. "The future is the Internet, technology and centers like these," he said.

Approximately 150 seniors use the facility each day, participating in activities such as Tai Chi, aerobics, and karaoke. The Center also provides hot, kosher meals.

Established in 1964, the nonprofit organization RAIN, which stands for Regional Aid for

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APPLY NOW FOR THE SUMMER  
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM!

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**Some Helpful Information  
For Tax Season**



AS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN SAID, THERE ARE ONLY TWO CERTAINTIES IN THIS WORLD, DEATH AND TAXES. Well, it's that time of the year again. April is tax season, so I'm using my column this month to provide some helpful tax information, mostly from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). The most important tip is this: educate yourself before filing and remember you **MUST** file your taxes to receive any of the tax credits described below. Don't forget to file by April 15th!

**The Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Care Tax Credit**

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) returns Federal, State, and New York City tax dollars to qualifying families and individuals to help cover basic expenses. Working families earning less than \$40,000 a year could be eligible for as much as \$6,000. Single individuals earning less than \$20,000 may also qualify for the EITC. In order to claim the EITC, eligible taxpayers must have earned income and must file a tax return. Please note: Only taxpayers with a valid Social Security Number can claim the EITC. Individuals with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) are not eligible to claim the EITC. See page 7 of this *Journal* for more on the EITC.

Under the new City Child Care Tax Credit, signed into law last August, families making less than \$30,000 a year can get up to \$1,733 toward health care for children under the age of four. The credit is designed to help low-income or underemployed families with the cost of childcare for children who are under the age of four.

Visit DCA's website at [www.nyc.gov/consumers](http://www.nyc.gov/consumers) or call 311 for more information.

**Tax Preparation Services**

The New York City EITC Coalition offers free and low-cost tax preparation services for New Yorkers who qualify for the EITC. Call 311 to find the site nearest to you. If you do not qualify for the free tax service and plan to hire a tax preparation service, know your rights first. Tax preparers are required by law to give each customer a free, current, and legible copy of the "Consumer Bill of Rights Regarding Tax Preparers" before any discussions with a consumer. You can download a copy of the **Taxpayer's Bill of Rights in English, Spanish, Bengali, Chinese and Russian from DCA's Website** at: [www.nyc.gov/consumers](http://www.nyc.gov/consumers) or call 311.

**Beware of Refund Anticipation Loans**

Beware of Refund Anticipation Loans (RALs). RALs, which are often marketed as "instant" refunds or "24-hour" refunds, are actually high interest-bearing loans that consumers must pay back—a fact that is often never disclosed by many income tax preparers. These loans, though not illegal, can significantly decrease one's expected refund because of their steep fees and interest rates. Businesses which offer RALs prey on the consumers who are most in need of getting their full refunds.

**The Federal Economic Stimulus Payment**

Did you receive Social Security benefits, disability compensation, or pension or survivors' benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs last year? Even if you are not otherwise required to file a tax return, you may still be entitled to an economic stimulus payment from the Federal government—**BUT YOU MUST FILE A TAX RETURN**. You could receive a payment of \$300 for individuals or \$600 if you are married and file a joint tax return with your spouse. Eligible taxpayers who qualify for a payment may receive an additional \$300 for each qualifying child. To qualify a child must be under age 17 as of December 31, 2007. All you have to do to get the stimulus payment is file a 2007 IRS Form 1040 or Form 1040A and report at least \$3,000 in qualifying income on the form. You can include the amount of your SSA benefits to qualify for the stimulus payment. You can add the amount of your Social Security benefits to other qualifying income, such as wage earnings or certain benefits paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reach the \$3,000 requirement. However, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) does not count as qualifying income for the stimulus payment. The Stimulus Payment is not taxable next year and will not affect the amount of SSA benefits you receive. **FOR MORE INFORMATION: visit the IRS web site at [www.IRS.gov](http://www.IRS.gov).**

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**NYCHA AND DISABILITIES NETWORK OF NYC HOST WORKSHOP**

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY COLLABORATED WITH THE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION, DISABILITIES NETWORK OF NEW YORK CITY (DNNYC), FOR A WORKSHOP COVERING THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S APPLICATION PROCESSES, REQUESTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES, AT NYCHA'S CENTRAL OFFICE IN MANHATTAN ON MARCH 12TH. The DNNYC is a coalition of consumers, advocates and professional organizations representing and working on behalf of people with motor and sensory disabilities.

After a brief introduction by NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO) Director Fredrika Wilson, Board Member Margarita López kicked things off with a reminder of how far this country has come in terms of equality. "Discrimination used to be the name of the game—discrimination against minorities, against women, against people with disabilities," Ms. López said. "We have come to a point where we understand that discrimination is not acceptable. Our country is a country that embraces equality."

DNNYC Advocate Lawrence Carter-Long also said a few words before the panel presentations began. "At the Disabilities Network of NYC, we know that there is a crisis in housing for people with disabilities in New York City. NYCHA is part of the solution. NYCHA has been working with us for several years on the front lines to get this information out there."

DEO Assistant Director Damaris Burgos-Trabulsi introduced the speakers from various NYCHA departments, and explained their roles: Assistant Director of Applications and Tenancy Administration John Froehlich, who described the public housing application process; Assistant Director for the Leased Housing Program Diane Figueroa, who explained the Section 8 application process; DEO's Services for the Disabled Unit (SDU) Coordinator Margarita Brea who spoke about reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities and the work SDU does; and NYCHA Assistant General Counsel Steve Rappaport, who spoke about NYCHA's grievance procedure for residents or applicants who believe they have been discriminated against.

The workshop was attended by 35 advocates representing the



**EQUAL ACCESS** (Left to right) NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity Director Fredrika Wilson and Board Member Margarita López speak with Thomas K. Small, known as T.K., Chair of the Housing Committee for the Disabilities Network of New York City, at a workshop held in NYCHA's Central Office.

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Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority  
Department of Communications  
250 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007  
Tel (212) 306-3322 • Fax (212) 577-1358  
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**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

**NYCHA Celebrates the 40th Anniversary Of the Fair Housing Act**



THIS APRIL, DURING NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING MONTH, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE FAIR HOUSING ACT BY PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON ON APRIL 11, 1968. As amended, the Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in housing-related transactions based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability.

NYCHA is committed to complying with the Fair Housing Act, as well as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, in programs and activities which receive federal funding, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination based on disability in any program receiving federal assistance.

If you are a public housing housing resident, a Section 8 Leased Housing voucher holder, or an applicant to NYCHA's public housing or Section 8 programs and you believe you have been discriminated against, you should know that NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity (DEO) is here to help. It is the mission of this department, through its Office of Housing Opportunities (OHO) and Office of Employment Opportunities (OEO), to make sure that everyone is given equal opportunity to benefit from the many housing services, programs and activities offered by NYCHA. This includes eliminating barriers created by a limited ability to speak or understand the English language as mandated by Executive Order 13166.

In order to do that, OEO is responsible for investigating allegations of discrimination from anyone in the protected classes. OHO's Services for the Disabled Unit (SDU) assists applicants and public housing residents in the process of obtaining decent, affordable and accessible housing. SDU responds to inquiries on the status of housing applications and requests for transfers, and also provides assistance with reasonable accommodation requests.

OHO's Language Services Unit (LSU) provides language assistance services by translating documents or providing interpreters to enable departments within NYCHA to communicate information regarding applications, eligibility interviews, apartment rentals, termination of tenancy hearings, and public meetings, and to disseminate important information to residents at individual developments. LSU manages NYCHA's Language Bank, which consists of over 200 trained employee-volunteers who collectively speak 46 languages, and assist with these services.

If you believe you have been discriminated against and you are a resident or applicant in one of the protected classes mentioned, please contact NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity at (212)306-4468, or TTY: (212)306-4845, between the hours of 9:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday, or stop by our office at 250 Broadway on the 27th floor and fill out a claim form. You can also fill out a form at your development's Management Office between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM. Please turn to page 9 of this *Journal* for more information on NYCHA's Fair Housing Policy.

NYCHA wants all public housing and Section 8 applicants and residents to know that we are committed to fair housing. Fair housing is the law; it is not an option. Let's look forward to another 40 years.

*Tino Hernandez*

**BOROUGH DIGEST**

**The Bronx:** Thirty-two high school students will visit colleges in North Carolina and Virginia on a college tour from April 20th through the 25th. Colleges on the tour will include the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, St. Augustine College in Raleigh, North Carolina Central in Durham, North Carolina, and Norfolk State and Old Dominion in Norfolk, Virginia. The trip is being paid for with Tenant Participation Activity funds, money allocated by the Federal government directly to resident organizations for enrichment programs.

**Brooklyn:** Marlboro Houses, in the Gravesend neighborhood of Brooklyn, turned half-a-century old on February 27th. The development's 28 buildings are home to over 4,086 residents. Marlboro was designed by the architecture firm Harrison & Abramovitz, the same architects who designed the Time Life Building and The New York Hilton. You may have recognized the brightly colored panels on its breezeways in the Universal Pictures film released late last year, "American Gangster," starring Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe. **Shown below from left to right are Superintendent Tuesdai Gaskin, Tenant Association President Bertha Corbett and Manager Jose Espinal** with a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg proclaiming February 27, 2008 in the City of New York, "Marlboro Houses Day."



**Manhattan:** Named for Dr. George Washington Carver, the famous African-American botanist, agricultural chemist and educator, Carver Houses, in the Carnegie Hill neighborhood of Manhattan celebrated its 50th Anniversary on February 14th. Over 2,800 New Yorkers make their homes in Carver Houses' 13 buildings. Last year, NYCHA, the Carver Houses Association, Martha Stewart Living

*(Continued on page 4)*

**DEBORAH'S DIARY**

*By Deborah Williams*

**Diamonds Are Forever**—The October 2006 issue of the *NYCHA Journal* profiled Tracy Dickerson, resident of Farragut Houses and coach of the then P.S. 307 Diamonds and M.S. 313 Satellite West Emerald cheerleaders. In that article, Ms. Dickerson mentioned that she wanted to take the Diamonds and Emeralds to the National Cheerleading Competition in Florida but, sadly, both teams lacked the funding.



Today, both teams are called "Diamonds." The P.S. 307 Diamonds are a junior varsity cheerleading division and the M.S. 313 Satellite West Diamonds, are a varsity cheerleading team.

Ms. Dickerson, who is still coaching the teams, was able to obtain a grant from the Jordan Fundamentals Grant Program, a generous donation from Reverend Taylor and the Church of the Open Door, and contributions from the principals, assistant principals, teachers and other staff of both schools, and most importantly, the parents of both teams, so that on February 22, 2008, 36 girls, 18 from each team, could head to the Contest of Champions in Walt Disney World, Orlando, Florida.

But their trip wasn't without incident; with snow falling and icy weather on February 22, there were major airport delays. The high spirits and smiles the girls arrived at LaGuardia Airport with at 7 A.M. turned into frowns when all flights were cancelled and they were relocated to JFK Airport. Around 2PM, half of the girls and some parent chaperones were able to catch a flight to Florida. The remaining girls left at 9PM and made it safely to their destination, and to the competition the following day.

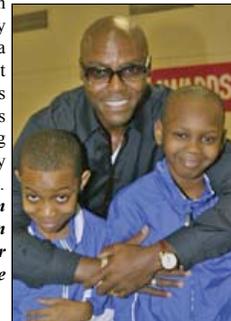
Cheerleaders from 20 states lined up for the competition at Disney World with at least 25 teams for each level, divided into divisions from elementary, middle school and high school. Despite their limited sleep, the cheerleaders on both teams were admired for the flawlessness of their performances. The Diamond Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams won First Place and took home the trophies!

As they arrived at the drop-off point in front of the two schools (which are housed in the same building) the teams were met by a crowd of family, friends, and supporters in addition to reporters and a camera crew from News 12, Brooklyn. According to Kiseema Hodge, a member of the Junior Varsity team and a resident of Farragut Houses, it was "a happy and exciting time." ***I congratulate you all on your outstanding performance and for winning first place in the national competition!***



**Cool Running**—Two New York City Housing Authority residents became track stars on February 1, 2008, at the 101st Millrose Games, the third stop in USA Track & Field's Visa Championship, held at Madison Square Garden. Christopher Davis (below, right) of the Butler Community Center and Tyrese Wilcox (left) of the Marble Hill Community Center, both in the Bronx, competed in the Boys' 50-meter Fastest Kid Dash. Christopher finished third and Tyrese finished second in a sprint to the finish line they will never forget! Not only that, they were able to meet and take a picture with Olympic gold medalist Carl Lewis (at right) who offered his support and great advice. The boys qualified for the race by participating in the Youth Jamboree at the Armory Track and Field Center in Manhattan.

***Congratulations to both of you! I'm sure there are many more races in your futures. Your families, and your coach, Community Assistant Eugene Johnson, must be very proud.***



**CALL 311 FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCY CITY SERVICES**

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## 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 November 22 and 29, and December 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2006, and January 3, 2007. **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 November 22, 2007**

- Jonathan Leggett Case 7711/06 formerly associated with the 10th floor of 2949 West 28th Street, Surfside Gardens, Brooklyn.
- Shumika Gunter Case 6173/03 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 300 East 158th Street, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.
- Joel Simmons Case 7828/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 2331 West 11th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.
- Carlos Howard Case 7994/06 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 177 Sands Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn.

**Prohibited as of November 29, 2006**

- Malik Wilson Case 3709/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 35 Jackson Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan.
- David Mitchell Case 7968/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1350 Fifth Avenue, King Towers Houses, Manhattan.
- Anthony Marshall Case 3507/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 45 Fleet Walk, Ingersoll Houses, Brooklyn.
- Rakim Kelly Case 6962/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 3002 Surf Avenue, Coney Island Houses, Brooklyn.
- Jovani Suarez Case 7973/06 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 1905 Second Avenue, Washington Houses, Manhattan.
- James Johnson Case 6511/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 525 FDR Drive, Baruch Houses, Manhattan.

**Prohibited as of December 6, 2006**

- James Yarborough Case 8021/06 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 195 Hoyt Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.
- Jason Procope Case 8133/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 242 West 63rd Street, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.
- Tyshawn Jackson Case 3077/04 formerly associated with the third floor of 1686 Seward Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.
- Kaseem Smallwood Case 8243/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 270 Stone Avenue, Howard Houses, Brooklyn.
- Eric Gilchrist Case 8304/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 405 East 105th Street, Wilson Houses, Manhattan.

**Prohibited as of December 13, 2006**

- Jose Rivera Case 8198/06 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 55 LaSalle Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
- Daniel Rivera
- Kajuan Woods Case 8245/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 162 Troy Avenue, Albany/Weeksville Houses, Brooklyn.
- David Brown Case 8257/06 formerly associated with the 1131 226th Street, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
- Michael Cousins
- Ray Flannigan Case 8257/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1131 226th Street, Edenwald Houses, Bronx.
- Marcus Smith Case 2056/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2331 West 11th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.
- Damell Wright Case 8327/06 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 1470 Amsterdam Avenue, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.

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## BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

Omnimedia and the Council on the Environment of New York City, collaborated to create the Washington Carver Community Gardens on the grounds of Carver Houses, across the street from Mt. Sinai Hospital. **Shown below, left to right are: Resident Association President Alberta Slappy, Resident Association Vice-President Theresa Kelly, and Manager Gay Chestnut** holding a proclamation signed by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg calling the 50th Anniversary of Carver Houses, "a testament to the quality of NYCHA's developments in all parts of our City."



**Queens:** Queens Borough Community Operations is hosting "The 2008 Easter Showcase and Spelling Bee" at Public School 40 in Jamaica on April 23rd. Young residents from the borough's ten Community Centers will gather at the school to display artwork they've created throughout the year, and perform dance, drama, poetry and song. Thirty 4th-, 5th- and 6th-graders will also compete for their chance to participate in NYCHA's annual Citywide Spelling Bee.

**Staten Island:** U.S. Senator Charles Schumer visited the New Lane Senior Center in February to talk about elder abuse and call for stricter federal penalties for those who physically harm or take advantage of senior citizens. Schumer is calling upon Congress to pass the Elder Justice Act which would provide states with resources to prevent elder abuse, increase prosecution of those who mistreat the elderly and provide victim assistance. State Senator Diane Savino, City Council Member Michael McMahon, Assembly Members Michael Cusick and Matthew Titone, and representatives from the Interagency Council on the Aging, the Alzheimer's Foundation, and Meals on Wheels also spoke.

## NYCHA ELIMINATES POSITIONS AND CONSOLIDATES COMMUNITY CENTERS AND MANAGEMENT OFFICES

ON FEBRUARY 29, 2008, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS ELIMINATING 427 STAFF POSITIONS, INCLUDING 190 LAYOFFS, IN RESPONSE TO A BUDGET SHORTFALL OF \$195.3 MILLION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008. The layoffs will become effective in mid-April. The action fulfills the plan NYCHA laid out in its 2007 budget to reduce head count by a total of 500 positions, and will save the Housing Authority \$30.3 million a year. NYCHA began its workforce reduction last October by eliminating 73 managerial positions.

Chronic Federal underfunding along with unreimbursed costs for 21 City- and State-built developments, community services and rising labor and energy costs, are the causes of the deficit.

### Consolidation of Community Centers

At the same time, NYCHA also announced that it was consolidating 19 underutilized community centers into existing, nearby facilities. The Federal government does not provide funding support for NYCHA's network of over 500 community-based programs. In light of the current deficit, all of NYCHA's community-based services are now under review. New Yorkers who participate in these programs will continue to have access to services.

The following Community Centers will be closed: In Brooklyn: 303 Vernon Avenue, Brownsville, Glenmore, Gowanus, Gravesend, Weeksville, Whitman, Park Rock, and Berry; in the Bronx: 1162 Washington Avenue, Monroe, Sackwern, Betances, University; in Queens: Bland, Redfern, and Baisley Park, and in Manhattan: Rangel and Wilson.

### Consolidation of Management Offices

The NYCHA Board has also approved the consolidation of additional management offices throughout the City. NYCHA consolidated 27 management offices in 2006 and 2007. On February 29th, the Housing Authority announced that eight more management offices will be consolidated into four existing locations.

For FY 2008, the following eight management offices will be consolidated over the year. In Manhattan: Audubon Management Office will be consolidated into Harlem River; in Brooklyn, the Tilden Management Office will be consolidated into Howard; in Staten Island, Todt Hill will be consolidated into Berry, and in the Bronx, McKinley will be consolidated into Forrest.

### Chronic Underfunding

For the sixth year in a row, Federal operating subsidy for public housing has not been fully funded. NYCHA has been shortchanged by more than \$611 million in Federal funding since 2001. For 2008, the Federal subsidy NYCHA receives will again be pro-rated, meaning that NYCHA will receive an estimated 81.3 cents on the dollar, adding to NYCHA's deficit by approximately \$175 million. Since 2003, NYCHA has already reduced spending by over half a billion dollars (\$527 million) and cut head count by more than 2,000 positions.

The NYCHA Board will continue to make the tough decisions necessary to achieve structural balance and continue to aggressively seek financial support from all levels of government, foundations and the private sector to ensure the ongoing stability and preservation of public housing in New York City.

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## Imagine Yourself Among the Cherry Blossoms

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### Sakura Matsuri Cherry Blossom Festival

May 3-4, 10 am-6 pm

Celebrate New York City's "rite of spring" with a weekend-long family festival of Japanese culture and arts with over 50 performances.

### Cherry Blossom Visions: Works by Charles Gustina and David Wander

April 5-May 11

View wall-sized cherry blossom murals composed of mosaics of color photographs, and expressive oil paintings and pastels.

### CherryWatch

Plan your visit by tracking the Garden's more than 200 cherry trees as they bloom.  
[bbg.org/cherrywatch](http://bbg.org/cherrywatch)

Savor Japanese entrees at the Terrace Café, take free weekend tours, and browse the special Hanami Shop.

To learn more about Hanami visit [bbg.org](http://bbg.org) or call 718-623-7333. Buy tickets in advance through [ticketweb.com](http://ticketweb.com).



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## File for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)!

Do you make less than \$40,000 a year? You might qualify for as much as \$6,000 from the EITC, just by filing your taxes. To make it easy, the New York City EITC Coalition partners will prepare your taxes for free at locations throughout the City.

### What is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) returns federal, state, and in New York City, local government dollars to qualifying working families and individuals through either a credit on taxes or as cash refunds. This income helps people cover basic expenses.

The EITC will not change other benefits such as food stamps and housing vouchers. And if you didn't claim the EITC in the past, you can file your taxes for three previous years which could triple your refund. So, if you worked in 2004 and didn't file taxes, you could file a return now and claim this credit. If you were eligible for the maximum refund each year, that could mean more than \$15,000 for you and your family. Call 311 to learn where you can file your taxes for FREE!

To see if you are eligible, just refer to the chart at right. Call 311 for the location of a New York City EITC Tax Coalition preparer to prepare your taxes for free. And don't forget to file by April 15th!

**2008 Resident Art Show**  
 CITYWIDE ART COMPETITION  
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Artwork will be accepted from  
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For more information or to schedule an appointment please  
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Tax Year 2007	Maximum Combined Credit	Maximum Federal Credit	Maximum New York State Credit	Maximum New York City Credit	Maximum Income
Families with more than one qualifying child	\$6,367	\$4,716	\$1,415	\$236	\$34,783 (if married filing jointly)
Families with one qualifying child	\$3,852	\$2,853	\$856	\$143	\$33,241 (\$35,241 if married filing jointly)
Individuals with no qualifying children	\$577	\$428	\$128	\$21	\$12,590 (\$14,590 if married filing jointly)

Investment Income is limited to \$2,900.

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**BOSTON ROAD**

(Continued from page 1)

Interim Needs, sponsors the center, and its 91-year-old founder, Beatrice Castiglia was there to join the celebration. RAIN also sponsors six additional NYCHA senior centers.

"It's beautiful, unbelievable. I love it," said 77-year-old Dina Colodny. "When I feel blue I come here and it makes me feel better." Sitting nearby, 66-year-old Beatrice Cintren added, "I make friends. I feel comfortable...like family."

**DISABILITIES**

(Continued from page 2)

following organizations: the Bronx Independent Living Center, the Harlem Children's Zone, Housing Works, the NYC Human Rights Commission, the Legal Aid Society, the Legal Action Group, the Korean-American Association for Rehabilitation, NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal, Brooklyn Center for Independent Living, St. Luke's Hospital Community Services for Children and Families, AIDS Center of Queens County, and Catholic Charities. For more, see the Chairman's Column on page 3, and NYCHA's Fair Housing Policy on page 9.

**PREPARE TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER!**

FALL EXPO COMING THIS OCTOBER HOSTED BY NYCHA'S  
RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT OUR HOTLINE TO  
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## NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Board Meeting Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00AM (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2008 are as follows:

April 2, 2008  
April 16, 2008  
April 30, 2008  
May 14, 2008  
May 28, 2008  
June 11, 2008  
June 25, 2008  
July 9, 2008  
July 23, 2008  
August 6, 2008  
August 20, 2008  
September 3, 2008  
September 17, 2008  
October 2, 2008 (Thursday)  
October 16, 2008 (Thursday)  
October 29, 2008  
November 12, 2008  
November 26, 2008  
December 10, 2008  
December 24, 2008



Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's Website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) and in the *NYCHA Journal* to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration of speakers is required. Those who wish to register must do so at least forty-five (45) minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments are limited to the items on the agenda. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration. Speaking time will be limited to three (3) minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of thirty (30) minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

For Board Meeting dates and times, and/or additional information, please visit our Website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) or contact us at (212) 306-6088. Copies of the agenda can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3PM on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting, should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five (5) business days before the Board Meeting.

## NYCHA's 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program

NYCHA is seeking youth between the ages of 14 and 21 for the 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and the 2008 program will run from July 1, 2008 through August 16, 2008. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is not required to qualify for the program.

NYCHA's SYEP participants gain valuable employment experience working in Community Centers as Counselors-in-Training (16 and 17 year olds only), or on NYCHA development grounds. Starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, interested youth will be able to apply on-line or download an application from the City's Web Site: [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd). Starting April 2<sup>nd</sup>, SYEP applications will also be available at NYCHA Development Management Offices, Community Centers and at the Department of Resident Employment Services, located at 350 Livingston Street in Brooklyn. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA Development Management Office.

For more information about SYEP, please visit DYCD's website or contact NYCHA's SYEP Program Director, Katrina Porter at (212) 306-3969.

## NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY FAIR HOUSING NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the New York City Housing Authority to provide equal housing opportunities for all qualified applicants and residents. In the selection of families and in the provision of services, there shall be no discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, familial status, marital status, partnership status, military status, disability, lawful occupation, alienage or citizenship status. This policy also prohibits retaliation.

This policy is in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the New York State and City Human Rights Laws.

Any resident or applicant who wishes to report housing discrimination or retaliation MAY FILE A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT (NYCHA 036.024) by contacting the Department of Equal Opportunity from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday or their development management office between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM:

**New York City Housing Authority  
Department of Equal Opportunity  
250 Broadway, 27th floor  
New York, NY 10007  
Telephone (212) 306-4468  
Fax: (212) 306-4439  
TTY: (212) 306-4845**

Or by contacting any of the following federal, state or city human rights agencies listed below:

**New York City Commission on Human Rights  
40 Rector Street, 9th floor  
New York, NY 10006  
(212) 306-7500**

**New York State Division of Human Rights  
20 Exchange Place, 2nd floor  
New York, New York 10005  
(212) 480-2522**

**United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3532  
New York, New York 10278  
(212) 264-1290 Extension 7534**

## WALK WITH THE BIG APPLE SENIOR STROLLERS



Walking is an easy and fun way to stay fit, especially when you walk with friends. The Big Apple Senior Stroller walking clubs are active in a variety of facilities, including senior centers. To find out where there's a Club you can join, or if you would like to start a Club yourself, call the Walking Club Hotline at (212) 442-8962.

## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

(Continued from page 4)

### Prohibited as of December 20, 2006

George Germany	Case 6052/06 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1075 University Avenue, Highbridge Gardens Houses, the Bronx.
Anthony White Anthony Dicks Adams Dicks	Case 8366/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 420 Columbia Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.
Jaris Kopelakis Crystal Sweet Darryl Sweet	Case 122/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 2975 W, Sheepshead Bay Houses, Brooklyn.
Kenneth Turner	Case 8459/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 534 Flushing Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.
Taijuan Corse	Case 8481/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 40-12 Vernon Blvd., Queensbridge Houses, Queens.
Luther Person	Case 8641/06 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 487 Carlton Avenue, Atlantic Terminal Houses, Brooklyn.
Cassandra Simillian	Case 8649/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 25 Monument Walk, Ingersoll Houses, Brooklyn.

### Prohibited as of December 27, 2006

Jorrel Negron	Case 6759/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 354 Madson Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan.
Cerrone Moultry	Case 8523/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 2007 Surf Avenue, Carey Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.
Anthony Sumlin	Case 8530/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 1744 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.
Juan Rivera	Case 1937/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2125 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.
Divine Fredericks	Case 8634/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 525 Rosedale Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx.
Timothy Rosa	Case 8636/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1824 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.
Elijah Sutherland	Case 8637/06 formerly associated with the twentieth floor of 75 Hill Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
Pedro Vazquez	Case 8642/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 525 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, Bronx.
Inez Garay	Case 4002/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 61 Jackson Street, Vladeck Houses, Manhattan.

### Prohibited as of January 3, 2007

Richard Johnson	Case 6781/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 365 Sackman Street, Seth Low Houses, Brooklyn.
Jerome McRae	Case 8906/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1307 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
Wendell Coa	Case 8910/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 303 Vernon Avenue, Sunmer Houses, Brooklyn.
Alice Dickens	Case 8932/06 formerly associated with third floor of 745 East 152nd Street, Adams Houses, Bronx.

## Grease Disposal Tips To Help Our Environment

NYCHA needs the help of all of its residents to keep our sewer system running properly. Cooking oil and grease are wastes that the sewer system cannot handle and should not be discarded down the drain. Liquefied fat, oil, or grease (FOG) that is poured down the kitchen drain can cling to the inside of pipes, clogging sewer lines and causing sewage back-up and flooding. These damages can be expensive to repair. Over time, FOG can build up and can eventually block pipes completely. By following the guidelines below, you can help avoid repeated repairs and unnecessary disruptions.

### Properly Dispose Of Cooking Oil &...

- DO NOT** pour cooking oil, poultry fat and grease into the kitchen sink or the toilet bowl.
- DO NOT** use hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain, because the grease will cool and harden in your pipes or in the sewer down the line.
- DO** place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed non-recyclable containers and discard with your regular garbage.
- DO** use paper towels to wipe residual grease or oil off of dishes, pots and pans prior to washing them.

## ALBANY

(Continued from page 1)

State operating dollars for these developments in ten years. Unfortunately the State has not committed any funding for the current fiscal year.

NYCHA has had some successes over the past year. Last October the Shelter Allowance bill was signed into law, increasing the subsidy NYCHA receives for residents on public assistance to an amount equal to that received by private landlords. This will bring the Housing Authority an additional \$47 million a year once it is fully phased in.

Also, early this year, the Federal government approved NYCHA's plan to transition 8,400 units in the 21 State and City developments into the Federal Section 8 Leased Housing Program, beginning with Bay View Houses in Brooklyn. The transition of all 8,400 units will eventually pay for the operational costs of these developments and will bring NYCHA an additional \$75 million when it is fully phased in.

## Manhattan South COP Installation



The Manhattan South Council of Presidents (COP) held its installation ceremony on April 3, 2008 at the Isaacs Community Center on East 93rd Street in Manhattan. After serving as Manhattan South COP Chair for approximately eight years, Nicoletta Azure, Resident Association President for Smith Houses, retired from the position, and Mrs. Rose Bergin, Resident Association President for Isaacs Houses, is now the new Manhattan South COP Chair. Ms. Azure received proclamations from Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and City Council Member Alan J. Gerson, and a letter from Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, all thanking her for her years of service. The 88-year-old Ms. Azure will continue to serve in her capacity as the Smith Houses Resident Association President. "I was fortunate," she said of her time as COP Chair. "I appreciated my secretary, who was very good, Mercedes Ruiz, and my treasurer, Charlotte Miles." Ms. Azure was also an employee of NYCHA for 28 years. She retired in June. In the picture above, City Council Member Daniel Garodnick presents Ms. Azure with the proclamation from Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. Also shown in the photo is Manhattan South's new COP Chair, Rose Bergin. The newly elected members of the Manhattan South COP Executive Board are: Chair Rose Bergin, Isaacs Houses; Vice-Chair Charlotte Miles, Wald Houses; Secretary Phyllis Gonzalez, Chelsea Elliott Houses; Treasurer Michael Steele, Rutgers Houses; and Sergeant at Arms St. Clair Clement, from Douglass West of Broadway.

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**We welcome everyone 12 years & older.**  
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 For times and locations  
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**\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS for NYCHA Residents**

If you are a NYCHA resident attending a City University of New York (CUNY) Community or Senior College, you may be eligible to receive a \$1,000.00 NYCHA Resident Scholarship.

To qualify for the scholarship you must:

- Be enrolled full time in an Associate or Baccalaureate degree program at any CUNY, Senior or Community College.
- Be an authorized New York City Housing Authority resident.
- Be a sophomore, junior, senior.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Major in film, broadcasting, dance, drama, fashion, marketing/merchandising, journalism, music, photography, literature or fine and/or performing arts, public administration, public affairs, business.

Apply by filling out the NYCHA Resident Scholarship Application available at [www.cuny.edu/nychascholarship](http://www.cuny.edu/nychascholarship) (must be typed in lower case).

The application deadline is April 25, 2008.

Scholarships will be available for a limited time.