ATTAIN Lab Opens At Drew-Hamilton Community Center

The digital divide is getting smaller! A grand opening ceremony was held for the New York City Housing Authority’s (NYCHA’s) fifth ATTAIN lab which opened on February 27th at the Drew-Hamilton Houses Community Center in Harlem, with a traditional ribbon-cutting. ATTAIN stands for Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking and the goal of the program, which is funded by the State Legislature, is to increase access to new technologies in economically challenged neighborhoods. There are 37 ATTAIN labs throughout New York State, administered by the State University of New York’s Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD). The Drew-Hamilton Grand Opening was hosted by Assembly Member Keith L.T. Wright, the UCAWD and NYCHA. Among the distinguished guests who spoke were NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elias Morales, Assembly Member Wright, Drew Hamilton Resident Association President David Welch and UCAWD Interim Director William Chalmers. In his remarks, Chairman Morales congratulated Mr. Welch on obtaining his GED at the ATTAIN Lab at NYCHA’s Polo Grounds Community Center in Manhattan, saying he was an inspiration. The lab will provide qualified facilitators and training for over 30 academic, occupational, and life skills courses, utilizing 24 state-of-the-art workstations with broadband Internet connectivity. The Drew-Hamilton ATTAIN Lab is open from Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM. Other NYCHA locations with the ATTAIN Labs are: Berry Houses and South Beach Community Center in Staten Island, Farragut Community Center in Brooklyn and there are plans to open a new ATTAIN lab soon at 303 Vernon Avenue in Brooklyn. For information on the Drew-Hamilton ATTAIN Lab, call (212) 306-3400.

NYCHA NOW MORE THAN EVER!
NYCHA’s Annual Legislative Breakfast

MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS WHO ATTENDED NYCHA’S ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST, HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE IN MANHATTAN ON MARCH 3RD, SHOWED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY’S AGENDA IN THE COMING YEAR AS EXPRESSED BY CHAIRMAN RICARDO ELIAS MORALES. The meet-and-greet gives NYCHA an opportunity to make its priorities known to the City Council. Those priorities for 2009 are: obtaining 100% funding from the federal government, maintaining the State’s $3 million allocation, working together to federalize NYCHA’s 21 unfunded City- and State-built developments, and aggressively implementing NYCHA’s “green agenda” to increase efficiency, and save money and the environment.

NYCHA’s Green Agenda

After commenting on the Housing Authority’s 75th Anniversary and thanking Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the City Council and residents for their support, the Chairman broached his main topic of discussion, NYCHA’s “green agenda.”

“We’re moving forward on a very aggressive agenda for the greening of NYCHA,” said the Chairman. “Through our green initiatives we contribute to saving the planet by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the carbon footprint.

NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elias Morales with Board Member Margarita López presented testimony on NYCHA’s Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 to the City Council at City Hall on March 9th. The Chairman emphasized NYCHA’s commitment to maintaining the proud legacy of public housing as NYCHA celebrates its 75th Year. The Chairman testified that NYCHA has been underfunded by the Federal government for seven years in a row and has a deficit of $172 million for the current year. The Plan is to reduce the deficit...
**The Faces of NYCHA**

Meet Soundview’s Resident Association President Mary McGee

By Ashley Grosso

You can tell Mary McGee used to work in customer service by the way she sells her community. Once a retail employee at Toys R Us and the Home Depot, Ms. McGee spent last summer working at the Parkside Community Center with children in the Summer Day Camp, in the Soundview neighborhood of the Bronx and she hopes to do the same this summer. She said that Parkside is the “number one community center in all five boroughs.” The vibrant Parkside facility certainly looks top notch, especially with the colorful mural painted by the children and teens with the help of NYCHA’s Harborside Arts Program.

In the summer of 2008, Ms. McGee held the position of NYCHA seasonal employee for the second year in a row. “It was a fun-filled summer!” she said enthusiastically, filled with trips and lots of arts and crafts projects, as well as recreational activities. Two trips that stood out in Ms. McGee’s mind were to Great Adventure, in Jackson, New Jersey, and to the Liberty Bascinettes games at Madison Square Garden.

Also a NYCHA resident, Ms. McGee has lived for 14 years in the Soundview Houses, where she is the Resident Association President. She spoke enthusiastically about the state park, new baseball field, and landscaping at her development. She said the development is on the quiet side because it is far from everything, including the nearest supermarket, which is four blocks away.

Ms. McGee encourages residents to advocate for increased funding for public housing. She was chosen to speak with Senator Charles Schumer’s aides when a large group of NYCHA residents made the trip to Washington, D.C., last summer to meet with their Congressional representatives.

McGee herself represents New York’s diversity. Of Irish and Puerto Rican descent, her parents owned different businesses when she was growing up, including a pizzeria.

In addition to being an engaged resident, Ms. McGee is also an involved parent. Her daughters, ten and 23 years old, are exactly 13 years and one day apart in age. Ms. McGee also has a grandson who is almost one year old. Though she has always been active in her children’s lives (for example, taking them to school every day), she started getting involved in a more organized way through Learning Leaders, a school volunteer and parent engagement program. Currently the President of the Parent Teacher Association and a member of the School Leadership Team, Ms. McGee says her daughters are “lucky there isn’t PTA in college.”

Aside from her work on behalf of residents and children, Ms. McGee’s other priority is senior citizens. She used to call bingo at the senior citizen center before she began her position at Parkside. She misses the seniors, who she says are like her second family. “Children are the future,” she says, “and seniors are our history.” Through her efforts with seniors, children, and all residents, Ms. McGee has contributed to respecting history, investing in the future, and preserving public housing.

**Top Notch**

Soundview resident Mary McGee called the Parkside Community Center, where she has worked as a seasonal employee, the “number one in all five boroughs.”

**Call 311 for All Non-Emergency City Services**

**The Faces of NYCHA**

More Than 50,000 New Yorkers Claimed City Child Care Tax Credits Totalling More Than $30 Million In The Program’s First Year

The Department of Consumer Affairs’ (DCA) Office of Financial Empowerment leads the annual Tax Credit Campaign. The City’s Child Care Tax Credit awareness and access efforts are part of an array of initiatives that this Administration has quickly expanded to help New Yorkers make the most of the money they have earned and to help them weather the economic downturn. City residents who earn $30,000 or less and pay child care expenses for children age three and under may qualify for this local tax credit of up to $1,733.

Our Child Care Tax Credit is a successful program that is part of our larger anti-poverty strategy. Coupled with the Earned Income Tax Credit, the refund can be significant and help move hard-working New Yorkers up the economic ladder. An estimated 30,000 NYCHA families are eligible for the EITC, particularly during these tough economic times, all eligible families should be sure to apply so they can receive the money they deserve.

This year, as a safe and affordable alternative to professional tax preparation services, the City expanded its Tax Prep Plus program to offer professionally prepared tax returns by a Tax One professional for only $20 at 12 community-based organizations throughout the five boroughs. Families earning less than $55,000 and individuals earning less than $30,000 qualify. Tax Prep Plus sites will not offer refund anticipation loans and other predatory products to their customers, ensuring that consumers get every penny of their refund.

New York City residents with dependents and who earn less than $45,000, as well as individuals who earn less than $20,000, are also eligible for free income tax preparation at one of the City’s 54 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Volunteers at the VITA sites will help residents file for the tax credits for which they qualify including the Earned Income Tax Credit and the New York City Child Care Tax Credit.

In 2007, New Yorkers claimed approximately $2.14 billion in total Earned Income Tax Credits. VITA sites helped more than 82,000 New Yorkers obtain an average Earned Income Tax Credit refund of $2,600. There are 12 Tax Prep Plus sites which are run by the City in collaboration with four partners: Food Bank for New York City, Project Hospitality, Arriva and Bedford Stuyvesant.

NYCHA residents made the top notch, especially with the colorful mural painted by the children and teens with the help of NYCHA’s Harborside Arts Program.

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NYCHA, the information you need you to continue to participate in the constructive dialogues which are essential to our approach to the many administrative and operational issues we face.

Under the leadership of NYCHA’s Environmental and Sustainability Committee Coordinator Margarita López, NYCHA is implementing an aggressive “green” agenda which will have the dual benefits of saving the Housing Authority money through increased efficiency, while reducing our carbon footprint caused by greenhouse gas emissions. As a leader in energy-saving “green” initiatives, NYCHA has replaced old outdated hot water heaters with more efficient instantaneous hot water heaters in hundreds of buildings. And we have installed 178,000 Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in over 30,000 apartments. NYCHA’s lighting upgrades and water heater replacement measures completed through 2008 will help NYCHA save more than $5 million in utility costs. This year NYCHA anticipates greater reductions. Our green agenda includes an educational component, and we are working with residents to create Green Committees in your developments.

If you were among the 90 or so resident leaders who attended one of our presentations, or you have seen our presentation at your development, then you are aware that NYCHA’s budget for 2009 includes an estimated deficit of $172 million. This deficit has been caused largely by circumstances that are beyond our control, such as chronic underfunding by the Federal government, which continues in the current year. Other contributing factors include the lack of operating subsidy for the 21 City- and State-built developments in NYCHA’s portfolio, skyrocketing energy expenses and non-negotiable labor-related expenses, such as the cost of health insurance for employees and pensions for those who have retired. Simply put, NYCHA cannot sustain itself at our current level of spending.

In response to our structural deficit, NYCHA has made cost containment a priority. We have implemented a green agenda, raised rents, reduced staff, and closed some Community Centers.

The Housing Authority plans to reduce our current deficit to $45 million by transferring $76 million from capital funds to operating funds, reducing Central Office costs by approximately $10 million, and continuing the transfer of 8,400 public housing units in unfunded City- and State-built developments into the Section 8 program. This transfer will generate $75 million annually when fully completed. There was also a focus on NYCHA’s “green agenda” and new capital money from the second Economic Stimulus Package. (See Chairman’s Column at left.) The Chairman also vows, celebrating with cake and flowers — because it was on Valentine’s Day 61 years ago that Sara met William Douglas Hill. During their first year of marriage, the couple moved into Marcy Houses in Brooklyn, on January 10, 1948. According to Sara,a her daughter Brenda Hill McWhite was the first child born in the development.

Both Sara and William Douglas Hill are retired now. Sara was an employee at the Health and Hospitals Corporation and William was a NYCHA Maintenance Worker and Union Shop Steward. On February 13, 2009, Sara and William renewed their wedding vows at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge during the “Brooklyn Sweethearts Married 50+ Years” event sponsored by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and his wife, Jamie Snow- Markowitz. They celebrated the day along with 300 other couples who renewed their vows, celebrating with cake and champagne. The event aired on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) on March 4th and March 11th.

Wow! Sixty-one years of marriage — it must be LOVE! What you have is more precious than gold. I congratulate you! I wish you many more years together!
THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority’s efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. What follows is a partial list of the people excluded after hearings were held on February 4, 11, and 18, 2009. For a full list of the “Not Wanted” visit NYCHA’s website at nyc.gov/residentscorner. 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 February 4, 2009

Jose Harper Case 388/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 5814 Farragut Road, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.
Glen Bowman, Sr. Case 482/09 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1125 Inverness Avenue, Highbridge Gardens, the Bronx.
Dwesley Johnson Case 424/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 311 Osborn Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
Lawrence Case 465/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 21-20 34th Avenue, Ravenswood Houses, Queens.

Prohibited as of February 11, 2009

Austine McLaren Case 619/09 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 335 East 112th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.
Jennie Torres Case 495/09 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2375 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Emma Brown Case 494/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 644 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.
Frankie Louie Case 6169/08 formerly associated with the third floor of 65 Marcy Avenue, Jefferson Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.
Charles Moore Case 6783/08 formerly associated with the second floor of 80 Bush Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.
Laton Allen Case 594/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 820 Henderson Avenue, Marquis Gardens, Staten Island.
Michael Negronna Case 70/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 2005 2nd Avenue, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of February 18, 2009

Lawrence Terrell Case 285/09 formerly associated with the first floor of 40 10 12th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Queens.
Keith Brown Case 628/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 240 Lockman Avenue, Mariner’s Harbor Houses, Staten Island.
Fernando Ortega Case 596/09 formerly associated with the twenty-second floor of 2955 8th Avenue, Polo Grounds Towers, Manhattan.
Eduardo Santiago Case 618/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 30 Avenue D, Wild Houses, Manhattan.
Desean Loyd Case 619/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 81-10 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Hammel Houses, Queens.
Jonathan DeLeon Case 707/09 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2242 Bragg Street, Norstrand Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of April 15, 2009

Jamel Jenkins 335 East 112th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.
Lawrence Case 465/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 21-20 34th Avenue, Ravenswood Houses, Queens.

Your Financial Health...

The article below was submitted by Carol O’Rourke, Executive Director of the Coalition for Debtor Education. It is the fourth in a series on financial health.

It’s Tax Time!

Are you expecting a tax refund?

If you haven’t filed your income tax return yet….

Get going! Your return must be postmarked by midnight on April 15. If the thought of calculating your 2008 tax return overwhelms you, there’s help. Find a free or low-cost tax preparation site; they are available throughout the city. Call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov for locations.

Beware of Rapid Refunds

Be mindful of tax preparers who offer a “rapid refund.” The “rapid refund” is really a loan until the Federal government processes your return. One nationally known tax preparation company I checked charges a $29.99 fee, up to $100 in interest, and a flat $31 “handling fee” — all of which is then deducted from the actual government refund.

The tax preparers who offer this “service” may charge a low “teaser” rate for basic tax preparation but have a list of additional fees for everything from electronic filing or document preparation to an extra cost for a “professional review.” It’s better to prepare and file your taxes yourself, or get the help of a tax preparation service you located through 311, and simply wait for your full refund.

Read the fine print before you engage a tax preparation service that offers quick refunds.

If you have filed your tax return and have a refund on the way…

This may be the largest lump sum of money you will receive all year. Mentally, you may have spent it several times over already. But before you cash the check to buy that flat-screen TV, think about how you can use that money to help you and your family become more financially secure. While certainly less fun than a new TV, here are a few suggestions to consider.

(Continued on page 9)
75 Years of Public Housing

This is the third article in a special series which will run each month in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Journal in 2009 commemorating the Housing Authority’s 75th Anniversary.

On February 17, 2009, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott presented a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to NYCHA’s Board at a Black History Month Celebration in honor of the Housing Authority’s 75th Anniversary. Shown in the photo above, from left, are: Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member Margarita López and Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales.

The first meeting of the Board of the newly created New York City Housing Authority, February 20, 1934. Seated from left are: veteran socialist and general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, Charney B. Vladeck; NYCHA’s first Chairman Langdon Post, a former state assemblyman and head of the Tenement House Commission; Vice-Chair Mary Simkhovitch, founder of the settlement organization Greenwich House. Standing are: Louis Pink, a former settlement house worker and lawyer on the State Housing Board; and Monsignor E. Roberts Moore of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Photo courtesy of the LaGuardia Wagner Archives.

Are You a NYCHA Resident With Fond Memories to Share?

To commemorate our 75th Anniversary, the New York City Housing Authority is collecting photos and stories from residents about your experiences living in public housing. How has being part of a NYCHA community had a positive impact on your life or the life of a family member? Perhaps you attended a NYCHA-led job training workshop that launched your career; or maybe a caretaker, development manager or neighbor was instrumental in getting you help when you needed it most; maybe you bonded with a Housing Bureau Police Officer as a child and decided to become an officer yourself when you grew up? If you have fond memories to share, we want to hear them! We will post selected stories on the Residents’ Corner of our Web site at www.nyc.gov/nycha and publish one story each month in the NYCHA Journal. Please e-mail stories and photos to: NYCHA75@nycha.nyc.gov. If you don’t have electronic files to send, you can mail to:

THE NYCHA Journal
Department of Communications
250 Broadway, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Don’t forget to include your full name, age, the name of your NYCHA development and the number of years you’ve been living in public housing. Also please make sure your return address is on the envelope if you would like us to mail your photos back to you.

Ms. Victoria Johnson (shown in the photo below, center, with two friends) from General Grant Houses in Manhattan submitted the following poem to show her appreciation for public housing in response to our call for fond memories.

“Public Housing”

By Victoria (Vicki) Johnson, 1976

Public housing replaced City’s slums
For tenants it surely was a treat
Living in the new modern suites
Walkways and lawns were great
Children could run and play
Never to be chased away
Public housing lifted up the mind
The living standards were fine
From windows you saw the trees
Greenery and beautiful scenery
From slums you saw a backyard, not a street
Unless the rent was steep.
Landlords charged big sums
Many charged to see the sun
Glad I lived to see folks leave the slums
Hope they appreciate public housing some.
Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority’s Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The meetings for Calendar Year 2009 are as follows:

- April 1, 2009
- April 14, 2009 (Tuesday)
- April 29, 2009
- May 13, 2009
- May 27, 2009
- June 10, 2009
- June 24, 2009
- July 8, 2009
- July 22, 2009
- August 5, 2009
- August 19, 2009
- September 2, 2009
- September 16, 2009
- September 30, 2009
- October 14, 2009
- October 28, 2009
- November 10, 2009 (Tuesday)
- November 25, 2009
- December 9, 2009
- December 23, 2009
- January 6, 2010

Please note that these dates are subject to change. Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA’s Website at nyc.gov/nycha and in the NYCHA Journal to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting. 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 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 3:00 P.M. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. A 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 residents joined Chairman Ricardo Elias Morales (fourth from left) and members of the City Council as NYCHA’s annual City Council Legislative Breakfast. Resident leaders shown above, from left are: Wise Towers Resident Association President Victor Gonzalez, Manhattan South Council of Presidents (COP) Chair Rose Bergin, Tilden Houses Resident Association President Marie Boone, the Chairman, Citywide COP Chair and Seth Low Resident Association President Reginald Bowman, Queens COP Chair Ann Cotton Morris, Bronx South COP Chair and Highbridge Houses Resident Association President Joanne Smitherman, Reid Houses Resident Association President Hyacinth Forrester and Bland Houses Resident Association President Craig Kinsey.

Centralized Call Center Hours Change for Scheduling Repairs

The NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) is changing the hours during which residents can schedule routine apartment maintenance repairs through the Centralized Call Center (CCC). Beginning April 6th, NYCHA residents will be able to schedule appointments for routine maintenance repairs Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to midnight. Additional call-takers will be available to address the high volume of calls received during this time so that calls can be answered more quickly.

Residents who call the CCC to schedule repairs on weekends, holidays or between the hours of midnight and 6:00 AM will be provided with a phone number to call in the new hours. Call-takers will also ask residents who telephone to schedule a repair to call back at the appropriate time.

The CCC will continue to operate 24/7 for emergencies and public space issues, such as elevator outages, reports of vandalism, broken intercoms, and other safety concerns.

The change allows the CCC to use resources more effectively during high volume call hours. Visit NYCHA’s website at www.nyc.gov/nycha for more information.

NYCHA residents now more than ever!

At the the same time we save NYCHA money by reducing fuel consumption and create ‘green collar’ jobs for residents.”

The Chairman thanked Board Member López for spearheading the Housing Authority’s green initiatives, as the head of NYCHA’s Environmental and Sustainability Committee. He also elaborated on recent approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for NYCHA to move ahead on its Performance Contracting Building Retrofit Program which will utilize state-of-the-art technology to retrofit buildings and leverage future savings to invest in infrastructure. The Chairman also mentioned that NYCHA is working with residents to form green committees in the developments to raise awareness.

Council Members Speak

Nearly all of the City Council Members present voiced their support emphasizing the importance of public housing to the entire City.

Council Member David Weprin who chairs the Council’s Finance Committee was the first to speak, telling the group, “The future of NYCHA is really the future of New York City. So many wonderful people and wonderful things started in NYCHA. We are going to work with you. We want you to consider the City Council your partner as we progress. We need NYCHA now more than ever.”

Council Member Melissa Mark Vivenito praised the Council’s Public Housing Sub-Committee Chair Rosie Mendez, herself a former NYCHA resident, for her leadership and support of public housing and mentioned the recent announcement that NYCHA will be getting capital funding from the stimulus package. “Our next battle is to make sure we get dollar for dollar from HUD,” she said, referring to HUD’s long history of underfunding.

Other Council Members who spoke included Daniel Garodnick, who remarked that “with the new Administration in Washington we have reason to be encouraged and hopeful at the same time.” And Council Member Diana Reyna, former Chair of the Public Housing Sub-Committee, raised the issue of the importance of federalizing the 21 State and City developments in NYCHA’s portfolio so that NYCHA receives money for their operations.

Council Member Albert Vann spoke about the importance of adequate resources for public housing. Also attending were Council Members Helen Foster and Leticia James

Residents Add Their Voices

Each of the resident leaders in attendance also had a chance to voice their support. That support was eloquently expressed by Queens Council of Presidents (COP) Chair and Woodside Houses Resident Association President Ann Cotton Morris, when she said, “Speaking for the 20 developments I represent as COP Chair, we are ready to rock and roll on any issue that is going to better our situation in public housing.”

Other resident leaders who spoke were Wise Towers Resident Association President Victor Gonzalez, Manhattan South COP Chair and Isaacs Towers Residents Association President Rose Bergin, Citywide COP Chair and Seth Low Resident Association President Reginald Bowman, Tilden Houses Resident Association President Marie Boone, Boulevard Houses Residents Association President Inez Rodriguez, Bronx South COP Chair and Highbridge Houses Resident Association President Joanne Smitherman, Reid Houses Resident Association President Hyacinth Forrester and Bland Houses Resident Association President Craig Kinsey.

In Conclusion “We’ve been doing something right for 75 years,” the Chairman said in conclusion. “We’ve been home to millions of people who have gone on to do great things. We are an economic engine. We put money back into the economy. Our next 75 years are going to be great. The concept of greening can save our planet and make NYCHA a vision for our country. Let’s work together for that new NYCHA.”

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, lawful source of income, 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 D36-024) 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, NY 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) 264-1299 Extension 7534

For a translation of this document and additional information, please visit nycha.gov.

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www.healthfirstny.com

Healthfirst Medicare Plan is a health maintenance organization that has a Medicare Advantage contract with the Federal government and is available in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island, Westchester and Nassau. Not all plans available in all counties.
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New York, NY 10010
www.dcnycinc.org

212-206-7818
(M-F 8:30 am - 5:30 pm)

It’s Tax Time!

(Continued from page 4)

— Pay down the balance of a credit card. At 20% interest or more, you’ll save a lot and cut your monthly spending by having one less bill to pay off.
— Open an IRA account. Start saving for your retirement years.
— Start or contribute to your "rainy day" fund. You won’t have to borrow if you have emergency savings to tap if you need car repairs, have a medical emergency, or lose your job.

The good news…

The new stimulus package
includes the Make Work Pay credit, worth 6.25% of earned income, a maximum of $400 to individuals making less than $75,000 and $800 for families with a combined income of less than $150,000. This means less will be deducted from each paycheck for taxes. The credit will be spread over paychecks over the year, so you may see a little increase in your take-home pay each pay period.

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SPRING CLEANING?
PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN MIND WHEN DISPOSING OF YOUR TRASH...

Compactors
Compactors are the machines that compress trash after it is deposited in the hoppers located on each floor. Please keep in mind, compactors are for trash not for recyclables!

Here are some rules to follow:

— Only throw into the hopper trash that will slide down easily. Don't force it! Take anything that is too large for the hopper to a designated trash area. Do not dispose of any trash in hallways, stairways, elevators, lobbies or rear exits. Call your Management Office if you have a large quantity of trash that you don’t know what to do with, or something that is too large for the hopper.

— Don’t throw mops and broomsticks, rags or old clothes into hoppers; they will cause jams. Wrap or tie them into bundles and bring them down to the basement ramp, or if your building does not have a basement ramp, to the bulk pick-up area. Your Housing Assistant will tell you where this is.

— Don’t throw newspapers, magazines, wire coat hangers, cardboard boxes or other recyclables into the hoppers. Bring them to the appropriate recycling container.

— Please, if at all possible, place your garbage in the compactor between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. When everyone puts their garbage in the compactor during the evening hours, it can result in jams that can cause health and fire hazards.

AND, NEVER place burning materials in any compactor chute!

Please dispose of all trash neatly.

Recycling
Recycling your mixed paper and cardboard, and metal, plastic bottles and jugs, and glass is one way that you can contribute to the preservation of our natural resources.

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Extra money coming back. Extra moments to enjoy.

You work hard to make ends meet. But, sometimes your paycheck just doesn’t stretch far enough to meet basic needs. The Earned Income Tax Credit was made for people like you who make less than $42,000. It could mean up to $4,800 extra back from the IRS when you file your taxes. Visit irs.gov/eitc, or call 1-800-829-1040 to see if you qualify.

Life’s a little easier with eitc

See if you qualify. Visit irs.gov/eitc
Prohibited Breeds: NYCHA has designated a variety of mixed and full breed dogs that cannot be owned or registered by NYCHA residents. The prohibited breeds are:

- Akita Inu
- Alangu Mastiff
- American Pit Bull Terrier
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Argentine Dogo
- Bedlington Terrier
- Boston Terrier
- Bull and Terrier
- Bull Terrier
- Bully Kutta
- Cane Corso
- Dogue de Bordeaux
- Dogo Sardesco
- English Mastiff
- Fila Brasileiro
- Gull Dong
- Gull Terr
- Irish Staffordshire Bull
- Korea Jindo Dog
- Lottatore Brindisino
- Neapolitan Mastiff
- Perro de Presa Canario (Canary dog)
- Perro de Presa Mallorquin (Ca de Bou)
- Shar Pei
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Tosa Inu

Weight Limit: Dogs with projected full-grown adult weight that exceeds 25 pounds are not permitted. The previous weight limit was 40 pounds. Service animals and animals that live in buildings designated exclusively for senior citizens are exempt from the fee.

Rent Hardship Policy Revisions

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has changed its Rent Hardship Policy to allow residents to apply for an Interim Rent Change when there is a 5% reduction in gross income, the current rent is more than 30% of the net income AND the reduction of income has lasted two months. The table below shows ALL the requirements needed for a NYCHA household to qualify for an Interim Rent Change based on the new Rent Hardship Policy.

You can qualify for an Interim Rent Change IF:

Old Policy

- There is a 10% reduction to gross income, AND
- Your current rent is more than 30% of the net income, AND
- The reduction in income has lasted at least three months.

New Policy

- There is a 5% reduction to gross income, AND
- Your current rent is more than 30% of the net income, AND
- The reduction in income has lasted at least two months.

The new policy reduces the waiting period from 3 months to 2 months of unemployment or long term disability. When a resident becomes unemployed or is on long term disability they are required to report the change in income to their Housing Assistant. If the reduction in income lasts 2 months the housing assistant will recalculate the rent and a rent notice will be mailed to the resident.