New NYCHA Task Force Responds Rapidly for Repairs

By Heidi Morales

Residents are heard making this statement at NYCHA public hearings, roundtable discussions and when meeting with Authority staff one-on-one. Many residents have been waiting for years for basic maintenance service such as plastering or repair of broken tiles. NYCHA is listening and has a solution to try to speed up repairs. The new Work Order Task Force allows multiple work orders to be consolidated to be handled in one visit to an apartment, with all maintenance and repair issues dealt with at once.

Aletha Wright, a 40-year resident at Drew-Hamilton Houses in Manhattan, was relieved to see Task Force workers swarming her development, ready to tackle the numerous requests for repairs. She had been waiting for three years for plaster and paint work in her bathroom. “That’s a long time to wait just to get that done, and this is not my fault, it’s coming from upstairs. [But] I’m feeling great now because I know that I will get this fixed,” said Ms. Wright.

The Work Order Task Force will address the most severe conditions promptly. Developments with the highest number of work tickets per apartment receive priority.

A recent survey of NYCHA developments revealed that more than 280,000 repairs were needed citywide with an average of eight pending work orders per apartment, at a cost of approximately $2,900 per unit. NYCHA estimates it would cost approximately $500 million to make interior repairs to all NYCHA apartments’ most basic needs.

Budget deficits and continued under-funding have forced the Authority to cut 11 percent of its maintenance workforce since 2005. This makes it harder for NYCHA to keep up with the pace of needed repairs at its 2,602 buildings, most of which are between 40 and 70 years old. However, more than 10,000 work order tickets have been completed since the Task Force began its work in June 2011.

“We have done a lot of listening and we are focused on serving our residents and utilizing all available resources to address these priorities,” said NYCHA Deputy General Manager for Operations Carlos Labay-Diaz. “We promised that we would work hard to address delays and expedite service to our residents and we have followed through by creating the Work Order Task Force.”

Rosalina Rodriguez has been a resident of Drew-Hamilton Houses for more than a decade and has been waiting more than two years for repairs in her bathroom, bedroom and kitchen. The walls and ceilings were plastered and later on would be painted. “I won’t have to continue looking at that peeling paint,” said Ms. Rodriguez. “Now that I see the work they are doing, I’m much calmer and satisfied.”

In 2010, State Assembly Housing Chairman John B. Rhea. “I extend my deepest gratitude to resident leaders, other residents, NYCHA staff, the Office of the Mayor, our sister City agencies and City and State elected officials who were so valuable in our efforts before, during and after the storm.”

NYCHA residents and staff worked side-by-side throughout the weekend to make sure people were safe and to minimize the potential for property damage from Hurricane Irene. In advance of the storm, staff posted notices about storm preparedness and evacuation instructions in multiple languages, checked on building structures and secured scaffolding at construction sites. Once Mayor Bloomberg announced a mandatory evacuation in Zone A, where NYCHA has 26 developments and more than 45,000 residents, staff went door-to-door, posted signs and administered automated phone calls in multiple languages to all Zone A development residents alerting them to evacuate. NYCHA staff, working with the Office of Emergency Management, NYPD, FDNY and thousands of volunteers evacuated buildings and transported residents to shelters. Many residents volunteered to assist in the efforts.

“I commend and thank all of the members of the NYCHA...”

Hurricane Irene Brings Out NYCHA at Its Best

As Hurricane Irene approached and eventually hit New York City on August 28, NYCHA worked hard to ensure that residents, and their homes, would be protected from the effects of the storm. Staff members from across the organization mobilized for storm preparations, resident communication and evacuation support, and volunteer efforts at City storm shelters.

“I am so proud of the NYCHA team and resident leaders who banded together out of concern for their homes and their neighbors’ well-being,” said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. “I extend my deepest gratitude to resident leaders, other residents, NYCHA staff, the Office of the Mayor, our sister City agencies and City and State elected officials who were so valuable in our efforts before, during and after the storm.”

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“I commend and thank all of the members of the NYCHA...”
NYCHA Board Meetings

Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2011 are as follows:

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<td>September 14</td>
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Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or 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. Copies of the Disposition are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the 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 business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call (212) 306-6088.

Residents’ Voices!

August 12, 2011
(sent via e-mail)

To all who are concerned:
Simply amazing! If from no one else - thank you!

Problems with rats within the grounds of Baruch Houses has been an ongoing problem for a number of years. There have been many complaints. I feel if we can register and make demands of our problems, when there is success there should be a voice of appreciation.

For the Mothers Day holiday I went out of town and upon my return, the rats were gone. After two years of investing my own money and time in the Magical Garden with little results, I was amazed that the special contracted exterminators got the job done. Our manager at the time, Anita Lal, made it her priority to have NYCHA extend the exterminating service for additional months to have the job completed.

Baruch Houses’ new manager, Karen Moe, the superintendent, Elliot Medina, and his assistant, David Martinez, are on the follow-up job. There has been new bait traps distributed and signs of other methods in place. The entire Lower East Side is affected by this problem. The NYC Sewage Dept. and Con Edison have been doing a lot of street digging that add to the problem. Without the attention of the officials at NYCHA and the support of our political leaders, I am sure the problem would be completely out of control.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH !!!

Luther T. Stubblefield, Baruch Houses Resident Association Member

July 20, 2011
(sent via e-mail)

Thank U again for accepting my application to be the first NYCHA Resident Board Member. Congratulations to Mr. Victor Antonio Gonzalez, I hope that you will work closely with the Chairman and the rest of the Board Members and the Mayor. I am looking forward for your visit in our Development.

Thanks again.

Lolita Miller, Ocean Bay Houses Resident Association Secretary

Tell us what is on your mind!

Residents’ Voices accepts letters, photographs, poems, drawings – anything that allows you to express yourself!

This month, we particularly would like to hear about your experiences during Hurricane Irene, including stories about any NYCHA staff or your fellow residents who performed in an exemplary manner.

Please include your full name, development name, address and phone number. We will print only your name and development on our pages; we need your address and phone number for verification purposes only.

Please limit written submissions to 250 words.

The Journal reserves the right to edit all content for length, clarity, good taste, accuracy, etc. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per issue.

There are many ways to share your thoughts with us at the Journal.

Send an e-mail to Journal@nycha.nyc.gov

Send a snail mail to:
NYCHA Journal
Letters to the Editor
250 Broadway, 12th floor
New York, NY 10007

Send a Tweet on Twitter at
@NYCHA_Housing
Post a message on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/NYCHA

NYCHA Journal
Send a fax to 212-577-1358

If you have any questions, please send them to Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.
family, the resident leaders, the members of the NYCHA Board and all NYCHA staff in the field for being prepared and for a tremendous hands-on effort in the handling of Hurricane Irene,” said Reginald Bowman, President of the Citywide Council of Presidents. “No one person did this alone. Let us keep and remember this spirit in all of our efforts into the future.”

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irene, NYCHA staff immediately went to work to assess all buildings, especially in Zone A where the impact was greater, and got started on clean-up efforts and restoration of services. A little more than 24 hours after the storm ended, electricity, elevators and hot water were running in every development in Flood Zone A.

“This was a huge logistical undertaking and the men and women of NYCHA did a great job,” said Chairman Rhea. “The main thing I have heard from resident leaders and elected officials about NYCHA and our employees is that it was obvious that we cared about the well-being of our residents.”

Earlier this year under the leadership of NYCHA Commissioner Margarita López, NYCHA held emergency preparedness trainings in Far Rockaway for 700 residents to learn the importance of being prepared for extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and floods. Commissioner López said that training paid off during Hurricane Irene. “Because of the training, that early preparation for residents and staff was the key to why we were able to evacuate all of the residents from the Rockaways,” she said.

“They did a beautiful job. They couldn’t do any better,” said Geraldine Jones, President of the Bayside/Ocean Bay Resident Association, who noted that Commissioner López and other NYCHA workers went door-to-door to inform residents that they needed to evacuate.

NYCHA worked closely on outreach efforts before and after the storm with the Office of the Mayor; the Office of Emergency Management (OEM); Council Speaker Christine Quinn; Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver; Council Members Margaret Chin, Sara Gonzalez, Rosie Mendez and Domenic Recchia, Jr.; Senator Daniel Squadron; Assembly Member Brian Kavanagh; and all of the City and State elected officials who were visible in their communities.

We also worked to help our residents in flood zones to evacuate and move safely to their families’ and friends’ homes and the City’s emergency shelters. In collaboration with Deputy Mayor Robert Steel, Deputy Mayor Linda Gibbs and Deputy Mayor Cas Holloway, we worked with the New York City Police Department (NYPD), the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), the Fire Department of New York (FDNY), the Department of Education (DOE) and other sister agencies to transport residents to their families’ and friends’ homes and the City’s emergency shelters. In collaboration in their communities.

The coordinated response to Hurricane Irene is an exemplary effort of how NYCHA at every level can be and should be responsive to families’ needs, work to keep residents safe and protect and promote New York City’s prosperity.

John B. Rhea

Message from the Chairman

The New York City Housing Authority’s main priority always is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the more than 400,000 residents who live in our public housing developments. That is why, under Mayor Bloomberg’s leadership, as soon as we were aware of Hurricane Irene, our staff started preparations and communications to secure residents and their homes. I am grateful to NYCHA’s many employees, resident leaders and other residents who volunteered to assist in the effort.

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The Citywide Council of Presidents and other resident leaders provided vital support in our efforts to spread the word around the developments in flood zones and throughout the city. We were in frequent contact with them prior to and during the storm, and they responded by passing along critical information to their neighbors.

Many NYCHA employees were instrumental in our efforts, working around the clock throughout the weekend, which undoubtedly protected lives and property. This was a complete effort, at all levels of the Authority. Staff members not only were at developments and borough offices, but many volunteered their time at one of the City’s storm shelters. I particularly am proud that in a little more than 24 hours after the storm, every development in Flood Zone A had their electricity, elevators and hot water running.

As I visited several of the affected communities during the weekend, I was most impressed by the spirit of NYCHA’s employees. Everyone I spoke with was energetic and completely focused on ensuring our response was as strong as possible. They fully were committed to ensuring that residents were safe and supported and that their homes were protected.

The coordinated response to Hurricane Irene is an exemplary effort of how NYCHA at every level can be and should be responsive to families’ needs, work to keep residents safe and protect and promote New York City’s prosperity.

John B. Rhea

Hurricane Irene Brings Out NYCHA at Its Best

A couple of “green interns” could bring benefits to NYCHA. Through a partnership with the national non-profit Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), two Duke University graduate students this summer helped detail new ways to save energy as part of the EDF’s Climate Corps Public Sector program.

The interns, Amy Kochanowsky and Harrison Thomas, evaluated NYCHA’s utility costs and opportunities for decreasing energy use. They looked at wireless energy modules, which monitor and regulate individual apartments’ thermostats, replacing exit signs with LED lighting and the maintenance of NYCHA’s heating plant.

“We were able to offer a fresh set of eyes to approach NYCHA’s concerns,” said Ms. Kochanowsky. “We were exposed to a lot of ideas and we were able to work with other players such as the utility company.”

NYCHA is looking at ways to implement the interns’ suggestions. Their research found that the Authority could save $58 million per year on utilities if these efforts are put in place, a savings of 11 percent. The plan also could result in a 12 percent reduction in annual carbon dioxide emissions.

The interns’ placement was the result of the efforts of Commissioner Margarita López, NYCHA’s Green Coordinator, and the Office of Strategic Planning. “NYCHA’s partnership with EDF and its interns shows that the best way for any organization to resolve their challenges, such as reducing energy costs and carbon emissions, is through cooperative efforts,” said Commissioner López. “I look forward to having a long collaboration with EDF.”

NYCHA is the first public housing authority and New York-based organization to partner with EDF’s Climate Corps Public Sector program. “The EDF interns were a valuable addition to the Energy Department, bringing a fresh perspective to how we manage energy within the authority,” said Energy Department Director Rory Christian. “Their efforts have helped bring us one step closer towards achieving the goals of the Green Agenda.”
Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded since the promulgation of DOHHS Rule 513. The list includes those who have been found guilty of various forms of tenant fraud, including concealing income and household composition, illegally subletting apartments and hiding assets such as property ownership, as well as those who have been convicted of defrauding NYCHA or other housing authorities throughout the state. The list also includes those who have been convicted and sentenced for defrauding NYCHA.

NYCHA GM Kelly to Stay at Philadelphia Housing Authority

CIO Atefeh Riazi to Serve as Acting GM

NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly, who has been on loan to the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) since December 2010, is scheduled to return to his position as Philadelphia’s Interim Executive Director in September 2011. Mr. Kelly originally agreed to serve during this critical period so that New York can provide assistance to Philadelphia during a time of transition for them and other allies of public housing. (continued from page 1)

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA’s public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority’s ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of August 25 and 31, and September 8, 15, 22 and 28, 2010.

Prohibited as of August 25, 2010

- Coley Curry
- Earl Holley Jr.
- Jason Horsford
- Timothy Nkem
- Eddie Santiago

Prohibited as of August 31, 2010

- Robert Alston
- Ryan Coughlin
- Rama Hassell
- Delince Pierre
- Terrell Rogers
- Jorge Rosa
- Robert Alston
- Francisco Cabrera
- Shawn Fonville
- Michael Hardison
- Delince Pierre
- Anthony Levy
- Michael Hardison
- James Clabirne
- Shawn Fonville
- Anthony Levy
- Mario Jones
- Jason Horsford
- Nathaniel Williams

Prohibited as of September 8, 2010

- Cabra Low/Glennmore Houses
- Lehigh Village
- Michael Hardison
- Saul Ross
- Nidal Al Khatibi
- Anthony Levy
- Michael Hardison
- Deshong Prescott
- Gabriel Rivera
- Sable Russell
- Nathaniel Williams

NYCHA Task Force Responds Rapidly for Repairs

Chairman Vito Lopez and Speaker Sheldon Silver included $6.5 million dollars for repairs in the proposed Assembly budget. However, this funding was not included in the final budget, and for the first time, the State of New York did not include any funding for NYCHA. In previous years, the State cut operating funds, but always included funding for NYCHA. In previous years, the State cut operating funds. Individuals convicted of housing fraud face serious penalties, including prison time and the loss of their public housing apartment or Section 8 voucher.

What are the various types of tenant fraud?

- DOi’s Inspector General (IG) for NYCHA has a wide scope, including identifying and stopping housing fraud. Since 2002, DOi has arrested more than 500 individuals on tenant fraud charges involving NYCHA housing subsidies, and uncovered the theft of nearly $1 million in housing benefits. This criminal conduct drains available housing funds. Individuals convicted of housing fraud face serious penalties, including prison time and the loss of their public housing apartment or Section 8 voucher.

Can you describe DOi’s work in NYCHA?

- DOi’s Inspector General (IG) for NYCHA is the State’s lead agency in the fight against tenant housing fraud. Since 2002, DOi’s Inspector General (IG) for NYCHA has arrested more than 500 individuals on tenant fraud charges involving NYCHA housing subsidies, and uncovered the theft of nearly $1 million in housing benefits. This criminal conduct drains available housing funds. Individuals convicted of housing fraud face serious penalties, including prison time and the loss of their public housing apartment or Section 8 voucher.

What are the various types of tenant fraud?

- DOi has uncovered many different illegal schemes used to steal public housing dollars, including concealing income and household composition, illegally subletting apartments and hiding assets such as property ownership. DOi works closely with NYCHA to spot discrepancies so fraud is caught sooner and public housing dollars can be saved.

Can you explain the new quarterly feature that begins in this issue of NYCHA’s Journal?

DOI will provide names of residents, as listed below, who have been convicted and sentenced for defrauding NYCHA. We hope this feature not only deters future fraud but also informs on DOI’s commitment to protecting limited public housing resources. Anyone with information regarding fraud or wrongdoing should call DOI’s NYCHA IG hotline at (212) 306-3356.

Jonathan Phillips - sentenced to six months in jail for failing to report the income he earned from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and illegally obtaining $38,229 in Section 8 benefits.

Chris Santos - sentenced to five years of supervised release and ordered to pay $47,988 in restitution for failing to report her husband’s income with the City Department of Parks and Recreation and his presence in her apartment in Douglass Houses.

Ana Contreras - sentenced to three months in prison and ordered to pay $37,898 for illegally subletting her Section 8 apartment in Manhattan while living in the Dominican Republic.

Mei Ki Wan - sentenced to three years of supervised release and ordered to pay $18,594 in restitution for illegally subletting her apartment in Smith Houses and failing to notify the Authority she had moved into a Long Island residence she purchased with another individual.

Joan Johnson - sentenced to three years supervised release and ordered to pay $31,493 in restitution for failing to report she had moved to a co-operative apartment she owned in Harlem while claiming she still resided in her apartment at LaGuardia Houses, which she had turned over to another individual.

FREE 15-week job training program for homeless & low-income women

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Computer Training - Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook Internet Research - Resume Writing - Interviewing Skills Job Placement Assistance - Self-Esteem Building 2 Month Internship - Case Management - Typing Literacy Building - Mentoring - Yoga & Meditation Support Groups - Empowerment GED not required • New class starting soon!

FREE Continental Breakfast & Metrocards Provided

For more information, please call (212) 776-2074
NYCHA Goes All Out to Assist Residents Caught in Gas Outage

By Zodet Negrón and Howard Silver

NYCHA launched an “all hands on deck” emergency response after the large gas outage hit northern Manhattan earlier this summer. The water main break on August 5 left more than 8,000 New Yorkers without gas, affecting more than 3,000 NYCHA apartments in Rangel, Polo Grounds and Harlem River Houses.

NYCHA Social Services, Emergency Services and Property Management Department staff knocked on every door well past midnight to distribute hot plates and notices for residents about the outage. Social Services also checked elderly residents and residents with special needs, bringing them dinner late into the night. Residents were very appreciative of NYCHA’s response to the situation.

“They handled it very well,” said Abdullah Basir, a resident at Polo Grounds. “They were tenacious and very sincere. They did an extremely good job.”

“They were very quick and efficient,” said Betty Mena, a resident at Rangel Houses. “They made sure that everyone had hot plates and did everything to full efficiency.”

Almost all of NYCHA’s plumbing staff responded to the outage, working at all three developments with Con Edison to restore gas service. NYCHA staff also removed stoves in need of replacement and installed new stoves in preparation for the restoration of gas.

NYCHA established a command center on site to coordinate efforts with Con Edison, the New York Police Department and the community to manage restoration activities and resident needs around the clock. Property management departments extended their office hours from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and staff remained on call on rotating shifts to 10:00 p.m. to accommodate residents’ needs.

“It was an all-out response,” said Conrad Vázquez, director of NYCHA’s Emergency Services Department. “Not one staff person did not answer the call for help or the request for return to work.”

As of September 1, stoves were reconnected at 97 percent of the units in Harlem River Houses, 95 percent of Rangel Houses and 81 percent of Polo Grounds Towers.

Why Does it Take so Long for Gas to Come Back on?

The process of restoring gas involves entering every affected apartment to check for gas leaks and other issues. If NYCHA staff cannot enter just one unit, gas cannot be restored to the building because every unit’s stove need to be checked and tested for leaks.

If no leaks are found, then every stove must be reconnected, one-by-one, and gas can be restored. If there is a leak, every unit has to be re-checked until the leak is found. Once the leak is fixed, staff has to go back into every unit and repeat the process all over again before turning gas back on in the building.

1-800-LIFENET Can Help You

If you or someone you know is suffering with emotional or substance abuse problems, LifeNet can help. Call 1-800-LIFENET (1-800-543-3638) to get free professional help with emotional or substance abuse problems including:

- Depression
- Suicidal Feelings
- Excessive Worry
- Eating Disorders
- Fear or Anxiety
- Drug and Alcohol Use

An article in the July/August issue of the Journal neglected to mention that the two NYCHA departments that worked on the Health of Older Adults in New York City Public Housing report were Resident Support Services run by Director Richard Greene and Research and Management Analysis run by Director Anne-Marie Flatley.

Senior News

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- Suicidal Feelings
- Excessive Worry
- Eating Disorders
- Fear or Anxiety
- Drug and Alcohol Use

Information shared is kept confidential. You can call 24 hours per day/7 days per week. Need help? Don’t delay! Call 1-800-LIFENET today!

Information also can be found online at www.800LIFENET.org.
over-drying can waste a lot of energy and damage clothing. the best way to avoid over-drying is to...

a. check the dryer every 10 minutes
b. take the clothes out while still damp
c. use the moisture sensor on your dryer

plugging appliances into a power strip...

a. makes them more powerful
b. makes it easy to turn them all off to save energy
c. uses less energy because it all comes from one outlet

what’s the largest energy user for homes in our area?

a. lighting
b. heating
c. electronics
d. toasters

showers use less energy than baths because...

a. they require the water to be less hot than a bath does
b. the acoustics are better for singing
c. they use about half as much hot water

for 100+ energy saving tips visit conEd.com or find us on Facebook at Power of Green
Residents, NYCHA and NYPD Mobilize to Make Developments Safer

By Starr Lane

NYCHA residents, NYCHA and the New York City Police Department (NYPD) continued their collaboration this summer to make developments safer and more secure and to improve residents’ quality of life. The latest effort was the first joint mobilization drill with residents of Edenwald Houses in the Bronx on July 18. The drills are designed to prepare residents on how to handle emergency situations within their community. Resident Watch volunteers are taught how to properly react, notify and report emergencies to the NYPD.

About 40 Edenwald residents, all members of the development’s Resident Watch volunteer program, attended the training drill, which focused on how to take action when a child is missing. “It’s a family thing, our own little crew,” said Edenwald Resident Association President and Resident Watch Supervisor Walter McNeil. “We have to look out for each other.”

The Resident Watch volunteers gathered in the Edenwald Community Center, ready to receive instructions from NYPD officials, who were led by NYPD Housing Bureau Executive Officer Edward Delatorre. After receiving a fictitious missing child alert, volunteers were trained on how to report to a rally point to gather information properly, and pass out flyers within their residence and surrounding community. NYPD officials then provided residents with a Hot Wash (after-action review) report.

“This created dialogue between NYCHA residents and the NYPD,” said NYCHA Director of Security Patrick O’Hagan. “They were able to review the pros and cons of what occurred during the drill.”

Members of the Edenwald Houses Resident Watch participate in a joint mobilization drill with NYPD on July 18, 2011.

Residents, NYCHA and NYPD Mobilize to Make Developments Safer

Resident Watch Volunteers Receive Police Training

For more information on Resident Watch, residents can call the following Borough Resident Watch Coordinators:

- **Bronx:** Juan Laporte, 718-409-8620
- **Brooklyn:** Deborah Miller, 718-329-7818
- **Manhattan:** Mark Williams, 212-427-8542
- **Queens/Staten Island:** Peter Koch, 718-657-8300

Edenwald, the largest development in the Bronx, was the first of any NYCHA development to participate in a joint mobilization drill. The training provided by the NYPD is expected to enhance the coordination and response time of Resident Watch volunteers and to strengthen the relationship among volunteers, NYCHA Property Management Staff and the NYPD during emergency situations.

“Resident Watch is an important element in enhancing the security of our developments and improving the quality of life of our residents. These drills will help our Resident Watch volunteers to be better prepared to handle emergencies and strengthen the support network for our residents at a local level,” said NYCHA Deputy General Manager of Operations Carlos Laboy-Diaz.

“I hope the drills will spread to the other boroughs,” said Mr. McNeil. “I hope they become nationwide.”

More mobilization drills are being planned at other developments.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

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www.languageline.com/careers
NYCHA Celebrates

NYCHA youth looked for any way they could to stay cool during the National Night Out event at Lafayette Gardens on August 2.

Ronnie Artis from Park Rock Rehab breaks into a solo at City Hall Park on June 22. The NYCHA Youth Chorus belted out some tunes all over the City as part of Sing For Hope’s Pop-Up Pianos concert series.

Reaching for the top at one of the Citywide Carnivals on August 11.

NYCHA seniors enjoy themselves at State Assembly Housing Chairman Vito Lopez’ annual summer picnic on July 21.

NYCHA Art Camp participants make their own creation during a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art on August 4.

Big smiles at the National Night Out event at Lafayette Gardens on August 2.

A sunny day at Rutgers Family Day on July 9.

NYCHA Celebrates Summer 2011

Crossing the finish line during the Education Through Sports annual event on July 4.
Future NYCHA Resident Leaders in the Making

By Starr Lane

"L"eadership happens by initiation, not invitation. The change is you," President of the Citywide Council of Presidents Reginald Bowman told the more than 65 attendees at the first-ever NYCHA Young Adult Engagement Session on August 19. The Engagement Session allowed NYCHA’s potential future resident leaders to share their thoughts about NYCHA’s job training programs and the Green City Force, a nonprofit that prepares young people for careers in the emerging green economy.

"This event allowed us to bounce ideas off each other. We can help the community and help by getting involved," said Carolyn Wilson, a resident of Red Hook East Houses in Brooklyn and a Green City Force employee.

Twenty-two-year-old Emmanuel Lopez from Atlantic Terminal Houses in Brooklyn shared his experiences of being the youngest Resident Association President in any development. Inspired to run after hearing President Obama’s election victory speech, he explained that he wanted a change in his community. After being in office for more than a year, Mr. Lopez said that he has faced adversity about his age but it comes with the territory. “Every leadership has its ups and downs,” said Mr. Lopez.

Eastchester Garden Houses (Bronx) resident Joecelyn Cruz, said that a lack of advertisement of NYCHA programs is a big problem in getting residents involved in initiatives. “A key component in outreach is to connect with the young community,” said Ms. Cruz, who encouraged her peers to connect to NYCHA resources through social media networks. “I’m a proud Facebook ‘liker’ of the NYCHA page," she said.

As the session ended, 20 residents volunteered to participate in the Young Adult Council as leaders and liaisons in their communities.

New Draft Annual Agency Plan Process a Success

By Eric Deutsch

To better encourage residents to participate in NYCHA’s Draft Annual Agency Plan process, the Authority used a new format for the town halls it holds every year for residents to share their thoughts. Following the success of the Community Conversations held for the Plan to Preserve Public Housing, residents and NYCHA staff gathered in small groups to discuss the direction of the Authority for fiscal year 2012, focusing on eligibility and admissions; financial resources; capital projects; crime and safety; and community service. The new approach drew more than 460 residents to the five town hall meetings, with one held in each borough in July and August.

“This was a great idea, much better than the format they used to use," said Nathaniel Green, the Dyckman Houses Resident Association President, at the town hall held in Manhattan.

“They should have been doing this for years." NYCHA believes the town hall meetings are an important way to involve residents and be a transparent agency. The public hearing for the Draft Annual Agency Plan, that the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) mandates, took place on August 24.

“This was very informative. I’m glad I came,” said Israel Valle from Amsterdam Houses. While the public comment period for the Draft Annual Agency Plan has closed, the plan can be viewed on NYCHA’s website at www.nyc.gov/nycha in the ‘Resources’ section.
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