



## New Members Join NYCHA Board

*Change in Board Structure Takes Effect and Adds More Resident Representation*

**N**YCHA now has seven Board Members. Diahann Billings-Burford, Beatrice Byrd, Kyle Kimball and Willie Mae Lewis have joined Chairman John B. Rhea and reappointed Board Members Victor A. González and Emily Youssouf.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg appointed the new board following legislative changes – proposed by the Bloomberg Administration – that allow the Mayor to reconstitute the board with a full-time chairman and six members, including three residents. The previous structure had three salaried positions and one resident.

“Despite the many challenges that have resulted from severe cuts in federal funding to public housing, we are determined to preserve and improve the homes of the more than 600,000 New Yorkers who live in NYCHA facilities,” said Mayor Bloomberg. “With this new governance model in place, NYCHA can continue making progress reducing



The members of the newly structured NYCHA Board are, from left to right, Kyle Kimball, Willie Mae Lewis, Emily Youssouf, Chairman John B. Rhea, Diahann Billings-Burford, Beatrice Byrd and Victor A. González.

the backlog of repairs and maintenance requests, while also implementing PlanNYCHA, which includes creative, revenue-generating ideas that will benefit residents.”

As initial members of the new Board,

the six members are appointed for fixed terms of one, two or three years. After the initial terms, all appointees will serve three years. The Chair position will continue to serve at the pleasure of the Mayor. The new Board met for the first

time on September 25 – the Board now will meet a minimum of 10 times per year.

At the September meeting, Reginald Bowman, the Chairman of the City-wide Council of Presidents, said, “We

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As we outlined in Plan NYCHA, our efforts to preserve public housing require creative strategies to raise funds for much-needed capital repair work. In keeping with this commitment, along with our City and State partners, I am pleased to share with you that our latest bond deal has generated approximately \$732 million for repairs at NYCHA developments across the city – the largest bond proceeds ever raised for public housing authority capital funds. What does this mean to NYCHA residents? Basically, nearly \$500 million of this money will fund repairs to building exteriors and systems at NYCHA developments – improving quality of life for approximately 32,000 residents.

Most of the remaining money will refinance – at lower cost – existing bonds that funded capital projects

## Message from the Chairman

several years ago. The refinancing will save NYCHA approximately \$3 million, and give the Authority greater financial flexibility and more favorable terms on the newly issued bonds.

Repairs already have begun at Kingsborough Houses and Kingsborough Extension in Brooklyn. Another 22 additional developments will have work started soon. Repairs to brick façades, roofs and other structural elements will help address underlying conditions that can be the cause of many of our ongoing maintenance issues. In addition, once we complete these repairs, we can move ahead on improving elevators, bathrooms, kitchens and intercoms, as well as heating, plumbing and electrical systems.

All of this work on behalf of NYCHA families reaffirms NYCHA’s core promise of providing safe, affordable housing in a state of good repair. It also continues our commitment to maintain and preserve public housing in New York City, while many other public housing authorities across the country are demolishing their buildings. Over the past three years, NYCHA has made approximately \$1.5 billion in capital investments, including \$423 million in federal stimulus funding for capital improvements that enhanced



Kingsborough Extension is one of the first developments that will have repairs done with the \$732 million in funding obtained by NYCHA through a new bond issuance.

the quality of life for 140,000 families. In 2012 alone, we successfully invested nearly \$500 million in making capital improvements to our housing stock.

This bond deal continues our track record of strong management and competent spending. With the limited funds we do get, NYCHA consistently meets all of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-mandated *continued on page 2* ▶

# NYCHA Board Meetings



Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place as announced on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, NY (unless otherwise noted).

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **October 23, 2013**.

Any changes to the schedule will be posted in the *Journal* and on NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.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 for an upcoming meeting are available on NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/NYCHA](http://www.nyc.gov/NYCHA), or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, NY, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Monday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Copies of the Dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate 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 Corporate Secretary at **212-306-6088** no later than five business days before the Board Meeting.

For additional information regarding Board Meeting Calendars, Dispositions, dates and times, please call **212-306-6088**.

## Check out NYCHA's Facebook page!

Got a web-enabled smartphone? Now you can access NYCHA's Facebook page and bonus content in this issue by scanning or taking a snapshot of the QR codes. The QR code for NYCHA's Facebook page is on the right.

**Step 1:** Download a QR code scanner application from your phone's marketplace (many of these "apps" are free to download). **Step 2:** Point your phone's camera at the QR image.



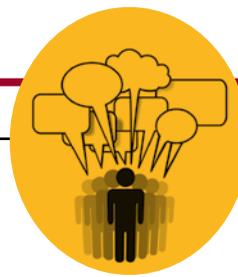
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Michael R. Bloomberg.....	Mayor
John B. Rhea.....	Chairman
Diahann Billings-Burford.....	Board Member
Beatrice Byrd.....	Board Member
Victor A. González.....	Board Member
Kyle E. Kimball.....	Board Member
Willie Mae Lewis.....	Board Member
Emily A. Youssouf.....	Board Member
Vilma Huertas.....	Corporate Secretary
Cecil House.....	General Manager
Lynn Godfrey.....	Chief Communications Officer
Sheila Stainback.....	Communications Officer
Eric Deutsch.....	Editor
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## Residents' Voices



September 19, 2013

(from new bond announcement news release)

I am looking forward to the results of this financing plan, also suggested and promoted by the resident leaders, and the City-wide Council of Presidents. I am pleased this collective approach to funding capital projects is moving forward to continue to do the much needed work that will lead to something that residents are looking forward to – better buildings and facilities for their comfort and enjoyment.

**Reginald H. Bowman, Chairman,  
Citywide Council of Presidents, Seth Low Houses**

September 13, 2013

(via mail)

I am writing about our Caretaker, Lydia Rivera. Miss Rivera is a dedicated employee. She maintains our area and buildings as if it were her own home. All the tenants love her and respect her.

**Maria Rodriguez, Pelham Parkway Houses**

### Tell us what is on your mind!

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

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](mailto: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 [twitter.com/NYCHA\\_Housing](https://twitter.com/NYCHA_Housing)

Post a message on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NYCHA](http://www.facebook.com/NYCHA)

Send a fax to **212-577-1358**

If you have any questions, please send them to [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).

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### New Members Join NYCHA Board

are looking forward to being partners with this new manifestation of the NYCHA Board. This day represents a milestone in this agency in making progress toward better representation for the people who live in public housing."

Chairman John Rhea remains in his position, and Board Members Victor González and Emily Youssouf were re-appointed to the new Board; Mr. González is one of the three resident members of the Board. There are four new Board Members.

Diahann Billings-Burford serves as the nation's first-ever municipal Chief Service Officer, charged with leading NYC Service – New York City's initiative to promote a new era of service and volunteerism in New York City. Prior to her appointment, Ms. Billings-Burford served as Deputy Executive Director of External Affairs for City Year New York. Prior to joining City Year, she served as the Director of External Affairs (NY) for Achievement First, a charter school management organization. Ms. Billings-Burford spent most of her career with Prep for Prep, a New York-based leadership development organization where she served in various capacities, including Director of College Guidance and Director of Leadership Development Opportunities.

Beatrice Byrd is the former President of the Red Hook West Houses Resident Association. Previously, Ms. Byrd served in various capacities in the New York City school system, including as an eighth grade English and Social Studies teacher; an Assistant Principal; and a Neighborhood Literacy Coordinator for Community School District 15.

Kyle Kimball is the President of the New York City Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Since joining EDC in 2008, Mr. Kimball has helped to develop and implement its strategy to strengthen the City's economy. His efforts also include overseeing billions of dollars in capital investments ranging from basic infrastructure improvements to new parks and streetscapes across the City, as well as implementing several of the Administration's most ambitious area-wide redevelopment projects, bringing new housing, infrastructure and job opportunities to neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs. Prior to joining EDC, Mr. Kimball worked at Goldman, Sachs & Co. as a Vice President and at J.P. Morgan, also as a Vice President.

Willie Mae Lewis is the President of the St. Nicholas Houses Resident Association, and has served in that capacity since 1979. After her early involvement in the lunch-counter demonstrations of the Civil Rights Period, Ms. Lewis came to New York

and became deeply involved in her community. She has worked for the Department of Education since 1989, currently at P.S. 197, just a few blocks from her home. Ms. Lewis also is a deeply involved supporter of the new Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy Charter School at St. Nicholas Houses, where she serves as a member of the board of directors.

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### Message from the Chairman

guidelines for obligating and spending capital dollars for improvements to buildings. In fact, we already implemented a plan to obligate our annual federal funding for Capital Projects within 18 months, faster than HUD's mandated 24 months; and to meet our spending targets for those projects within 36 months, versus HUD's mandate of 48 months. This means you will not have to wait as long for important improvements and repairs to be done.

I am confident that this long-term capital plan will secure the homes of NYCHA residents and improve their quality of life for years to come.

John B. Rhea

## Chairman Rhea Attends Recognition of Green City Force at the White House

**N**YCHA Chairman John B. Rhea was at the White House on September 26 to honor one of NYCHA's top partners, Green City Force (GCF). GCF's Executive Director, Lisbeth Shepherd, was named a "Champion of Change" by the White House for her organization's successful efforts to provide low-income youth with training, education and leadership opportunities that lead to "green-collar" jobs. As part of the weekly recognition event which focuses on varying topics, the White House highlighted eight other individuals whose innovative ideas or extraordinary work

have inspired others to join them in improving their communities. President Obama, who was at the ceremony, declared the week's theme to be about creating jobs for the youth of America.

Since its founding in 2009, GCF has helped NYCHA advance its green agenda. GCF members – NYCHA residents ages 18-24 with a high school diploma or GED who are not enrolled in college – supported the launch of the urban farm at Red Hook Houses and the green space and storm water irrigation system at Lillian Wald Houses called Planters Grove. They conducted the "Love Where You Live Challenge" at Chelsea-Elliott Houses, get-

ting two-thirds of residents to reduce their energy use by 11 percent, and repeated the Challenge at Adams Houses and 344 East 28th Street.

"This is a tremendous validation of Green City Force graduates, members, staff and partners working to create opportunity for young people to get on a path toward family-supporting careers," Ms. Shepherd said.

Also in attendance to highlight the successful partnership between NYCHA and GCF were two GCF graduates, Dejon Barnes, a resident of Edenwald Houses and employee of the Community Environmental Center, and Derrika Cruickshank, a LaGuardia Houses resident em-

ployed as a Compost Associate. "My choice to join Green City Force was one of the best decisions I have ever made," said Ms. Cruickshank. "I have gained more life and work experience in six months than I received in the years before I joined GCF. Most important, I have built a wonderful community of business colleagues and lifetime friends that

will stay with me forever."

One hundred and thirty-three NYCHA youth have graduated from the six-month program, which provides classes on environmental science, math, career development and technical skills in addition to hands-on experience and assistance getting jobs and into college.



Dejon Barnes, an Edenwald Houses resident and Green City Force member, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, Derrika Cruickshank, a LaGuardia Houses resident and Green City Force member, and Lisbeth Shepherd, GCF's Executive Director, stand outside the White House on September 26, 2013.

## NYCHA Receives Green Organizational Accreditation for Implementing Best Practices

**N**YCHA received more honors for the environmentally-friendly way it runs its developments. It recently was given a Green Organizational Accreditation from the Sustainable Performance Institute (SPI) and the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for implementing sustainable practices.

"We commend NYCHA for the excellent achievements it has made in renovating and improving its properties," said Elisabeth Krautscheid, director of the SPI-HUD Accreditation Program. "NYCHA fulfilled the requirements for full accreditation, meaning

it implemented best practices in both the management of its housing portfolio and effectiveness of its operations."

The SPI-HUD Green Organizational Accreditation is part of HUD's Affordable Green Initiative, a pilot program launched in 2012 to support the organizations that HUD funds to improve their sustainability. The Affordable Green Initiative's purpose is to enable organizations to institutionalize sustainability and achieve higher levels of performance of the management of their housing portfolios. Comprehensive support through training, technical assistance and accreditation is completely subsidized by HUD

and free to all participants.

"NYCHA has undertaken a number of ambitious efforts as part of our Green Agenda to build a progressive and more sustainable future for our residents and the city," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "Our measures to significantly lower energy consumption will enhance staff efficiency, engage residents and improve the quality of life for all public housing families."

NYCHA was one of 17 organizations in the country to achieve full accreditation, meaning they already have implemented most or all of the best practices.

## Popular Summer Art Exhibit at an End

**T**he Gramsci Monument – a large interactive art exhibit made out of wood at Forest Houses – has come to its end. The structure, built

in a public space at the Bronx development, only was meant to be around for the summer. Forest Houses residents built it in May, staffed it during the



summer and broke it down in September, as shown at left. Forty-four residents were hired for construction, teaching, security and other jobs. The monument included a performance space, radio station, small wading pool, library and computer room. It was the brainchild of Swiss artist Thomas Hirschhorn, and was paid for entirely by the Dia Art Foundation. Its name came from the Italian philosopher Antonio Gramsci.

## New Head of Community Programs and Development Is a Familiar Face

**M**argarita López is NYCHA's new Executive Vice President for Community Programs and Development. Ms. López previously had served on NYCHA's Board since 2006.

In her role as Environmental Coordinator, Ms. López led the establishment of NYCHA's Green Committee, oversaw the retrofitting and greening of NYCHA developments and directed several initiatives to promote storm preparedness in vulnerable areas, especially in the lead-up to Hurricane Irene in 2011. She took on leadership roles in many other NYCHA

initiatives – including the development and rollout of Plan NYCHA – often focusing on the important work of engaging and informing residents and not-for-profit partners.

"This wealth of experience makes Margarita an ideal leader for Community Programs and Development in these important times for NYCHA and public housing residents," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "She will continue the department's work over the past several years to fulfill the Plan NYCHA imperative to better connect residents to important services."



NYCHA's new Executive Vice President for Community Programs and Development Margarita López, formerly a Board Member, participates in one of the round table discussions with residents that were held to create Plan NYCHA.

## 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 full list can be viewed at [on.nyc.gov/nychanotwanted](http://on.nyc.gov/nychanotwanted). The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of March 13-April 10, 2013.

### March 13, 2013

**Thomas Curtis** Albany II Houses, 1414 Bergen Street, Apt. 14I, Brooklyn  
**Mark Saint John** Gowanus Houses, 244 Bond Street, Apt. 3G, Brooklyn

### March 20, 2013

**Johnny McClain** Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses, 1775 Bruckner Boulevard, Apt. 2G, Bronx  
**Larry McClain** Justice Sonia Sotomayor Houses, 1775 Bruckner Boulevard, Apt. 2G, Bronx  
**Denenne Webster** Douglass Houses, 826 Columbus Avenue, Apt. 10A, Manhattan

### March 28, 2013

**Jose Alvarez** Baruch Houses, 312 Delancey Street, Apt. 2C, Manhattan  
**Kashief Bennett-Tyson** Cypress Hills Houses, 1240 Sutter Avenue, Apt. 6A, Brooklyn  
**Jose Colon** Bronx River Houses, 1635 East 174th Street, Apt. 11J, Bronx  
**Kelly Mena** Lincoln Houses, 1960 Park Avenue, Apt. 5D, Manhattan  
**Dreshaun Smith** South Jamaica II Houses, 107-08 160th Street, Apt. 3B, Queens  
**Michael Troutman** Breukelen Houses, 105-13 Glenwood Road, Apt. 6C, Brooklyn

### April 10, 2013

**Angel Alicea** St. Mary's Park Houses, 550 Cauldwell Avenue, Apt. 6G, Bronx  
**Randa Atallah** Pomonok Houses, 65-28 Parsons Boulevard, Apt. 1D, Queens  
**Eric Aviles** Lower East Side III Houses, 722 East 9th Street, Apt. 1G, Manhattan  
**Julio Aviles** Lower East Side III Houses, 722 East 9th Street, Apt. 1G, Manhattan  
**Yemalia Ayala** St. Mary's Park Houses, 550 Cauldwell Avenue, Apt. 6G, Bronx  
**Tyquan Bracey aka Tiquali Bracey** Morris I Houses, 1451 Washington Avenue, Apt. 15F, Bronx  
**Raushawn Doctor** Brevoort Houses, 292 Ralph Avenue, Apt. 7D, Brooklyn  
**Esteban Gonzalez** St. Mary's Park Houses, 550 Cauldwell Avenue, Apt. 6G, Bronx  
**Michael Hixon** Pomonok Houses, 65-28 Parsons Boulevard, Apt. 1D, Queens  
**Robert Mays** Throggs Neck Houses, 2786 Dewey Avenue, Apt. 7C, Bronx  
**Estevan Medina** Castle Hill Houses, 535 Havemeyer Avenue, Apt. 3F, Bronx  
**Tayquarn Peterson aka Tayquan Peterson** Farragut Houses, 202 York Street, Apt. 4E, Brooklyn  
**Paul Sanders** West Brighton Houses, 240 Broadway, Apt. 7H, Staten Island  
**Vernon Townsend** Sheepshead Bay Houses, 2953 Avenue W, Apt. 1C, Brooklyn  
**Brandin Trezevant** Surfside Gardens Houses, 2926 West 25th Street, Apt. 701E, Brooklyn  
**Robert Wise** South Beach Houses, 132 Kramer Street, Apt. 4B, Staten Island

## Resident Leaders Create Youth Programs

By Eric Deutsch

The Citywide Council of Presidents is taking an active role in helping NYCHA youth develop anti-violence leadership skills. Teens participating in the Youth Peer Leadership Program are trained in advocacy, public speaking, community organizing and project planning; learn how to research gun violence statistics; and develop commu-

nity responses to gun and gang violence.

"We learned there are different ways of approaching different situations," said Katora Jones, from Mariners Harbor in Staten Island. "I think we're all able to make a change in our communities to actually help out in our developments."

The Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP) used a \$35,000 grant from the New York

## The Chief's Corner

### SAFETY TIPS FOR HALLOWEEN FROM THE NYPD

- Trick-or-treaters always should have adult supervision, even if they are traveling in a group of friends.
- An adult always should examine Halloween treats before children eat them. Never eat open or unwrapped Halloween foods.
- Costumes should be flame-retardant and should allow children to walk freely without tripping.
- Children's ability to see, hear and move should not be impaired by unwieldy masks.
- Make certain that any face paint or make-up used on skin or costumes is non-toxic.
- Extra care should be taken on streets and at crossings, especially at dusk and after dark.
- Children should carry a flashlight and wear reflective or bright colored clothing at night.
- Emergency identification information should be placed discreetly inside clothing of small children, in case of accidental separation.
- Avoid having children wear their names outwardly on clothing or jewelry which may allow a stranger to call them by name and appear to know them.
- As always, children should be cautioned to avoid strangers, as well as poorly-lit areas and homes of people they do not know.
- Halloween treats only should be consumed if they are packaged appropriately. Parents can help protect their children by making sure that treats are wrapped in their original, unbroken packages – no loose candy, open glasses or bottles, fresh fruit or home-made goods.

If after eating a Halloween treat



**Housing Bureau Police Chief Joanne Jaffe**

there is evidence that it may have been tampered with, or it has a strange taste, or if a child feels sick, parents or guardians can call the NYC Health Department's Poison Control Center. The Poison Control Center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, for emergencies and advice at **(212) POISONS (764-7667)**, **(212) VENENOS (836-3667)** for Spanish language speakers, or **(212) 689-9014** for TDD users. The National toll free number, **1-800-222-1222**, connects to the nearest poison control center.

### IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, DIAL 911 (NON-EMERGENCY, DIAL 311)

Help us fight terrorism, report suspicious activity to the

**COUNTER TERRORISM HOTLINE:  
1-888-NYC-SAFE (1-888-692-7233)**



Community Trust to create the program. The nonprofit Share for Life facilitates the monthly workshops, which included a trip to Albany earlier this year to meet the New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. The group heard that elected officials looked at them as the voice of young people living in public housing. "You have to know how to lead, to stop people from doing bad things," said Destiny Johnson from Hammel Houses in Queens.

The youths also receive life skills training, such as financial literacy. They will get community service credit toward high school graduation, and \$500 when they complete the year-long program.

Leading the effort is Daniel Barber, the Resident Association President at Jackson Houses in the Bronx. He was asked by the CCOP to run the program, because he has experience leading youth organizations. Mr. Barber said parents tell him they are happy their children are part

of the Youth Peer Leadership Program, and they hope it continues. "I see a great future in every last one of them. They're ready for any challenge," he said.

A separate youth program is going on in upper Manhattan. CCOP member Ethyl Velez, the Resident Association President at Johnson Houses and Manhattan North District Chair, started a program for nearly 50 teens. She was inspired by an event earlier this year that celebrated the East Harlem community taking back their neighborhood, after a bust of more than 60 gang members. "We want to broaden their

minds and open them up to the idea that guns should not be a way of life," Ms. Velez said.

The youth in the program meet with counselors, cook for each other, go to movies and toured Yankee Stadium. There are plans to tour colleges and learn about sustainability and economic development. Ms. Velez is using donations and Tenant Participation Activities (TPA) funds to cover costs, and also has many volunteers helping out. "We need to offer them things other than just running around the community," she said.



# NYCHA Holds 9th Annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair

**A** NYCHA senior receives a bone density test at the ninth annual Senior Benefit and Entitlement Fair on September 18, below. NYCHA holds the fairs to inform and empower senior residents with health information, access to health screenings, nutrition counseling and the opportunity to enroll in various service and entitlement programs. This year's fair, in

addition to its traditional focus on health, placed special emphasis on the benefits of "going green." As part of this year's theme "Green and Healthy," seniors attended educational workshops about conservation techniques, new environmentally responsible technologies they can use to improve the planet, gardening and recycling.



## Earned Income Disallowance Helps Residents Have Lower Rents

**N**YCHA residents who recently started working may not have to have their rents increased. Residents who qualify for the Earned Income Disallowance (EID) will not have their increase in the first year after employment. In the second year, their rent will not increase to the full amount. This allows residents to get used to an increase in rent gradually, rather than having it happen immediately, and save extra money.

**Residents may qualify if:**

- A new job or increased

earnings are due to participation in an economic self-sufficiency program; or

- Currently working, but were unemployed before for 12 months or more, or made less than \$3,625 per year; or
- Participated in a TANF-funded program, received cash payment or services and now are newly employed or have increased earnings.

Residents interested in applying for the Earned Income Disallowance should contact their Housing Assistant at their management office to find out if they qualify.

## It's Heating Season!

**H**eating season is October 1 – May 31. As required by New York City law, tenants must be provided with a minimum level of heat during heating season.

**Between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.,** the indoor heat must be at least 68 degrees

Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is less than 55 degrees.

**Between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.,** the indoor heat must be at least 55 degrees Fahrenheit whenever the outdoor temperature is less than 40 degrees.



## Digital Mammography Services at SBH

St. Barnabas Hospital is proud to offer digital mammography to the women of the Bronx.

Equipped with state-of-the-art technology, our new mammography suite promises improved accuracy in breast cancer diagnoses and reduced exam times. Patients will also enjoy more comfort, with access to a private dressing room and a relaxing waiting area. Most insurances accepted and doctor referrals needed.

**Appointments Available  
Please call 718-960-6163**



**Mammography Services**  
[www.SBHNY.org](http://www.SBHNY.org)

## NYCHA Efforts Get Residents and Employees Ready for Emergencies

NYCHA continues to encourage residents to make sure they are prepared for disasters or emergencies in their homes, businesses and communities. The Authority continues to hold regular NYCHA Prepares meetings with residents in areas most at risk of being flooded, such as Coney Island, the Lower East Side, Red Hook and the Rockaways. It also has started to hold separate emergency preparedness Resident Response Team training sessions in partnership with the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which provide information about creating an evacuation plan, gathering emergency supplies and being informed about hazards.

NYCHA also has made it a priority for its employees to be prepared for a potential hurricane or weather-related emergency. NYCHA staff spent the past few months training to participate in the Incident Command System (ICS), a nationally acclaimed emergency response program that once enacted, ensures organizations can provide the most efficient response during an emergency. By running its operations as an ICS during an emergency, NYCHA

will be better equipped to control funds, personnel, facilities, equipment and communications. Employees took part in simulation drills as part of the training.

NYCHA also has created a Central Office Redeployment Exercise (CORE), which provides staff with alternate work locations in case of an emergency. This will allow for central office employees to report to work somewhere other than their usual workplace, which will help NYCHA continue to provide essential services to residents in case an office is inaccessible. The Authority is creating a skill bank to

strategically place employees where their skills can be put to use during an emergency.

After Hurricane Sandy, NYCHA conducted extensive analysis to determine best practices for preparations and responses. One of the recommendations recently put in place was the purchase of portable and inflatable tents that can be set up at any location. The tents – which come with lighting, a portable heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit, and the capacity to support computers and wireless hotspots – will allow NYCHA to set up command posts at developments when needed.



One of the new portable tents NYCHA purchased that can serve as mobile command posts during emergencies at developments is used during a drill at Coney Island I Houses (Site 1B).

## NYCHA Expands Social Media Presence to Encourage Emergency Preparedness

NYCHA has taken the next step in its presence on social media when it hosted its first live chats on Facebook. The first chat on September 18 focused on emergency preparedness, as part of NYCHA's efforts during National Preparedness Month in September. The New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) co-hosted the chat. NYCHA then held a second chat co-hosted by the American Red Cross in Greater New York on September 30.

During the chats, residents and community members were

able to interact with NYCHA, OEM and the Red Cross directly and ask questions about NYCHA's emergency preparedness efforts. The agencies also shared important tips on what residents can do to prepare themselves for an emergency. For an overview of some of the details that were provided during the chat, please see the cut-out graphic on page 7.

NYCHA plans to host more chats on its Facebook page on an ongoing basis.

For more details, go to [www.facebook.com/NYCHA](http://www.facebook.com/NYCHA).

Thank you for joining NYCHA to find out how you can best be prepared for a disaster.

[facebook.com/NYCHA](http://facebook.com/NYCHA)



#NYCHAPREPARES

## Notify NYCHA: Emergency Assistance Registration Form

Many residents may need special assistance during an emergency such as a hurricane, blackout or snow storm. Any households with a resident who has a disability or medical condition and may require assistance during an emergency are encouraged to fill out NYCHA's online Emergency Assistance Registration Form. The form is on NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nychaalerts](http://www.nyc.gov/nychaalerts), and can be filled out online without having to be printed. Hard copies of the form are available in property management offices. The form is available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian.

By filling out NYCHA's

Emergency Assistance Registration Form, residents can let the Authority know if they have a condition such as limited mobility, vision impairment, or one that requires daily medication or life-sustaining equipment. Providing information on specific needs will help NYCHA coordinate with other City agencies and partners to deliver important services. By completing the form, residents also give NYCHA permission to share their information with other city agencies and partner organizations in case of an emergency that would be able to provide the services they may require.

## You Can Volunteer to Help During Emergencies

NYCHA is working with Community Based Organizations to coordinate activities during emergencies in response to identified needs and to match organizations' capabilities in providing assistance to NYCHA.

NYC Service and NYCHA are working with the New York City Office of Emergency

Management (OEM) to recruit a group of volunteers in times of emergency. Volunteers would help coordinate the distribution of essential items like food, water and blankets to the community. Visit the NYCHA website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha) or [www.nyc.gov/service](http://www.nyc.gov/service) to become a volunteer.

## NYCHA Developments in Hurricane Evacuation Zones

New York City is divided into six Hurricane Evacuation Zones. The list of NYCHA developments in the six zones is available on NYCHA's website at [www.on.nyc.gov/emergency-nycha](http://www.on.nyc.gov/emergency-nycha). For more information, call 311 (TTY: 212-504-4115) or go to [www.nyc.gov/oem](http://www.nyc.gov/oem) and check the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder.

Comments? Questions? E-mail [Journal@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:Journal@nycha.nyc.gov).

Cut this out and put on your refrigerator or thumbtack board.

## NYCHA Residents: Get Prepared for Emergencies



### MAKE A PLAN TO EVACUATE

- Have an emergency support network with family and friends
- Keep a document with all of your health information
- Know where you will go and how you will get there
- Ensure you have a plan for your pets



### GATHER SUPPLIES

#### Pack a Go Bag and a Go Wallet

- Copies of important documents
- Cash (small denominations) and debit/credit card
- List of medications you take and dosages
- Flashlight, battery-operated radio, and extra batteries
- Contact information for your household and members of your support network
- Pre-paid calling card and MetroCard
- Notepad and pen



#### Pack an emergency supply kit in case you stay home.

- It should have enough supplies for at least one week.
- One gallon of drinking water per person per day
- Non-perishable food

#### Notify NYCHA

Please complete NYCHA's Emergency Assistance Registration Form if you or someone in your household has a disability or medical condition and may require assistance during an emergency.



### GET INFORMED

For NYCHA resident information, go to [on.nyc.gov/emergencynycha](http://on.nyc.gov/emergencynycha).

**Know Your Zones:** Find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone by visiting [nyc.gov/hurricanezones](http://nyc.gov/hurricanezones) or by calling **311**.

## NBA Player Kemba Walker returns to Sack Wern Houses, and Brings a New Court with Him

By Zodet Negrón

For NBA player Kemba Walker, returning to Sack Wern Houses in the Bronx to unveil a newly refurbished basketball court for the children in his community meant not only giving back to the community that saw him grow up. It also meant realizing a life-long dream of seeing the court renewed.

"It has always been a dream of mine to get this court redone," said Walker, the former University of Connecticut phenom who grew up in the building right across from the court. "I think everybody here knows what this park means to me and I told myself that when I had a chance I would come back and give back to this community."

That he did. The Charlotte Bobcats point guard, who recalls shooting hoops and playing with friends on the court when it wasn't too run down for use,



Kemba Walker, a player for the Charlotte Bobcats and former NYCHA resident (left), and Nate "Tiny" Archibald, former NBA player and NYCHA resident (right), play with NYCHA youth at a refurbished basketball court at Sack Wern Houses on September 19, 2013.

partnered with his sponsor Under Armour, the NBA, City Council Member Annabel Palma and NYCHA to restore the basketball court for local youth.

"This generous donation from our own Kemba Walker

shows the heart of a true champion who genuinely cares about his community and wants to give back," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea at the ribbon cutting on September 19.

## NYCHA Eliminates Almost a Quarter of a Million Repair Work Orders from Its Backlog

As of October 1, NYCHA has reduced the number of open work orders from a peak of about 423,000 to approximately 175,000. The current decrease of almost 250,000 work orders means that NYCHA has reduced the backlog by approximately 73 percent. This reduction is a result of NYCHA's Action Plan to improve its accountability and efficiency in responding to maintenance and repair work orders. At the conclusion of this initiative by the end of 2013, the Authority anticipates that the number of work orders that will be open at any given time will be approximately 90,000. This represents the number of work orders NYCHA would have if workers were handling maintenance requests in an average of seven days, and more complex requests in an average of 15 days.

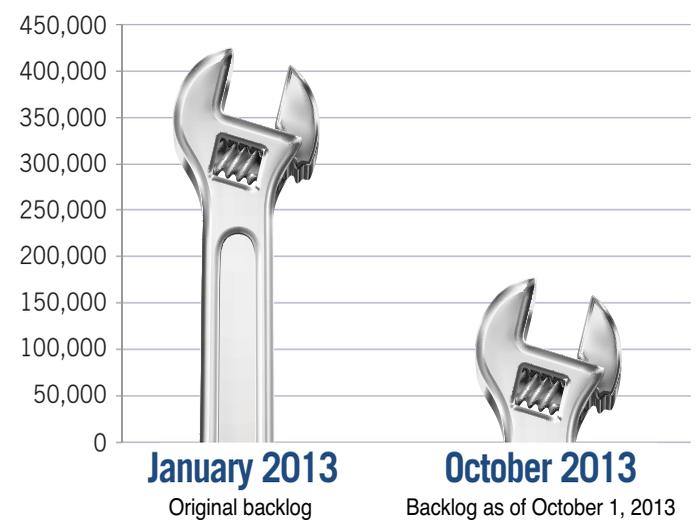
Given budget constraints which worsened with the federal sequestration, NYCHA needs to prioritize its work. Recognizing that there are limited resources, NYCHA staff will not be able to address work that primarily is to improve the appearance of apartments until the fiscal situation improves.

NYCHA has been challenged in meeting the aggressive goals set forth by this initiative by significant increases in work to improve public space required for its HUD mandated physical assessment. This effort, which already produced almost 40,000 additional work orders of which about 30,000 have been completed, will continue through November. This additional work increases the number of work orders and requires NYCHA staff to balance completing this work and the work within apartments. NYCHA staff productivity has increased over the year and even with the additional public space work, it is continuing to address new needs and the work that has been scheduled.



## NYCHA Action Plan

Reduction of Maintenance and Repair Backlog



Under Armour, the NBA and Council Member Palma provided the funding that resulted in the re-pavement of the basketball court, the installation of new backboards and basketball posts, color surfacing and lines on the court and new fencing.

Walker was joined by NBA legend Nate "Tiny" Archibald, another NYCHA alumnus from the Patterson Houses in the Bronx, who commended him for being an example to youth not only by excelling in the sport, but making education a priority, as well. Mr. Archibald told the youth gathered there,

"This is for you. You are our future."

Sack Wern Houses Resident Association President Loretta Masterson couldn't be happier or prouder to finally have a proper court for the kids to play. "A lot of kids here knew Kemba and they are proud he did this for them," she said. "It looks amazing. They'll be proud to play here."

Nearly 100 youth from Sack Wern Houses and the surrounding community got to show off their skills after the ribbon-cutting, participating in scrimmages and drills hosted by Under Armour and NBA FIT.

**SENIOR NEWS**

**Protect Yourself from Identity Theft**

- Do not give out personal information over the phone, computer or by mail for anything suspicious or confusing.
- Shred or safely store documents containing personal information.
- Carry only needed identification and

- credit cards.
- Watch cashiers when handling your credit cards.

**Stop Unwanted Calls From Telemarketers**

Would you like to stop getting calls from telemarketers? If so then put your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. Registration is

FREE. Call **888-382-1222** from the number you wish to register or go to **www.DoNotCall.gov**. Your number will stay on the list permanently, until it is disconnected or until you remove it from the registry. You should stop receiving calls 31 days after you call. This works for both landline and cell phone numbers.

## NYCHA Scholars Awarded for College Achievements

By Eric Deutsch

Another 10 NYCHA residents are getting some help with continuing their education at City University of New York schools. Scholarships of \$1,000 each were handed out at the eighth annual NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program Awards ceremony on September 20.

Two of the winners this year are brother and sister – Moawia Eldeeb and Fatemah Eldeeb, from Queensbridge North Houses. “I had so many stresses, and this really takes some of the burden off,” said Moawia Eldeeb, who has graduated from Queens College and now is pursuing a second bachelor’s degree at Columbia University. “Our parents were stunned that we both won. It made their summer.”

Jocelyn Cruz, an aspiring opera singer from Eastchester Houses in the Bronx, attends Queens College because it has a conservatory music school. But all of that commuting means she has to buy a monthly MetroCard; she said the money will help pay for that, along with text books and music sheets she needs for her degree. “To realize you can be educated, that you can come from nothing and go to something, it means dreams really do come true,” Ms. Cruz said.

NYCHA’s partners in this effort include CUNY and New York City Council Members Gale Brewer, Robert Jackson and Letitia James, as well as the City Council’s Brooklyn delegation. Since 2005, the



NYCHA-CUNY Resident Scholarship Program has awarded approximately \$80,000 in scholarships to eligible NYCHA residents who are enrolled at CUNY colleges. In 2011, the program was expanded to include the Regina A. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship, which honors the academic achievements of NYCHA residents with disabilities who excel at CUNY colleges.

“I am very impressed not only with what you’ve done, but what you plan to do, especially how you all talk about giving back to the community,” NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea told the scholarship winners. “Be proud of yourselves.”

David Liao, from Gowanus Houses in the Bronx, hopes to serve the community by becoming a doctor. A senior at Hunter College, he plans to apply to medical school. “I may want to go into a field that works on memory,” Mr. Liao said. “My grandmother suffers from dementia. I could try to figure out why some people remember things and some don’t.”

The winners this year, shown above from left to right, are Jocelyn Cruz (Queens College/

Eastchester Houses); Aneta Swierzko (New York City College of Technology/Wald Houses); Alyssa Alicino (Baruch College/Gompers Houses); Misty Daiyan (Queens College/Queensbridge North Houses); Wynta Alexander (Bronx Community College/Strauss Houses); Nahjee Cook (John Jay College of Criminal Justice/Long Island Baptist Houses); Moawia Eldeeb (Queens College/Queensbridge North Houses); and David Liao (Hunter College/Gowanus Houses). Not pictured are Fatemah Eldeeb (Hunter College/Queensbridge North Houses) and Darren Lin (Baruch College/Bland Houses).

To be eligible, students must be authorized NYCHA residents; a full-time sophomore, junior or senior enrolled in a CUNY Associate or Baccalaureate degree program; have a minimum 3.0 GPA; demonstrate financial need; and submit a 500-word essay. A selection committee comprised of NYCHA and CUNY representatives selected the winners from 70 applications submitted this year.

## Developers Attend Pre-Submission Meeting for NYCHA’s Land Lease Initiative



One of the proposed locations for new construction as part of NYCHA’s Land Lease plan is this recreational field at Smith Houses.

By Howard Silver

NYCHA’s Land Lease plan continued to advance, as more than 50 people attended a meeting on September 13 for developers interested in the plan. NYCHA previously had released a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI), seeking proposals for the design, construction and operation of affordable and market-rate rental housing – and retail, commercial and community facilities where possible – on 14 sites at eight Manhattan developments.

One of the biggest benefits of the Land Lease plan is the revenue it will generate for NYCHA – an expected \$30-\$50 million every year. This will allow NYCHA to maintain and preserve its buildings, while many other public housing authorities across the country are demolishing theirs.

“Residents’ reaction to the Land Lease initiative is becoming more aware of our fiscal needs and the capital benefits for their buildings,” said NYCHA Executive Vice President for Development Fred Harris. “NYCHA will not contemplate anything that involves relocation of residents or demolition of resident buildings.”

Twenty percent of the new apartments will be designated as permanently affordable – for households that earn no more than 60 percent of the average monthly income (AMI) of the surrounding area. Mr. Harris told the prospective developers that, other factors being equal, NYCHA will favor proposals that increase the percentage of affordable units above the required 20 percent, or that decrease the

average AMI below 50 percent.

Developers will be required to make half of the affordable units available to residents of the development where the buildings are constructed, and 15 percent of the affordable units available to NYCHA residents from any development. In addition, developers must address security system enhancements, grounds improvements and utility upgrades that also will improve residents’ quality of life. Parking lots displaced by new construction will be relocated elsewhere on development grounds. Developers also will be required to target 30 percent of permanent employment opportunities to NYCHA residents.

The developers are required to submit their proposals by November 18. NYCHA plans to select developers for the 14 sites by the end of the year. The RFEI process is meant to encourage innovative approaches that will benefit public housing residents and their communities, while maximizing the amount of revenue for NYCHA to invest in the developments’ extensive capital needs. Once the RFEI responses are evaluated, if an initial proposal is exceptional and meets all of NYCHA’s goals for its residents and for revenue generation, that developer could be selected conditionally without a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Alternatively, the developers found to be qualified will be allowed to propose their ideas through an RFP.

## NYCHA RESIDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



### Smith Houses Celebrates 60th Anniversary



Members of the Smith Houses Resident Association, including President Aixa Torres, Vice President Jonathan Gardenhire, Treasurer Nancy Hecker, Secretary Monique Harris and Sergeant-at-Arms Candace Eng, joined NYCHA Board Member Victor Gonzalez, City Council Member Margaret Chin and NYCHA staff to commemorate the event.



### Jackson Houses Celebrates 50th Anniversary



Daniel Barber, President of the Jackson Houses Resident Association (second from left), joined NYCHA Board Member Victor Gonzalez (far right) and NYCHA staff to mark the occasion.

## Public Housing Applications Now Only Online

As part of NYCHA's continuing effort to enhance customer service and advance its green agenda by reducing paper usage and its carbon footprint, applicants for public housing now must complete and submit their applications online. The new process offers several new customer benefits, including a submission confirmation message and the ability to check application status online. As of September 30, 2013, paper applications no longer were available.

Online applications are available in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. New Yorkers who want to apply for public housing can go to NYCHA's website at <https://apply.nycha.info> or can visit a Customer Contact Center, where access to computers and NYCHA staff

members are available.

In addition, to improve customer service for public housing applicants and Section 8 voucher holders, NYCHA also enhanced its online Self Service Portal, which can be found on its website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha). Public housing applicants now can view and immediately update the information on their current application, such as address, telephone numbers, reasons for applying and borough of preference. The Self-Service Portal also allows Section 8 voucher holders to access their basic tenancy information, including contract rent; annual recertification date; and the inspection date for their home. They also can reschedule their inspection date and request a special inspection for their building or unit.

### Customer Contact Centers

**Bronx/Manhattan**  
478 East Fordham Road  
(1 Fordham Plaza), 2nd Floor  
Bronx, NY 10458  
Telephone: (718) 707-7771,  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Brooklyn/Staten Island**  
787 Atlantic Avenue,  
2nd Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
Telephone: (718) 707-7771,  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

**Queens**  
90-27 Sutphin Boulevard,  
4th Floor  
Jamaica, NY 11435  
Telephone: (718) 707-7771,  
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

## Painting Apprenticeship Program Correction

After residents complete the Painter's Apprenticeship program, their wages

potentially can increase to up to \$68,000 per year. The article in the September *Journal*

incorrectly stated wages would increase to \$68,000 per year.

## These NYCHA Youth Are Fast!

NYCHA's Track and Field Program spends every summer helping kids have fun while also helping them train for the NYCHA Citywide Olympics, a day of athletic competition. This year's Citywide Olympics featured three events – the 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash and 4x4 50-meter relay – in four age groups, for boys and girls. They were held at Macombs Dam Park in the Bronx on August 15. Below is a list of all of the winners.

### 50-meter dash

12-13 year-old girls	Mawiyah Hacker – Pelham Parkway
10-11 year-old boys	Zael Fland – Fort Independence
10-11 year-old girls	Nia Mayo – Drew Hamilton
8-9 year-old boys	Kyle Cato Jacobs – Tompkins
8-9 year-old girls	Erica Bostitick – Lafayette Gardens
7 and younger boys	Kishawn Williams – Lafayette Gardens

### 100-meter dash

12-13 year-old boys	Christopher Basavaraj – East 180th St.-Monterey Ave.
12-13 year-old girls	Mawiyah Hacker – Pelham Parkway
10-11 year-old boys	Ason Rutledge – Pelham Parkway
10-11 year-old girls	Kadiya Britt – Todt Hill
8-9 year-old boys	Kyle Cato Jacobs – Tompkins
8-9 year-old girls	Cheyenne Tafe – West Brighton

### 4x4 50-meter relay

12-13 year-old boys	Shyir Banks-Lark, Michael Carlton, Noah Moreno, Arianna Taylor – Parkside
12-13 year-old girls	Serenity Brown, Jodi Campbell, Mawiyah Hacker, Kenedi McLane – Pelham Parkway
10-11 year-old boys	Shaheed Daniels, Raymond Deh, Damair Johnson, Aliou Yarmangore – Campos Plaza/Lehman Village
10-11 year-old girls	Kadiyah Britt, Kanayah Britt, Ashley Oharra, Arianna Lorenzo – Todt Hill
8-9 year-old boys	Vincente Flores, Kyle Cab-Jacobs, Jacorey Mason, Shameek Norwood – Tompkins
8-9 year-old girls	Jahzara Collins, Shanayah Ross, Raven Wilkerson, Rebecca Wilkerson – Todt Hill
7 and younger boys	Michael Blakey, Caleb Merriweather, Derell Parsons, E.J. Quianes – Parkside
7 and younger girls	Nia Crown, Brianna Moore, Alexandra Ortiz, Leah Watson – Drew Hamilton

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

#### First Step Program

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



## New Park Helps Revitalize University Avenue Consolidated

The transformation of University Avenue Consolidated in the Bronx continued on September 17 with the opening of Hayden Lord Park. The park features a playground, performance gazebo and organic farm. It was created to be an outdoor art destination that strengthens the local community with a place for residents and children to gather, create and play. NYCHA joined with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, New York City Housing Development Corporation, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Chase, Enterprise Community Partners, Bronx Pro Group and the DreamYard Project on creation of the park.

Hayden Lord Park is part of the revitalization of University Avenue Consolidated, a collection of 27 buildings and surrounding areas. In 2003, NYCHA collaborated with the Department of Housing Preservation and Development to convert underutilized, NYCHA-owned properties into affordable housing units and transfer the ownership of buildings to affordable housing developers.



## Announcement from the Department of Environmental Protection

The 2012 Annual Water Supply and Quality Report is available for viewing at [www.nyc.gov/dep/2012waterquality](http://www.nyc.gov/dep/2012waterquality). This website contains important information about your drinking water. For a translation of the report, or to speak with someone about the information it provides, please call 311. If you would like a paper copy of the report mailed to your home, please call 311.

## NY State of Health, the Official Health Plan Marketplace, Now Open

*A message from NY State of Health*

### What Does It Mean for You?

NY State of Health, The Official Health Plan Marketplace ([nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov)) is where New Yorkers can find quality health insurance coverage. You have a choice of health plans and can get help finding the plan that is right for you. It is the only place to get financial assistance to reduce the cost of private coverage.

The Marketplace is open to individuals and families, and small businesses with 50 or fewer eligible employees.

Health insurance offered in the Marketplace includes a comprehensive set of benefits, called the Essential Health Benefits. Starting in 2014, enrollment in public health insurance (Medicaid and Child Health Plus) also may be done through the Marketplace.

### We Are Here to Help.

Experts are available to guide you through the enrollment

process; help you find the right health insurance based on your unique needs; and work with you to figure out if you can get financial assistance to reduce the cost of coverage. Support is available on-line, in person, in your community and by phone. You pick what works best for you. Assistance is available in multiple languages. To learn more call **855-355-5777** or visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov) where you also can sign up for e-mail updates.

### You May Be Able to Pay Less for Health Insurance in the NY State of Health.

If you do not have public health insurance or insurance through your employer, you may be able to lower the costs of your health insurance coverage by paying lower monthly premiums. These lower costs are available with a tax credit called the Advance Premium Tax Credit. The tax credits can be

applied directly to your monthly premium so you see the lower costs right away.

To estimate the amount you would pay toward a health plan, the NY State of Health website offers a Tax Credit and Premium Estimator. Your estimated advanced tax credit is paid directly to your health plan by the federal government. If you qualify, you only pay your portion of the premium.

Visit [nystateofhealth.ny.gov](http://nystateofhealth.ny.gov) or call **855-355-5777** to estimate the amount of tax credit you may be eligible for and the amount you will have to pay toward coverage each month. Your actual tax credit will be determined at the time you apply for coverage and by the plan option you choose.

Through the Marketplace, you can choose a private health insurance plan starting on October 1 for coverage that begins on January 1, 2014.

## NYCHA and Kars4Kids Give Out 1,000 Free Backpacks in Rockaways

For the second straight year, NYCHA joined with the nonprofit Kars4Kids to distribute 1,000 free backpacks to children in Queens. The backpacks, along with notebooks and pencils, were given out on August 29 at the Beach 41st Community Center and the Hammel Community Center, to help residents in Far Rockaway who continue to recover from the effects of Hurricane Sandy. NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea helped hand out the backpacks.



## NYCHA Partners with Nickelodeon to Celebrate Worldwide Day of Play

NYCHA spent September 18 urging kids to "get up, go outside and play." The children's TV channel Nickelodeon held numerous events across the city featuring recreational activities for youth, with many of the events taking place at NYCHA developments in all five boroughs. It was part of the build up to the 10th Annual Worldwide Day of Play

celebration on September 21, when Nickelodeon suspends all programming across its TV channels and websites to encourage physical fitness and active play. Participating NYCHA youth received tickets to attend the Worldwide Day of Play in Prospect Park. Activities included music, dancing, double-dutch, skelly, stickball, flag football and dodge ball.

NYCHA youth at the Campos

Plaza event on September 18 also got to meet several stars of Nickelodeon shows, including The Haunted Hathaways and Victorious. "This was a great coming together of NYCHA and Nickelodeon to bring games, fun and activities for youth to enjoy playing outdoors," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "Not only are they enjoying themselves, but they're also getting fit while playing."



NYCHA youth hang out with Dora the Explorer as part of Nickelodeon's 10th Annual Worldwide Day of Play at Campos Plaza on September 18, 2013.