



NYCHA/FDNY Event Aims to Stop Fires Before They're Sparked

By Eric Deutsch

Take a look around your apartment, and think about how you usually go about your day. Are your electrical cords in the open, or are they running under rugs or through doorways?

When you cook, do you leave items on the stove while you go into another room to do something? If you use a space heater, is it plugged directly into a socket and at least three feet from combustibles, or does it have an extension cord and is right next to a pile of clothes? These are just some of the questions the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) wants you to think about to help prevent a fire in your apartment.

Bringing fire preparedness and

education to residents was the goal of an event held by NYCHA and the FDNY on June 5 at Ravenswood Houses in Queens as part of the Housing Authority's emergency preparedness efforts.

#1 Tip: If a fire is not inside your apartment, stay in your apartment with the door closed; do not go into the hallway.

Carol Wilkins, the Resident Association President at Ravenswood, felt the event would help improve residents' safety by educating them. "Our buildings are all fireproof so unless the fire is inside your apartment, you don't have to evacuate," said Ms.

Wilkins, emphasizing the most important point being made at the event. "We don't have to run out of our apartments or jump out windows because the buildings are not going to burn down."

Residents picked up all kinds of



A Ravenswood Houses resident learns about fire safety in her home at a fire preparedness event on June 5, 2014.

new information. Victor Montesinos, who lives at Woodside Houses, did not know to avoid going into a hallway because of smoke inhalation, and that usually it is better to stay put and wait for firefighters to come to you. "Talking to the fire department here helped me

clear up the confusion of what I should do," said Mr. Montesinos. "I didn't know you should close doors and leave them unlocked so firefighters can still use them, I thought you should just leave them open."

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Security Upgrades Continue as NYCHA Priority for Residents

NYCHA is speeding up the process to install more security features in more buildings, including closed-circuit television cameras and related technical back-up systems, along with building layered access control. NYCHA is working closely with Mayor Bill de Blasio, who significantly accelerated the City's approval process for these improvements, which involved required sign-offs from the Mayor's Office of Management and Budget and the City Comptroller. NYCHA is committed to expediting the City Council's multi-million dollar investment in security upgrades to meet the timeline of completing installation at 49 developments by the end of this year.

Closed-circuit television (CCTV) security camera locations are chosen with input from residents, working together with NYCHA and the New York City Police Department. They are placed to monitor important areas such as building entrances, street corners, elevators, and equipment rooms. The NYPD can access footage in



A NYCHA employee installs a CCTV security camera.

cases of reported criminal activity. CCTV is part of NYCHA's layered access control, which also includes modern intercoms, wireless key fobs, and vandalism-resistant doors. This security system was based on recommendations made by NYCHA's Safety and Security Task Force.

"We are committed to doing things differently, resetting our relationships, and becoming a more transparent, next generation NYCHA," said NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye. "As we move forward now to install these cameras with a more efficient and timelier public process, thanks to Mayor de Blasio and Comptroller Scott Stringer, as well as our own revised capital programs, we're able to do even more for our residents. And that's what matters most."

"I am happy the work has begun on the installation of the cameras," said Inez Rodriguez, Resident Association President at Boulevard Houses in Brooklyn, one of the developments that will receive cameras from the funding. "We look forward to having a crime deterrent, with hopes that I, and all residents – especially the children – can sleep better at night."

A complete list of the 49 developments receiving cameras with the current City Council funding is on page 4.

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 Board Meetings in 2014 are scheduled for:

June 18 **September 24** **November 26**
July 30 **October 29** **December 31**

Please note the June 18 Board Meeting is scheduled to begin at 11:00 a.m.

Any changes to the schedule will be posted in the *Journal* and on NYCHA's website at 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, 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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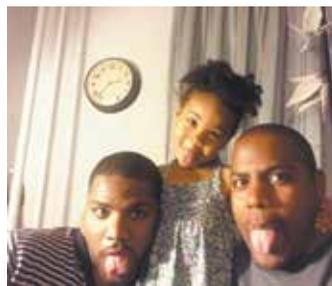
Published by the New York City Housing Authority
 Department of Communications • 250 Broadway, New York, NY 10007
 Tel 212-306-3322 • Fax 212-577-1358 • www.nyc.gov/nycha

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Residents' Voices

May 20, 2014
 (via Twitter)



Alyn snapping selfie's. Oh boy!!
Jomaree Pinkard, Adrien Pinkard, and Alyn Pinkard, Ravenswood 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**

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**

Post a message on Facebook at **www.facebook.com/NYCHA**

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

If you have any questions, please send them to **Journal@nycha.nyc.gov**.

◀ continued from page 1

NYCHA/FDNY Event Aims to Stop Fires Before They're Sparked

Kitchen safety is very important to avoid fires – unattended cooking causes one-third of home fires and fire injuries. Ravenswood resident Rhonda Wilson said it is very important to be aware of what is going on in your kitchen, especially for older residents. "A lot of seniors maintain their independence and want to cook and might get distracted and it can start a fire," she said.

Hilda Burgos picked up a kitchen safety tip. "I didn't know you could use baking soda to put a pan fire out," she said. "This event is good. I learned a lot of other things, like you should crawl on the floor if you do have to get out."

Other important tips include holding fire drills with your family in case the fire is within your apartment; making sure you do not block the windows that lead to fire escapes; and replace any electrical cords that are frayed. For more information, go to FDNY's website at nyc.gov/fdny.

Resident Watch Volunteers Honored for their Service

By Howard Silver

"Our volunteers give more than just their time," said Emilia Delgado, a Resident Watch Supervisor at Independence Towers in Brooklyn. "We really care about our neighbors and improving their lives."

Ms. Delgado was one of 500 Resident Watch volunteers honored at the Resident Watch Stipend Recognition Ceremony on May 29 at Marina del Rey Restaurant in the Bronx. The residents, who complete 10 hours or more of patrol in their buildings each month, were celebrated for the welcoming smiles and watchful eyes that make their homes friendlier and safer.

"When we see vandalism, broken doors or mailboxes, or unauthorized people, we inform Property Management so repairs can be expedited, and our buildings made safer," said Carman Camacho, a Resident Watch Supervisor at La Guardia Houses in Manhattan.

Indeed, the Resident Watch program is one of the most important examples of NYCHA and residents working together toward the common goal of

enhancing the quality of life at public housing in New York City. "This program – by residents for residents – helps make our community safe. This is a program we want to continue and can only maintain because of the hours of community work that you provide," said Nora Reissig, Director of NYCHA's Family Services Department, which coordinates Resident Watch in partnership with NYCHA's Property Management Departments and the New York City Police Department.

The vital community service that thousands of resident volunteers have provided for more

than 45 years through Resident Watch is strengthened at 13 developments by a grant from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, made possible through the New York State Assembly.

As the volunteers enjoyed the good food, festive mood, and vibrant salsa and merengue music, many were glad to elaborate on the various ways they enrich life at their developments. "We worked to obtain security cameras," said Edna Correa, Resident Watch Supervisor at Taylor Wythe Houses in Brooklyn. "And now with the Family Services Department we are finding ways to help our elderly and families in need."



Resident Watch volunteers partied in style - including doing the limbo – at a recognition ceremony on May 29 at Marina del Rey Restaurant.



Message from Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye

What's in your "Go Bag?" Have you gathered some supplies just in case of an emergency? Do you have a specific plan of what to do and where to go? These are important questions to think about now that hurricane season has begun again. Because even two years after Hurricane Sandy, we still are mindful of the unexpected power of nature right here in New York City.

As I continue to travel to different neighborhoods, meeting so many of you to learn about your concerns, I hear a lot about how that storm impacted your lives. So I am emphasizing the

importance of emergency preparedness for weather emergencies now, in June – and not just during the end-of-summer tropical storm season – because the whole point is to think ahead.

- Find out if you live in one of the City's Hurricane Evacuation Zones; we have a list of every development in one of the City's six zones on a dedicated section of our website at on.nyc.gov/emergencynycha.
- Visit Ready.gov to learn about appropriate responses to emergencies and how to create an emergency plan and supply kit.
- Make a "Go Bag" that you can bring with you if you ever have to evacuate, which will allow you to leave sooner and not worry about forgetting anything. (A list of suggested items is on page 6.)

- Put together an Emergency Supply Kit in case you have to shelter in place. (A list of suggested items is on page 6.)
- Sign up at www.nyc.gov/nychaalerts to receive NYCHA Alerts on service outages and restorations and NYC Office of Emergency Management notifications.
- Fill out NYCHA's Emergency Assistance Registration form at www.nyc.gov/nychaalerts if you have a disability or medical condition that may require assistance during an emergency.

This issue of the *Journal* provides more essential information you need to be ready when the next storm comes. Watch for more information and educational events from NYCHA throughout hurricane season, which lasts until November 30.

Remember, by the time it reached New York City, Sandy was not even a hurricane; it was downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone and earned the Super Storm label. A full-force hurricane hitting New York City could be more serious. The threat of climate change is real. We'll experience more severe weather more often. We all need to be ready.

Let's "go."

Shola Olatoye

As Outstanding Repairs Now Down 81 Percent, Residents Gain

NYCHA continues to reduce the number of open maintenance and repair work orders, reducing a prior backlog by 81 percent and speeding the time from start to finish. As of May 1, the total number of open maintenance and repair work orders was 80,948. When NYCHA began its Maintenance and Repair Action Plan in January 2013, there were 422,639 open work orders. On average, NYCHA receives more than 6,800 new work orders every day.

Service levels to NYCHA residents also have improved significantly. NYCHA far exceeded its goal to respond to corrective maintenance requests within an average of seven days. As of May 1, the average time it takes to complete a maintenance task is

four days, down from more than 150 days when NYCHA implemented its Action Plan.

NYCHA also has made progress on meeting its service level target goal for skilled trade repairs and work done by third-party vendors, which is 15 days. Currently, NYCHA's skilled trade staff completes work within 39

days, down from more than 200 days in 2013. But there still is a long wait for non-urgent repairs that require

outside vendors. The average wait time for this type of vendor work has gone down from more than 500 days when the initiative started to 368 days. "While we have made significant improvement in the average time it takes for NYCHA staff to complete a skilled trade

work request, there still is more work to be done," said NYCHA General Manager Cecil House.

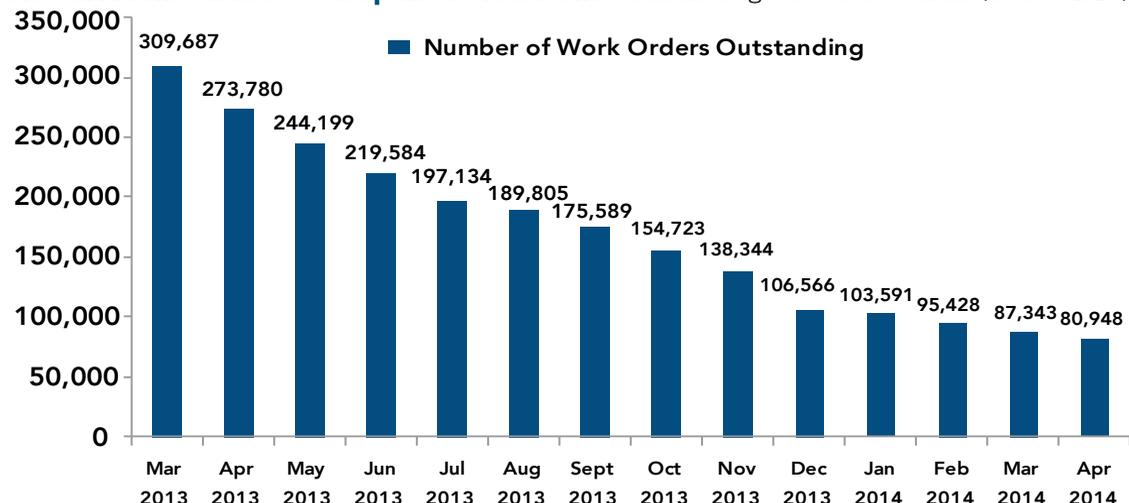
The Housing Authority is striving to be more transparent and reporting service wait times and work order progress are an essential part of that effort.

Until recently, NYCHA lacked the funding to address these types of repairs done by vendors, which primarily include painting an entire apartment or replacing floor tiles. With new funding recently provided by Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYCHA is addressing these and other work orders. "We have created significant additional capacity above what we had last year," said General Manager House.

For more information about maintenance and repairs, please see pages 3-4 of NYCHA's resident handbook, *A Home to Be Proud Of*, at on.nyc.gov/nychapub.

The average time it takes to complete a maintenance task is 4 days, down from more than 150 days.

NYCHA Maintenance & Repair Action Plan Outstanding Work Order Status (as of 5/1/14)



NYCHA ALERTS

Now You Can Track Your Apartment's Open Work Orders in Real Time

As part of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to enhance customer service, residents can get a lot more information on the NYCHA Alerts information system. A new feature on NYCHA Alerts allows residents to see the details about open work orders in their apartment, including work order number, location, problem description, and scheduled start date. All of this information is shown in real time and is up-to-the-minute.

Residents can continue to get information about service outages in their buildings, such as the status of heat, electricity, elevator, gas, hot water, compactor, and water service disruptions. The information is updated whenever these services are interrupted and when they get restored. It can be seen on the same page as the information about their apartment's work orders.

To access NYCHA Alerts, residents can go to www.nyc.gov/nychaalerts. As a security measure, residents need to log-in to see information specific to their development and apartment. After a resident logs in, they can sign up to receive NYCHA Alerts automatically by e-mail.

Residents also can fill out NYCHA's online Emergency Assistance Registration Form at the NYCHA Alerts page to let the Housing Authority know if anyone in their apartment has a disability or medical condition and may require assistance during an emergency (see page 6 for more information about NYCHA's Emergency Assistance Registration Form).

The new features of NYCHA Alerts are in line with Chair Shola Olatoye's goals of resetting the relationship with residents by being more transparent and engaged, and of focusing on NYCHA's core mission of being a landlord.

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. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of December 9, 2013.

Week of December 9, 2013

- Darren Davis** Brevoort Houses, 254 Ralph Avenue, Apt. 2A, Brooklyn
Jemel Ford Cypress Hills Houses, 385 Fountain Avenue, Apt. 6G, Brooklyn
Reinaldo Garcia Pennsylvania-Wortman Houses, 155 Wortman Avenue, Apt. 4C, Brooklyn
Harvey Grandy Baruch Houses, 288 Delancey Street, Apt. 3E, Manhattan
Derrick Hamlin Bronxchester Houses, 520 East 156th Street, Apt. 4S, Bronx
Maurice Henriques Cypress Hills Houses, 1220 Sutter Avenue, Apt. 1F, Brooklyn
William Jeter Hope Gardens, 191 Woodbine Street, Apt. 2D, Brooklyn
Kevin Jones Farragut Houses, 192 Sands Street, Apt. 2A, Brooklyn
Anthony Lilly Grant Houses, 3170 Broadway, Apt. 14I, Manhattan
Robert Lilly Grant Houses, 3170 Broadway, Apt. 14I, Manhattan
Enrique Martinez Langston Hughes Houses, 315 Sutter Avenue, Apt. 2C, Brooklyn
James Miller St. Mary's Park Houses, 525 Jackson Avenue, Apt. 20M, Bronx
Santos Robles Sackwern/Clason Point Gardens Houses, 770 Metcalf Avenue, Apt. A, Bronx

Developments to Receive Cameras in 2014

Here is the list of 49 developments that will receive cameras with current City Council funding as mentioned on page 1.

Manhattan	Bronx	Brooklyn
99 Fort Washington	Adams	Borinquen Plaza
Baruch	Bailey	Boulevard
Baruch Addition	Betances	Cypress Hills
Corsi	Bronxchester	Farragut
De Hostos	Claremont-Franklin	Hope Gardens
Douglass	Davidson	Hylan
East River	Eastchester Gardens	Marlboro
Harborview Terrace	Fort Independence	Sheepshead/
Johnson	Marble Hill	Nostrand
Lincoln	McKinley	Sumner
Robbins Plaza	Middletown Plaza	Taylor Wythe
Taft Rehab	Millbrook	Tilden
Vladeck	Mitchel	
WSUR A	Monterey Houses/	Queens
(120 W. 94 St.)	Twin Parks	Baisley Park
WSUR B	Patterson	Beach 41st
(74 W. 94 St.)	Pelham Parkway	Latimer Gardens
WSUR C	Soundview	Ocean Bay
(589 Amsterdam)	Throggs Neck	

West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located on Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These treatments will take place between May and September of 2014. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:

- Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category – "Caution"**
- Summit B.i.i. Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category – "Caution"**
- Altosid XR, EPA Reg. No. 2724-421, Toxicity Category – "Caution"**

Contact names and numbers for this application are;

NYC Housing Authority:

- Raymond Gamble, Administrator, 718-707-5306 available from 9 am – 5 pm
- Denise Torres, Technical Resource Advisor, 718-707-8032 available from 8 am – 4 pm
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2, Bureau of Pesticide Management – 718-482-4994
- National Pesticide Telecommunications Network – 1-800-858-PEST

Inquiries concerning symptoms of pesticide poisoning should be directed to the Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

A Home to Be Proud Of: Important Resource for You Now Online

NYCHA has updated and reissued *A Home to Be Proud Of*, the handbook provided to new residents. And while it is targeted for new residents so they can learn all about living in a NYCHA apartment, it also can serve as a great reference guide for existing residents. It is filled with information on dozens of topics, including what to do if you're locked out; the pet policy; the many different ways you can pay rent; how to handle mold; community programs; and contact information.

A Home to Be Proud Of is available as a pdf on NYCHA's website at on.nyc.gov/nychapub. It is written

A Home to Be Proud Of has info on paying rent, pet policy, handling mold, etc.

in plain language, and has a search feature that allows you to search by word.

To continue its efforts to go green and better make use of resources, NYCHA is not printing the handbook. The previous version had 200,000 copies printed at a cost of

A Home to Be Proud Of

A handbook for residents



\$145,000; by keeping the handbook only digital, NYCHA saves paper and money.

A Safe Place for Victims of Domestic Violence: Knowing Where to Go Can Help

Visit a NYC Family Justice Center

NYC Family Justice Centers are an initiative of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. The Centers are safe, caring places where people experiencing domestic violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking can get services and support under one roof, as can their children. Victims can meet with a prosecutor, speak with a trained counselor, and apply for housing and financial assistance at each Center. Children ages three and older can play in a children's room while their parents receive services, and they can receive counseling.

All are welcome regardless of language, income, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or immigration status. Each Center is open Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. You may walk in during these hours



Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence
Commissioner
Rose Pierre-Louis

– you do not need to make an appointment.

No one deserves to be abused. Please contact or drop by one of our NYC Family Justice Centers if you are in need of help.

For far too many New Yorkers, abuse in the home is a common occurrence. The Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence

wants you to know that the City can help you – you are not alone.

Domestic violence is not just physical abuse. It also can be sexual, emotional, psychological, or financial abuse. It is a pattern of abusive behavior between family members or intimate partners to gain power

and control (An intimate partner can be your current or former husband/wife or boyfriend/girlfriend, your child's mother/father, or a partner that you live with or used to live with). Not only that, domestic violence is a crime.

Domestic violence occurs

Locations of the New York City Family Justice Centers:

BRONX:

198 East 161th Street,
718-508-1220

BROOKLYN:

350 Jay Street,
718-250-5113

MANHATTAN:

80 Centre Street,
212-602-2800

QUEENS:

126-02 82nd Avenue,
718-575-4545

STATEN ISLAND:

E-mail OCDV_DVRT@cityhall.nyc.gov for help

You also can call the City's 24-hour Domestic Violence Hotline, **1-800-621-4673**, for immediate assistance. Please call **911** in emergencies. Learn more at www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.

in every country, in every neighborhood, among people of all races, cultures, religions, and income levels. It can happen to you whatever your age, gender, or sexual orientation.

San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro Designated New HUD Chief

San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro was nominated by President Obama to be the next Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD is the federal agency that funds NYCHA.

"As mayor, Julián has been focused on planning thousands of housing units downtown, attracting hundreds of millions of dollars of investment," President Obama said during the announcement on May 23. "He's built relationships with mayors all across the country. He's become a leader in housing and economic development."

"We are in a century of cities. America's cities are grow-

ing again, and housing is at the top of the agenda," said Secretary-designate Castro. "I look forward to being part of a department that will help ensure that millions of Americans all across the country have the chance to get good, safe, affordable housing and to reach their American dreams."

Secretary-designate Castro would replace current HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, who was chosen by President Obama as the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Secretary Donovan previously was the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development.



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www.bobmantours.com**

Statement from NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye congratulating Julián Castro

"The New York City Housing Authority is pleased to congratulate Julián Castro on his nomination as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. If confirmed,

he would head the federal agency that provides vital support to public housing where more than half a million New Yorkers live. NYCHA has had a positive, productive relationship with HUD for

a long time. We know that with Mr. Castro's dynamic leadership that relationship will continue to thrive, while together we focus on the important mission of preserving and developing

affordable, safe public housing. Secretary Donovan has been a forceful leader, innovator, and advocate for the nation's affordable and public housing needs. On behalf of my colleagues at

the New York City Housing Authority and the tens of thousands of New Yorkers who rely on this essential asset, we thank the Secretary for his visionary and steadfast partnership."

In case of an emergency, you can count on us.

If you use life-support equipment or you know someone who does, it's important to let us know. Con Edison keeps a record of these individuals so that we can contact them in case of an emergency. Even if you are not a Con Edison customer but live in our service area, you are eligible to be contacted in case of an emergency. To give us this information, complete and mail the accompanying form or call **1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633)**.

To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify the equipment that you use.



conEdison

EVERYTHING
MATTERS

Life-Support Equipment/ Medical Emergency Survey

Name _____

Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Alternate contact in case of emergency _____

Name of development _____

NYCHA office phone _____

Doctor or Hospital:

Name _____

Address _____ Apt _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Equipment Information:

- Tank-type respirator (iron lung)
 - Cuirass-type (chest) respirator
 - Rocking bed respirator
 - Electrically operated respirator (used more than 12 hours a day)
 - Apnea monitor (infant monitor)
 - Hemodialysis equipment (kidney machine)
 - Other, please specify: _____
- Frequency of use: Times per week _____ Hours per day _____
- Is equipment used during sleeping hours? Yes No
- If yes, how often? _____

Please mail this survey to:

Con Edison Life-Support Equipment/Medical Emergency
30 Flatbush Avenue, Room 515
Brooklyn, NY 11217

conEdison | EVERYTHING MATTERS

Hurricane Season: Are You Prepared?

NYCHA, working with the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), is committed to ensuring that NYCHA residents and staff are well prepared in case of a storm emergency. Although Hurricane Sandy hit in late October 2012, and Hurricane Irene hit in late August 2011, hurricane season starts in June and runs through November 30.

"The most important thing for people to know is simply whether they live in a hurricane evacuation zone," said Brett Davis, a first responder for the Office of Emergency Management during Hurricane Sandy. "It turned out my family could be in danger from storm surge during a coastal storm, so we pre-planned an alternate, safe location to go to before a storm hit. They didn't have to waste valuable time trying to figure out where to go when the evacuation order came. I knew that once they were safe in an alternate location, I could do my job without having to worry about them."

Here are important suggestions to help you prepare in case of a hurricane warning.

Do You Live in an Evacuation Zone?

- New York City is divided into six Hurricane Evacuation Zones. NYCHA developments most vulnerable to coastal storm flooding generally are located in the Rockaways, Coney Island, and the Lower East Side.
- A list of NYCHA developments in the six zones is available on NYCHA's website at on.nyc.gov/emergencynycha. For more information, call **311 (TTY: 212-504-4115)** or go to www.nyc.gov/oem and check the Hurricane Evacuation Zone Finder.

Six Things You Should Know

- Discuss and prepare a disaster plan with household members that outlines clear action steps. Be sure to include information on the best way to communicate and where to meet in case of an emergency.
- Identify family or friends living outside evacuation zone

boundaries that you can stay with. If this is not an option, identify in advance the nearest evacuation center that you can go to by calling **311** or logging onto www.nyc.gov/oem.

- Keep a "Go Bag" ready. A "Go Bag" is a collection of items you may need to grab in a hurry in case you have to evacuate. The bag should be accessible and packed in an easy-to-carry container such as a backpack. A "Go Bag" should include:

- Copies of important documents
- Extra set of keys
- Credit/ATM cards
- \$50 to \$100 in cash in small denominations
- Bottled water and nonperishable food
- Flashlight
- Battery-operated AM/FM radio and extra batteries
- Medical information, medications and a first-aid kit
- Contact and meeting place information for your household
- Small regional map
- Childcare supplies
- Other special items

- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit in case you are asked to shelter in place (stay at home). The Emergency Supply Kit should include:

- Enough food and water for at least three days. You should have one gallon of water per person per day, ready to eat non-perishable canned foods and a manual can opener
- First Aid Kit
- Flashlight
- Whistle
- Cell phone
- Personal hygiene items

- If you are asked to evacuate, do so immediately!
- If you are going to an evacuation center, pack lightly, and bring your Go Bag, a sleeping bag or bedding, and medical supplies and equipment. Always let friends or relatives know where you are going.



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

Protect Your Home: 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, batter-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.

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

What About Your Pets?

- The NYC emergency sheltering system is friendly to all pets, but you will be responsible for their care, so please bring your pet's food, leashes, crate or carrier, a copy of vaccination and medical records, and any medication. Also make sure that your pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information.

Stay Informed!

- If a hurricane is expected please stay tuned to TV and radio broadcasts, go online and access www.nyc.gov or call **311 (TTY:212-504-4115)**.

SENIOR NEWS



Senior Water Exercise Program

This summer, seniors aged 62 and older have exclusive use of many of the New York City Parks Department's outdoor pools through its Senior Water Exercise Program. This program offers water exercise classes and swim instruction for senior citizens. Most participating pools also offer free swim hours so you can enjoy the water at your pace.

If you have limited mobility then you may be interested in the Adapted Aquatics program. Adapted Aquatics exercise offers a complete body workout and ranges from gentle walking in water to high-energy exercise; it helps alleviate pain, improve

circulation, and promote healing and muscle development if you suffer from physical ailments.

Registration for the Senior and Citywide Aquatics programs has begun. There are no children or young adults in the pool during this time. You must register for these programs at the pool during program hours. To find a participating pool near you or for more information, call the NYC Parks Department Aquatics Office at **718-760-6969**. Press "0" to talk to a live person.

Information also may be found at www.nyc.gov/parks/seniors.

Resident Voices submissions? Story ideas?
E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

HUD Lauds Design Group's Plans to Create Storm Buffer

With reporting by Eric Deutsch

Residents of NYCHA developments in Manhattan's Lower East Side may soon be more protected against all the problems that Hurricane Sandy brought to their shores. On June 2, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan unveiled the six winning design proposals from HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. The competition sought proposals from companies to better protect areas vulnerable to being damaged by severe weather.

The winning proposals were announced at Riis Houses in Manhattan by Secretary Donovan, who was joined by Mayor Bill de Blasio, Governor Andrew Cuomo, and Senator Charles Schumer. Riis Houses and the surrounding area, which includes several other NYCHA developments, experienced severe flooding during Hurricane Sandy and will benefit from one of the winning proposals. The first phase of the proposal would create a 'bridging berm' at East River Park to protect the Lower East Side from future storm surges and rising sea levels. It also includes entrances into the park;



Wald Houses resident Melba Torres (left) speaks with NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye on June 2, 2014. Ms. Torres was mentioned by Mayor Bill de Blasio during a news conference about post-Hurricane Sandy rebuilding efforts.

areas for resting, socializing, and enjoying the view; and trees, shrubs, and flowers that are tolerant of salt to create a resilient urban habitat.

During the award announcement, Mayor de Blasio mentioned Wald Houses resident Melba Torres as an example of the hardships people went through during Hurricane Sandy. Ms. Torres has cerebral palsy and uses a motorized wheelchair to get around. When her neighborhood lost power, she had no way to get downstairs from her eighth floor apartment for six days. "But because Melba is who she is,

and she has a personality that attracts such loyalty from those around her, the aides and her fellow residents made sure that she was taken care of in those difficult moments," Mayor de Blasio said.

Ms. Torres told the *Journal* that she was flattered to be mentioned, but it also was hard to hear her name attached to something that was so hard to live through. "If everything I have done since the storm for other people with disabilities helps them, I'll be happy," she said. "I don't do things just for myself, I want to help other people as well."

Thanks Kidde! Carbon Monoxide Alarm Maker's 2014 Gift of 20,000 Alarms is part of 60,000 Donated to NYCHA

Another 20,000 NYCHA residents can feel a little more safe in their homes now, with the installation of new carbon monoxide (CO) alarms. As reported in the *Journal* in 2012, Kidde, a leading manufacturer of home safety products, donated 60,000 over three years. Kidde recently gave NYCHA the final 20,000 of their donation.

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, killing more than 400 people and hospitalizing another 20,000 each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. New York City law requires newly-installed carbon monoxide

alarms to make an audible signal that alerts residents when it expires.

The Kidde donation helps NYCHA address this important public health initiative and install alarms in apartments as needed when old alarms expire.

Important Steps to Stay Safe:

Do not use your oven or stove to heat your apartment – this is most important way to limit exposure to carbon monoxide gas. Carbon monoxide poisoning may result in nausea, headaches, dizziness, and eventually unconsciousness and death.

It is a year-round threat for

The most important way you can prevent exposure to carbon monoxide gas is to not use your oven or stove to heat your apartment.

families with malfunctioning or improperly vented fossil fuel-burning appliances such as boilers, hot water heaters, and clothes dryers; other common household sources include car exhaust, portable generators, and grills. The only safe way to detect this silent killer is with a CO alarm.

Let NYCHA Know if You Need Help in an Emergency



Shown are some of the items that should be included in an emergency go-bag.

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, 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 Housing 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.



A NYCHA employee installs a carbon monoxide alarm in a Queensbridge Houses apartment.

80 Years of NYCHA: A Timeline

► **January 20, 1934:**

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia establishes the New York City Housing Authority.

► **December 3, 1935:**

First Houses dedication ceremony presided over by Mayor LaGuardia, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

► **September 10, 1939:**

Start of construction on Vladeck Houses, the first city-funded development.



► **November 1939:**

Families finish moving into Red Hook I (now Red Hook East and part of Red Hook West), the first racially integrated development, including 33 African-American families.

► **August 18, 1942:**

Whitman-Ingersoll Houses (originally known as Fort Greene Houses) was the first development to have apartments set aside specifically for armed forces personnel. Fort Greene Houses also was the first development funded by New York State.

► **July 31, 1947:**

NYCHA operates 14 developments with 17,047 apartments and 58,353 residents.

► **December 15, 1952:**

Establishment of the Authority's Housing Police with the swearing-in of first 47 patrolmen.

► **November 3, 1961:**

The country's first health maintenance clinic for the elderly opens at Queensbridge Houses.

► **1962:**

Resident Garden and Greening Awards initiated. It has been held every year since.

► **January 23, 1962:**

Groundbreaking for the first NYCHA Development exclusively built for senior residents, Gaylord White Houses. To date NYCHA has 42 such developments.

► **February 5, 1967:**

Authority begins its first leasing program under Section 23, a predecessor to the Section 8 program. The final contracts under Section 23 were transferred to Section 8 by 1988.

► **June 1968:**

First Tenant Patrol established.

► **September 6, 1968:**

Construction started on the first "Turnkey" development – 335 East 111th Street Houses. Under the "Turnkey" mode of public housing construction, the developer buys the land, constructs the development, and sells it to NYCHA under the terms of a pre-agreed contract.

► **1974:**

First Houses declared a New York City Landmark, the first development to be given that status.

► **December 31, 1981:**

NYCHA operates 265 developments with 170,837 apartments. Another 37,737 apartments are in Section 8 and section 23 leasing programs.

► **1991:**

The Interim Council of Presidents, the precursor to the Citywide Council of Presidents (CCOP), was formed, with Chairperson Gerri Lamb. The CCOP are resident leaders elected by their peers.

► **April 30, 1995:**

Housing Police merges with NYPD and the Housing Bureau is established.

► **March 2005:**

A \$2 billion plan for modernization and preservation of the City's public housing is announced, including an unprecedented \$600 million bond agreement. The proceeds are used for the maintenance and modernization of NYCHA's aging buildings and infrastructure.



► **March 15, 2010:**

The Federalization transaction is announced, which provides more than \$400 million in public and private funding and \$65-\$75 million in annual federal funding to support more than 20,000 previously unfunded units in State and City developments.

► **June 4, 2010:**

NYCHA renamed Bronxdale Houses after Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, marking the first time that a development was named for a former, living resident.

► **August 23, 2011:**

NYCHA and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development announce that Randolph Houses will be rehabilitated and turned into the first-ever development in New York City to combine public housing units and affordable housing units.

► **January 1, 2014:**

As part of its Maintenance and Repairs Action Plan, NYCHA announces a successful reduction in the backlog of open work orders to approximately 16,000, down from 333,000 at the beginning of 2013.

► **March 31, 2014:**

NYCHA operates 334 developments with 178,557 apartments. Another 91,103 apartments are in Section 8 Program. NYCHA is responsible for housing more than 615,000 New Yorkers. NYCHA residents and Section 8 voucher holders combined make up 7.4 percent of New York City's population.

State Scholarship Available for Students Majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

The New York State Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program provides a full SUNY and CUNY tuition scholarship for the top 10 percent of students in every New York high school if they pursue a STEM degree in an associates or bachelor degree program and agree to work in a STEM field in New York State for five years after graduation.

To apply, you must:

- Be a New York State resident
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Be enrolled full time at a SUNY or CUNY college beginning with the fall term following your high school graduation
- Be ranked in the top 10 percent of your high school graduating class of a New York State high school
- Be matriculated in an undergraduate program

leading to a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics at a SUNY or CUNY college

- Earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher each term after the first semester
 - Execute a service contract agreeing to reside and work in New York State for five years in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics
 - Not be in default on a student loan made under any state or federal education loan program or repayment of any state award
 - Be in compliance with the terms of any service condition imposed by a state award
- Award details and applications, including a list of the majors and careers that qualify, are available at the New York State Higher Education Services (HESC) website at HESC.ny.gov. Applications are due August 15, 2014.

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GED not required • New class starting soon!

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Resident Voices submissions? Story ideas?
E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

“Let in the Sun...a New Day is Dawning:” A Tour of First Houses



NYCHA Project Manager Christine Retzlaff discusses the history of First Houses and the birth of public housing on May 4, 2014. Photo credit: Julia Oliva.

The inspiring story of the birth of public housing is not well known to many New Yorkers. But thanks to the efforts of one NYCHA employee, more than 50 people now know a lot more – especially as it applies to First Houses, the nation’s first public housing development.

Christine Retzlaff, a Project Manager in NYCHA’s Resident Economic Empowerment and Sustainability Department (REES), led a group on a free walking tour of the 80-year old Manhattan development on May 4. During the walk, the group learned about the deplorable living conditions that made public housing a moral imperative, the massive urban renewal projects that cleared out unhealthy and dangerous tenements, and the dramatic change in living conditions and opportunities that public

housing and programs brought for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers beginning in 1934 and continuing to today.

The “walking conversation” at the birthplace of public housing was sponsored by the Municipal Art Society which started New York’s local chapter of Jane’s Walk, a national series of free neighborhood walks conducted by people who are passionate about their subject.

Before NYCHA was created, cramped, poorly-lit tenements housed the City’s poorest and most vulnerable residents, with no indoor plumbing or proper ventilation. Outbreaks of tuberculosis, cholera, and other contagious diseases were common. This was in contrast to First Houses’ new, light-filled apartments; playrooms for children; historic art commissioned by the federal government; and tree-lined public spaces.

Ms. Retzlaff spoke about the growing social awareness of dangerous slum conditions that led to decades of partially successful tenement reform and eventually to milestone legislation filed by Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia that established NYCHA as the first public housing authority in the country on January 20, 1934. She provided the tour-goers with vivid details and quotes, such as Mayor LaGuardia’s comment: “Tear down the old, build up the new. Down with rotten antiquated rat holes. Down with

hovels, down with disease, down with firetraps, let in the sun...a new day is dawning, a new life, a new America.”

“People on the tour were impressed to learn how New

York City took the lead in creating slum clearance because the federal government had limited resources, and how the city assumed the moral responsibility

“People on the tour were impressed to learn how New York City assumed the moral responsibility to provide safe and sanitary living conditions.”

to provide safe and sanitary living conditions,” Ms. Retzlaff said.

To learn more about the history of housing policy and preservation, other options include

the Tenement Museum in Manhattan and an exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art featuring historic artwork preserved from NYCHA developments.

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NYCHA Annual Talent Show!

NYCHA's 44th Annual Talent Show was held on May 3 at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn. Below is a list of all winners and competitors. To see more photos from the talent show, please go to NYCHA's website at <http://bit.ly/1jOGRYo>.

Children

- 1st place:** Gowanus Wildcats (Gowanus Houses)
- 2nd place:** Clinton Cuties (Clinton Houses)
- 3rd place:** Black Tie (Todt Hill Houses)
- Competitor:** Children's Village (Polo Grounds Towers)
- Competitor:** Swaggtastics (Baruch Houses, Riis Houses)
- Competitor:** Team 4 Starr (Twin Parks)

Teens

- 1st place:** Total Impact (Mitchell Houses)
- 2nd place:** Greatest Gift (Brevoort Houses)
- 3rd place:** Denise McClellan (Betances Houses)
- Competitor:** Sherley Gil (Amsterdam Houses)
- Competitor:** Tanifah Merritt (Baruch Houses)

Adults

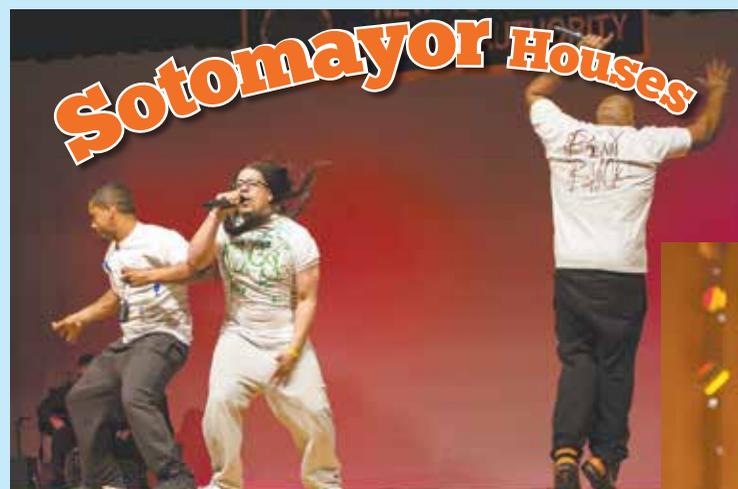
- 1st place:** Janice Mikell (Marlboro Houses)
- 2nd place:** Kenwood LaForest (Ingersoll Houses)
- 3rd place:** Fatima Merritt (Baruch Houses)
- Competitor:** One Crazy Summer (Sotomayor Houses)

Seniors

- 1st place:** Gail Williams (Cypress Hills Houses)
- 2nd place:** Renee Flowers (Gowanus Houses)
- 3rd place:** Sue Horowitz (Section 8)
- Competitor:** Albert Johnson (Carey Gardens)
- Competitor:** Ben Lewis (King Towers)



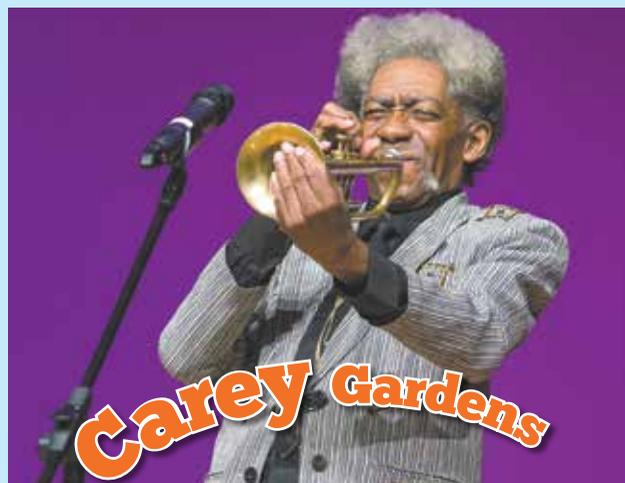
Black Tie



One Crazy Summer



Greatest Gift



Albert Johnson



Sherley Gil



Janice Mikell