



Journal

STANTON STREET OFFICIAL OPENING *NYCHA's First New Development Since 1996*



Chairman Tino Hernandez (Center) was joined by a host of supporters for the Stanton Street Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony held on Manhattan's Lower East Side. They included (from left to right) Gene Palumbo from NYCHA's Asset Management Department, Henry Street Settlement's Former Executive Director Danny Kronenfeld, NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., City Council Member Margarita Lopez, Strategic Planning Director Miriam Allen, the Chairman, Board Member JoAnna Aniello (partially hidden), HUD Director of Public Housing for New York Mirza Negron-Morales, Human Resources Administration First Deputy Commissioner Pat Smith, Stanton Street resident Virginia Cruz, and Henry Street Settlement Executive Director Verona M. Jeter.

By Eileen Elliott

For the first time since Lower East Side III was completed in 1996, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has a brand new development — Stanton Street — located on the corner of Stanton and Attorney Streets, also on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The 13 apartments in the \$4.2 million, newly constructed, five-story, elevator building are now all either occupied or accounted for, providing homes to previously homeless families. Stanton Street is unique among NYCHA's 346 developments because all of its units are designed for use by the physically, visually and hearing impaired.

Representatives from the Housing Authority and other government and nonprofit entities joined Council Member Margarita Lopez, community leaders and residents at the development on September 4, 2003, for a triumphant ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate New York City's latest addition to public housing.

NYCHA General Manager Douglas Apple welcomed

everyone to the event. "We're very excited about this new building," he said. "It was 1989 when the thinking about this project began. It's hard to believe that it took 14 years to do this, but when you see what we have here today, it's well worth it."

A quick tour of the building and Apartment #4A, which at the time of the ceremony was unoccupied, affirmed Mr. Apple's

words. The building itself has wide hallways with gleaming floors, a laundry room that is equipped with new front-loading washers and dryers, a courtyard with a playground, a community room and a 24-hour security station at the entrance.

The three-bedroom/two bathroom apartment included in the tour was bright and roomy with plenty of closets, great views, cream colored walls and a sparkling tile floor. As with all of the apartments, the appliances, including the range, refrigerator and air conditioners in each room, were brand new.

"For the families who live here, Stanton Street will fulfill a basic

(Continued on page 3)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

What Residents Need To Know

As you may know, the U.S. Congress has reinstated Community Service. Under federal law, Community Service requires that certain adult residents of public housing perform eight (8) hours of voluntary work or other activities a month (96 hours a year), that are of a public benefit or enhance resident self-sufficiency, as a condition of their tenancy. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is required by law to implement Community Service. Examples of activities that qualify for Community Service are outlined below. The Community Service law includes five categories that would exempt public housing residents from having to perform Community Service. As a result of input from the NYCHA Resident Advisory Board, advocacy groups and the public, NYCHA has expanded the number of exemptions it will allow to more than 20. A chart providing a summary of the exemptions allowed under NYCHA's Community Service program is on page 5.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL BE PHASED IN OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL MONTHS. FOR THAT REASON, THERE IS NO NEED TO VISIT YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE AT THIS TIME TO DISCUSS YOUR ELIGIBILITY FOR AN EXEMPTION. FOR THOSE RESIDENTS WHO ARE NOT EXEMPT, THIS ARTICLE IS INTENDED TO PROVIDE ADVANCE GUIDANCE.

Q: If the Community Service requirement was signed into law in 1998, why is it just being implemented now?

A: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) took several years to issue regulations for the implementation of the Community Service requirement. Two years ago, NYCHA was on the verge of implementing Community Service when Congress suspended the requirement. The suspension has now been lifted and housing authorities across the country have been directed by the federal government to implement the law. As the agency responsible for administering the public housing in New York City, NYCHA must implement Community Service.

Q. Define "Community Service."

A: Community Service is giving something back to your community. It is unpaid service to a local community-based organization or to your local community. It is not employment. For many residents this is nothing new; they have provided service voluntarily for years. Examples are the thousands of residents who volunteer for tenant patrol or parents who provide assistance at their local school.

Participation in economic self-sufficiency programs also counts as Community Service. These are programs that NYCHA and others offer to help residents gain employment and to help them become financially self-sufficient. Services provided by these programs include training on how to maintain a household budget, how to fill out a job application, drug abuse counseling, etc.

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HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Message From The Mayor

Making City Services Safe For Immigrants



Throughout our City's history, people from around the world have been drawn to the freedom and opportunity that define New York City. Immigrants, by the millions, have made New York their home and, as a result, we have become the "World's Second Home" — the most unique, diverse, and vital City in the world.

Historically, the City's commitment to our immigrant residents has meant more than just words. It has also meant services. Perhaps more than any other City in this country,

New York has a proven track record of offering its services to everyone, regardless of where they were born. That longstanding policy is alive and well today. And the reason is simple: what's good for the City's immigrants is good for the City.

But there is another side to that coin: what hurts immigrants hurts us all. When the parents of an immigrant child forego vaccination for fear of being reported to the federal immigration authorities, we all lose. Tuberculosis and other contagious diseases do not discriminate based on national origin. They infect all children equally. Likewise, we all suffer when an immigrant is afraid to tell the police that she has been the victim of a sexual assault or domestic violence. Our police officers cannot stop a criminal when they are not aware of his crimes...which leaves the criminal free to commit those crimes again. Which means that all of us lose.

For these reasons, this Administration has made open access to services a top priority from the very beginning. In May of this year, I signed into law Executive Order 34. It restored protections originally instituted by Mayor Koch, protections which were then effectively gutted by Federal legislation passed in 1996, and a subsequent decision by a Federal Court. Executive Order 34 established a "don't ask" policy that prohibited City employees from inquiring about a person's immigration status in all but the most limited circumstances, giving New Yorkers formal legal protection.

There is no question that Executive Order 34 was a major step forward for immigrants and for all New Yorkers. But some rightly asked if we could go even further — if we could offer even greater protection to immigrants seeking essential services from the City. Today, it is my pleasure to tell you that the answer is "yes."

On Citizenship Day, September 17, I signed Executive Order 41 — the most comprehensive privacy policy in the history of New York City. It is the product of a cooperative effort between this Administration, the City Council, and a number of immigrant advocacy groups. It gives assurance to all law-abiding New Yorkers — whether immigrants, victims of domestic violence, or any taxpayer — that the confidential information given to the City will stay with the City.

Not only does it strengthen and clarify Executive Order 34's "don't ask" policy for immigration status, it also adds a "don't tell" policy for a whole host of confidential information, including immigration status. Executive Order 41 protects other confidential information as well — like sexual orientation, status as a sexual assault victim or victim of domestic violence, even income tax records. The new law establishes a general rule that confidential information of this sort cannot be disclosed by City employees. It also carves out common-sense exceptions to that rule — for example, when disclosure is required by law, or when it is necessary for the City to do its job.

But at the same time, the benefits of this new law are not unconditional. The promise of confidentiality is not for everyone, only for those who abide by the law. It offers no protection to terrorists and violent criminals who seek to avoid responsibility for their crimes. Nor is it a shield for law-breakers to hide behind.

At its core, Executive Order 41 is a clear and unequivocal invitation to all law-abiding New Yorkers to come forward without fear or apprehension and avail themselves of the services that keep us all healthy, safe, and prosperous.

Michael R. Bloomberg

ATTAIN Computer Lab Opens At Polo Grounds

By John Escribano

The first Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking (ATTAIN) computer laboratory in a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) development opened at the Polo Grounds Community Center in Harlem on September 19, 2003. A second ATTAIN lab, at Farragut Houses in Brooklyn, will also be opening at the end of this month. The labs are part of a statewide initiative to provide high technology to low-income, urban communities for the purpose of developing employment and academic skills.

Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, who represents the residents of Polo Grounds, hosted the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Assemblyman provided the approximately \$1 million in funding to the State University of New York (SUNY) to establish the lab.

"I am eager to see both young and old take advantage of this great facility. Whether they are in pursuit of a better job, a college education or to simply better understand computer technology, the ATTAIN lab will be a vital tool in stimulating their lives and this community," said the Assemblyman.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for all of the residents at the Polo Grounds Community Center in Harlem to be exposed to cutting-edge technology," NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez added during the opening remarks. He commended and thanked Assemblyman Farrell for his commitment to establishing the lab and for his ongoing support for public housing in the State legislature.

The ATTAIN program is administered by SUNY's Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD) through its 10 Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs), each of which has an ATTAIN lab. There are a total of 16 ATTAIN labs statewide. The Manhattan EOC will oversee the Polo Grounds ATTAIN lab, and Information Systems, Inc. (ISI) will be responsible for providing the trainers, monitoring the equipment, and fixing any operational problems.

Mr. Hernandez also recognized U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) New York Office Director of Community Development Robert Cordillo, thanking HUD for being NYCHA's partners in so many endeavors. Thanks also went to UCAWD Director Vijay Macwan, and Manhattan EOC Director Laura Higgins, among many others who attended the ceremony.

"ATTAIN's ultimate goal," said UCAWD Director Vijay Macwan, "is to create jobs and employment opportunities for productive individuals in our society. We want



CUTTING THE RIBBON on a new ATTAIN laboratory in Harlem. Shown here are (left to right) Assemblyman Keith Wright, Polo Grounds Resident Association President Barbara Outlaw, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, City Councilman Bill Perkins, Assemblyman Farrell's Staff Director Caroline Rowan, and Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, Jr.



to create a new Harlem renaissance — one that will give birth to a star, a technologically prepared student, a workforce that will keep New York ahead of the curve in the global market."

After the remarks, everyone gathered outside for the actual ribbon cutting. Minutes later a video conference followed, during which Chairman Hernandez and the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority Assistant Executive Director Modesto Candelario, shared their impressions of the two ATTAIN computer facilities.

Other guests in attendance included NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, General Manager Douglas Apple, Harlem Congregations for Community Improvement CEO Lucille McEwen, Polo Grounds Resident Association President Barbara G. Outlaw, Manhattan North Council of Presidents Chair Barbara G. Barber, Assemblyman Keith L. Wright, and Council Members Bill Perkins and Robert Jackson.

The Housing Authority Journal

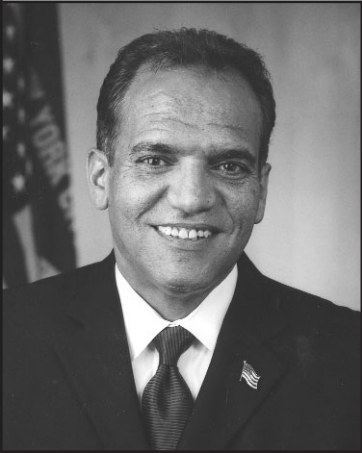
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*Message From The Chairman***October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this year, the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) held conferences in each borough during the third week of October. The theme of the conferences was “Domestic Violence: It Is Your Business,” and their purpose was to educate residents on the prevention of family violence and to bring awareness to the community.

At the Van Dyke Community Center in Brooklyn, at the

Hammel Houses Community Center in Queens, at the Campos Plaza Community Center in Manhattan, at the Todt Hill Community Center in Staten Island, and at the Melrose Community Center in the Bronx, hundreds of residents made it their business to avail themselves of this valuable resource. The half-day conferences included panel discussions by experts in the field, a dramatic presentation illustrating the cycle of abuse, and resource tables packed with informative materials.

The Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence also held an all day conference at Pace University, on October 22, focusing on New York City’s response to domestic violence. It was the perfect venue to announce some of the Housing Authority’s exciting new policy initiatives designed to cut back on red tape so that Victims of Domestic Violence (VDVs) can get the help they need faster.

NYCHA has always had a strong commitment to providing housing and services to victims of domestic violence. Applicants for public housing who are VDV’s are given the second-highest admission priority. For residents who become VDV’s, the Emergency Transfer Program, administered through NYCHA’s Social Services Department, confidentially relocates them to safer housing, away from their abusers.

The first policy initiative I want to mention concerns NYCHA’s old policy of requiring VDV’s to change their borough of residency. Under the new policy, each of the four larger boroughs (excluding Staten Island) has been divided into zones and VDV’s now have the option of moving into or transferring to other zones within their borough. NYCHA is also changing its longstanding policy of requiring VDV’s who wish to inquire about the status of their applications from coming to the applications office in person with a photo ID. Instead, these applicants will be assigned Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) so that they can check the status of their applications over the phone. NYCHA is also training one staff member from each of its borough application offices to become a Domestic Violence Specialist. The Domestic Violence Specialist will serve as a resource to others on the staff who are processing applications for VDV’s.

There’s more. Our policy currently requires that public housing applicants provide a valid Order of Protection, a police report for a separate incident within one year of the date of the application (to show a pattern of abuse), and an advocacy letter from a social service agency, to qualify as a VDV. But sometimes there is only one very serious incident and the applicant can not show a pattern of abuse. NYCHA is changing its policy so that it will soon be awarding status as a VDV based on a single serious felony assault, although there may be no record of other incidents. This will also be applied to emergency transfer VDV applicants as well as new applicants to public housing.

NYCHA is working with the NYPD so that we can access Orders Of Protection for Emergency Transfer cases online, and with the City’s Office of Court Administration to allow us access to their database to do criminal background checks online. (All new residents are subject to criminal background checks.) Both of these will be enormous timesavers in expediting the applications and transfers of VDV’s.

These are just a few of the ways that the Housing Authority and the City is working to protect victims of domestic violence. If you yourself are a victim of domestic violence, there’s no better time than now to get the help you need, just call the City’s new “311” hotline or the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-621-HOPE.

Tino Hernandez

STANTON STREET

(Continued from page 1)

human need — the need for a stable living environment, a place of quality, a place to call home,” Chairman Tino Hernandez told the well-wishers who crowded the community room. “On behalf of the Board of NYCHA, I want to thank and commend everybody involved for doing a great job. There are so many people who have been instrumental in bringing this to fruition.”

The Chairman then thanked the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), represented at the event by Director of Public Housing for New York Mirza Negron-Morales. HUD provided over \$3 million in funding. He thanked the City’s Human Resources Administration (HRA) and First Deputy Commissioner Pat Smith who attended on behalf of Commissioner Verna Eggleston. HRA has committed \$3 million in support services to Stanton Street residents, to be provided by the Henry Street Settlement. The Chair also thanked Henry Street, remarking on its long and productive history with NYCHA on the Lower East Side.

Not least among those thanked by the Chairman was City Council Member Margarita Lopez. “She is a strong advocate for low-income families, is dedicated to the welfare of this community and has provided tremendous leadership and resources to the Lower East Side,” the Chairman said. He also thanked Ms. Lopez for working with NYCHA on a variety of issues.

The Council Member was emphatic as she spoke of her pride in the people of the Lower East Side. “What is behind each and everyone of these walls is a community that comprehends that inclusion is what New York City is all about. This community understands that more than any other community in New York City.”

Henry Street’s Executive Director Verona M. Jeter also said a few words, calling attention to the nonprofit’s former Executive Director Danny Kronenfeld, who, she said, first thought of Stanton Street. “This project exemplifies people working together,” Ms. Jeter said.

“We provide services but services are much more effective if you have affordable housing.”

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*Deborah’s Diary*

By Deborah Williams

Welcome Home — U.S. Army Sergeant Selena Ann Forster had high hopes and dreams so she joined the military to travel, to see the world, and to complete her education. Selena Foster graduated from Sheepshead-Nostrand High School in 1988. She then joined the National Guard, and after four years of active duty, beginning in 1991, her interest turned to the U.S. Army. She enlisted in 1995, and in February of 2002, Sergeant Forster left the sanctuary of the Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, in Brooklyn, and headed for Fort Stewart, Georgia, where she began intense training for the battle in Iraq. “We were all nervous for her. We just didn’t know what to expect, but we were always proud of our daughter,” said Mrs. Grace Forster. With a trembling voice, as if today was the day her daughter was leaving, Mrs. Grace Forster told me her daughter’s story. “When she and other soldiers were ordered to Iraq she knew she had a mission to accomplish. She became eager to go to Kuwait and the other soldiers respected her for that. She had the best training in the 3rd Infantry at Fort Stewart. It was that training that brought our daughter back home.” In January 2003, all Mrs. Forster could say was “Thank God. Thank you for her safe return.” *Sergeant Forster said she plans to re-enlist when her present tour has ended. Sergeant Forster, you and all your comrades are indeed heroes, true American Citizens. Welcome Home! I wish you all the best with your military career.*

A Light In The Darkness — She carried her flashlight in one hand and a bucket of water in the other. Water that the senior citizens of 109 Lewis Avenue desperately needed. On August 14, 2003, the day of the Blackout of 2003, many New Yorkers living in high-rise buildings were without the electricity that is needed to pump water from the tanks where it is stored on rooftops to the apartments below. This was the case at the Roosevelt I Houses in Brooklyn where Nicole Burrowes found herself, along with other residents of these 6, 14 to 16-stories, buildings were left high and dry — no water. With this in mind Nicole collected a couple of gallon containers and some plastic buckets, filled them with water and she along with her two sons delivered water to the seniors. Over and over they filled these jugs and buckets until all the senior citizens had water. Why did they do this you might ask? Well according to an article which appeared in the September 2, 2003, *New York Post*, “Because we enjoyed doing it. We did not feel the strain until we got to the 14th floor. I love to help people,” Nicole said. Nicole says she did this not only to help the seniors but also to teach her children a valuable lesson in humanity and that is, “In this world you don’t have to do everything for money.” Nicole Burrowes is a recent graduate of the Borough of Manhattan Community College and hopes to begin a career as an assistant teacher in a day-care setting. *Nicole, you are a woman of values, and I commend you on your selfless deed. I’m sure that I express the sentiment of the senior citizens of 106 Lewis Avenue, when I say, thank you, for your selfless act and for caring about others.*

A Very Special Happy Birthday — Manhattanville Houses resident Constance Williams was born on September 27, 1903 to Catherine and Graham Baker in Orange, New Jersey — that means that on Saturday, September 27, 2003, she turned 100 years young! Together with her family, Mrs. Williams moved to New York City, from Orange, N.J., in 1930. In March 1973 she became a resident of the Manhattanville Houses, in Manhattan. “I have lived a good life here. In fact, my being a seamstress (a trade I learned from my grandmother) helped me to drum up business and in turn I made a lot of friends.”

I asked Mrs. Williams what she attributed her longevity to and she said, “Well, God has been very good to me. I didn’t do anything special. I have a young friend. She always asks me what I use on my face because my complexion is nice and I tell her just soap. But, there is one thing that might be the answer — it just runs in the family. Although my mother died when she was 48 and my father in his 70’s, my aunt and former roommate Estelle Johnson died just four months before reaching her 100th birthday. My grandmother lived for 97 years, and another aunt lived until she was 94 years young.” Her message to all is — “If you want to live as long as I have just try to take care of yourself. I can’t say eat properly because I haven’t always myself. I just didn’t drink and I never smoked.” **HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Mrs. Williams! I hope all of your wishes come true!**

Community Service

(Continued from page 1)

Q: Who will be affected by the Community Service requirement?

A: Every adult in a NYCHA household over the age of 18 or below the age of 62 who does not qualify for an exemption must perform Community Service. (See the chart on page 5 for a list of exemptions.) NYCHA believes that most residents will qualify for an exemption because they are in school, are receiving public assistance, or are of a certain age. If however, you are not exempt, Community Service becomes a condition of your tenancy and your compliance, or lack of compliance, could affect your family's right to remain in public housing.

Q: Specifically, how does a resident qualify for an exemption from Community Service?

A: To understand who is eligible for an exemption, we have summarized the basic standards in the chart to the right. Residents should keep in mind that this chart is only an abbreviated summary of the Authority's exemptions. The chart was prepared to give residents an understanding of the basic types of conditions that will allow the Authority to consider granting an exemption. In some instances, there may be additional requirements or details that do not appear on the chart. Residents should discuss their concerns with their Management Office before reaching any conclusions.

Q: Does NYCHA already have the information that it needs to determine who qualifies for an exemption and who does not?

A: In many instances, NYCHA's records should reflect who is entitled to an exemption and who is not. For example, our records clearly show which residents are over 62 years of age and which are below the age of 18. Records also indicate for the most part, who is employed and who is not.

But there is a very real chance that NYCHA's records do not reflect the current situation. As the program is phased in, residents who NYCHA believes must perform Community Service will receive a letter from their Management Office advising them that they may be subject to the Community Service requirement. This will be done at the time of the annual recertification, with the first letters scheduled to go out in January 2004. These letters will include a list of acceptable proofs that can provide the basis for an exemption. The letter will ask the resident to provide his or her Management Office with documentation to support an exemption.

Q: When a person is determined to be exempt, are they permanently excused from providing Community Service?

A: Not in most cases. The exemption is only good for the recertification year unless the person in question is 62 years of age or older, or can provide a certificate from a physician stating that they are permanently disabled.

Q. The chart indicates that if you are employed for 30 hours per week, (20 hours for a single parent) you may be entitled to an exemption because you are working. Not all residents have steady employment. What if there are weeks when a resident works for less than 30 hours or weeks when a resident works more than 30 hours?

A: If the resident can show proof of an average of 30 hours of work per week, he or she will be given an exemption. Note as well that the 30-hour employment rule does not apply to employed single parents. Single parents with a child in the apartment under the age of 13 must work 20 hours a week for an exemption. Hours from different jobs can be combined to reach the required total. It is important that residents understand that NYCHA staff will work with the resident in determining their qualification for an exemption and each situation will be judged on its own merits.

Q. How does Community Service affect persons who are in school or job training?

A: Most forms of schooling, especially those related to employment, will entitle a resident to an exemption.

Q: If a resident is required to provide Community Service, who decides what they will do? Will NYCHA locate work for residents to perform?

A: Each resident decides how, when and where he or she will fulfill their Community Service requirement. NYCHA, of course, encourages residents to consider activities within their own communities, especially activities such as tenant patrol. However, residents can also volunteer to provide service to other community-based organizations, such as local church operating a food bank. Community

Service may also be provided through municipal agencies like the Parks Department, the local school, or through various charitable organizations, etc.

When the program is implemented, those affected will be given a list of activities that are acceptable forms of Community Service. However, it is up to the resident to find organizations that will accept his or her efforts on their behalf. For residents who opt to take the economic self-sufficiency path, we suggest they contact NYCHA's Department of Economic and Business Initiatives at (718)250-5904 for references to qualified courses that may satisfy the requirement.

Q: How about working for elected officials?

A: The one forbidden activity is politics. We strongly suggest that other activities be considered.

Q: A resident who is required to provide Community Service has to put in eight hours of service each month. How will NYCHA track the time that residents put in?

A: Each time a resident works for an organization, he or she should ask the person supervising the work or conducting the training to sign a verification form that NYCHA will provide. In the case of training courses, the resident can wait until the conclusion of the course, before having the instructor sign the verification. Copies of NYCHA's verification form will be part of the packet that will be sent to each resident who has been found to be required to provide Community Service. Additional verification forms will be available from the development management office. Residents will be asked to submit their signed verification sheets at the end of the year, as a part of the annual verification process, or periodically throughout the year. (We suggest that residents maintain a copy of any submitted documents.)

Q: Is it true that if a resident, who is required to provide Community Service, refuses to do so, they could be evicted?

A: Community Service is a condition of tenancy. If Community Service is refused, the entire family faces the possibility that at the end of the year, their tenancy will not be renewed, unless the individual refusing compliance leaves the household.

New York City Housing Authority	
Summary of Exemptions From Community Service	
Categories	Exemptions
Age	1. Individuals who are below the age of 18. 2. Individuals who are 62 years of age or older.
Disability	3. Persons who are either blind or disabled and unable to perform community service or self-sufficiency activities. 4. The primary caretaker of a public housing resident who is exempt due to blindness or disability. 5. Pregnant women, where their physician certifies that participation in community service or self-sufficiency programs would cause serious injury to the health or life of the mother or child. 6. Recipients of assistance under the Supplementary Security Income (SSI) program.
Welfare Work Programs	7. Participants in the New York City Work Experience Program (WEP). 8. Welfare recipients who are exempt from performing work activities under any State welfare program, including a State welfare-to-work program.
Welfare Assistance	9. Members of a family receiving welfare assistance who have not been found to be in noncompliance with the program.
Employment	10. An individual who is employed at least 30 hours per week. 11. A single adult, with a child below the age of 13 in the household, who is employed for at least 20 hours per week. It may be good cause for a single parent with a child below the age of 13, who is unable to secure qualified and affordable childcare, not to participate in a work activity. 12. Two adults, with a child below age of 13 in the household, who are employed for a combination of 35 hours per week. The 35-hour figure is a total that may be divided in any manner between the two adults. 13. Persons who are engaged in job search, but not to exceed six weeks in any year. Receipt of unemployment benefits qualifies as job search. 14. Provision of childcare services to an adult public housing resident who is required to provide community service or participate in self-sufficiency programs. 15. Provision of childcare services to an adult public housing resident who is exempt from community service under categories 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22.
Education	16. Persons who are engaged in vocational training, but not exceeding a maximum of 12 months. 17. Persons who are engaged in job readiness assistance (training preparing the individual for employment), but not exceeding six weeks in any year. The phrase job readiness training includes job-seeking skills, preparation of resumes or job applications, interviewing skills, participation in a job club and other activities that help the individual to secure competitive employment. 18. Persons who are engaged in on-the-job training. 19. Persons who are engaged in job skills training directly related to employment. In such instances, the individual is not currently employed, and employment is conditioned on successful completion of the job training course. 20. Persons who are engaged in education that is directly related to employment, where the individual has not received a high school diploma or a certificate of high school equivalency. 21. Persons who are in satisfactory attendance at a secondary school or higher educational school. 22. Persons who are in satisfactory attendance in a course of study leading to a certificate of general equivalency (GED), where the individual has not completed secondary school or received such a certificate.

Note: The reader is cautioned that this document is merely a "plain English" summary of the exemptions from Community Service the Authority will utilize in administering the program. A more precise and detailed explanation of the particular characteristics required of an individual seeking to qualifying for one or more of the foregoing exemptions categories will be published by NYCHA with its issuance of formal procedures governing the program's administration.

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Fall Is Flu Shot Season

Fall is here, and with it comes flu season. The flu usually starts hitting in late Fall or early Winter, but the time to protect yourself and your family is now.

Many people don't realize it, but the flu is a very serious illness. Across the country this year, more than 25 million people will get the flu. Of these, more than 100,000 — many of them young children and the elderly — will be hospitalized for flu-related complications. And over 36,000 people will die from complications from the flu. Of great importance is that an annual flu shot can reduce the chances of a senior being hospitalized or dying. Flu shots can save lives.

It is easy to prevent serious illness from the flu. Getting a flu shot will significantly reduce your risk of getting sick from the flu this year. If you got a flu shot last year or any time earlier, however, it won't protect you now. You need this year's flu shot to protect you against this year's flu. And contrary to what some people think, the flu shot is not made from a live virus and so getting a flu shot will not give you the flu.

Just about everybody who wants to reduce their risk of getting sick from the flu should get a flu shot. Some people should make getting a flu shot a high priority because they are at greater risk for flu complications, especially:

- Everyone over age 50.
- Anyone 6 months and older with a long-term health problem, including heart disease, lung disease, asthma, diabetes, kidney disease, or certain types of anemia; anyone who has a weakened immune system or who has received cancer treatments; and children receiving long-term aspirin therapy.
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.
- Women who are pregnant or who become pregnant at any time during the flu season (November through March); please consult with your doctor.
- Children ages 6 months to 2 years. (Babies under 6 months cannot get flu shots.)
- Anyone who cares for people in the groups listed above.
- Also, anyone who provides essential community services, such as police and firefighters, should get a flu shot.

Only people who have had a serious reaction to a previous flu shot or have a severe allergy to eggs should not be immunized against the flu.

Infants and toddlers ages 6 months to 2 years also need to get a flu shot to lessen their chances of getting sick and being hospitalized. Some children might need two shots; your doctor or nurse can tell you. And although babies under 6 months old can't get a flu shot, they can still get the flu, so it's important that anyone who comes in contact with infants be immunized.

You can get a flu shot from your family doctor or primary care provider. If you don't already know where to get your flu shot, call the NYC Flu Information Line at 311 or check our website at <http://www.nyc.gov/flu>

Here are some tips to help ensure a safe and fun Halloween:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children while trick-or-treating.
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home. If there are any signs of tampering, discard it.
- Never consume food items or drinks that may be offered.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car. Only go trick-or-treating to people you know.
- Buy costumes, masks, and wigs that are labeled "flame resistant." Keep in mind that these items can catch fire.
- Make sure children are wearing bright colored clothing at night.
- Costumes should be short enough so that children won't trip and fall.
- Masks should not block vision or breathing. Consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discretely within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. Always walk. Never run across a street.
- Cross the streets at the corner and wait for the light.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free at any pay phone.
- Openly discuss appropriate and inappropriate behavior at Halloween time.
- Notify the police immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.



HAVE FUN AND STAY SAFE!

What's Happening in ... Brooklyn?

In an effort to keep NYCHA residents informed about improvements in their developments, the Journal runs a regular column on recently awarded modernization contracts.

Boulevard Houses to Get New Drainage System

Boulevard Houses will have its house drainage system replaced at an estimated cost of over \$2.1 million. The plumbing company of VC Vitanza Sons, Inc. was awarded the contract to do the work in the development, which encompasses 18 buildings and 1,436 apartments. In 13 of the 18 buildings the sanitary and storm drainage systems, which are now combined, will be separated. Built in 1951, Boulevard Houses is nearly 53 years old, and is home to over 3,000 residents.

Bushwick II, Hope Gardens and Berry-South 9th Street to Receive New Compactors and Grounds Improvements

Bushwick Houses II, Groups A and C, B and D, E and Hope Gardens will receive an Exterior Compacting Refuse Management System. The contract, which was awarded to G.E.M. American Construction Corporation, also provides for the removal of the asphalt pavement and the installation of a new concrete pavement, steel bar fencing, new floodlights, and planting of trees and shrubs. This modernization will cost approximately \$375,000. Bushwick II was built in the mid-1980's and the five groups of houses are home to 2,415 residents. Hope Gardens, completed in 1981, has 324 apartments.

Berry Street-South 9th Street Houses will undergo similar modernization, with the installation of an exterior compactor, the removal of various pavement and fences, and the addition of plants, concrete curbs and walls, a louver fence and steel bar fence gates and panels. This contract for \$375,000 was awarded to Alto Contracting, Inc. About 518 residents live in 150 apartments in Berry-South 9th Street's four buildings, built in 1995.

Sheepshead Bay and Nostrand Houses' Heating System to be Upgraded

Sheepshead Bay and Nostrand Houses are going to have their heating control panels and zone valve stations replaced in all 18 six-story buildings at Sheepshead Bay and all 16 six-story buildings at Nostrand Houses. TR Pipe, Inc. will do the modernization at an estimated cost of \$660,000. Sheepshead Bay's 2,652 residents live in 1,056 apartments and 2,493 Nostrand residents live in 1,148 units. Both developments were built in 1950.

Sheepshead Bay and Nostrand residents are also having their apartments painted by Multicolor Associates, Inc. at an estimated cost of \$348,000 as are the residents of...

Cypress Hills Houses, where the 1,442 apartments will be repainted by Multicolor under a \$274,000 contract. The 15 seven-story buildings of Cypress Hills were built in 1955 and are home to about 3,500 NYCHA residents.

And the painters are also coming to...

Glenwood Houses residents will have their 1,186 apartments painted by the Atlas Maintenance Corporation at an approximate cost of \$278,000. The 20 six-story buildings of Glenwood Houses were built in 1950.

Albany Houses and **Weeksville Houses** apartments will also be painted by Atlas Maintenance. This contract for approximately \$264,000 includes all of the 1,213 apartments at Albany and all 256 apartments at Weeksville. Albany Houses, built in 1950, consists of six 14-story buildings with about 2,000 residents, and Weeksville, completed in 1974, is two buildings of four and five stories.



2003 GARDEN COMPETITION AWARDS

By Deborah Williams

Have you ever looked outside your window and wondered how those beautiful gardens came to be? It all began in 1962 when NYCHA developed the Garden Program. The first gardens to blossom were flower gardens. Now 41 years later, there are vegetable as well as children's theme gardens.

Every year NYCHA hosts a Garden Competition Awards Ceremony to honor the residents who have tirelessly dedicated their time and energy toward beautifying NYCHA's grounds. The 41st Annual Garden Competition Awards Ceremony was held on September 24, 2003, in "The Palm House," at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. There were 477 gardens all pruned and ready to compete this year, including 228 Flower Gardens, 199 Vegetable Gardens, and 50 Children's Theme Gardens.

According to Chairman Hernandez, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was "the perfect venue," for the ceremony. Under the warmth of the sun through the glass ceiling of The Palm House, friends and family members enjoyed a delicious lunch after the Department of Community Operations Citywide Programs Director Denise Lara announced this year's winners. The winners came up, one by one, to accept their awards. You could feel their sense of accomplishment and pride fill the air, mingling with the aroma of the blossoming floral centerpieces that sat on the tables.

The Garden Program provides starter kits to gardeners that include free seeds in the spring and free flowering bulbs in the fall. Gardeners are reimbursed \$40 per garden for the purchase of plants. Gardeners also receive assistance from the development's groundskeepers with tasks such as turning over the soil—one of the first steps in seed planting. Citywide Programs also offers year-round service to assist gardeners with planting issues that may crop up.

The Garden competition was judged by horticultural professionals in the three categories mentioned, with first-, second- and third-place winners for each borough (except for Brooklyn which is so large that it has been divided into three sections.) Citywide winners in each category were then selected among the first-place winners.

"NYCHA gives awards to the best gardens and gardeners, but everyone who nurtured gardens this season is to be commended and thanked for making our developments more beautiful," said Chairman Hernandez.

Also attending were Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., General Manager Douglas Apple, Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Garden Program Staff Robert Bennaton, Howard Hemmings, Charles Royster and Kathleen Thomas.

To find out how you can participate, please call (212) 427-6648.



*2003 Citywide Flower Garden Winner
"Renew Your Spirit Garden"
Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn South*

*Ganadores De La Ciudad: Flor
"Renuevan el Espíritu"
Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn South*



*2003 Citywide Vegetable Garden Winner
"Garden Of Venus"
South Jamaica Houses, Queens*

*Ganadores De La Ciudad: Vegetal
"El Jardín de Venus"
South Jamaica Houses, Queens*



*2003 Citywide Children's Theme Winner
"A Little Sunshine Garden"
Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island*

*Ganadores De La Ciudad:
Tema de Niños
"El Pequeño Jardín con Sol"
Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island*

CITYWIDE WINNERS

FLOWER: "Renew Your Spirit" Garden, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn
VEGETABLE: Garden of Venus, South Jamaica Houses, Queens
CHILDREN'S THEME: A Little Sunshine Garden, Mariner's Harbor, Staten Island

SOUTH BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses
2nd Prize: "Shining Light Garden" Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Flower's R Us, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Fajardo Garden, Breukelen Houses
2nd Prize: Hayes' Garden of Love Vegetables, Red Hook East Houses
3rd Prize: Puerto Rico's Garden, Breukelen Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: "Beauty at the Bay", Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses
2nd Prize: Flowers of Faith, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses

WEST BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses
2nd Prize: Kayla's Garden, Gowanus Houses
3rd Prize: Eden on Bond, Gowanus Houses

WEST BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: The Neighborhood Garden, Marcy Houses
2nd Prize: Benjie's Garden Vegetable, Sumner Houses
3rd Prize: Gowanus' Green Thumb, Gowanus Houses

WEST BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Gowanus' Garden, Gowanus Houses
2nd Prize: Ebony's Garden, Marcy Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Butterfly Garden, Hope Gardens Houses
2nd Prize: Rosa Carmen's Garden, Hope Gardens Houses
3rd Prize: Heavenly Garden, Hope Gardens Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Love, Care and Respect, Brownsville Houses
2nd Prize: God Bless Garden, Pink Houses
3rd Prize: Bountiful Garden, Tilden Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Mayda's Children's Garden of Peace, Boulevard

STATEN ISLAND – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Rainbows and Butterflies, Berry Houses
2nd Prize: Garden of Luv, Mariner's Harbor Houses

PREMIOS COMPETENCIA JARDINERÍA 2003

Por Deborah Williams

Ha mirado usted alguna vez afuera de su ventana y se ha preguntado cómo se crearon esos hermosos jardines. Todo comenzó en el año 1962 cuando NYCHA desarrolló el Programa de Jardinería. Los primeros jardines que florecieron fueron los jardines de flores. Ahora, 41 años más tarde, hay huertos como también jardines con temas infantiles.

Cada año NYCHA presenta una ceremonia de entrega de premios para el Concurso de Jardinería para rendir honores a los residentes que han incansablemente dedicado su tiempo y energía para embellecer los terrenos de NYCHA. La cuatrigésima primera Ceremonia de Entrega de Premios para el Concurso de Jardinería fue realizada el 24 de septiembre en el Palm House del Jardín Botánico de Brooklyn. Este año, hubo 477 jardines todos podados y listos para competir, incluyendo 228 florales, 199 huertos y 50 infantiles.

De acuerdo con el presidente Hernández, el Jardín Botánico de Brooklyn fue el "lugar de reunión perfecto" para la ceremonia. Bajo el calor moderado del sol a través de la bóveda de cristal del Palm House, amigos y miembros de la familia gozaron de un delicioso almuerzo después que la directora del Departamento de Programas de Asuntos Comunes de la Ciudad Denise Lara, anunció los ganadores de este año. Los ganadores aparecieron uno por uno para aceptar sus premios. Usted podía sentir que sus sentidos de logros y orgullo llenaban el aire, mezclados con el aroma de los centros de mesas florales florecientes que estaban situados en las mesas.

El Programa de Jardinería provee equipos o "kits" para jardineros principiantes que incluyen semillas gratis en la primavera y bulbos que florecen al aire libre en el otoño. Los jardineros fueron reembolsados \$40 por jardín por la compra de plantas. Los jardineros también recibieron asistencia de los encargados del mantenimiento de los jardines de los residenciales con tareas como ser el removimiento del suelo – una de las primeras medidas en la siembra de la semilla. Los programas de la ciudad también ofrecen servicio todo el año para asistir a los jardineros con temas de plantación que puedan surgir.

El Concurso de Jardinería fue juzgado por horticultores profesionales en las tres categorías mencionadas, con los ganadores del primer, segundo y tercer puesto en cada condado (excepto en Brooklyn que es tan grande que ha sido dividido en tres secciones). Los ganadores en toda la ciudad en cada categoría fueron luego seleccionados entre los ganadores con el primer puesto.

"NYCHA le otorgó premios a los mejores jardines y jardineros, pero todos los que alimentaron los jardines esta estación deben ser elogiados y agradecidos por hacer más bellos nuestros residenciales", dijo el presidente Hernandez.

También asistieron el vicepresidente Earl Andrews, Jr., el gerente general, Douglas Apple, el subgerente general del Departamento de Asuntos Comunes Hugh Spence, el personal del Programa de Jardinería, Robert Bennaton, Howard Hemmings, Charles Royster y Kathleen Thomas, y el presidente del condado de Brooklyn Marty Markowitz.

Para averiguar como puede usted participar, por favor llame al (212) 427-6648.

MANHATTAN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Troche's Garden, Wald Houses
2nd Prize: Harlem's Vegetable Garden, Jefferson Houses
3rd Prize: Quinones' Vegetable Garden, Smith Houses

MANHATTAN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Mrs. Potts' Garden, Holmes/Isaacs Houses
2nd Prize: El Coqui Children's Garden, Campos Plaza Houses
3rd Prize: East River Children's Garden, East River Houses

BRONX – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Blue Shade Garden, Bronxdale Houses
2nd Prize: Garden Gate Perennial, Bronxdale Houses
3rd Prize: Liberty Garden, Throggs Neck Houses

BRONX – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Family Garden, Throggs Neck Houses
2nd Prize: Vegetable & Herbs Delight, Bronxdale Houses
3rd Prize: Mexican National Garden, Throggs Neck Houses

BRONX – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Penney's Reading Garden, Bronxdale Houses
2nd Prize: Tiny Toon Rainbow Flower Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
3rd Prize: The Slice of Pizza Garden, Parkside Houses

STATEN ISLAND – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Mariner's Harbor Tenant's Association, Mariner's Harbor Houses
2nd Prize: Compy's Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
3rd Prize: Green Thumbs, Mariner's Harbor Houses

STATEN ISLAND – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: The "Peek-A-Boo" Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

QUEENS – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses
2nd Prize: Tabernacla Flower Garden, South Jamaica Houses
3rd Prize: Flower Garden of Love & Peace, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: I Did It! Garden, South Jamaica Houses
2nd Prize: Garden Of Joy, South Jamaica Houses
3rd Prize: My Kitchen Garden, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Catherine & Tiffany's World of Flowers, Beach 41st Street Houses
2nd Prize: Eye of the Tiger, South Jamaica Houses

MANHATTAN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Our Garden, East River Houses
2nd Prize: A Touch of Class, Wagner Houses
3rd Prize: Balm's of Gideon, St. Nicholas Houses