

New York City Housing Authority Journal

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MARCH 2006



DRUG BUST Redfern Houses in Far Rockaway was the site of a major drug sweep last month.

MAJOR DRUG SWEEP IN FAR ROCKAWAY NETS 43 ARRESTS

Majority of Defendants Face Up to 15 Years

ON FEBRUARY 3RD, QUEENS DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN AND POLICE COMMISSIONER RAYMOND W. KELLY ANNOUNCED THE INDICTMENT OF 24 ALLEGED DRUG PEDDLERS AND THE ARREST OF 19 OTHERS FOR HAWKING DRUGS NEAR THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) REDFERN HOUSES AND THE PRIVATELY OWNED DIX MCBRIDE APARTMENTS, BOTH IN FAR ROCKAWAY. Fourteen of the indicted individuals are in custody and at the time of the press release 10 were being sought as fugitives.

The defendants — who range in age from 16 to 47 and include two alleged Bloods gang members — were arrested early on February 2nd and are charged with selling crack and powdered cocaine and marijuana to undercover police officers on more than 140 separate occasions over a seven-month period.

"This initiative is part of our continuing campaign to stop the plague of drug-based violence in Far Rockaway... These arrests should put a significant dent in the drug trafficking which has long troubled the residents of Far Rockaway. We will continue to work together with our police officers and our elected officials and community leaders to keep the citizens of this neighborhood safe," said District Attorney Brown at the press conference.

The investigation commenced last summer when detectives assigned to the NYPD's Queens Narcotics Division received information that drug dealers were engaged in operations around

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THIRTY MORE DREAMERS AT DE HOSTOS-WISE KICK-OFF

IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF KEEPING FOCUSED AND WORKING HARD ON THE LONG ROAD TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND BEYOND EMERGED AS THE DOMINANT THEMES AT THE DE HOSTOS-WISE "I HAVE A DREAM" (IHAD) KICK-OFF, AT P.S. 84 ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE ON FEBRUARY 3RD. In the seventh New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)/IHAD collaboration, 30 more third-graders who live in NYCHA's De Hostos Apartments, Wise Towers and the West Side Urban Renewal Area (WSURA) Apartments, will receive free after-school programming, extra-curricular enrichment, tutoring and mentoring through the 12th grade, with the promise of tuition assistance for college or vocational school once they successfully graduate from high school.

In a ceremony featuring staff from the I Have A Dream Program, Dreamers, and former Dreamers, General Manager Douglas Apple represented the Housing Authority. Mr. Apple had words of encouragement and admiration for the youngsters as he compared them to his own children and told them to "stay focused, work hard, and take advantage of this opportunity."

There were many bright spots in the evening's ceremony, but the highlight was when IHAD founder Eugene Lang led the young "Dreamers" (as program participants are called) in the Dreamer

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NYCHA RAISES PARKING FEES Thirty Day Notice For Other Increases

IN THE FACE OF AN EVER-RISING BUDGET DEFICIT, NYCHA MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO ADDRESS ONGOING INCREASES IN THE COST OF OPERATING PUBLIC HOUSING. AS PART OF NYCHA'S 2006 SPENDING PLAN ADOPTED BY THE BOARD ON DECEMBER 28, 2005, CERTAIN FEES WHICH HAVE REMAINED UNCHANGED FOR YEARS, ARE BEING INCREASED.

The following increases for residents and non-residents who park at NYCHA facilities have been approved and will become effective on April 1, 2006. You may be surprised to learn that there are 21,000 parking spaces on NYCHA grounds throughout the five boroughs.

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BIG DREAMS The De Hostos-Wise Community Center in Manhattan is the newest "I Have A Dream" site.



GOT WORK? Resident Employment Services hosted a Career Expo in Williamsburg on February 2nd.

THANKS FOR THE FEEDBACK!

To those residents who so generously donated their time filling out the NYCHA *Journal* Survey—*Thank you!* Your feedback is very helpful. We hope to incorporate your suggestions in future issues of the *Journal*. Out of a total of 22,765 surveys that were sent out, 2,854 were completed and returned. This may not sound like a lot, but it is over 10% which is better than the expected average return. Stay tuned to find out what your friends and neighbors had to say about the NYCHA *Journal*.

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RES CAREER
EXPO IN
BROOKLYN**



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WOMEN'S
HISTORY MONTH**



**PAGE 5
1200 WATERS
PHONE
NUMBERS**



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

THE CITY LAUNCHES NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEBSITE



I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE CREATION OF THE ONLINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER, WHICH AIMS TO DRAMATICALLY INCREASE NEW YORKERS' ACCESS TO INFORMATION FROM MORE THAN A DOZEN CITY AGENCIES INVOLVED IN HOUSING MATTERS. The Affordable Housing Resource Center can be found on the web at: www.nyc.gov/housing. The site will provide information and advice on buying and renting in the private market, legal rights and responsibilities, and health tips.

During my re-election campaign I pledged that City government would combine all of its existing data on available housing into a comprehensive website that will also include information on legal services, assistance for building owners and information on City services for tenants. The online Affordable Housing Resource Center fulfills that promise. In the same way that 311 brings together comprehensive information on City services through one telephone number, this website will provide New Yorkers with a single point of entry to affordable housing information.

The Affordable Housing Resource Center works in conjunction with the \$3.5 billion New Housing Marketplace Plan I launched in 2002 — the largest affordable housing initiative in a generation. The plan is being successfully implemented by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, the New York City Housing Authority, the Housing Development Corporation, and other City agencies. In my first term I saw the preservation and development of 47, 000 units of affordable housing across the City's five Boroughs.

To help more New Yorkers learn about affordable housing opportunities and other critical housing information, 12 City agencies worked together to combine key elements of the City's existing housing data into a comprehensive portal on the City's main website, www.nyc.gov. In addition to current lotteries of housing financed through City programs, this Affordable Housing Resource Center provides information on the following:

- Apartment and house hunting tips
- Downpayment assistance
- Public housing (the New York City Housing Authority)
- Emergency housing assistance
- Federal rental assistance
- Repairs and maintenance
- Tenants' rights
- Foreclosure prevention, and
- Housing for people with special needs

In addition to the City's three big housing agencies — the New York City Housing Authority, Housing Preservation and Development, and the Housing Development Corporation — the many entities which contribute to this site include: the Department of Homeless Services, the Rent Guidelines Board, the Department of Consumer Affairs, and the New York City Commission on Human Rights, which protects residents from housing discrimination. There is the New York City Human Resources Administration, which provides temporary help to eligible individuals and families with social service and economic needs; the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities; the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, and The New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal, which supervises, maintains and develops affordable low-and-moderate income housing.

Whatever your housing questions are, the Affordable Housing Resource Center is the place to go for answers.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Career Expo At Williamsburg Community Center

FIFTY-TWO RESIDENTS WHO LIVE IN CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DIANA REYNA'S DISTRICT (DISTRICT #34) CAME TO THE GLASS-ENCLOSED WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY CENTER ON THE EVENING OF FEBRUARY 2ND TO LEARN ABOUT JOB AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT NYCHA'S FIRST CAREER EXPO OF THE YEAR.

Hosted by the Housing Authority's Department of Resident Employment Services (RES) and the Council Member, who is the former head of the Council's Subcommittee on Public Housing, the Career Expo gave residents and their neighbors the chance to make contacts and see what more than 20 not-for-profit agencies and government entities had to offer in the way of career training and job opportunities.

"This was not a job fair," emphasized RES Deputy Director Gladys Arciniega. "The objective was to expose the community to the different types of services available to them to become economically self-sufficient, and to disseminate information."

Some of the not-for-profit organizations represented were: NEW, which stands for Nontraditional Employment for Women, and trains women to work in the building trades; STRIVE, an acronym for Support and Training Result in Valuable Employees, which stresses attitudinal training along with job search placement and long-term follow up; and Brooklyn Woods, which teaches woodworking and cabinet making. The Borough of Manhattan and Kingsborough Community Colleges were represented, as were the NYPD and the Department of Small Business Services' Workforce 1.

RES plans to hold regular Career Expos throughout the city. See page 10 of this *Journal* for information on the upcoming "Empowerment Through Employment" Job Fair on April 27th.

Visit the Affordable Housing Resource Center
www.nyc.gov/housing

NYCHA INCREASES PARKING FEES

(Continued from page 1)

For both reserved and non-reserved parking, the new annual fee for a NYCHA parking permit/sticker is \$75.00 (\$65.50 for Seniors and the disabled) for NYCHA residents and \$150 for non-residents. In addition, also effective April 1, monthly recurring charges for reserved spaces will be \$20.00 for residents for outdoor parking spaces and \$35.00 for residents for indoor spaces; and \$35.00 for outdoor parking spaces for nonresidents and \$75.00 for indoor (not including tax).

Additional Fee Increases

In addition, to keep up with increases in utility costs, NYCHA is considering increased fees for excess utility costs associated with the use of air conditioners, washing machines, freezers, and dishwashers. Only the cost of excess utilities (either electric or water) will be passed onto residents and only for the specific appliances mentioned. Households which pay an electric bill directly to a utility company will not be asked to pay a separate electric fee by NYCHA.

The proposed monthly fee increases for the following appliances are:

	Monthly Fees	
	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Air Conditioner	\$7.00	\$10.00
Washing Machine	None	\$5.75
Freezer	\$8.00	\$10.00
Dishwasher	\$3.00	\$5.00

To keep up with increases in labor and material costs, NYCHA is also proposing increases in a variety of sales and service fees for maintenance activities beyond normal wear and tear, such as clearing out sink stoppages and replacing doors and locks.

There is currently a Public Notice concerning these proposed fees posted in your development. The Public Notice and list of proposed fees are also available online at: www.nyc.gov/nycha. NYCHA will be accepting written comments through March 13, 2006.

Comments must be mailed to:
NYCHA, Operations Committee
P.O. Box 3422
New York, New York 10008-3422

The Housing Authority Journal



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- Deborah Williams.....Staff Writer
- Peter Mikoleski, Kevin Devoe.....Photography

If you are interested in placing an advertisement in the *Journal*, please call our marketing representatives in Marketing and Revenue Operations at (212) 306-6616. The inclusion of any advertisement in this *Journal* does not constitute any endorsement by the Housing Authority of the advertiser or its products or services or any other representation by the Housing Authority with respect to such products or services.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

BUILDERS OF COMMUNITIES AND DREAMS



THE THEME THIS YEAR FOR NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, WHICH IS CELEBRATED IN MARCH, IS ONE THAT IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE FOR THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA)—"WOMEN: BUILDERS OF COMMUNITIES AND DREAMS."

Perfect!

Two women who stand out in the history of public housing for their contributions to building communities and dreams are Mary Simkhovitch and Eleanor

Roosevelt. Both cared deeply about improving the living conditions for the underprivileged at a time when improvements were sorely needed. For both, their caring led them to action.

Mrs. Simkhovitch joined Mayor Fiorello La Guardia on the steps of City Hall on January 20, 1934 to file the certificate establishing the New York City Housing Authority. She was one of only five original members of NYCHA. And one year later, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt joined Governor Herbert Lehman and Mayor La Guardia on the Lower East Side to dedicate First Houses. For many of the 125 or so families who were fortunate enough to move into First Houses, the development meant "comforts" they had done without: things like reliable heat and hot water, relief from overcrowding, and perhaps most importantly, the sense of dignity that can come from having a place to call home.

For many women as well as men, a home in public housing provided, as it still provides, a solid foundation on which to build communities and dreams. With 345 developments all over the city, and the prevalence of women representing their neighbors as Resident Association Presidents, and on the Council of Presidents and the Resident Advisory Board, you can be sure that public housing communities are fashioned largely by women.

Here at NYCHA women build communities not only in the social sense but also quite literally, in the physical sense. With NYCHA's focus on Minority, Women-Owned and Small Businesses we are working to make sure that women who own businesses are aware of the opportunities available to them to work on NYCHA's many construction projects.

And our collaboration with NEW, which stands for Non-traditional Employment for Women, trains women residents to be elevator mechanics, painters, carpenters, electricians, laborers and plumbers. If you live in public housing, are 18 years or older, and have a high school diploma or a GED, NEW may be right for you. Contact NYCHA's Resident Employment Services hotline at: (718) 250-5904 for more information.

Women's History Month gives us the opportunity each year to take note of the valuable contributions women have made historically, as well as the contributions women make in our everyday lives. It is a chance to take stock of what has been achieved, and what still needs to be achieved, and to deepen our commitment to that ultimate goal of creating a society where everyone has the opportunity to fulfill their greatest potential.

Tino Hernandez



FIRST LADY Eleanor Roosevelt (center) helped cut the ribbon for First Houses in 1934. Mayor La Guardia is to Mrs. Roosevelt's left and Governor Lehman to her right.

BOROUGH DIGEST

Bronx:

Over 1,000 youth from the five boroughs attended an African-American History Month Celebration on February 22nd at the Bronx Zoo. Highlights of the day, made possible by a collaboration between NYCHA and the Wildlife Conservation Society headquartered at the zoo, included a performance by the NYCHA Youth Chorus, a drum and dance routine by children from the Sackwern Community Center and the Harambee Dance Company, a scavenger hunt, and an African safari!

Brooklyn:

Attention boxing fans: Fists were flying on February 8th at the 2006 *Daily News* Golden Gloves 79th Anniversary preliminaries held at the Van Dyke Community Center on Blake Avenue. The popular tournament attracts boxers from all over the world. Quarter Finals will also be held at Van Dyke on March 16th. For information or to purchase tickets in advance (\$20) call 718-485-3719.

Manhattan:

Many famous people have lived in public housing at one time or another and some famous people lived on what is currently NYCHA property before it belonged to NYCHA. Our older readers may remember the legendary actor James Cagney — star of Hollywood's Golden Era. Mr. Cagney's family lived at the site of what is now NYCHA's Lower East Side III at 391 Eighth Avenue at the time of Cagney's birth in 1899. Cagney died after 30 years in the movies, in 1986. The equally famous Humphrey Bogart, who starred in such classics as "Casablanca" and "The Maltese Falcon" was born at the site of what is now Douglass Houses Rehabs on the Upper West Side, a year before Cagney was born, in 1898. Mr. Bogart lived at this site from 1898 until 1922. Bogart died in 1957.

Queens:

Congress Member Carolyn Maloney, Assembly Member Catherine Nolan and City Council Member Eric Gioia joined Queensbridge Houses residents and local schoolchildren from P.S. 111 for a march down 21st Street in Long Island City on January 19th to call attention to the need for a bank at Queensbridge Houses. The *Daily News* reported that according to State Assembly Member Catherine Nolan, who chairs the Assembly's banking committee, several institutions, including HSBC and Citibank have expressed

(Continued on page 5)

DEBORAH'S DIARY By Deborah Williams



Good things come in threes—If you are superstitious you probably believe that bad luck comes in threes but that's not necessarily true. Sha'Asia Daniel-Sims, a resident of Ravenswood Houses, a longtime member of the Ravenswood Houses Resident Association Community Program and long-time Girl Scout, believes otherwise. Now at the

age of 16, Sha'Asia wants everyone to know about her experience at the Resident Association (RA) Community Program and some very special women. Sha'Asia refers to them as the three wonderful ladies of Ravenswood—Carol Wilkins, Cassandra Daniel, and Karen Davis, and according to Sha'Asia, "They need their props." It seems that these women are the working force that makes the RA Community Program and Girl Scouts so successful. "These ladies help us with our homework, teach us how to sew, crochet, knit and are also our Girl Scout leaders," said Sha'Asia. The RA Community Program is a not-for-profit program that offers training for adults and provides an after-school program for youth. The hours of operation are Monday – Friday from 8 am – 10 pm. The RA Community Program is staffed by volunteer Carol Wilkins who, by the way, is also Ravenswood Houses Resident Association Leader, Cassandra Daniel, and Karen Davis. "We work at the RA Community Program because the community needed a functioning unit where residents and others in the neighborhood can receive training. We do it voluntarily because we care and our work here comes straight from the heart," said Karen Davis. The RA Community Program works closely with the Ravenswood Community Center, holding their monthly Girl Scouts and other meetings there. At present the RA Community Program youth enrollment consists of 32 girls. On December 7, 2005, the girls sang Whitney Houston's "Greatest Love" for Queens Borough President Helen Marshall's General Assembly. The performance also aired on Queens public access Channel 35. Sha'Asia and the Girl Scouts have recently created their very own newsletter called "100 Hunit% Flavor" that features the happenings in Ravenswood and highlights Girl Scout initiatives. But according to Sha'Asia one of the most gratifying things the girls do is hold talk sessions. "We talk and give our opinions about everything," said Sha'Asia. It is during these sessions that the girls and the three ladies of Ravenswood bond and the sense of family begins. In an e-mail Sha'Asia wrote: "They become more than just our Girl Scout Leaders; they have become our mothers." *So you see when you think of what comes in threes don't think about bad luck or anything negative. Instead, remember the Three Wonderful Ladies of Ravenswood because they have brought nothing but positive things and good luck to the Ravenswood Community. Congratulations ladies and special thanks to you Sha'Asia for bringing this story to my attention.*

Double Dribble—On January 7, 2006 NYCHA youth from housing developments in Far Rockaway, Jamaica and Brooklyn came together for the Second Annual "Stop the Violence" Basketball League Championship Games. It was a night to remember as 200 fans gathered in the Hammel Community Center in Queens for an evening of hoopla. The final scores in the 10 and Under Division were: B.K. Ballers (Seth Low Houses) 31 to Long Island Lightning (Far Rockaway) 30; in the 13 and Under Division: Long Island Lightning (Far Rockaway) 65 to Sports All-Stars (Redfern Houses) 56; and in the 16 and Under Division: B.K. Ballers (Seth Low Houses) 44 to Hammel B-Ballers (Hammel Houses) 69. But before the Championship Games eliminated some teams over 215 youth participated in the program, sponsored by Queens Community Operations under the leadership of Senior Program Manager Raymond Diaz. This year—*now here's the double dribble*—Mr. Diaz had a goal other than basketball in mind. The primary goal of the Stop the Violence Basketball Program was to promote harmony and teach youth how to deal with teenage rivalry. Through Saturday workshops taught by Youth Officers from the 100th Precinct, youth received instruction on topics such as: "Gangs," "Safe and Secure Communities," "Disrespect, Rudeness, Teasing, Bullying and Intimidation," "Teens and Crime," and "Vandalism: What You Can Do." To ensure that each team player attended a one-hour workshop each Saturday, a rule was enforced—no workshop, no game. The 11-week program ran from October 29 to January 7, 2006 and met Saturdays from 9am – 3pm. It was created in 2004 by Mr. Shandue McNeil, a Hammel Houses resident and local basketball star, Hammel Community Center Director Curtis Williams and other community members. *For more information on the "Stop the Violence" Basketball League program please contact Raymond Diaz, at 718-969-6240. It's always inspiring to hear about communities that have come together for a common cause. Congratulations to the team players and winners!*

The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on February 23, March 2 and 3, and April 20, 2005. **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the recently implemented Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

**REMEMBER,
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA'S SPECIAL
INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.**

Prohibited as of February 23, 2005

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Eva Robles | Case 496/05 formerly associated with the first floor of 589 Amsterdam Avenue, Wise Towers, Manhattan. |
| Julio Evans | Case 529/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 191 Woodbine Street, Hope Gardens, Brooklyn. |

Prohibited as of March 2, 2005

- | | |
|--|--|
| Noel Triado | Case 844/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1115 FDR Drive, Riis Houses, Manhattan. |
| James Abril, Jr. | Case 850/05 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 3071 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx. |
| Jesus Camacho | Case 7024/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 530 West 55th, Harborview Houses, Manhattan. |
| Darryl Garcia | Case 218/05 formerly associated with 868 Amsterdam Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan. |
| Warren Brown | Case 966/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 35-06 21st Street, Ravenswood Houses, Long Island City. |
| Shawn Pridgen | Case 970/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 200 Throop Avenue, Thompkins Houses, Brooklyn. |
| Lamont Clanton | Case 972/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1715 Lacombe Avenue, Soundview Houses, the Bronx. |
| Denise Duclet | Case 977/05 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 29 Avenue W, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn. |
| Rafael Morales | Case 978/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 3080 Park Avenue, Jackson Houses, the Bronx. |
| Tyron Davis
Kashawn Mc-
Claurine, L. | Case 1528/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2926 West 25th Street, Surfside Gardens, Brooklyn |
| Allen McLaurin
Kenneth Moore | Case 1521/05 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 5901 Glenwood Road, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn. |

Prohibited as of March 23, 2005

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Steven Lamar | Case 1447/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 2140 35th Street Avenue, Ravenswood Houses, Long Island City, Queens. |
|--------------|--|

Prohibited as of April 20, 2005

- | | |
|--|--|
| Raul Laracuent | Case 2342/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 795 Hicks Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn. |
| Darnell Brown | Case 2405/05 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 303 Vernon Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn. |
| Derrick Williams | Case 2406/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 795 Hicks Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn. |
| Jason Garcia
Danny Garcia
Geobo Garcia
Leoncio Gonzalez | Case 2523/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 818 Home Street, Davidson Houses, the Bronx. |

Homeownership Initiative For Western Queens

A HOMEOWNERSHIP INITIATIVE IS BEING OFFERED TO RESIDENTS OF QUEENSBRIDGE, RAVENSWOOD, WOODSIDE AND ASTORIA HOUSES IN QUEENS, THANKS TO A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE EAST RIVER DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE (ERDA), NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, CHASE BANK AND THE FREDDIE MAC FOUNDATION.

Launched officially on January 27th, 200 residents have already signed up for the ERDA Homeownership Initiative, which has been operational for four months. "Our goal is to provide ladders of economic mobility for people who live in public housing," said ERDA Executive Director Debra-Ellen Glickstein.

Neighborhood Housing Services is providing homebuyer education and counseling; Chase Home Finance has offered mortgages to qualified individuals and Freddie Mac has said it will purchase eligible loans. As reported in the *Daily News*, thanks to the initiative, so far 60 residents have developed personalized financial action plans, 50 attend monthly literacy seminars and 20 have opened bank accounts, thus far. To qualify, residents of the above-mentioned developments must have an income of at least \$28,000. **For more information, call ERDA at: (718)784-0877.**

**NEW
YORK CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

**TOLL-FREE
TERRORISM
HOTLINE**

**REPORTS MAY
BE MADE
ANY TIME TO:**

**1-800-NYC-
SAFE
1-888-692-
7233**

**ALL CALLS WILL
BE KEPT
CONFIDENTIAL.**

THE CHIEF'S CORNER

OPERATION GUNSTOP



Housing Bureau Police
Chief Joanne Jaffe

Hello again. On behalf of the NYPD and the Housing Bureau, I hope all New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and employees had a joyous and safe holiday season. I am pleased to report continued crime reductions throughout Housing Authority developments in 2005.

This was made possible through a strong partnership between the NYCHA community and the NYPD. Your input and assistance was instrumental toward identifying problems and developing effective strategies to address them. Working together, we succeeded in making our developments safer places to live. Again, we are asking for your help, this time to reduce gun violence.

Operation Gunstop is a NYPD program that works to identify individuals who blight our communities with fear and violence through the illegal possession or use of firearms. Callers do not have to leave their names, and may be eligible for a cash reward. If you are aware of any information regarding illegal guns, I strongly urge you to participate in this important program. (See ad below)

Again, thank you for your support in 2005. With your aid, I look forward to continued success in 2006 and beyond.

Joanne Jaffe



\$1,000



REWARD

**For information
leading to the
arrest of anyone
who possesses**

**an
ILLEGAL HANDGUN**

Call

**1 866 GUN-STOP
(4 8 6 - 7 8 6 7)**

**If you know someone who is carrying, selling, or using
handguns illegally, call anonymously 1 866 GUN-STOP.
(486-7867)**

Remember: You don't have to leave your name...

ATTENTION ROCKAWAY RESIDENTS!

There is a misprint on page 25 in the tenant handbook, "A Home To Be Proud Of."

**THE CORRECT TELEPHONE
NUMBER FOR THE PSA ROCKAWAY
SATELLITE IS: 718-318-1294**

BOARD APPROVES CAPITAL BUDGET FOR 2006

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Board approved the 2006 Capital Budget at its January 25th Board Meeting, after a presentation by Deputy General Manager Joseph Farro at Central Office. The Capital Budget will allow the Authority to proceed with ongoing and new projects related to the maintenance and modernization of NYCHA's developments.

For Fiscal Year 2006, priorities in the Capital Budget are on maintaining our developments' infrastructures and building systems to make sure that they are viable for generations to come. Some discretionary projects have been deferred and some have been eliminated completely.

The Capital Budget funding comes from Federal, City and State sources. Specific highlights of the Capital Budget, which totals \$692 million for 2006, include: \$19.4 million for bathrooms and kitchens at various developments, \$170 million for brick and concrete work, \$32 million for Community Center renovations, \$69 million for heating/plumbing, \$95 million for roofs, \$140 million for major renovations and \$26 million for unplanned projects.

Check out NYCHA's website: www.nyc.gov/nycha for more information.

Telephone Numbers For Bronx Offices at 1200 Waters Place



NYCHA has consolidated its administrative offices in the Bronx, relocating staff from five offices to 1200 Waters Place. Free bus service to 1200 Waters Place is available from the nearby Westchester Square-E. Tremont subway station on the Number 6 line. The new phone numbers of the relocated NYCHA departments are:

Bronx Management Department: (718) 409-8626
Bronx Community Operations: (718) 409-8620
Capital Projects & Development: (718) 794-4260
Social Services Department: (718) 409-8699
Asset Management: (718) 409-8489

DREAMERS

(Continued from page 1)

Pledge. With their right hands raised, the third-graders earnestly reaffirmed their commitment to work hard and stay in school. Mr. Lang also spoke briefly about the promise he made to support a group of sixth-graders at P.S. 121 in East Harlem in 1981, which was the beginning of the IHAD program.

De Hostos-Wise Program Director Makeda Jordan served as living proof that the program works. Ms. Jordan is a former Dreamer herself from the first Chelsea-Elliott Project. She told the audience how, after earning her bachelor's degree in psychology, she realized she would need further education to make her dream come true. Thanks to help from her sponsor, she was able to return to school to complete a master's degree in urban planning.

And two Dreamers who are currently freshman in high school — Linda Cruz and Peggy Allende from the Melrose IHAD Project in the Bronx — spoke of their joys and challenges so far. Ms. Allende in particular gave an emotional account of how the support of her fellow Dreamers and Project Coordinator helped her stay on track. Both young women volunteer as mentors two evenings a week at the De Hostos Site.

Other speakers included IHAD Executive Director Kara Forte, P.S. 84 Principal Robin Sundick and Wise Towers Resident Association President Victor Gonzalez. NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello was also on hand to lend her support.

The IHAD Program relies on the long-term personal and financial commitment of each project's sponsor. De Hostos Wise sponsor Rick Aidekman, who owns real estate in the area, commented on the rewards of being a sponsor.

Thanks to Community Operations' D'Andra Van Heusen for reporting on the event, and to IHAD Deputy Director Thierry Cazeau and Community and Development Associate Hilary Cramer for the photos.

Warning Against Use of Illegal Pesticides

ACCORDING TO A RECENT NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE (DOHMH) REPORT, ONE IN THREE HOUSEHOLDS IN NEW YORK CITY USES PESTICIDES THAT MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO THEIR HEALTH. Insecticidal sprays, bombs and foggers are used in 63% of households with cockroaches, while 9% of households with pests use Tempo®, a product that is illegal to sell for personal use in New York. Unsafe and illegal products — such as “Miracle Chalk” and “Chinese Chalk” for cockroaches, and “Tres Pasitos” for mice — are also commonly purchased.

“No one should have to live in homes infested with pests,” said Health Commissioner Dr. Thomas R. Frieden at a press conference last month. “Nearly 1,000 people reported accidental dangerous exposures to pest control products in 2003. Ninety-five percent of these poisonings occurred in the home, half of them among children under five years old. Sprays, bombs and foggers are dangerous. New Yorkers are urged to use safer alternatives such as boric acid, gels and baits for cockroaches, and glue traps or bait in enclosed tamper-proof containers for rodents.

“Simple steps such as fixing leaks, storing food tightly and frequently removing garbage are the best ways to prevent rodent and roach infestations,” Dr. Frieden said. “Landlords play a critical role in helping residents keep their homes pest-free.”

Housing Authority residents should promptly report pests or conditions conducive to pests to their Management Office or, for residents of Staten Island and Queens, the Centralized Call Center at (718)707-7771.

Findings of New Report on Pest Control

- Of households with cockroaches, 9% use Tempo®, a product that is illegal to sell for personal use in New York.
- People with cockroaches in their homes are 1.5 times more likely to have asthma.
- Households with rodents are twice as likely to have a person with asthma.
- Households in disrepair are nearly 2 times more likely to have a person with asthma.

The report also found that adults in nearly 30% of households (880,000 households) report having cockroaches in their homes, and nearly 25% (680,000 households) report seeing mice or rats, or signs of mice or rats, in their homes or residential building. Families use sprays, bombs and foggers, which easily contaminate cooking, eating and other surfaces.

Recommendations to Keep Pests Away

New York City housing and health codes require that landlords maintain apartments free of pests. Landlords and families can take simple measures to reduce infestations and the use of pesticides:

- Report leaks and dripping faucets quickly. Keep sinks dry overnight.
- Report holes and cracks in kitchens and bathroom walls, floors, ceilings and cabinets.
- Store food in sealed containers, and do not leave food, pet food or garbage out.
- Reduce clutter and piling of newspapers and cardboard.
- Remove garbage daily from your apartment.
- Report your need for exterminator service.
- Use only safer pest control products such as boric acid, gels and baits for cockroaches, and glue traps or bait in enclosed tamper-proof containers for rodents. Avoid foggers, bombs and sprays that spread chemicals throughout the home.

If you have Tempo®, Tres Pasitos, Cockroach Chalk or any other pesticide that is improperly labeled, seal it in a plastic bag and discard it in a container away from children and pets. **For a copy of this report, information on illegal pesticides, or to report their sale, call 311 or log on to <http://nyc.gov/health>.**

BOROUGH DIGEST

(Continued from page 3)

interest in opening a bank in the area.

Staten Island:

Staten Island residents celebrated Black History Month in February at the 2006 Black History Month Film Festival,

courtesy of the Borough's Department of Community Operations. Films were shown simultaneously at the South Beach Community Center and the West Brighton Community Center on February 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. Included in the selection were old classics like “Imitation of Life” (1947), newer classics

like “Malcolm X” (1992), and movies which have yet to become classics like “Hotel Rwanda” (2004). Seating was provided for 100 at each center and popcorn and soft drinks made the night complete. Thanks to Program Administrator Eugene Kitt for coming up with such a great idea.

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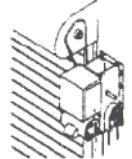
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Drug Sweep

(Continued from page 1)

the Redfern Houses and the Dix McBride Apartments. In response, the NYPD's Queens Narcotics Division and District Attorney Brown's Narcotics Investigation Bureau dispatched numerous undercover officers to purchase crack and powdered cocaine and marijuana.

In addition to the arrests made on February 2nd, officers executed three court-authorized search warrants and recovered a total of more than 50 zip-lock bags of crack cocaine, a loaded .357 Magnum, quantities of marijuana, narcotics paraphernalia and narcotics proceeds.

Redfern Houses, located at 1456 Beach Channel Drive in Far Rockaway were completed in 1959 and consist of nine six- and seven-story buildings that house some 1,780 people in 604 apartments.

The Dix McBride Apartments, located at 2229-2259 Dix Avenue in Far Rockaway, is a privately owned apartment complex built in 1998 consisting of five four-story buildings.

The investigation was conducted by detectives of the New York City Police Department's Queens Narcotics Division. It should be noted that indictments are merely an accusation and that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.



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