

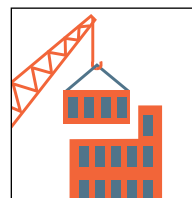


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The NYCHA

JOURNAL



New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito

"THIS IS WHO WE ARE"**City Council Speaker Champions an Inclusive, Engaged City**

AT HER FINAL State of the City address Speaker of the City Council Melissa Mark-Viverito said, "This is the record of this City Council. A Council that is unafraid to lead through justice and through fairness...There is so much to be proud of, but still so much more to do. In our final 10 months together, we renew our pledge to fight for all New Yorkers."

The first Puerto Rican and first Latina to hold a citywide elected role, Speaker Mark-Viverito has served on the City Council since 2005, representing the 8th District, which includes El Barrio/East Harlem and Mott Haven. The Speaker will be leaving the City Council this November, having accomplished a long list of legislative reforms.

"The work we've done on immigration issues and criminal justice, like closing Rikers Island, has set New York City apart from the rest of the country in terms of the kind of city that we want to be and that other cities would like to be," says the Speaker. "This is about how we treat the people who live here, the kind of values we want to have."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Celebrating Earth Day at Edenwald



LAST YEAR ON EARTH DAY, NYCHA released its Sustainability Agenda, a 10-year commitment to create healthy and comfortable homes that will stand up to the challenge of climate change. Since its release, the Authority has worked with government and private sector partners to provide

better service for residents and prevent the effects of climate change. The \$10.6 million project at Edenwald will be done by the end of the year—and the fourth graders helped make the development a greener place by planting a tree in the courtyard.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

SAVING PUBLIC HOUSING



THIS MONTH MARKS the second anniversary of NextGeneration NYCHA's release, the Authority's 10-year strategic plan to build safer, cleaner, and more connected communities to protect and preserve the City's public housing for New Yorkers.

We've made tremendous progress on our plan in the last two years. NYCHA modernized operations using digital technology and implemented flexible property management staff schedules to provide better customer service. We have generated revenue for repairs through ground-floor leasing to businesses and improved rent collection. We've placed more than 5,600 residents in jobs. All this despite the fact that since 2001, NYCHA has lost \$2.7 billion in federal operating and capital funding, and decades of federal disinvestment have left our

buildings needing \$17 billion worth of major repairs.

Now President Trump proposes to cut our 2018 budget even more, by as much as a 13 percent cut (\$150 million) to our operating funds and a 68 percent cut (\$200 million) to our capital funding. This move will effectively stop our progress in its tracks. It means fewer development staff, slower maintenance service, fewer repairs, and no major repairs for boilers, elevators, and more.

Our NYCHA community – residents, employees, housing advocates, elected

officials, and community organizations – must work together continuously for the next several months, and even years, to advocate for federal funding.

In this issue of The NYCHA Journal, you'll hear from two residents, NYCHA Resident Board Member Jacqueline Young and Youth Leadership Council member Mya Pyle, who visited Washington, D.C. with me to speak to elected officials about the issues facing the Authority (page 3). In the NextGeneration NYCHA Progress Report (page 4-5) read about ways you can join in. You'll also read about NYCHA's new Mold Busters program (page 3) and the first event held by the South Bronx Youth Leadership Council (page 7). And you'll hear from three very important members of the NYCHA community: Speaker of the City Council, Melissa Mark-Viverito, NYC Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett, and Chief of the NYPD's Transportation Division, Thomas M. Chan (cover and page 6).

NextGeneration NYCHA is the Authority's adoption of new solutions to manage our financial challenges. It is a promise to our residents and our City that NYCHA will work with you, our residents, and our partners to better public housing. We will not go backwards. We will fight Washington's cuts to preserve our accomplishments and continue our progress.

Shola Olatoye
Chair and CEO

Improving Language Access

Residents calling NYCHA's Customer Contact Center (718-707-7771) now hear voice prompts in Chinese (Cantonese and Mandarin) and Russian, in addition to English and Spanish. Callers are then directed to representatives who speak those languages. The Chinese and Russian prompts were added in April 2016 as part of NYCHA's efforts to better communicate with limited-English proficient residents.

Hate crimes are illegal and have no place in the NYCHA community. If you or someone you know is the victim of a hate crime, contact 911 immediately. If you have questions about hate crimes, contact the NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force at 646-610-5267 and the District Attorney's Hate Crime Hotline at 212-335-3100.

The NYCHA JOURNAL

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NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

NYCHA'S BOARD MEETINGS, open to the public, take place on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the NYCHA 12th floor conference room at 250 Broadway. People who wish to speak during the public comment period must pre-register at least 45 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin and can only comment about items on that meeting's agenda. Each speaker's time is limited to three minutes. The public comment period concludes either when all speakers are finished or after the 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever comes first.

Copies of the calendar for the upcoming board meeting are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 250 Broadway, 12th floor, after 3 p.m. on the Monday before the meeting. Copies of the dispositions of prior meetings are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3 p.m. on the Thursday after the board meeting. Any person requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at **212-306-6088** no later than five business days prior to the meeting. For additional information regarding the calendar of meetings, dispositions, dates, and times, please call **212-306-6088**.

For those unable to attend the board meetings, please visit <http://on.nyc.gov/boardmeetings> at the time of the meeting to watch live. You may also watch past board meetings by visiting NYCHAnnel, NYCHA's YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/c/nycha>.

Upcoming Meetings:

May 24, 2017
June 28, 2017
July 26, 2017
September 27, 2017

October 25, 2017
November 29, 2017
December 20, 2017

* Note: There will be no board meeting in August. The May and December board meetings are scheduled for the second-to-last Wednesday.

SAVING PUBLIC HOUSING: REFLECTIONS ON VISITING WASHINGTON, D.C.

By Jacqueline Young
NYCHA Resident Board Member
Lenox Road Houses

AT THE INVITATION of Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye, I attended the National Low Income Housing Coalition Forum in Washington, D.C. April 2-4.

I believe that representing the New York City Housing Authority at this meeting as a Resident Member of the NYCHA Board was crucial in light of the proposed reduction of HUD funding. As a voice for all NYCHA residents and an employee of a not-for-profit housing agency, I was privileged to participate.

The time I spent in D.C. was worth every moment. I did my part to assist in the efforts to preserve and maintain affordable housing for the very low-income population of this city. The drastic budget cuts to NYCHA, Section 8, and homelessness prevention programs will significantly impact the lives of the low-income working families with children, senior citizens, and the disabled. Participating in the housing forums and assembling with various housing representatives from other states, along with NYCHA staff and two NYCHA youth leaders, striving for the same cause,

provided an important opportunity for dialogue and information exchange.

Secretary Dr. Ben Carson stated, "Nobody is going to be thrown out on the street under my watch." I truly hope that he really means what he expressed. U.S. Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) was the most memorable speaker. She is truly an advocate for the people and I believe she will do her best to prevent the housing cuts.

It was also gratifying to visit Capitol Hill and meet with members of Congress to discuss the proposed slashing of HUD's budget. If this does occur, it would double or even triple the wait time for maintenance issues to be addressed and drastically impact the health and safety of the residents living in NYCHA developments.

With the unified voice of residents and housing providers, and help from the Lord, we can and we will achieve a positive solution to this crisis for the benefit of the 176,000 NYCHA residents at risk of losing the sacred place that we call home.



Jacqueline Young

By Mya Pyle
Youth Leadership Council Member
Audubon Houses

I WAS GIVEN the great opportunity to attend the National Low Income Housing Coalition Housing Policy Forum in Washington, D.C. as a representative of NYCHA. I have been a part of many programs and as result visited various places. However, my trip to Washington, D.C. is the most memorable trip I have ever taken.

Every day I was in Washington, I gained a great deal of knowledge concerning the welfare of the NYCHA community. I also had the opportunity to bring awareness of the issues regarding NYCHA residents from a youth perspective to major representatives in Congress. I gained a new sense of confidence representing NYCHA youth well.

I garnered opinions on NYCHA's biggest issues from several respected politicians, including HUD Secretary Dr. Ben Carson and U.S. Representative Maxine Waters, and learned how they plan to use their political power to combat those issues.



From l. to r.: YLC Member Nasir Scott, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and YLC Member Mya Pyle.

This trip made me even more appreciative of the hard work each NYCHA member does, whether the individual is a resident or employee. The commitment to foster a better NYCHA community was evident in the immense support I witnessed on this trip.

If I had the opportunity to attend the conference again, I would definitely take it. My trip to Washington, D.C. was a positive experience that has genuinely inspired me to speak out against policies and programs that affect NYCHA and the general community.

DAILY NEWS

NYCHA launches Mold Busters team to combat moisture and growth in its developments

APRIL 22, 2017

FIGHTING MOLD WITH NEW STRATEGIES AND TOOLS

ON MAY 1, NYCHA launched Mold Busters, a year-long pilot program to fight mold. The program aggressively combats mold by empowering front line staff with the knowledge and equipment to find and fix the source of the problem. Developed with mold treatment and buildings systems experts, the program includes extensive training for property supervisors and provides new tools, protocols, and strategic remedies, such as a new paint which may help prevent mold caused by condensation from recurring. Thirty-eight developments are participating in the pilot.

Training included eight hours of classroom instruction plus field training at each pilot location. Property Maintenance Superintendents and Assistant Superintendents learned how to use a moisture meter which differentiates between surface moisture, like condensation, and moisture within walls which could indicate a leak. Staff was also trained to measure air flow from vents and

humidity in every apartment.

"While we might not be able to put new roofs and ventilation systems in every building, we can do better at identifying and treating mold and its source with these modern, strategic tools," said NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly. "Mold Busters works to get rid of mold and prevent its recurrence."

Mold Busters uses an inspection protocol that creates a documented work plan for each mold work order, including finding the root cause, determining next steps, and selecting the right treatment strategy. It also requires staff to take photos at each step of the process, documenting progress, and adding accountability. When the work is completed, the Property Management Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent must inspect the work and certify that it is complete according to the work plan.

The results of the pilot will be used to modify the program before it is launched through the Authority in 2018.

Pilot Locations

Albany II
Albany
Weeksville Gardens
Drew-Hamilton
Public School 139 (Conversion)
335 East 111th Street
Corsi Houses
Jefferson
Betances II, 13
Betances III, 13
Mill Brook Extension
Mill Brook
Monroe
104-14 Tapscott Street
Lenox Road-Rockaway Parkway
Fenimore-Lefferts
Ralph Avenue Rehab
Tapscott Street Rehab

Reid Apartments
Rutland Towers
Sutter Avenue-Union Street
South Jamaica I
South Jamaica II
Long Island Baptist Houses
Fiorentino Plaza
Unity Plaza (Sites 17,24,25A)
Unity Plaza (Sites 4-27)
De Hostos Apartments
Rehab Program (Wise Rehab)
Thomas Apartments
Wsur (Site A) 120 West 94Th Street
Wise Towers
Wsur (Brownstones)
Wsur (Site B) 74 West 92Nd Street
Wsur (Site C) 589 Amsterdam Avenue
Atlantic Terminal Site 4B
572 Warren Street
Wyckoff Gardens

NEXT GENERATION NYCHA TWO YEARS OF PROGRESS



FOR 83 YEARS, NYCHA has been a quintessential part of New York City. Today we house one in every 14 New York residents. Many work for some of the City's greatest institutions as nurses, public school teachers, and police officers. NYCHA adds billions of dollars to the city's economy every year.

In May 2015, NYCHA launched NextGeneration NYCHA, a 10-year strategic plan to preserve and protect public housing for current residents as well as the next generation of New Yorkers. Our plan outlined a roadmap to safe, healthy, connected homes and communities for NYCHA residents.

We have made significant progress on our goals and can continue to do so if we receive adequate funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which provides most of the funding for public housing. Unfortunately, the cuts that the Trump administration has proposed for HUD in 2018 would result in a \$200 million (68%) cut to NYCHA's capital budget and a \$100–\$150 million (13%) cut to our operating budget.

HERE'S WHAT THESE PROPOSED CUTS WILL MEAN TO NYCHA:

- Fewer frontline employees taking care of the developments day in and day out;
- Slower service: going back to the days where basic maintenance took 137 days and getting your sink fixed took 13 days;
- Fewer building repairs and more deterioration of NYCHA buildings and apartments;
- No boiler improvements, elevator upgrades, building exterior work or replacement of kitchens and bathrooms;
- Lost NYCHA union jobs and big cutbacks to our resident and economic development programs, which provide opportunities to 10,000 residents a year;
- And elimination of 7,500 Section 8 vouchers.

Poor housing conditions contribute to poor health, especially among seniors, children, and the disabled. These cuts will hurt the health and welfare of NYCHA residents, including the 47% of our residents who are seniors

and children. What's more, research shows that the single most cost-effective strategy for reducing childhood poverty is access to affordable housing. When people have affordable housing, they can spend nearly five times more for healthcare, a third more on food, and twice as much on retirement savings. They can pay down debt, save for college, or even buy a home.

NYCHA BY THE NUMBERS

1 IN EVERY 14
NEW YORKERS
LIVES IN NYCHA HOUSING

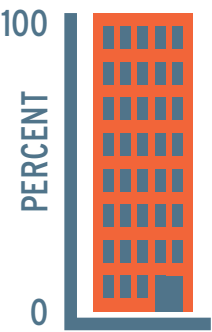
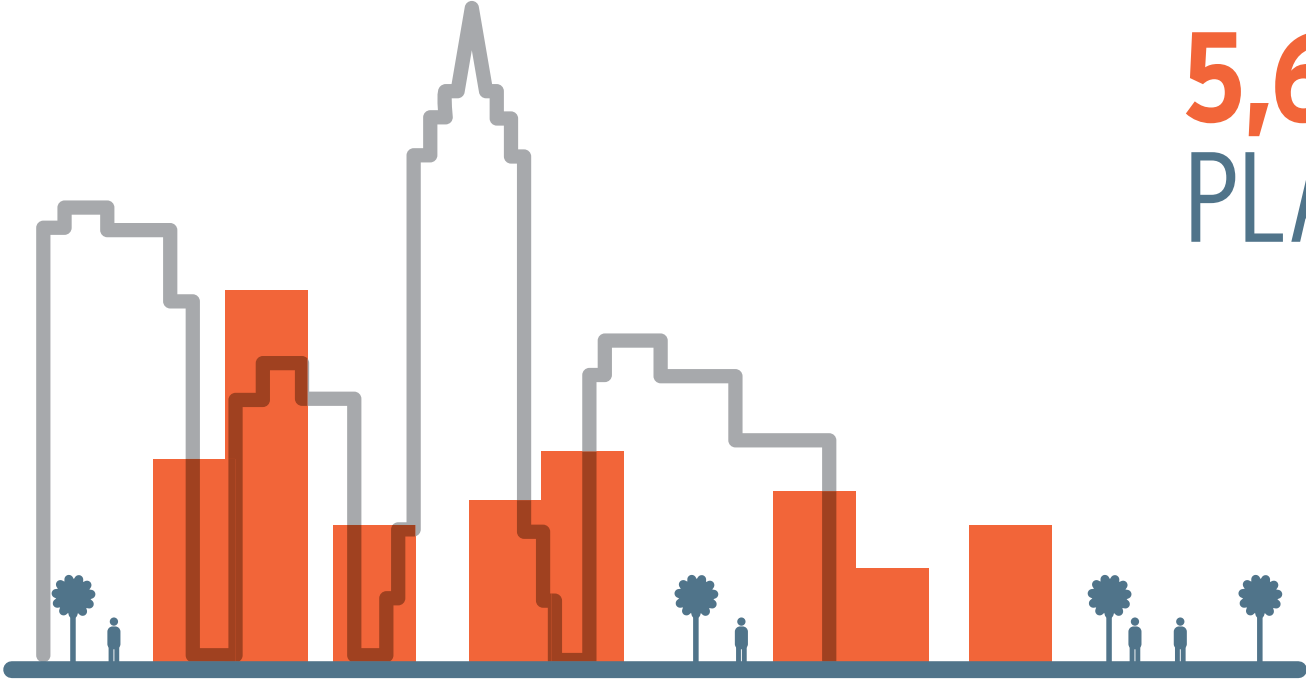


WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Become informed about the proposed HUD cuts and what housing advocates are doing.
- Contact your elected officials at the local, state and national level and tell them how you feel about protecting and preserving public housing. To find out who your elected officials are, visit mygov.nyc.gov or call the League of Women Voters at **212-725-3541**.
- Join your resident association and community board and participate in policy and program discussions that impact your development and your neighborhood. Attend meetings organized by advocates and elected officials to speak out about public housing.
- For more information about affordable housing, you can visit the websites of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, and the Fair Housing Justice Center.

NEXTGENERATION NYCHA

5,663 RESIDENTS
PLACED IN **JOBS**



**100% OF
NYCHA DEVELOPMENTS**
ARE EQUIPPED WITH DESIGNATED RECYCLING
FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

ENGAGE

- 10 new Youth Councils
- Over 7,500 connected to services through community partnerships in 2016
- 79 residents graduated from the Food Business Pathways program, 18 graduates in the first childcare Business Pathways class
- 646 residents enrolled in NYCHA Resident Training Academy
- 4 urban farms, 12,394 pounds of produce distributed in 2016
- \$100,000 in scholarships donated to the Fund for Public Housing

FUND

- 3.23% increase in rent collection = \$32 million in new revenue
- \$864,000 in new revenue collected from 19 new and 33 renewal ground floor leases in buildings on NYCHA developments

OPERATE

- \$1.2 million in savings resulting from deployment of smart phones to property management staff
- 677,000 work orders closed using smart phones

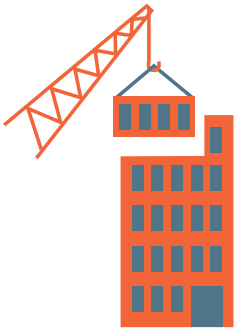
- \$960,000 in savings from launch of MyNYCHA app
- \$3.5 million in annual utility cost savings from the first phase of a large-scale Energy Performance Contract (EPC), benefitting over 45,000 residents at 16 developments
- \$460 million in Sandy recovery construction underway at 45 buildings in progress with over 165 NYCHA residents employed on Sandy-related work.
- 65 roofs will be replaced by the end of 2017.
- 12 developments piloted the Flex Ops extended service hours program.

REBUILD

- 1,419 units of 100% affordable housing in development
- 800 projected units for NextGen Neighborhoods (50% affordable, 50% market rate)
- 1,400 units at Ocean Bay Bayside will be renovated under the RAD program, improving the living conditions of thousands of residents.
- \$300 million will be generated for repairs at 1,700 additional units by converting them to Section 8 through the RAD program.

BENEFITTING OVER
3,700 RESIDENTS

1,419 UNITS
OF **100 PERCENT**
AFFORDABLE HOUSING
IN DEVELOPMENT



Talking Resident Health with Dr. Mary T. Bassett,

Commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SINCE 2014, DR. MARY T. BASSETT has made the health of New York City's residents her top priority. A former NYCHA resident – she grew up at Dyckman Houses—Dr. Bassett has over 30 years of experience in public health. *The NYCHA Journal* talked with Dr. Bassett about the relationship between health and public housing.

Q. What is the connection between health and housing?

A. Stable housing is the foundation of a decent life. Our public housing is an incredible resource, just like our public hospital system. You can't tell somebody who's got diabetes or high blood pressure that they have to manage their diseases if they don't have stable housing.

Q. What are the two or three most significant health issues facing NYCHA residents?

A. The leading causes of death are the same for all of us, whether we're rich, poor, black, white, young,

old, male, or female: cardiovascular disease and cancer. Poor people suffer from these conditions at higher rates, at younger ages, and with poorer outcomes.

Q. What can NYCHA residents do to be as healthy as possible?

A. On an individual level the advice is the same for everyone: eat better, exercise more. But chronic diseases evolve from living conditions with limited access to healthy foods, and where people may not feel safe taking a walk. It's almost unfair to implore people to follow individual advice under these conditions.



Dr. Mary T. Bassett

Q. How significant a factor is mental health in the everyday lives of low income NYC residents?

A. At the beginning of our Community Health Worker project in East Harlem, we did a baseline survey; 25 percent of respondents identified mental health issues as a struggle. Usually it's depression and anxiety—those are common and addressable. Someone who's depressed

isn't going to be able to manage their diabetes or high blood pressure. It's important to address mental health issues for chronic disease management. New Yorkers can call this toll-free mental health hotline number for help: **1-888-NYC-WELL/1-888-692-9355**.

Q. What is the DOHMH doing to help NYCHA residents become and stay healthy?

A. We're focusing on both community building and individual advice: creating walking clubs and urban farms, working with retail outlets to increase access to healthier foods, and increasing physical activity opportunities in parks.

We've worked with a couple of NYCHA developments that have voluntarily gone smoke-free. NYCHA should be proud that some of its residents have decided to voluntarily lead the way. HUD has indicated that public housing across the nation has to go smoke-free, so the voluntary efforts are a good platform for that initiative.

We've worked on reducing asthma triggers, like pests, in NYCHA developments. We have a strategy that doesn't rely on pesticides called Integrated Pest Management. It has proven health benefits.

Working in the Shadow of Home:

Thomas M. Chan, Chief of Transportation for the New York City Police Department, reflects on growing up in public housing.

THOMAS M. CHAN is Chief of the New York City Police Department's Transportation Bureau, responsible for managing the City's traffic, enforcing traffic laws, and maintaining highway safety. He joined the NYPD as a police officer in 1982. Chief Chan grew up at Alfred Smith Houses in the Two Bridges section of Manhattan.

Six Things to Know About Chief Chan

1. "I can see my mother's window from One Police Plaza." Chief Chan lived with his family at 26 Madison Street in Smith Houses until he was in his 20s; the development is across the street from police headquarters.
2. "I used to play on the foundation of police headquarters with my friends." Police headquarters was built in the 1970s and was a desirable play area for local teens," Chief Chan says. "They poured the foundation and there was this thick Styrofoam all over; my friends and I would have Styrofoam wars, we'd hit each other over the head and come home with Styrofoam in our hair."

3. "Being the commanding officer in the place that I grew up in was one of the most memorable assignments and the highlight of my career." In 1994, Chief Chan was commanding officer for the 5th precinct, which includes Smith Houses, Rutgers Houses, and Chinatown.

4. He's the first Asian-American to become both a "two-star" and "three-star" chief with the NYPD, but he says "I think people in the police department have a unique opportunity to make a big difference. I don't think you have to be of any particular ethnic group to do a good job. When people are in danger and need help, they are just looking for somebody to help and support them."
5. "I live and breathe traffic." As a native New Yorker, Chief Chan has both a personal and professional interest in traffic. One of the programs he's proud of overseeing is the Mayor's Vision Zero program, which works to bring down the number of traffic-

related injuries and fatalities. In 2016, traffic fatalities in the City were down 23 percent from 2013.

6. Growing up in public housing was a great opportunity for him and his family: "My mother considered

it a blessing for us to live at Smith Houses. I'm very fortunate to be the beneficiary of this opportunity and I know there are many other New Yorkers who will continue to use this opportunity as a stepping stone to becoming part of the middle class."



Chief Chan speaks to traffic officers outside of Smith Houses.

PEACE, FUN & UNITY

South Bronx Youth host First Annual Green Day

THEIR IDEA WAS ambitious: hosting a community event at five NYCHA developments simultaneously to highlight the importance of neighbors working together to make their community healthier and protect the environment. The South Bronx Youth Leadership Council (SBYLC) organized projects at Betances, Mott Haven, Patterson, St. Mary's, and Brook Avenue. And, despite the rain, the South Bronx First Annual Green Day was an unqualified success.

Volunteers turned out to garden and work on clean-up projects at all five developments, with residents of all ages getting their hands dirty to beautify their developments. There were also art projects using recycled materials, health screenings, face painting for children, and a mural project. The day's events concluded with a main stage event at Betances, featuring a DJ, hip hop dancers, poetry, and youth speakers.

"We all came together because we want to focus on non-violence," said William Garcia, 17, an SBYLC member from Betances. "We wanted to have a

day of peace, a day of fun for everyone. We want to have more events like this."

About 30 organizations helped make Green Day possible, including Fresh Direct, Green City Force, Kforce, New York Botanical Garden, New Yorkers for Parks, New York Restoration Project, Urban Garden Center, YLCs from Harlem and East New York, and more. The SBYLC had major assistance in organizing the event from NYCHA's Resident Engagement department, including Community Coordinators David Soto, Carmen Roman, and Alina Williams.

Soto is also an advisor and facilitator to the SBYLC. He says he was excited and so proud of the teens: "It's amazing to show our youth there is power in your voice. This event was their vision to have a closer connection with other youth and find a way to promote positivity. From the beginning they wanted their focus as a youth council to be on safety, maintenance, cleanliness, and community pride – and this event turned into a big thing."

The SBYLC is one of NYCHA's 15 YLCs, which provide NYCHA residents between the ages of 14 and 21 with leadership train-



South Bronx Youth Leadership Council members (from l. to r.) Marquis McLaurin, Katherine Perez, and William Garcia prepare to plant flowers at Betances Houses.

ing so that they can take action on issues of importance to them in their neighborhoods. YLCs were created in 2016 and meet twice a month. The main goal of the SBYLC is to support community unity as a way to counter violence.

Katherine Perez, 16, of Betances, joined the SBYLC because she "wanted to see change in the community, especially with teens. Teens should be doing something good, helping out those who need it most, especially the elderly." She's excited to plan future events and says

that if residents have ideas for events to "give us ideas, we'll do it!" And Marquis McLaurin, 16, a SBYLC member from Jackson Houses, wants residents to know that every little bit helps make the community stronger: "If you stand up and be that one person to do something, you can inspire others."

Young residents interested joining the SBYLC should contact David Soto at David.Soto1@nycha.nyc.gov or the BronxWorks Betances Community Center at **718-585-5040**.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1) **SPEAKER MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO "THIS IS WHO WE ARE"**

IDNYC cards—government-issued identification cards available to any resident of New York City regardless of immigration status—have gone a long way toward establishing New York as a national leader in immigration reform. "They provide so many critical benefits without revealing information about the holders. We've just approved the millionth card!"

Another accomplishment of which she is particularly proud is the adoption of participatory budgeting—in which people vote on how money should be spent—by districts across the City, citing the funding of public libraries, new recreation areas and technology upgrades as a result of this "change-making tool."

"The most important issues facing NYCHA have to do with quality of life. They are complex, and often linked to issues at the community level—like violence and access to services," the Speaker explains. "Weighing in on how public money is spent in your community has huge impact."

Her advice for residents who want to change the status quo: "Join your resident association to make sure you

have a say in what happens in your development. Become involved in local organizations and community boards so you know what's happening in the neighborhood and are knowledgeable about the issues. Get to know your elected officials, engage with them, become a thorn in their sides—that's how to make things happen!"

The City Council will provide funding for several NYCHA initiatives over the next year: expanding the FlexOps extended service hours program; building additional urban farms; supporting growth of the Business Pathways Programs; purchasing additional digital vans; and creating a resident leadership academy with CUNY. The Leadership Academy, says Speaker Mark-Viverito, will offer the kind of training that develops and trains emerging resident leaders to become more effective advocates for their communities. Participating residents can also earn up to 16 college credits through CUNY towards a degree. "And," she adds, "they just might be ready to run for local office."

NYCHA GARDENS GROW

OVER 350 OF NYCHA's resident gardeners attended the 15th Gardening and Urban Farming Conference on April 21 at the Johnson Community Center in Harlem. The conference provides an opportunity for NYCHA's resident gardeners to keep up-to-date on horticultural and environmental practices while connecting with each other and partner organizations to receive supplies, education, and technical assistance. Partners include Trees New

York, East New York Farms, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, New Yorkers for Parks, NYC Department of Sanitation, the USDA Forest Service, and the City's four botanical gardens. NYCHA has over 3,500 resident gardeners who tend to about 700 community and individual gardens citywide. The conference was sponsored by Unilever as part of a multi-million dollar partnership with New York City's Building Healthy Communities initiative.



FIRST 18 RESIDENTS GRADUATE FROM THE NEW CHILDCARE BUSINESS PATHWAYS PROGRAM



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS, NYCHA staff, and family and friends came together on April 14 to celebrate the first 18 graduates of the new Childcare Business Pathways Program (CBP). The graduates are well on their way to realizing their dreams of opening home-based childcare businesses.

CBP provides NYCHA residents with free training, licensing, and technical assistance as well as grants to pay for certifications and start-up supplies. During the 10-week program, the 18 graduates received business education training, specialized child care workshops, and certification courses in health and safety, CPR, first aid, and medication administration.

Two graduates were highlighted at the ceremony: Arneisa Williams of Brooklyn's Marlboro Houses and Toya Frederick-Leak of Far Rockaway's Redfern Houses. Ms. Williams was the

first to submit her childcare business application and successfully pass her home inspection; she'll receive her license shortly. She plans to open Arneisa's Mighty Tykes Daycare in July and already has 14 children on her waitlist. Ms. Frederick-Leak has taken care of children for many years without charging parents, but knew CBP was the program to help her become a business owner. She plans to open Leak's of Love Family Daycare in September.

The "Business Pathways" programs are part of the "Doorways to Opportunity" initiative supported by Citi Community Development with \$1.4 million in funding, which provides NYCHA residents with access to entrepreneurship training, free financial counseling, and employment opportunities.

To learn more about Childcare Business Pathways, visit: <http://opportunities.nycha.org/business-development/childcare-business-pathways>.

FREE 15-week training program for women

First Step Program

Microsoft Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint and Publisher
Resume Writing • Interviewing Skills • Case Management Support
2 Month Administrative Internship • Job Placement Assistance

GED not required • HRA approved!
Continental Breakfast & Metrocards Provided

For more information, please call (212) 776-2074



Coming Soon: 3-K For All!

City launches plan to bring free, full-day, high-quality early childhood education to every three-year-old.

BUILDING ON THE SUCCESS OF PRE-K FOR ALL, Mayor Bill de Blasio recently announced 3-K for All, which will provide universal, free, full-day, high-quality early childhood education for every three-year-old child regardless of family income. The program will begin in fall 2017 at two school districts, District 7 in the South Bronx and District 23 in Brownsville, serving 11,000 three-year-olds. In 2020, 3-K for All will expand to at least six more school districts and—with support from the State and federal governments—will continue to be expanded until the program is Citywide. Both 3-K for All and Pre-K for All are part of the City's efforts to create high-quality early care and education programs for New Yorkers from birth to five years old. For more



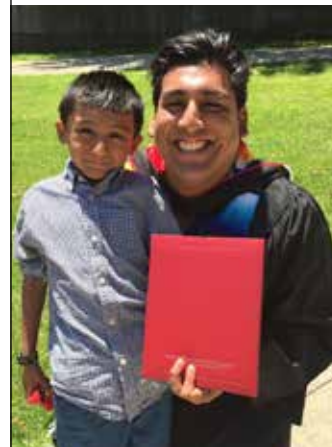
information about 3-K for All, visit NYC.gov/3k.



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Or a father 18-30 who wants to enroll in college?



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NYCHA Begins Work on Largest Public Housing Energy Savings Program in the Country

A \$56 MILLION PROJECT to improve energy and water efficiency, conducted through Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs), is the largest public housing energy savings program in the country. It will reduce yearly utility costs by more than \$3.5 million and benefit more than 45,000 residents at 16 developments. The project will also provide NYCHA residents with jobs.

"At a time when NYCHA is facing steep budget cuts and 17 billion dollars in unmet capital needs, the EPCs redirect energy cost savings into energy efficiency upgrades that will improve resident quality of life. Every dollar saved will help us preserve and maintain public housing," said Bomee Jung, NYCHA Vice President of Energy and Sustainability.

All of the work is expected to be completed by the summer of 2018 and will cover lighting, water conservation, and heating upgrades for almost 20,000 apartments at 16 public housing developments in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and

the Bronx: Carver, Clason Point Gardens, Eastchester Gardens, Edenwald, Farragut, Glenwood, Ingersoll, Marcy, Pelham Parkway, Taft, Tompkins, Vladeck I, Vladeck II, Washington, Whitman, and Wyckoff Gardens.

"I am so happy with this initiative," said Geraldine Hopper, Resident Association President at Clason Point Gardens. "These lights are much brighter and safer. It's a tremendous difference. You can see better and it's easier to move around. This will improve the quality of life of residents, especially the seniors."

Green City Force (GCF) graduates will be hired to assist with lighting upgrades, which includes replacing all interior light bulbs with LED bulbs. GCF is a nonprofit organization that empowers and trains NYCHA residents between the ages of 18–24 year for green sector jobs. Fifteen residents are already working on the project. The contractor will hire more residents for Section 3 jobs and to conduct outreach and provide education on the benefits of these energy efficiency measures.



Green City Force Corps Members providing a resident with new energy-saving LED bulbs.

NYCHA received U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approval for the EPC in December 2016. There are four EPCs in the works worth approximately \$300 million that will

enable the Authority to upgrade 120,000 apartments at up to 130 developments, or 67 percent of the Authority's building portfolio, benefiting nearly 262,000 residents.



Part time positions are open
\$12.14 per hour to start

Health benefits available if you work 20+ hours per week
Apply online or at your local precinct



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New, Improved Process for Lifting Permanent Exclusion

NYCHA HAS MADE the process for lifting permanent exclusions simpler and clearer. "Permanent exclusion" is when NYCHA prohibits dangerous individuals from living in or visiting NYCHA apartments, preventing eviction of the entire household. Individuals who have been excluded can now demonstrate that they no longer pose a threat to the community in one of two ways: by showing changed circumstances (such as participation in a rehabilitative program) or a certain period of crime-free time.

A new, easy-to-complete application for lifting permanent exclusion is on NYCHA's website and will soon be available at the self-serve kiosks at property management offices. Instructions for the new application and FAQs

about permanent exclusion are also available online.

NYCHA assesses each individual case considered for permanent exclusion, looking at the seriousness of the crime and the danger it poses to the NYCHA community. Violent crimes are the most typical reason for a permanent exclusion.

NYCHA met with residents (including resident association presidents and members of the Youth Leadership Councils), criminal justice experts, advocates, and law enforcement partners to update the permanent exclusion process to better support community safety and family stability.

For more information, speak to your housing assistant or visit on.nyc.gov.

Habitat NYC and NYCHA Partner to Renovate and Sell Single-Family Homes

NEARLY 40 YEARS ago, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development transferred hundreds of foreclosed single-family homes to NYCHA, which the Authority has used as public housing. However, because they are not part of NYCHA's traditional portfolio of larger, multi-family apartment buildings, these houses are expensive for the Authority to maintain. So, over the years, NYCHA helped more than 300 residents purchase the homes they were living in. Now approximately 40 families are in the process of doing so.

Unfortunately, many of the other single-family homes have become vacant over the years, in part because NYCHA has not received enough federal funding to keep them in good condition. NYCHA partnered with nonprofit organizations like Habitat for Humanity New York City (Habitat NYC), transferring ownership of 12 single-family homes in Queens and one in Staten Island to Habitat NYC. With the assistance of volunteers and contractors,



Habitat NYC completely rehabilitated them, and they were sold to lower income, first-time homeowners.

This past March, NYCHA transferred another 23 homes to Habitat NYC, 20 in southeast Queens and three in Brooklyn. Habitat NYC will either completely renovate them – with new roofs, plumbing and electrical systems, and energy-efficient features – or completely rebuild them to match the original size and style. The homes will then be available for purchase by families earning around 80 percent of the area median income (which is about \$65,000 for a family of three). Another 70 vacant homes will be transferred to nonprofits for rehabilitation or sold to first-time homebuyers.

Unearthing the Past at Gowanus Houses

NYCHA'S SANDY RECOVERY to Resiliency staff had a history lesson that got a little dirty when they teamed up with urban archaeologist Dr. Joan Geismar for a dig at Gowanus Houses on April 5. Dr. Geismar met with the team to explore the grounds at Gowanus Houses and make sure there was nothing significant buried underground that would be bothered by upcoming Sandy Recovery work at the development.

The area around Gowanus Houses stretching from Carroll Gardens to Brooklyn Heights, Gowanus, and Fort Greene was the site of the largest battle of the American Revolution, appropriately called the Battle of Brooklyn. Fought on August 26, 1776, the battle was the first major effort of General George

Washington. Dr. Geismar made no major archeological discoveries, though the crew did find a buried section of wall.

Gowanus Houses experienced major damage during Superstorm Sandy. Recovery work at Gowanus includes a full roof replacement, installation of stand-by generators, restoration of the development's common areas and mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and more.



Urban archaeologist Dr. Joan Geismar at Gowanus Houses.

Starting Over at Harlem River Houses

2015 WAS A YEAR of highs and lows for Kayla Downes-Calloway, a Marine Corps veteran and mother of two young boys. Her low came in August: living in a homeless shelter with her children. Her high was a gift at the end of the year: being offered a newly renovated apartment at Harlem River Houses.

In December 2015, Ms. Downes-Calloway and her boys, Jayce Hardy, 5, and Chase Lopez, 1, moved into a two-bedroom apartment in Harlem River Houses, one of NYCHA's oldest developments. Their apartment is one of 45 formerly vacant apartments at Harlem River that were not on the rent rolls. Most of the apartments had been empty for at least five to 15 years because of the development's leaky roofs.

NYCHA completed a \$25 million major capital renovation project at Harlem River, including replacement of roofs on all seven buildings, brickwork repairs, and asbestos

abatement. All 45 vacant apartments received new floors, ceilings, doors, outlets and switches, kitchen fixtures, renovated bathrooms, and more. Seventy occupied apartments with water damage were repaired and received mold remediation.

Ms. Downes-Calloway, a Long Island native, lived at a Bronx shelter for four months, during which she was enrolled in a medical assistant program and applying to numerous housing programs. "I was excited when they called me for the apartment. I'm a veteran—and I don't like to throw that around—but I'm thankful that preference is given to veterans," she says. Ms. Downes-Calloway spent four years as an aviation technician in the Marine Corps until she injured her knees.

Now, she lives on the top floor of this historic building and says there are no roof-leaking issues, much to the delight of all the fourth floor residents at Harlem River. Downes-Calloway is



Kayla Downes-Calloway and her youngest son, Chase Lopez, in their apartment at Harlem River Houses.

happy that she's not only found a home, but also a community where she knows her neighbors.

"I'm incredibly thankful to have this apartment, especially because I know

there are people I know still living in the shelter and housing is very scarce in New York City," she says. "When I got this apartment I was so grateful because it's a huge load off of my back."

Meet Your Zone Coordinators

NYCHA REES ZONE Coordinators are your personal guides to achieving your economic dreams. They partner with resident leaders and local organizations to connect residents to jobs and job training, adult education, financial empowerment, and business development services close to home. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, you can find your Zone Coordinators at the REES office at 787 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, they're out and about in their zones visiting residents and partner programs.

Here's what you should know about Manhattan Zone Coordinators Marilyn Hill, Lisa Jaradat, and Finda Kofuma.

Marilyn Hill,
Upper West Side
Manhattan/Zone 11
(Amsterdam, Chelsea,
and Fulton Houses,
Harborview Terrace,
Wise Towers, and more).

She celebrates her 29th year at NYCHA in July. Marilyn started her career at NYCHA as a community assistant at Marlboro Houses. Before she became a ZC, she had been a community center director for almost 22 years. **She's a NYCHA resident, too!** Marilyn was a resident before she became an employee, moving into Brooklyn's Gravesend Houses in 1984.

Zone 11 is set to launch in summer 2017, but Marilyn is still out in the developments connecting residents to information sessions, and referring them to partner agencies.

Zone partners include: Financial Empowerment Center, Food Bank for New York City, Green City Force,



Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center, and the Women's Initiative.

The partner that has her heart? Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center because it has a wide spread of educational opportunities for NYCHA residents.

Her job is an honor. "I really have a love of people and I get to work with people of all backgrounds and cultures and see them be successful in life with whatever goals they have. All throughout my years of working with NYCHA I have loved assisting residents and just helping people to empower themselves. It's a privilege."

Lisa Jaradat,
Lower East Side
(First Houses, Baruch
Houses, Gompers, Riis,
Rutgers, Smith Houses,
Vladeck Houses, Wald
Houses, and more).

She's been Zone Coordinator for almost three years. And she loves analyzing data to see how she can make improvements in her zone. One thing she always makes sure to do after a housing assistant has referred a resident to REES is to call those residents personally.

Zone partners include: Henry Street Settlement, Year Up, Borough of Manhattan Community College Adult Continuing Education, Jobs-Plus, NPower, FDNY, and the NYPD.

Sometimes the best partnerships are with fellow employees: "Margaret Fitzgerald, the secretary at Wald Houses, has actively referred residents and community members to Jobs-Plus. She's the eyes and the ears of the development, is super-personable with residents, and always there to listen and connect them to opportunities. She's been doing an amazing job."



She thinks Year Up is brilliant: "Year Up has such a positive impact on the City's young adults. It's free, one-year intensive training that empowers them to succeed in professional careers and higher education. Their outcomes are phenomenal, 85 percent are placed in jobs and 25 percent of the class is NYCHA residents."

Resident success story: "I had a young resident attend a Year Up info session in June 2016; she was accepted to the program and entered the information technology track. During her time in the program she interned at New York Life Insurance, worked with two coaches and a mentor, and was recently hired for a full-time position."

Finda Kofuma,
Upper Manhattan /
Zone 12 (Grant, Drew
Hamilton, Dyckman,
Manhattanville, and
Rangel Houses, King
Towers, Polo Grounds,
and more).

She's been a Zone Coordinator for five years. And is a former NYCHA resident; she lived at Rangel for five years and Carver Houses for 21 years.

The Self-referral Box pilot was her idea: Based on developments that had low referrals, she came up with an idea of putting a self-referral box, where residents who can slip their information into the boxes. She checks them every Thursday and then follows up with the residents.

Zone partners include: Northern

Manhattan Development Corporation, Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center, Strive, Neighborhood Trust Financial Partners, Financial Empowerment Center, NYC Business Solutions, New York Urban League, Spring Bank, We Act, The Harlem Children's Zone, and Columbia University.

Her favorite partner organization: "I enjoy working on the project with the Columbia University Employment Information Center. They provide a direct link to employment opportunities

within Columbia University and offer an array of job readiness services to job seekers who may need some readiness skills or career development. Their in-person workshops and online training programs serve as a gateway to self-sufficiency and sustainability."

The best thing about her job? "Being on the ground and having that face to face interaction with the community. I grew up in Harlem, so being able to bring resources into the community is very gratifying to me."



On April 20, NYCHA and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) showed a group of fourth grade students from the local elementary school, P.S. 112 Bronxwood, all of the green solutions recently installed at Edenwald Houses. Vlada Kenniff, NYCHA's Director of Sustainability Programs, listens to a student as they tour the development.



A DEP educator showed the kids how the new pavement in Edenwald's courtyard works. The pavement allows rain to flow through it and into the ground below, which can help reduce sewer overflows and flooding. The children also learned about other green solutions at Edenwald, including one of the development's new rain gardens, a planting system that includes a stone layer, and bioswales, which look like regular tree pits. All are designed to collect rainwater, and reduce sewer overflows and pollution into nearby waterways.

IDNYC: It's Easy and Free, but the Benefits Are Priceless

ATENTION NEW YORKERS: You don't need a passport to explore our city's cultural offerings, access local government, get discounts on prescription drugs, or open a bank account – you just need IDNYC. Join the more than one million New Yorkers who now have one. Visit www.nyc.gov/idnyc to get started.

"As the busiest people in the world, New Yorkers have a lot to tackle every day," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "One thing we should not have to worry about is whether we have the right form of identification to enter City buildings or to interact with local law enforcement. I'm proud to announce that for over one million New Yorkers, IDNYC has created a bridge between the City and its residents... Congratulations to the over one million New Yorkers who already have their key to the city, and I encourage any New Yorker who hasn't yet signed up to make an appointment today."

From May 22 through June 6, there will be a pop-up enrollment site at Bronx River Houses' community center (1619 East 174th Street in the Bronx), open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

IDNYC was designed for all New Yorkers, from all backgrounds, including vulnerable communities like seniors, veterans, transgender and gender non-conforming people, and immigrants. All City residents age 14 and older are eligible for IDNYC, and enrollment is free. Proof of identity and residency is required to apply. All applicant information will be kept confidential, and applicants will not be asked about their immigration status. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/idnyc or call 311.

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 June and September of 2017. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:

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

Contact information:

NYC Housing Authority:

Debbie Wolf, Administrative Staff Analyst, 718-707-5709 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

Leap into the Future

“Lily pads” and other award-winning designs to strengthen Red Hook Houses against storms

RESIDENTS AND VISITORS to Red Hook Houses are sure to be impressed with the new features coming to Brooklyn’s largest development. As part of the \$440 million Sandy recovery and resiliency project at Red Hook, “utility pods” will be built on the grounds to deliver heat and electricity to all 28 buildings, and “lily pads” will be constructed to protect the development and its more than 6,000 residents from storm-related flooding.

The lily pads are raised areas within the buildings’ courtyards that, along with a flood wall, will keep floodwater from reaching the buildings. The lily pads, accessed by ramps and stairs, have playgrounds and green spaces on them. The project was designed by KPF,



The current view of a courtyard at Red Hook Houses (left) and a rendering of what it will look like with the “lily pad,” a raised area designed to protect the development from flooding.



an architecture firm, in collaboration with OLIN, a landscape architecture firm. Residents provided input that helped guide these designs during several community workshops. The project’s cutting-edge design received a merit award in urban design from the New York Chapter of the American

Institute of Architects. “We’re thrilled the American Institute of Architects in New York is recognizing NYCHA’s Red Hook resiliency project,” said Joy Sinderbrand, NYCHA’s Vice President of Recovery and Resilience. “KPF and OLIN used our residents’ vision to

develop an innovative conceptual design for Red Hook Houses that will reduce the community’s vulnerability to flooding.” NYCHA expects to begin the first phase of Sandy recovery construction work at Red Hook Houses before the end of this year.

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

If you use life-support equipment or know someone who does, it’s important to let us know. Con Edison keeps a record of these individuals in order to contact them in the event of an emergency to make sure they are safe. Call 1-800-75-CONED (1-800-752-6633) or log into conEd.com and choose the Enroll in Special Services option to complete our online form. If you choose to call, please have your 15-digit account number available.

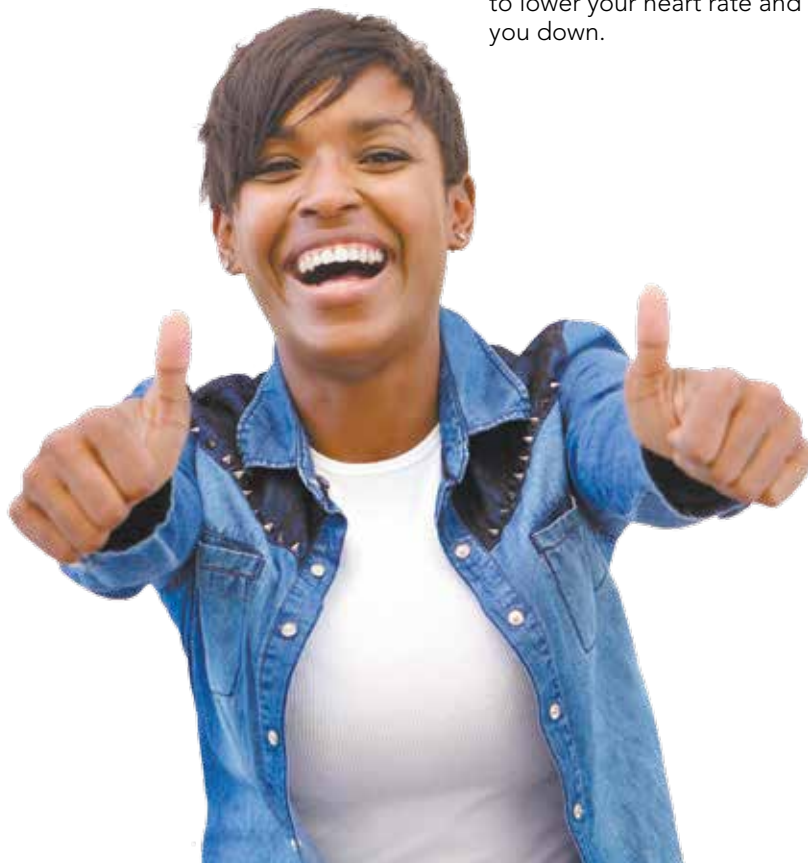
To keep our records current, each year we send a letter asking you to recertify the equipment that you use.



Beat the Blues

31 Tips to Boost Your Mental Health

1. Track gratitude and achievement with a journal. Include 3 things you were grateful for and 3 things you were able to accomplish each day.
2. Start your day with a cup of coffee. Coffee consumption is linked to lower rates of depression. If you don't drink coffee, try some green tea.
3. Plan a vacation. Having something to look forward to can boost your overall happiness for up to 8 weeks!
4. Work your strengths. Do something you're good at to build self-confidence, then tackle a tougher task.
5. Keep it cool for a good night's sleep. The optimal temperature for sleep is between 60° and 67° Fahrenheit.
6. "You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." —Martin Luther King Jr. Think of something in your life you want to improve, and figure out what you can do to take a step in the right direction.
7. Experiment with a new recipe, write a poem, paint, or try a Pinterest project. Creative expression and overall well-being are linked.
8. Show some love to someone in your life. Close, quality relationships are key for a happy, healthy life.
9. Boost brainpower by treating yourself to a couple pieces of dark chocolate every few days. It improves alertness and mental skills.
10. If you have personal experience with mental illness or recovery, share on Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr with #mentalillnessfeelslike. Check out what other people are saying at www.mentalhealthamerica.net/feelslike.
11. Be optimistic. That doesn't mean ignoring the uglier sides of life, it just means focusing on the positive as much as possible.
12. Feeling anxious? Do some coloring for about 20 minutes to help you clear your mind. Designs that are geometric and a little complicated have the most impact.
13. Take time to laugh. Hang out with a funny friend, watch a comedy or check out cute videos online. Laughter helps reduce anxiety.
14. Leave your smart phone at home for a day and disconnect.
15. Dance around while you do your housework. Not only will you get chores done, but dancing reduces levels of cortisol (the stress hormone), and increases endorphins (the body's "feel-good" chemicals).
16. Go ahead and yawn. Studies suggest that yawning helps cool the brain and improves alertness and mental efficiency.
17. Relax in a warm bath once a week. Try adding Epsom salts to soothe aches and pains and help boost magnesium levels, which can be depleted by stress.
18. Has something been bothering you? Let it all out...on paper. Writing about upsetting experiences can reduce symptoms of depression.
19. Spend some time with a furry friend. Time with animals lowers the stress hormone, cortisol, and boosts oxytocin—which stimulates feelings of happiness.
20. "When you bring what is within out into the world, miracles happen." —Henry David Thoreau. Practice mindfulness by staying "in the present."
21. Be a tourist in your own town. Often people only explore attractions on trips, but you may be surprised what cool things are in your own backyard.
22. Try prepping your lunches or picking out your clothes for the work week. You'll save some time in the mornings and have a sense of control about the week ahead.
23. Eat foods with omega-3 fatty acids—they are linked to decreased rates of depression. Foods like wild salmon, flaxseeds or walnuts also help build healthy gut bacteria.
24. Practice forgiveness - even if it's just forgiving that person who cut in front of you in line. People who forgive have better mental health and report being more satisfied with their lives.
25. Try to find the silver lining in something negative that happened recently.
26. Smile. It may not always be the easiest thing to do, but smiling can help to lower your heart rate and calm you down.



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27. Send a thank you note - not for a material item, but to let someone know why you appreciate them. Written expressions of gratitude are linked to increased happiness.
28. Do something with friends and family—have a cookout, go to a park, or play a game. People are 12 times more likely to feel happy on days when they spend 6 or 7 hours with friends and family.
29. Take 30 minutes to go for a walk in nature. Stroll through a park, or hike in the woods. Being in nature can increase energy levels, reduce depression, and boost well-being.
30. Do your best to enjoy 15 minutes of sunshine. Sunlight synthesizes Vitamin D, which experts believe is a mood elevator.
31. "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new." —Albert Einstein
Try something outside of your comfort zone to make room for adventure and excitement in your life.

Adapted from Mental Health America
www.mentalhealthamerica.net.

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle Household Goods into Beautiful Arts & Crafts

NOW THAT EVERY NYCHA development is recycling, the Authority launched a series of fun educational workshops to show residents the many ways to repurpose household items. The workshops are a partnership between NYCHA and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Thirty workshops will be provided in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens by artists from Materials for the Arts, a program of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs that collects unneeded materials to donate to schools and organizations and also provides them with educational programs. In the Bronx, 20 workshops have already been hosted by independent artist Aleathia Brown, who is a former East River and Johnson Houses resident.

In addition to the workshops, the Authority will continue to get the word out about recycling by partnering with Green City Force to send Corps Members on door-to-door “Blitzes” to talk about the recycling program at the 15 NYCHA Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety developments.

Independent artist Aleathia Brown at Castle Hill Community Center in the Bronx

On April 12, Aleathia held a workshop at Castle Hill Community Center for teens on spring break from school.

“My mission for the recycling art program is to inspire residents to be aware of waste, get them connecting, and at least sensitive and start thinking to do something about the environment and contributions to their community each of us are making. Then hoping making art has an impact to wanting to recycle or re-purpose what is around them. As an artist I am always looking at the everyday items as the starting point. We stuff and decorate or dress them up with our reused items, old papers, old bills etc. We paint like ladies



Artist Aleathia Brown leading a recycled art workshop for teens.

makeup, treating the aesthetic but yet its layered story skills and time spent making trash treasure.”

Materials for the Arts at Lincoln Senior Center in East Harlem

On March 7 at an MFTA workshop held at Lincoln Senior Center in East Harlem, seniors enjoyed learning how to make jewelry and notebooks out of buttons, envelopes, scraps of fabric, and other materials.





Derek Sappé, Lincoln Houses
“We used to make things out of stuff we had lying around when we were kids. My father was a tailor so I had a million and one buttons to use and I’d just let my imagination run free. Making this necklace was like a flashback to when I was a kid.”



Martha Duquesnay, Lincoln Houses
“I’ve made necklaces and earrings before out of other things, but this is the

DIY CAT PLANTER



Supplies



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

Supplies: plastic bottle, markers, scissors, paintbrush, acrylic paint, and soil and plant of your choice.

1. Cut the top off of the water bottle

2. Draw a cat outline on the bottle


3. Cut the cat out

4. Paint the outside of the bottle

5. After the paint dries draw a cat face on the bottle

6. Add soil and plant (or use it as a pen holder!)

first time I’ve made a book out of envelopes. Another nice thing to do for this would be if we got different color envelopes and then you could alternate the colors of the pages.”



Beatrice Haley, Rangel Houses

“We make crochet dolls out of soda bottles. We get little cheap dolls, take the heads off and attach it to soda bottles. Then we make the crochet dresses and pack the arms with old materials or whatever we have around. I’m enjoying this workshop; this is something new. I’m making a necklace.”

MARINER'S HARBOR WILL RECEIVE A \$5.7 MILLION COMMUNITY CENTER RENOVATION

ON APRIL 14, Mayor Bill de Blasio, Council Member Debi Rose, and NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly announced that the City would spend \$5.7 million on renovations to expand the Mariner's Harbor Community Center in Staten Island. The renovations, expected to be completed in early 2020, will provide an additional 150 residents with access to community-based programming in two facilities that span more than 5,000 square feet. Funded by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) and operated by United Activities Unlimited, the center provides community members with a variety of programs, including homework help, sports clinics, mentoring programs, clothing drives, and special events and trips.



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father 18-28
who wants his
HSE diploma
(GED)?**



**Or a father 18-30 who wants to
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