



INSIDE THIS ISSUE



3

Transforming
NYCHA

8

Free Tax
Services

13

New
Exterminator
Program

The NYCHA

JOURNAL



NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye, City Council Member Ritchie Torres, and Capital Projects Director Matt Dixon tour a recently renovated roof at Parkside Houses in the Bronx.

CITY WILL INVEST \$1 BILLION FOR NYCHA ROOFS

MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO has committed \$1 billion in City funds to replace deteriorating roofs on NYCHA buildings over the next 10 years, improving over 700 buildings and benefitting more than 175,000 NYCHA residents.

"This crucial investment – the largest City investment in NYCHA – will improve quality of life for our city's children, teachers, fire fighters and other public servants who live in NYCHA housing and who keep this city running," said Mayor de Blasio.

The new roofs will help preserve buildings by protecting them from leaks and will help reduce mold caused primarily by leaking roofs. The funding will also reduce expenses by making buildings more efficient. When coupled with Mayor de Blasio's 2015 commitment of investing \$300 million over three years, the total amount allocated to this initiative reaches \$1.3 billion to fix over 950 roofs.

"This historic commitment is about more than just bricks and mortar, it's about investing in New York City's working families and our City's most vulnerable," NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye said. "

Now more than ever, critical (CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

Picture the Dream

Art Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Art work inspired by the work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by young artist Diem Robinson, a NYCHA resident and afterschool student from University Settlement's Atlantic Terminal Community Center in Brooklyn.

PROTEST SIGNS, SYMBOLS OF LOVE AND PEACE, and drawings of important people in the Civil Rights movement are some of the ways young NYCHA residents chose to show how they were inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Their artwork was displayed at a community exhibition, "Picture the Dream," at The Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) as

part of the institution's annual event tribute to Dr. King.

The young artists, ages 5-12, are afterschool students from University Settlement's Atlantic Terminal Community Center in Brooklyn. BAM partnered with University Settlement to provide free art workshops to the students, led by visual artist Che Baraka.

On January 16, hundreds of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM, the first black woman elected to Congress and the first black candidate for president from a major political party, once said, "Service to others is the rent that you pay for room on this earth."

In celebration of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), the Journal revisits some of the amazing people who contribute so much to NYCHA, living Shirley Chisholm's message of service every day through their good deeds and hard work.

High school student and Jackson Houses resident Jewels Marshall joined her local community board to give a voice to her peers and make a difference in the South Bronx. Dr. Aprille Ericsson is a NASA aerospace engineer who blazed a trail in academia; in her lectures to youth about the importance of women and diversity in the science community, she talks about her inspirations growing up in Roosevelt Houses.

Assistant Property Maintenance Supervisor Michael Johnson, recipient of the prestigious Sloan Public Service Award from the Fund for the City of New York, is known at Johnson Houses for putting the residents' needs first, whether it's noon or midnight. Former NYCHA resident,

James Secreto, Chief of the NYPD Housing Bureau, grew up in Brooklyn's Albany Houses. He joined the police force in 1979, working his way up the ranks and now oversees safety for the more than 400,000 residents who live in NYCHA's 326 developments.

As we engage our partners in the new administration in Washington, my colleagues and I at public housing authorities across the nation will continue to highlight the importance of public housing and tell the stories of the people who make it such a vibrant institution.

A community is nothing without its people—people working and living together with the shared goal of making their home the best it can be. Thank you for being part of our *NextGeneration NYCHA* efforts to do that here in New York City.

Shola Olatoye
Chair and CEO

Scholarships for NYCHA Students

ARE YOU LOOKING for money to fund your education? Check out the 2017 CHW Scholarship Fund, provided by the New York law firm Cannon Heyman & Weiss, LLP, which has more than \$22,500 in scholarships available for New York State students who live in affordable housing (including public housing and Section 8 housing).

Last year, six students from NYCHA developments received scholarships, including Francisco Rodriguez, who received the first-place prize of \$10,000, and Ilham Moumou, who received the third-place prize of \$2,000.

The scholarship is available to full- and part-time students attending approved colleges, junior colleges, technical schools, and other post-secondary institutions leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate. This scholarship is not available to graduate students. The application includes a 500-word essay on living in affordable housing and your goals for the future, as well as two letters of recommendation. The application deadline is **April 15, 2017**. For more information visit, <http://chwattys.com/about> and click the CHW Scholarship Fund tab.

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:

March 29, 2017
April 26, 2017
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.

The NYCHA **JOURNAL**

ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000

PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

250 Broadway, New York, NY 10007



www.nyc.gov/nycha

New Lights, Safer City

THERE ARE MORE than 1,000 new, state-of-the-art, energy-efficient LED light fixtures at entrances, walkways, and parking areas at three NYCHA developments—St. Nicholas Houses in Harlem and Castle Hill Houses and Butler Houses in the Bronx—lighting up the lives, literally, of the 13,100 residents who call these developments home.

The City replaced all outdated exterior lighting at the developments in 2016, spending \$2.4 million on 245 new lights at Butler Houses, \$2.5 million on 270 new lights at St. Nicholas, and \$8.2 million on 749 new lights at Castle Hill Houses.

“Enhancing safety is critical to strengthening public housing communities for this and the next generation,” NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye said. “These new lighting systems are just the beginning of the comprehensive safety upgrades we’re making at these developments to improve residents’ quality of life, including security cameras and high-security doors. We’re proud to announce that all three of these developments rounded out 2016 with significant drops in crime—which, with NYPD partnership, we hope to see decrease even further in 2017.”

New lighting fixtures are a major part of the Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), a program to reduce violence and increase safety at 15 NYCHA developments. Started in July

2014 and run by the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice, MAP helps create safe and strong neighborhoods in partnership with residents. The results so far have been promising; for the second year in a row, violent crime at the 15 MAP developments is down.

“We are very pleased and grateful that the lights are on at Castle Hill Houses, because they will help deter crimes that are normally done in the dark and they have already added to the safety of the development,” said Castle Hill Resident Association President Geraldine Lamb.

New lighting installation is expected to be completed at 13 of the 15 MAP sites by the end of 2017. Temporary light towers will remain in place at MAP sites until all projects are completed. The next phase of security enhancements will be the installation of CCTV cameras and layered access security measures at these MAP sites. CCTV installation is currently underway at 11 MAP sites, with seven of those installations expected to be done by the end of the year.

In addition to improving public spaces, MAP is providing mentoring and jobs training for youth and young adults; conflict mediation programming and support groups; improved access to public benefits; and legal and social services for victims of intimate partner violence, elder abuse, and sex trafficking.



New lighting at Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx has helped residents feel safer walking around their development at night.

Transforming NYCHA Through Public Private Partnerships

Ocean Bay (Bayside) is the next development scheduled for major renovations



LOLITA MILLER, 71, has lived at Ocean Bay Apartments (Bayside) in the Rockaways for almost 50 years. She raised seven children there, watching as the conditions of the buildings steadily worsened due to years of lack of funding—but now she’s watching the development change for the better.

In December 2016, NYCHA closed a groundbreaking deal under Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program, known as Permanent Affordability Commitment Together (PACT) in New York City. The deal will provide \$325 million to renovate 24 buildings including 1,400 apartments that house over 3,700 residents. Renovations will include better heating systems, new roofs, safety upgrades, and new kitchens and bathrooms. Residents will not have to move while their apartments are being renovated, which should take about three years in total, instead of the 20 years it would have taken to complete this work without PACT.

“Families depend on NYCHA to make necessary repairs and protect public housing for future generations,” NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye said. “This type of innovative partnership presents an opportunity to ensure the long-term affordability and future of our developments.”

All of the Ocean Bay (Bayside) apartments will be converted to Section 8 and managed by Wavcrest Management in partnership with NYCHA. NYCHA will keep ownership of Ocean Bay and continue to administer the Section 8 contract, ensuring that the apartments stay

permanently affordable and guaranteeing the developments can never be privatized. All rents will remain the same.

Ms. Miller, Treasurer of the Resident Association and a retired 20-year NYCHA employee, participated in numerous resident engagement meetings about changes at the development. She said she’s already seen great changes to the development and can’t wait to see its beauty fully restored.

“NextGeneration NYCHA is coming to life—the things that were neglected are coming back,” Ms. Miller says. “I don’t want things as usual; it’s time for a change here. I want to see the good come back, and maybe be even better. I want the kids in this neighborhood and my neighbors to be happy to come home, to say, ‘Wow, this is where I live.’”

In January, NYCHA received more good news about the PACT program: the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved an expansion to raise \$300 million for extensive repairs and quality of life improvements for 1,700 apartments in 17 developments throughout Brooklyn and the Bronx.

NYCHA has begun the resident engagement process at these developments and will hold regular meetings with residents to make sure that not only are their questions answered, but that they have meaningful input in the process. Ms. Miller advises residents go get involved in the process—“you get to sit at the roundtable and list all the things that need to be done and help make decisions.”

IDNYC: City Won't Store Applicants' Background Information

ONE IN NINE NEW YORKERS have an IDNYC card. 2017 is your time to join them! Mayor Bill de Blasio and Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito have made IDNYC free for the third year in a row. And starting this year, the City will process applications without keeping cardholders' personal background documents.

IDNYC is an ID card for all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration status. All City residents age 14 and above can sign up for the card. Applicants must have documentation that confirms their identity and New York City residency. The City will protect the confidentiality of all IDNYC card applications and will not ask applicants about their immigration status.

"The IDNYC program started with the simple idea of bridging divides between the people and government, so that all New Yorkers have access to the resources they need to live full, productive lives here in NYC," Mayor de Blasio said. "We're keeping IDNYC free in 2017, so that all City residents can feel confident interacting with the NYPD, entering their child's school, obtaining City services, and so much more. I am excited that so many of our benefits partners are returning for 2017, and that we'll be welcoming some great new institutions to the IDNYC family. With their partnership, we're giving more New Yorkers access to culture, arts, fitness, and a long list of enriching opportunities."

IDNYC cardholders can sign up for free memberships at all 38 cultural partners for 2017, including 10 new partners, regardless of the year the card was issued. For more information on eligibility, benefits, enrollment centers across the five boroughs, cultural partners, and more, visit nyc.gov/idnyc or call 311 and say "IDNYC."



Message to Immigrant New Yorkers from Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito

"During these uncertain times we must remind ourselves of who we are as a city, and hold steadfast to our values. Hard work, respect and unity during times of adversity define us as New Yorkers and that will not change, no matter who is president. Our commitment to standing with and protecting our immigrant communities is stronger than ever. As always, the City of New York is prepared to defend and protect our immigrant brothers and sisters. We will never turn our back on you."

This resource guide serves as a quick and easy road map of City services currently available to all New Yorkers.

Resources for New York City Immigrants

The City of New York supports all its residents. Most City services are available to everyone, including undocumented immigrants, like going to school or using the health care system or other services. City employees will not ask about immigration status unless it is necessary to do their jobs. They must keep immigration status information confidential.

IDNYC

- IDNYC is the City's identification card for all New Yorkers. IDNYC does not collect immigration status information, and we keep applicants' information confidential. The City will protect IDNYC information to the full extent of the law.

Education

- Children age 4 or turning 4 are eligible for Pre-K. All residents have the right to attend public school from age 5 until graduation or until the end of the school year when they turn 21. Classes are available for English learners.

Health care

- Low-cost emergency and non-emergency health care is available to all at public hospitals and clinics and at other affordable clinics.
- NYC Well is a free, confidential connection mental health care, in more than 200 languages, any time of day. Call 1-888-NYC-Well, text WELL to 65173, or go to nyc.gov/nycwell

Child care

- Low-income families with children age 6 weeks through 12 years old can get free or low-cost child care.

Emergency food and shelter

- Locations across NYC provide free food to people in need.
- The Homebase program can help residents avoid entering the shelter system.

Public safety

- The City does not conduct immigration enforcement. The NYPD does not ask about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or other people who ask for help.
- Anyone who has been the victim of a hate crime, or is not sure, should contact the NYPD. To contact the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force directly, call (646) 610-5267.

Immigration legal help

- Free, safe immigration legal help is available through ActionNYC. Call the ActionNYC hotline at 1-800-354-0365 during business hours Monday to Friday.
- Beware of unlicensed immigration service providers who take advantage of their customers. Get help only from a trusted, licensed attorney or accredited representative. For questions about this, call the New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636 between 9AM-8PM on Monday through Friday.

Protection from discrimination

- New Yorkers also have the right to be free from unlawful discrimination, retaliation, and harassment in the workplace, housing, and public places.
- To file a complaint or learn more, call 311 or call the NYC Commission on Human Rights at (718) 722-3131.

Do you have questions or concerns?

Call 311 for more information about these resources, or call the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs directly during work hours at (212) 788-7654. Translation is available.

Picture the Dream

An Art Exhibit at BAM Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

people got the opportunity to explore the exhibition during BAM's daylong free celebration of Dr. King, which also featured music, poetry, and other performances. The event was co-presented by Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, and Medgar Evers College of The City University of New York. At the event, the young artists were treated to VIP breakfast and met with Borough President Adams.

These works of art were created by NYCHA residents.



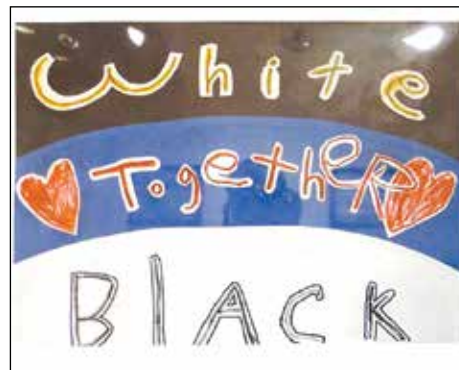
Savion Williams



Jose Fernandez



Nahlay Moore



Diem Robinson



Alicia Simpson



Terrance Howell

Recycling at Every NYCHA Development

THE AUTHORITY RECENTLY crossed one major item off its New Year's resolution list: bring recycling bins and Department of Sanitation (DSNY) recycling pickup to every single NYCHA development. NYCHA achieved this milestone in December 2016, giving more than 400,000 residents the ability to foster a healthier, cleaner, and greener planet by recycling.

As part of NextGeneration NYCHA efforts to create safe, clean, and connected communities and transform the Authority into a more sustainable organization, NYCHA launched a recycling action plan in February 2015. Two developments started recycling in May 2015; since then, staff have worked with residents and partners like the DSNY, GrowNYC, Green City Force, and NYC Service to bring recycling to all 328 developments.

That was no small task. About 1,500 recycling bins (and 800 concrete pads to support them) were installed across the City. More than 1,400 NYCHA employees, including development staff, were trained on recycling procedures. Nearly 12,000 residents from every development learned about recycling through hundreds of kick-off meetings and special events, including those specifically for youth and seniors.

Pamela Azore is one of 23 residents training with the non-profit organization GrowNYC to become "Environmental Ambassadors" and spread the word about recycling to their neighbors as volunteers.

"Our Resident Green Committee (RGC) is a small group that does big things," said Ms. Azore, captain of the RGC at her development, Pomonok Houses. "When I was introduced to recycling, I realized it had to happen. My daughter, my husband – we all recycle. I love the bins. I've already put up a sticker saying, 'The bins are here, please recycle.'"

GrowNYC is looking for new volunteers to become Environmental Ambassadors. After completing two 2-hour workshops (see the sidebar), Ambassadors complete 12 hours of outreach in their community to encourage their neighbors to recycle.

You can learn more about the recycling effort at NYCHA's website (www.nyc.gov/nycha).

Become an Environmental Ambassador!

For NYCHA residents ages 18 and up. Participants must attend both Session A and Session B (though not necessarily in the same month). Pizza and refreshments provided! All sessions are from 6pm to 8pm at GrowNYC, 100 Gold Street, Suite 3300, Manhattan.

Register at

www.grownyc.org/nycha-environmental-ambassadors-registration.

February

Session A: Monday, February 20 **Session B:** Monday, February 27

March

Session A: Monday, March 20 **Session B:** Monday, March 27

April

Session A: Monday, April 17 **Session B:** Monday, April 24

May

Session A: Monday, May 15 **Session B:** Monday, May 22

June

Session A: Monday, June 19 **Session B:** Monday, June 26

New NYCHA Flat Rent Schedule

NYCHA HAS UPDATED its 2017 Flat Rent schedule to establish maximum rents by apartment size as mandated by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD). NYCHA residents pay either 30% of their adjusted gross household income towards rent or pay the flat rent amount, whichever is lower. If 30% of the family's adjusted gross income is greater than the flat rent, the family's rent will be set at the flat rent amount. If you have questions about how your rent is calculated, please call your management office.

The table below is NYCHA's 2017 Flat Rent Schedule. The table also lists the minimum adjusted annual income a family must have to pay flat rent.

How Does NYCHA Calculate Rent?

Rent for public housing residents is determined annually during each household's recertification process. After reviewing the household composition, income, assets, and expenses listed in the Public Housing Affidavit of Income, NYCHA sets the household's rent at either 30% of the household's adjusted gross income or the flat rent, whichever is lower.

What Is Adjusted Gross Income?

A household's adjusted gross income is the household's **gross income plus** the cash value of **assets minus** any **exclusions** and allowable **deductions**.

GROSS INCOME

Sources of income and assets for all members of the household include, but are not limited to the following:

- All salaries, wages, tips, commissions, bonuses and overtime pay before payroll deductions
- Income from an individually-owned business, partnership, corporation or other professional enterprise such as working as a child care provider, beautician, barber, housekeeper, freelance artist, or taxi driver
- Asset income from property, such as rent, dividends, interest, capital gains, or trust income
- The full amount of money received from Social Security, annuities, insurance policies, retirement funds, pensions, disability or death benefits, and other similar types of periodic receipts, including any periodic payments the resident knows will begin within the next 12 months
- Welfare assistance
- Periodic and determinable amounts including alimony, child support payments, and regular contributions or gifts
- Compensation in place of earnings, such as unemployment or disability compensation, and worker's compensation or severance pay
- Other payments like annuities, retirement funds, pensions, death or disability benefits, insurance policies, or other similar types of periodic payments

ASSETS

Any items with a cash value such as market value of real estate, savings accounts, checking accounts, and cash value of whole life insurance policies. Assets do not include personal property, such as clothing, furniture, and cars.

EXCLUSIONS

Money and benefits that are not considered income include, but are not limited to the following:

- Food stamps (SNAP)
- Casual or sporadic income
- One time, lump sum payments like death benefits, inheritances, etc.
- Payments received for the care of foster children or foster adults
- Income from live-in attendants
- Adoption assistance payments in excess of \$480 per adopted child are excluded.
- Earned income in excess of \$480 for children under 18 years old and full-time students

DEDUCTIONS

Amounts subtracted from a household's annual gross income may include, but are not limited to the following:



- \$480 for each member of the family (excluding head of household or spouse) who is less than 18 years of age or who is a student or person with a disability
- \$400 for any elderly family or disabled family
- Reasonable, unreimbursed, child care expenses for children 12 years old or younger, if family member is employed, looking for employment, or in school full or part time during the designated hours
- The amount over 3% of annual income which you are likely to spend on:
 - Unreimbursed medical expenses only for a family member who is 62 or over or who has a disability
 - Unreimbursed reasonable attendant care and auxiliary apparatus expenses for disabled household member(s) which permit other household member(s) to work

If your apartment is:		The flat rent for your apartment is:	If your total household income is higher than this, you will pay flat rent. If your total household income is lower than this, you will pay 30% of your gross adjusted income for rent.
Studio		\$1,149	\$45,960
1 Bedroom		\$1,206	\$48,240
2 Bedrooms		\$1,391	\$55,640
3 Bedrooms		\$1,787	\$71,480
4 Bedrooms		\$1,927	\$77,080
5 Bedrooms		\$2,216	\$88,640
6 Bedrooms +		\$2,505	\$100,200

Meet Your Zone Coordinators



Lilliana Perez



Cornell Hampton

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 Queens Zone Coordinators, Cornell Hampton and Lilliana Perez.

CORNELL HAMPTON, WESTERN QUEENS

(Astoria, Bland, Latimer Gardens, Queensbridge North and South, Ravenswood, and Woodside Houses and the Far Rockaway neighborhood)

He's part of the newest cohort of Zone Coordinators, on the job for six months now. "It's a challenge to learn something new, but it's also a lot of fun. I work with people who are really into what they're doing and believe in helping residents."

He's got a long history with NYCHA: Cornell has worked for NYCHA for almost 35 years. If you were participated in NYCHA's Sports Unit events, you may remember him. He helped plan and organize many of the programs, including basketball, softball, and track and field events. He used to live in Tilden and Ocean Hill Houses.

Even though he lives in Brooklyn, **he'll always show Queens pride** – he also lived in St. Albans for 20 years.

Western Queens Zone partners include: Jobs-Plus Astoria, Jobs-Plus Queensbridge, Urban Upbound, SpotOn Employment, and LaGuardia Community College (CUNY Fatherhood Academy).

He loves working with the CUNY Fatherhood Academy "because they help young brothers, the fathers and expectant fathers get their high school equivalency, put them in a college-like atmosphere, and help them get into college."

His job is a blessing: "I believe God made this happen for me because I'm in a position to help young adults. A lot of them were kids who were involved in our sporting program. Being involved with REES helps me help them to get an opportunity to better themselves. I also get to work with a great group of people who care about what they do at work, about helping residents and about making sure our partners are on top of their game."

**LILLIANA PEREZ,
FAR ROCKAWAYS AND JAMAICA**
(Carleton Manor, Baisley Park, Beach 41st St., Conlon Life Tower, Hammel, Ocean Bay Apartments, Pomonok, Redfern, and South Jamaica)

Lilliana has been a Zone Coordinator for two and a half years. Before that

she worked in the Section 3 unit for five years. Even though she's an East Harlem native, Lilliana knows Far Rockaway: she was originally hired by NYCHA to work on a Hope VI HUD grant – urban revitalization in Far Rockaway.

Far Rockaways and Jamaica Zone partners:

- Jamaica: SUNY Queens Educational Opportunity Center, NYC Business Solutions Workforce1 Center, and Catholic Charities has a financial education and empowerment clinic.
- Far Rockaway, SUNY Attain Lab, CAMBA, and Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation.

Lilliana suggests that residents in the Rockaways check out the SUNY Attain Lab (Advance Tech Training and Info Networking) at Beach 41st, a modern, state-of-the art computer lab where you can learn Microsoft Office and more. "There's always a computer available there."

She loves working with Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation, "In my opinion they are the best thing that happened in the Rockaways because they meet residents where they're at. This is a one-stop shop for residents because they offer employment assistance, referrals to training providers, SNAP screening, free tax preparation, health care screenings, senior workshops, and they're expanding to offer business development educational services."

What she loves about her job is seeing how well the REES model works: "We had an event at the Queens Library in Pomonok for construction recruitment. Some of the residents that attended didn't have their resumes, but the library staff jumped in, signed people up for library cards, and assigned residents to computers to help them print or update their resumes to make sure that everyone was seen before the fair was over."

She advises residents to take it one step at a time: "We offer everything you need to be completely independent, whether your dream is to own a home or to own a business. People sometimes think that free is easy, but we don't do easy. We do quality programs that will get you on the path you want to be on. I attend graduations of some of our programs, and they give me the motivation to get up in the morning and go to work."

For Young People Who Need Jobs

The Summer Youth Employment Program Is Taking Applications

THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SYEP) provides New York City youth with paid summer jobs at worksites including government agencies, hospitals, summer camps, nonprofits, small businesses, law firms, museums, sports enterprises and retailers.

New York City residents ages 14-24 can apply for a spot in the summer job lottery online at www.nyc.gov/dycd through Friday, March 17. Applications may also be completed at a participating community-based organization during the application period.

The application process was launched earlier than usual this year to give New Yorkers extra time to plan for summer. Participants are selected by lottery for the program, which provides employment from July 5 through August 19.

"Every year we give more and more students the chance at an internship that could change the trajectory of their careers," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "Last year tens of thousands of young New Yorkers kick started their futures at more than 10,000 job sites across the City. This year, we'll connect even more youth from across the five boroughs to meaningful opportunity," said Mayor Bill de Blasio.

SYEP, operated by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), is the nation's largest summer youth employment initiative.

For more information, call 311 or DYCD Youth Connect **1-800-246-4646**.

WHY PAY? KEEP ALL OF YOUR REFUND

FREE TAX SERVICES

These tax prep services are fast, FREE, local and available to anyone earning \$54,000 per year or less.

Free tax preparation and e-file services will be available at select NYCHA community centers and Jobs-Plus sites starting the week of **January 30th to April 13, 2017.**

2017 TAX PREPARATION SITES

BRONX

Morrisania – Davidson Community Center

Sponsor: SoBro

Where: 1221 Prospect Ave. (bet. E. 167th St. & Home St.) Bronx, NY 10459

When: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (6:30pm – 9pm), Saturday (**by appointment only**)

Directions: 2 or 5 train to Intervale Ave.

Phone: (718) 328-9078

Morris Heights – Sedgwick Community Center

Sponsor: The Community Association of Progressive Dominicans (ACDP)

Where: 1553 University Avenue Bronx, NY 10453

When: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (6:30pm – 9pm), Saturday (**By appointment only**)

Note: Tax services will begin on Monday, February 6, 2017.

Directions: Bx3, Bx13, Bx35, or Bx36 bus to W. 174th St. & University Ave. OR 4 train to Mt. Eden Ave.

Phone: (718) 731-2600

South Bronx – BronxWorks St. Mary's Park Community Center

Sponsor: BronxWorks

Where: 595 Trinity Avenue (bet. Westchester Ave. & Pontiac Pl) Bronx, NY 10455

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays (10am – 1pm)

Directions: 2 or 5 train to Jackson Ave

Phone: (718) 618-7478

South Bronx – Jobs-Plus at BronxWorks

Note: This is a Jobs-Plus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Betances, Courtlandt (372 E. 152nd St. & 370 E. 153rd St.) and Moore Houses.

Where: 630 Jackson Ave. (bet. E. 151st St. & E.152nd St.) Bronx, NY 10455

When: Monday to Friday (9am – 5pm), Tuesday & Thursday (9am – 6pm - **by appointment only**)

Note: Evening appointments must be booked at least 24 hours in advance.

Directions: 2 or 5 train to Jackson Ave.

Phone: (718) 993-8880 Ext. 221

South Bronx – Jobs-Plus at Eastside House

Note: This is a Jobs-Plus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Mill Brook Houses.

Where: 201 Saint Ann's Ave. (at E.137th St.) Bronx, NY 10454

When: Wednesdays (12 noon – 7pm)

Directions: 6 train to Brook Ave.

Phone: (718) 304-0155

Soundview – Jobs-Plus at Goodwill Industries of Greater NY

Note: This is a Jobs-Plus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Clason Point, Monroe, and Sack Wern Houses.

Where: 1620 Bruckner Blvd. (Cross St: Morrison Ave. & Story Ave.) Bronx, NY 10473

When: **Call to make an appointment.** Monday, Tuesday & Friday (10am – 3pm), Thursdays (10am – 4pm), Saturdays (11am – 1pm)

Directions: 6 train to Morrison-Sound View Ave.

Phone: (347) 291-8050

BROOKLYN

Bedford-Stuyvesant – Jobs-Plus at Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation

Note: This is a Jobs-Plus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Armstrong I & II, Marcy, and Lafayette Houses.

Where: 630 Flushing Ave. (Enter on Tompkins Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11206

When: **Call to make an appointment.** Monday & Tuesday (10am – 7pm), Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (10am – 4:30pm), Last Saturday of month (11am – 3pm)

Directions: G train to Flushing Ave.

Phone: (917) 267-5575

Brownsville – Jobs-Plus at DB Grant & Associates

Note: This is a Jobs-Plus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Van Dyke I & Brownsville Houses.

Where: 330 Powell St. (bet. Blake Ave. & Dumont Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11212

When: **Call to make an appointment.** Monday & Tuesday (10am – 4 pm), Wednesday (10am – 7 pm), Thursday & Friday (10am – 4:30pm), 3rd Saturday of the month (11am – 3pm)

Directions: 3 train to Junius St., L train to Sutter Ave. or Livonia Ave.

Phone: (347) 599-9653

Bushwick – Bushwick/Hylan Community Center

Sponsor: Grand Street Settlement, Inc.

Where: 50 Humboldt St. (bet. Varet St. & Debevoise St.) Brooklyn, NY 11206

When: Monday & Tuesday (11am – 1pm), Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (6pm – 9pm)

Directions: J or M train to Flushing Ave.

Phone: (718) 453-8116

Bushwick – Sumner Community Center

Sponsor: St. Nick's Alliance

Where: 862 Park Ave. (bet. Marcus Garvey Blvd. & Broadway) Brooklyn, NY 11206

When: Monday (6pm – 8pm), Thursday (11am – 1pm), Saturday (12 noon – 4pm)

Directions: J or M train to Flushing Ave.

Phone: (718) 919-3938

Coney Island – O'Dwyer Gardens Cornerstone Community Center

Sponsor: Brooklyn Community Services (BCS)

Where: 2945 West 33rd St. (bet. Mermaid Ave. & Surf Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11224

When: Tuesday and Thursday (6:30pm – 9:30pm), Saturday (1pm – 4pm)

Directions: D, F, N or Q train to Coney Island-Stillwell Ave.

Phone: (718) 310-5675

East New York – Penn-Wortman Community Center

Sponsor: CAMBA

Where: 895 Pennsylvania Ave. (bet. Wortman Ave. & Stanley Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11207

When: Monday and Wednesday (6:30pm – 9:30pm), Saturday (2pm – 5pm)

Directions: 3 train to Pennsylvania Ave. and B20 bus to Wortman Ave. & Pennsylvania Ave.

Phone: (718) 649-1371

Flatlands – Breukelen Cornerstone Community Center

Sponsor: Police Athletic League, Inc. (PAL)

Where: 715 East 105th St. (bet. Glenwood Rd. & Flatlands Ave.) Brooklyn, NY 11236

When: **Call to make an appointment.** Wednesday (6pm – 9pm), Saturday (10am – 1pm)

Note: Tax services will begin on Wednesday, February 8, 2017.

Directions: L train to E. 105 St.

Phone: (718) 257-0159

BROOKLYN CONTINUED

Greenpoint/East Williamsburg – Cooper Park Community Center

Sponsor: Coalition for Hispanic Family Services

Where: 76 Kingsland Ave. (bet. Frost St. & Jackson St.) Brooklyn, NY 11211

When: Wednesday (10am – 1pm), Wednesday (7pm – 9:30pm), Saturday (10am – 1pm)

Directions: L train to Graham Ave.

Phone: (718) 383- 5292

Sheepshead Bay – Sheepshead Bay Cornerstone Community Center

Sponsor: CAMBA

Where: 3679 Nostrand Ave. (bet. Ave. X & Ave. W) Brooklyn, NY 11229

When: Saturday (12 noon – 4:30pm)

Directions: B44 bus to Nostrand Ave. & Ave. X OR B train to Sheepshead Bay & B36 bus to Nostrand Ave. & Ave. X

Phone: (718) 226-0429

Williamsburg – Green School

Where: 223 Graham Ave., Room 227 (bet. Ten Eyck St. & Stagg St.)

When: Tuesday & Thursday (3pm – 8pm)

Note: No tax services will be offered the week of February 20th and the week of April 10th.

Directions: L train to Grand St., J or M train to Flushing Ave., or G train to Broadway

Phone: (718) 599-1207

MANHATTAN

Harlem – Manhattanville Cornerstone Community Center

Sponsor: Graham Windham

Where: 530 W. 133rd St. (bet. Broadway & Amsterdam) New York, NY 10027

When: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (5pm – 9pm)

Directions: I train to 137th St. City College OR A, B, C, D train to 125th St. & M100 or M101 bus to W. 133rd St. & Amsterdam Ave.

Phone: (646) 502-9719

Lower East Side – Jobs-Plus at Henry Street Settlement

Sponsor: Henry Street Settlement

Note: This is a JobsPlus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Wald and Riis II Houses.

Where: 24 Avenue D (at 3rd St.) New York, NY 10009

When: **Call to make an appointment.**

Directions: 4, 5, 6, L, N, Q, R to 14th St. and M14D bus to E. 3rd St. & Ave. D.

Phone: (212) 254-4333

QUEENS

Far Rockaway – CAMBA Arverne View

Where: 57-11 Shore Front Parkway Arvene, NY 11692

When: Monday, Wednesday & Friday (10am – 4pm)

Directions: A train to Beach 60th St. (Up the stairs on the right side of the security booth)

Phone: (718) 675-3347 Ext. 4

Far Rockaway – Redfren Cornerstone Community Center

Sponsor: Police Athletic League, Inc. (PAL)

Where: 1544 Hassock St. (bet. Beach Channel Dr & Redfern Ave.)

Far Rockaway, NY 11691

When: Tuesday (6pm – 9:30pm), Saturday (10am – 12 noon)

Directions: A train to Far Rockaway – Mott Av OR LIRR to Far Rockaway

Phone: (718) 471-0357

STATEN ISLAND

St. George – Jobs-Plus at ResCare Workforce Services

Note: This is a JobsPlus site that only serves NYCHA residents of Mariner's Harbor, Richmond Terrace, South Beach, Stapleton, Todd Hill, and West Brighton I Houses.

Where: 30 Bay St. 4th Floor (off Central Ave.)

When: 30 Bay St., 4th Floor

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (9am -5pm),

Thursday (12 noon -7pm), Saturday (**by appointment only**)

Directions: Staten Island Ferry or any Staten Island bus to St. George Terminal

Phone: (917) 338-5204



Right on the Money

By John Edward Dallas

Question: Can you tell me what it means to have government student loans in default and what solutions are available? Thank you.

—Submitted by T.R.

Answer: When a government student loan—or any other type of loan—is in default, it means that the borrower stopped making payments according to the contract he/she signed with the lender. A government student loan is generally in default when the borrower fails to make nine monthly payments in a row.

There are many serious consequences of a defaulted government student loan. Here are a few of them:

- The borrower becomes ineligible for federal financial aid.
- The entire balance of the loan becomes due immediately.
- The default appears on the borrower's credit report, potentially affecting the borrower's ability to obtain certain types of employment, housing, and credit.



- Large collection fees are added to the loan balance because it's taken over by a government-assigned collection agency.
- The borrower's tax refund may be seized and a portion of wages may be taken to repay it.

There are two key ways to avoid defaulting. First, keep track of when your payments are due and always make them on time. Second, as soon as you're having trouble affording your payments, contact your loan servicer and apply for a government-approved payment plan, which by law must be adjusted to a borrower's income (or lack of income) – it's not uncommon for a payment plan to be zero dollars a month!

How do you get a government student loan out of default? The most common solution in my professional experience is rehabilitation: The borrower agrees to make nine out of ten monthly payments on time to the

collection agency. At that point the loan is no longer in default and is no longer handled by the collection agency. With a fresh start, the borrower continues making monthly payments and has one less financial matter to lose sleep over.

John Edward Dallas is a coordinator of financial services at the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation's Jobs-Plus site in Brooklyn. Jobs-Plus is a national program with nine sites in New York City that help public housing residents become economically empowered. Mr. Dallas grew up in Baruch Houses and is proud to serve the NYCHA community.

Residents, if you would like to request an appointment for a free, one-on-one session with a certified financial counselor, visit "Opportunity Connect" on NYCHA's Self-Service Portal (<https://selfserve.nycha.info>).

Uncommon Schools | Change History.

ENROLL YOUR CHILD TODAY!

100% OF UNCOMMON NYC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WERE ACCEPTED TO A 4 YEAR COLLEGE.

APPLY ONLINE AT UncommonSchools.org/enrollNYC

CALL WITH QUESTIONS: 718-363-5024

Applications are due by Monday, April 3, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.



Do you know a father 18-28 who wants his HSE diploma (GED)?



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

CUNY Fatherhood Academy offers:

- High School Equivalency (GED) classes
- College and Career workshops and assistance getting into college
- Fatherhood and Family Support, Parenting Workshops, Employment Assistance
- MetroCards and Weekly Stipends

RECRUITING NOW! CALL: 718-730-7336



www.laguardia.edu/cunyfatherhood/

31-10 Thomson Ave., C-225
Long Island City, NY 11101

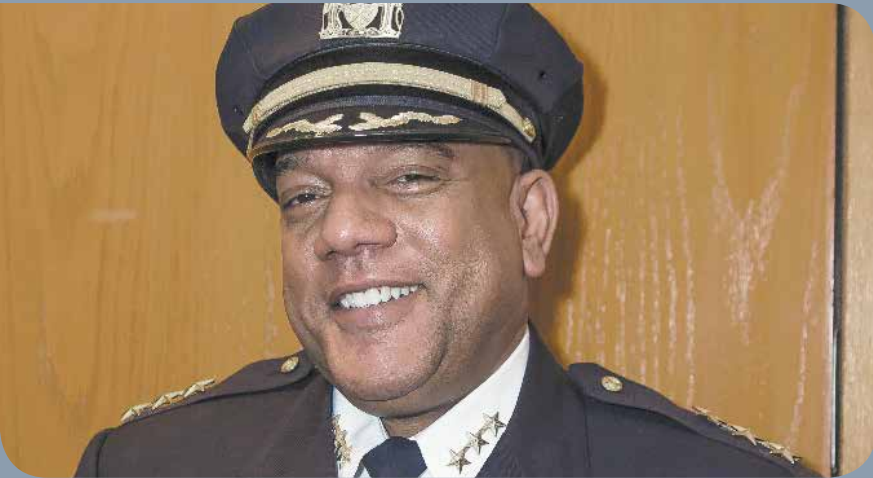
Western Queens-convenient subways: 7, E, M, G, N, W, R



Celebrating Black History & Women's History Months

Four Trailblazers in the NYCHA Community

In celebration of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), we want to re-introduce you to four people who are making a real difference in the NYCHA community. They prove that there's no limit to what you can do when you dream big and work hard. If you know someone who should be featured in our "I am NextGen NYCHA" campaign, please send your suggestion to nextgen@nycha.nyc.gov or Tweet using hashtag #IamNextGen @NYCHA.



"I tell my officers to treat everyone as if they are family. NYCHA residents are willing to be partners with you."

—James Secreto,
NYPD Housing Bureau Chief,
Grew up in Albany Houses



"If you see something and you have the power to change it, go out and make a difference. Your voice will be heard and it will mean something."

—Jewels Marshall, age 16, Jackson Houses resident

Appointed by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. to serve on Community Board 1, representing Mott Haven, Port Morris, and Melrose.



"My mother exposed us to our history; I learned about African American figures in math and science, like Charles Drew, George Washington Carver, and Mae Jemison. It's important to learn your history, whether you're African American, Hispanic, or Asian American. Knowing my history gave me confidence."

—Dr. Aprille Ericsson, Aerospace Engineer, NASA

The first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in Engineering at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.



Sloan Award Winner

Johnson was awarded the Sloan Award, the City of New York's most prestigious public service award.

"I am here early in the morning and the residents can reach me all day long on my cell phone. I enjoy serving them and working with my staff every day."

— Michael Johnson, Assistant Property Maintenance Supervisor,
Johnson Houses

Success starts with taking a hands-on approach.

Our free, world-class schools allow students to thrive by providing opportunities for critical thinking, emotional development, and creative expression.

Apply Now at SuccessAcademies.org



Exceptional
public
education.

SUCCESS
ACADEMY
CHARTER
SCHOOLS

©2017 Success Academy Charter Schools.

SAFER STREETS WITH VISION ZERO

NEW YORK CITY government worked tirelessly to make the streets safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers in 2016—and, as a result, there were fewer traffic fatalities in 2016 than any other year since the City started to keep count in 1910. In total, traffic fatalities in New York City have dropped 23 percent since Mayor Bill de Blasio launched his “Vision Zero” plan in 2013.

Here are highlights from last year:

- A record number of street redesigns: The City’s Department of Transportation (DOT) completed more than 100 safety projects, improved the timing of traffic lights on 165 miles of roadway, and installed 18.5 miles of protected bike lanes, 405 speed bumps, and over 750 pedestrian “head starts” (which give pedestrians several seconds to start crossing an intersection before drivers get a green light).
- Fewer fatalities at the locations targeted by Vision Zero as a high priority: Traffic fatalities at these 175 intersections and roadways have declined by 29 percent.
- Fewest-ever fatalities in Brooklyn (a 24 percent drop) and significant decreases in Staten Island.
- Queens Boulevard, once known as “the Boulevard of Death,” had no traffic fatalities for the second year in a row.



- Lowest-ever fatalities among school-aged children. DOT and the Department of Education brought the “Cross This Way” course to fourth through sixth graders to teach them how to navigate traffic safely.
- Thanks to the Dusk and Darkness Initiative, which promotes greater enforcement during the fall and winter evening hours (the most dangerous to pedestrians), traffic fatalities dropped by 25 percent in the fall and winter of 2016.
- Starting a pilot program to slow down left turns at 107 intersections. Left turns lead to three times as many serious crashes as right turns.

INVESTING IN SAFETY AND SECURITY

A comprehensive crime fighting plan pays off

ON FEBRUARY 3, Mayor de Blasio and NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye participated in a press event at Queensbridge Houses to announce the launch of the Mayor’s Office to Prevent Gun Violence. Queensbridge was selected as the venue in part because there have been no shootings there in over a year. It is one of 15 NYCHA developments targeted by the Mayor’s Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety (MAP), a comprehensive program to reduce crime and strengthen neighborhoods at 15 New York City Housing Authority developments that accounted for one-fifth of the City’s violent crimes in 2014.

Queensbridge has benefited from significant investments: \$87 million in roof replacements; \$13.6 million for state-of-the-art security lighting; \$14.7 million for CCTV and higher security layered access doors (operated by a computer system and resident fob keys); \$1.65 million for grounds improvements; and \$850,000 for upgrades to the community center. In addition, with funding from the Mayor, wireless broadband service is being installed for the development’s 6,600 residents, and is expected to be completely



installed by the end of 2017. Residents are also participating in new job training and seniors’ programs.

“It’s no accident that Queensbridge has become a dramatically different development than it was two years ago. That is when the Mayor launched MAP and we launched Next Generation NYCHA, our 10-year strategic plan to create safe, clean and connected communities for our public housing residents, and all New Yorkers,” Chair Olatoye said. “Improving safety and security requires this holistic approach. Mayor de Blasio, on behalf of the more than 600,000 New Yorkers who live in NYCHA, thank you for your support.”

The New American Academy Charter School

East Flatbush, Brooklyn

Free Tuition

When We Work Together, We Rise Together

Apply Online

Kindergarten - Fifth Grade

718-385-1709 www.TNAACS.org

The New American Academy Charter School

East Flatbush, Brooklyn

lekòl gratis

Lè nou travay ansanm, nou monte ansanm

Aplike sou entènèt

Kindègadenn - Senkyèm klas

718-385-1709 www.TNAACS.org

Bug Out!

NYCHA's new exterminator program is a comprehensive solution to a decades-old problem.

IN AN EFFORT to improve quality of life for residents, NYCHA is launching a new exterminator protocol this month. Every apartment in every development will undergo a routine exterminator examination every three months for nine months. At those visits, the exterminator will treat the kitchen and bathroom and inspect the rest of the apartment for insects and other pests. If additional extermination work needs to be done, it will be taken care of immediately.

The fourth visit of the year will be dedicated to a building cleanout in which exterminators will treat apartments and all common and work areas, including basements, garbage areas and boiler rooms.

An adult (age 18 or older) must be at your apartment at the time of your appointment. If you cannot be home, make special arrangements with your neighbor or the Property Management Office to let the exterminator into your apartment.

The four visits each year should keep apartments pest-free and clean. We need your help to guarantee that our efforts don't go to waste. No matter how many times an exterminator visits, if you don't take precautions to keep your home pest-free, you will continue to have vermin in your apartment.



Every Day Pest Management

Here's what you should do on a regular basis.

Keep your home clean and dry, especially the kitchen:

- Keep food in sealed containers.
- Keep counters and sinks free from food residue.
- Reduce clutter.
- Recycle piles of newspapers, paper bags, and cardboard.
- Don't leave pet food out overnight.
- Don't leave dirty dishes in the sink.



Manage your garbage:

- Keep garbage in sealed bags or containers.
- Rinse recyclables before throwing them out in designated bins.
- Take garbage and recycling out of your apartment every day.
- Do not feed the birds on development grounds.

If you have a trash compactor in your building:

- Bag and tie garbage before sending it down the chute.
- Leave larger bulk items at designated areas.
- Do not overstuff chutes.
- Place recyclables in designated bins, not down the chute.

- Do not leave bagged garbage on the floor in compactor rooms or in front of buildings.
- Do not throw liquids or sharp items down the chute.
- Clean up any items you dropped after placing bags in the chute.

Work with Pest Control Professionals and Property Management Staff

- Report pests, water leaks, holes, and other conditions that attract pests to NYCHA's Customer
- Contact Center (CCC) and contact the CCC to schedule an exterminator visit.
- Make sure you or an adult (age 18 or older) are home for the appointment to allow pest management professionals access to your apartment for pest inspections and services.
- Let pest management professionals know if there are children or pets in the home.
- Follow the pest management professionals' advice on preventing pests.
- Use only pesticides that have manufacturer labels and are marked for consumer use. Make sure to read and follow label instructions.
- Use bait stations and gel for cockroaches and ants.
- Use traps for mice.
- Use fly traps for flies.
- Never use *illegal* pesticides such as Tres Pasitos.

Getting Ready for a Routine Extermination

- Cover all open pots and pans and seal



all food containers.

- Remove all items from medicine cabinets in bathrooms.
- Tell the exterminator if you have any allergies or asthma prior to any treatment.
- If you need special assistance preparing for the appointment, please contact your Property Management Office.

Preparing for a Building Cleanout

- Clear all infested areas to have them ready for inspection.
- Empty all kitchen cabinets, closets, and under sink.
- Cover all open pots and pans and seal all food containers.
- Remove all items from medicine cabinets in bathrooms.
- Empty clothes from closets if insects, rats, or mice have been seen there.
- Clear the living room and bedroom(s) for treatment.
- Inform the exterminator if you have any allergies or asthma prior to any treatment.
- If you need special assistance preparing for the appointment, please contact your Property Management Office.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

City Will Invest \$1 Billion to Fix NYCHA Roofs

infrastructure upgrades are vital as we continue to implement NextGeneration NYCHA, our long-term strategic plan to create safe, clean and connected public housing."



A renovated roof at Parkside Houses.



Roofs currently being renovated at Parkside Houses.

Use MyNYCHA to Create, Schedule, and Manage Work Tickets



- ✓ MyNYCHA is available on your desktop and as a mobile app. You can also use it to subscribe to alerts for outages in your development, view inspection appointments, view closed work tickets, and pay your rent.
- ✓ Download the app at any Apple or Google Store, or use MyNYCHA at <https://my.nycha.info/MyNYCHA>.

A Public Housing Advocate Makes History

ON JANUARY 3, U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat was sworn into the 115th Congress as its first Dominican-American member and its first member to have been a formerly undocumented immigrant.

Rep. Espaillat, a Democrat, represents New York's 13th Congressional District, which includes the neighborhoods of Harlem, Inwood, Marble Hill, Spanish Harlem, Morningside Heights, Washington Heights, the Upper West Side, and a small portion of the Bronx. Charles Rangel represented this district until his retirement. Born in Santiago, Dominican Republic, Rep. Espaillat came to the U.S. with his family as a child and became a U.S. citizen as a young adult.

Rep. Espaillat has been a familiar



face in Upper Manhattan for a long time. He served the 31st District in the New York State Senate from 2011 to 2016 and the 72nd District in the State Assembly from 1997 to 2010. He advocates for immigrant rights, working families, and affordable housing. One of his plans in Congress is to make sure that the federal government invests in NYCHA.

"The New York City Housing Authority is a critical and valuable resource to New Yorkers," Rep. Espaillat said. "Reinvesting in NYCHA programs will ensure sustainable programs and opportunities continue. These programs allow low- and moderate-income residents to have safe and affordable housing and the opportunity to build a stronger future for themselves and for their families."



ATTENTION

Section 8 Voucher Holders...

Did you know that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development prohibits landlords from automatically rejecting housing applicants based on criminal history? If you believe you have been a victim of discrimination in your housing search, contact NYCHA's Department of Equal Opportunity at 212-306-4468 to file a complaint.

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



Programming Success at Howard Houses

THE CAMPUS at Howard Houses is a new afterschool program for adolescents ages 12-18 that promotes technology, health, and career development. Over 40 government and community-based partners provide courses and resources, including coding and app development workshops, space for entrepreneurs to work on their tech startups, workforce skills building, and mental health wellness programs. The first public housing program of its kind in the nation, the Campus also offers activities at the Brownsville Collaborative Middle School, the Brownsville branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, the Mt. Ollie Baptist Church, and the YWCA.

A recent survey of Brownsville residents conducted by the Center for Court Innovation indicated that the lack of afterschool programs is a big problem. Unemployment and few educational and job training opportunities were also cited as issues facing residents. The Campus answers many of those concerns.

Digital Girl, Inc. offers weekly coding. "Coding is so important because its

impact extends far beyond simply creating games and solving puzzles," said Toni Robinson, a software engineer and vice president of the nonprofit organization. "Coding is the new literacy. To thrive in tomorrow's society, our young students must learn to design, create, and express themselves with digital technologies." According to Alicia Santiago, a student in the class, "Coding is really fun. All you have to do is concentrate; it's about math and finding a pattern."

"I know firsthand some of the challenges these young people are facing, because I grew up in New York public housing. I will always be a champion for NYCHA residents. My mom's focus on education helped get me where I am today," said State Senator Jesse Hamilton, who provided \$500,000 in funding. "I want to give all the children of all the neighborhoods I represent the opportunities, resources, and support that every child in New York deserves. As a community, we must take advantage of the remarkable talent our young people possess by



DIGITAL GIRL, INC.

Students learning valuable coding skills that will open many career doors.

investing in them and their future."

NYCHA's General Manager Michael Kelly described the Campus "as a fantastic example of what we can get done together, working collaboratively, to improve quality of life for NYCHA residents—and we're so proud to be a part of it. The multifaceted approach of this innovative partnership – increasing access to technology while addressing public health challenges – will expand

opportunity for all and create healthier, more connected NYCHA communities."

"Howard Houses and the Brownsville community can only thrive with the entire community working together," said Naomi Johnson, the resident association president of Howard Houses.

For more information on the Campus' offerings, contact Senator Hamilton's office at 718-284-4700 or email Dania Cristobal at Cristobal.Dania@gmail.com.

An extraordinary education in the heart of Brooklyn

Apply at ascendlearning.org

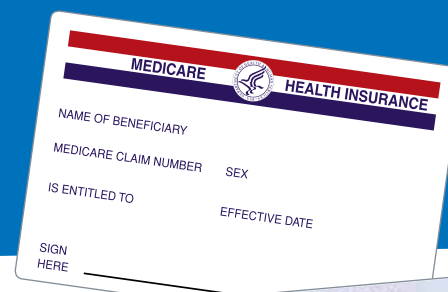
Brownsville | Bushwick | Canarsie | East Flatbush

ascend
PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS



\$2,500

a year in dental
benefits!



With our Empire MediBlue Dual Advantage (HMO SNP) plan, you'll receive **\$2,500** a year in Comprehensive Dental Benefits for services like:

- **Dentures**
- **Crowns**
- **Fillings**
- **Extractions**
- **Oral Surgery**
- **And More!**

Plus, you'll also get the following Preventive Dental Benefits:

- **\$0.00** copay for 2 oral exams, 2 cleanings and 1 dental X-ray every year

Let's talk and find out if this is
the right plan for you.

1-844-708-5883 TTY: 711
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday



An Anthem Company

Any unused amount at the end of a three month benefit period will carry over to the next three months; however, any unused amount at the end of the calendar year will expire. This plan is available to anyone who has both Medical Assistance from the State and Medicare. Premiums, co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles may vary based on the level of Extra Help you receive. Please contact the plan for further details. This information is not a complete description of benefits. Contact the plan for more information. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, premiums and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. Empire BlueCross BlueShield is a D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a coordination of benefits agreement with the New York State Department of Health. Enrollment in Empire BlueCross BlueShield depends on contract renewal. Services provided by Empire HealthChoice HMO, Inc. licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, an association of independent Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans.

ATTENTION: If you speak a language other than English, language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-844-708-5883 (TTY 711). ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-844-708-5883 (TTY 711).

Y0114_17_28415_U_016 CMS Accepted 10/01/2016

61723MUNENMUB_016