



Message from the Chairman

New York City continues to face an emotional time as it recovers from Hurricane Sandy. This has been an extremely difficult period for NYCHA residents, dealing with so much hardship and destruction in our vibrant communities. At NYCHA, we all know the struggles so many of you had to face, not knowing when your lights would come back on, or if you would have to go to sleep without heat for another night. To say you were inconvenienced would not do justice to what you experienced.

I want to stress just how hard we worked to make the situation better, from preparation to the moment Hurricane Sandy passed. The unprecedented damage from Hurricane Sandy destroyed entire electrical and heating systems throughout NYCHA. Our staff, assisted by the City Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), utility companies and private contracted companies, worked to restore all essential services to every public housing resident impacted by the storm as quickly as possible. However, restoring power and heat was slowed down by extensive and corrosive damage to boilers and generators as a result of flooding from the storm. At many developments, we had to transport temporary replacement systems from around the country and connect them to the buildings to bring power and heat back to residents, a process that takes time. You can read more about exactly what NYCHA has to do to get electricity, heat, hot water and elevators back on line on page 2.

In anything people do, there always is room for improvement. Now that the storm is a bit behind us, NYCHA and its residents can start to evaluate what we all could have done differently. We will look at additional ways we prepared before the storm arrived, managed operations while the storm was here, and provided assistance after the storm left, all with the goal of improving our service moving forward. And we will look at ways to protect our buildings so they will be less vulnerable during similar storms in the future. You have shown incredible perseverance and patience since Hurricane Sandy hit, and I thank you for that.

I also thank you for the way you came together. I have heard so many stories of



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea hugs a resident affected by Hurricane Sandy at Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn on November 12, 2012. Photo by Thomas Ngo.

neighbors helping each other out, whether it was checking on a senior, sharing food, walking up and down stairs to get supplies or just spending time together. I thank the Citywide Council of Presidents, Resident Association Presidents and all residents, many of whom also were affected by the storm, who selflessly helped others.

Together, NYCHA and residents will come back stronger and more resilient than ever.

John B. Rhea

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NYCHA and Residents Weather Hurricane Sandy

NYCHA Provides Services and Relief Before and After Storm

By Eric Deutsch and Howard Silver

The magnitude of Hurricane Sandy led to consequences that had not been seen before – 79,000 NYCHA residents in 402 buildings without electricity; 77,000 residents in 286 buildings without heat and hot water. The scope of the damage to NYCHA was far reaching, from Coney Island to the Lower East Side and from the Rockaways to Red Hook.

The Storm Approaches

Some service disruptions were put in place by NYCHA before the storm arrived, as part of the Authority's preparations to minimize damage. Another part of pre-storm planning was resident meetings led by Board Member Margarita López the weekend before it arrived. An extension of NYCHA's emergency preparedness training, they helped residents know what to do when there is an extreme weather event like Hurricane Sandy. "You are in charge of your life, and



NYCHA staff work on repairing damage caused by Hurricane Sandy at Hammel Houses in Queens on November 3, 2012.

each and every one of you needs to be involved in emergency preparedness for your development and building," Board Member López said. "This type of weather is not going to stop."

Once Mayor Michael Bloomberg issued an evacuation order for Hurricane Zone A, staff from NYCHA's Departments of Family Services and Community Operations checked on 4,000 residents on life support or who

are mobility impaired to make sure they had enough supplies if they did not evacuate. In total, NYCHA staff knocked on 19,000 doors in Zone A to encourage evacuation and to assist residents who wanted to evacuate.

"I didn't want to go to a shelter," said Jessica Thomas, the President of the Resident Association at LaGuardia Houses in Manhattan. "We got blankets from
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New Yorkers Mobilize to Help NYCHA Residents

By Eric Deutsch

NYCHA residents were not helped after Hurricane Sandy only by NYCHA and their neighbors. New Yorkers from across the city came out to food distribution sites, clothing drives and other events to do what they could for NYCHA residents affected by the storm.

Bibi Alladin from Queens gathered food and clothes from her friends and delivered them all over the city, including the Rockaways, Lower East Side and Staten Island. She even spent three hours driving in the Nor'Easter that hit on November 7 to bring food to Lower East Side Rehab Houses in Manhattan. "I always have helped people since I was young, it feels good," Ms. Alladin said. "The little you give makes a difference in their lives. If I'm in that situation, that's how I'd like to be treated too."

The charity Brooklyn Community and Youth Association in Brooklyn spent the Veterans Day weekend serving food at the Miccio Community Center at Red Hook Houses. They were looking for a way to help and heard about a community services event from State Assemblyman Felix Ortiz. "I love helping people," said Katie Zhu, the Secretary of the organization.

"I'm happy to see a little thing we can do bring a lot of joy to people."

The City Department of Investigation (DOI) mobilized its staff to help residents. DOI investigators, who usually work with NYCHA to identify and pursue cases of fraud, were able to put their in-depth knowledge of NYCHA operations to work. They used flashlights to climb up darkened staircases, carrying cases of water, food and blankets, and checking on residents with medical needs. "We are familiar with the developments, so it enabled us to navigate even in the dark," said Investigator Matthew Maguire.

At the Miccio Community Center event, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz told residents that, "Your neighborhood is the beneficiary of thousands who have never met you. They are giving their time and money to help people out who they do not even know."

Ms. Alladin and Ms. Zhu both say the response from the NYCHA residents they helped provides all the satisfaction they need. "They were very happy and grateful," said Ms. Alladin.

"They say, 'Thank you so much,'" Ms. Zhu said. "It's hard work but it's worth it."

Editor's note: In this issue, Residents' Voices and the NYCHA Board meeting schedule have been moved to page 4.

Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.



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Published monthly by the New York City Housing Authority
Department of Communications • 250 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10007
Tel (212) 306-3322 • Fax (212) 577-1358 • nyc.gov/nycha

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Why Does It Take So Long for My Lights and Heat to Come Back On?

After a NYCHA building loses power because of flooding, as happened because of Hurricane Sandy, NYCHA staff needs to follow a specific process in order to restore electricity, heat, hot water and elevator service to ensure the building is safe.



A NYCHA employee pumps water out of the basement at Red Hook West Houses on November 5, 2012.

Electricity

- ▶ After water stops seeping into the basement, NYCHA pumps the water out and determines whether there is any damage to the electrical systems.
- ▶ If there is no damage, NYCHA tells the utility company, which then makes its own assessment.
- ▶ After receiving the utility's evaluation, NYCHA makes

any necessary repairs, and the utility restores power to the buildings.

- ▶ Before NYCHA can safely turn the power back on, staff needs to make a final assessment of all electrical components and equipment.

Heat and hot water

- ▶ Because boilers generally are located in basements, NYCHA first needs to pump

the water out so that it can assess the boilers. It also needs to make sure water has not entered gas piping or oil tanks.

- ▶ If water did not seep into the piping and tanks, NYCHA can turn the boilers back on. If water did seep in, the repair process can take longer.

Elevators

- ▶ When elevator pits flood, NYCHA has to pump the water out. It then needs to check the equipment to see if it suffered any water damage. Salt water is very damaging and can speed up the deterioration and corrosion process.
- ▶ Even if the equipment was unaffected, NYCHA still needs to make sure the elevators are operating safely, and only then can it restore elevator service.

Hurricane Hero: Isaacs Houses Resident Saves Man's Life

By Eric Deutsch

Jon Candelaria saw something happening outside the window of his Isaacs Houses apartment while Hurricane Sandy slammed New York City on October 29. Seven floors down near an entrance to the FDR Drive, a taxi started to be swept away by flood waters. And at that moment, Mr. Candelaria did not think, he just acted.

"If you see someone you should help them," the 25-year old Manhattanite said. "I didn't want that on my soul, I didn't want to live the rest of my life knowing I didn't do anything to save his life."

What Mr. Candelaria did was run outside and through the freezing, chest-high rising water to try to get the driver out of the car. When he was unable to open the door on his own, he signaled to the driver to push from the inside, and the door finally opened. Mr. Candelaria then managed to carry him over his shoulder through the fast-moving water to the lobby of his building.

"I'm still shocked that I did that. My grandmother was

an emotional wreck and couldn't believe her grandson did that," Mr. Candelaria said.

The taxi driver thanked Mr. Candelaria repeatedly, before emergency responders came to help the driver get home. Mr. Candelaria's actions got him a lot of media attention, including being featured on CNN and 20/20. But he refuses to call himself a hero. "It hasn't hit me yet. The story is out even in Europe, so now it's starting to sink in," he said.



Jon Candelaria can be seen in the circled area approaching a taxi trapped in Hurricane Sandy flood waters near the FDR Drive. Photo by Wanda Candelaria.

Rent Credit for Residents Affected by Storm

The NYCHA Board decided to adjust the rent for residents in developments severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy. This decision means that for the number of days that residents were without essential services as a result of damage from Hurricane Sandy, they will be issued a rent credit. These services include electricity, elevators, heat or water. The rent credits will be included in the January 2013 rent bill. NYCHA asks that residents continue to pay their normal rent until the credits are reflected on their rent bill. Residents will receive additional information in their December rent bill.



Ocean Bay (Bayside) Houses resident Paula Williams and her family pick up food at a distribution site near the Queens development on November 9, 2012. Photo by Howard Silver.

◀ continued from page 1

NYCHA and Residents Weather Hurricane Sandy

NYCHA that were really important for seniors and handicapped, people were so happy to get these blankets. I put water in pots and pans and used it to wash my hands and face and brush my teeth. We made it through."

The Aftermath

Once the storm passed, NYCHA went to work right away to restore services and help residents who had stayed in their homes. Although the Authority's main offices in lower Manhattan were inaccessible for one week after the storm, it set up a command post at one of its buildings in Queens to maintain operations and ensure recovery efforts continued. Countless gallons of water were pumped out of basements, boiler rooms and elevator pits, many of which sustained considerable damage. Buildings were checked to ensure there

was no structural damage. The electrical and heating systems that were shut down were inspected to make sure they were safe to turn back on. (To read more about these efforts, please see the article 'Why Does it Take so Long for My Lights and Heat to Come Back on?' on page 2.)

NYCHA deployed generators and temporary boilers to provide electricity and heat and hot water while systems remained down. Ultimately, because of actions NYCHA took, power was restored by November 13 to every building that lost it because of the storm, and heat was restored to every building by November 17.

NYCHA provided assistance to residents to address their needs. Facilitating food and water distribution centers, ensuring pressing medical needs were met, deploying the Authority's

Digital Van so residents could apply for aid from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – NYCHA made every effort to provide basic necessities. "It is rough now because of the kids but every time I needed something that NYCHA has, they gave it to me," said Stephanie Rivers from Ocean Bay (Bayside) Houses in Queens. "They are doing the best they can with what they have."

Paula Williams at Ocean Bay (Bayside) Houses said NYCHA helped ease the lack of her gas stove. "The employees were helpful bringing hot food," she said. "And they cleared the hallways of all the trash."

Residents Persevere

Throughout the difficult situation, residents were able to lean on each other. Norberto Belancourt from Ocean Bay (Bayside) Houses was one of many who helped others despite his own difficulties from the storm. "Things were going pretty well after a few days," he said. "I've been volunteering distributing blankets and ponchos at the Beach 49th Street park."

For residents in buildings with

no working elevators who were unable to go downstairs, employees and volunteers brought supplies to them. NYCHA staff also went to door-to-door to check on residents still dealing with the effects of the storm more than two weeks after it hit. This included Red Hook East and West Houses in Brooklyn, where 200 employees surveyed the buildings, aside from their usual jobs. Vilma and Justo Rivera were pleased to see the teams going door-to-door at Red Hook West. "It shows the employees care," said Mr. Rivera. "They also came after the hurricane to give out flashlights."

Geraldine Parker, the Stapleton Houses Resident Association President and Staten Island District Chair, said she and her neighbors coped by relying on each other and NYCHA. "The property management and maintenance staff did an excellent job. We have two residents on life support and the staff checked on them," she said. "Everyone seemed to stay calm. People would sit on their balconies at night with flashlights and talk. NYCHA did an awesome job."

"I've been with Healthfirst since they started... They're the best."

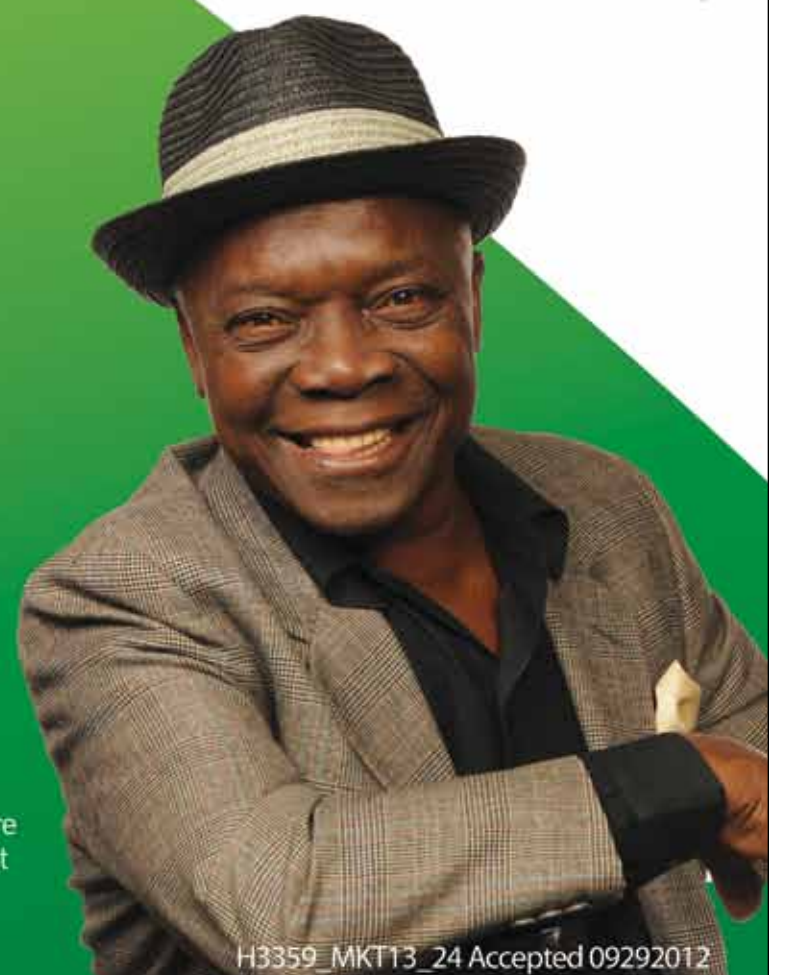
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NYCHA Board Meetings



Notice hereby is given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in the Board Room on the 12th floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York (unless otherwise noted). The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2012, and the meetings for Calendar Year 2013, are as follows:

December 5	March 28	July 3	October 23
December 19	(Thursday)	July 17	November 6
January 2	April 10	July 31	November 20
January 16	April 24	August 14	December 4
January 30	May 8	August 28	December 18
February 13	May 22	September 11	
February 27	June 5	September 25	
March 13	June 19	October 9	

Any changes to the schedule above will be posted here and on NYCHA's website at nyc.gov/nycha to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration at least 45 minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting is required by all speakers. Comments are limited to the items on the Calendar. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of 30 minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

Copies of the Calendar are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Copies of the Disposition are available on NYCHA's website or can be picked up at the Office of the Corporate Secretary no earlier than 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday after the Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting should contact the Office of the Corporate Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five business days before the Board Meeting. For additional information, please visit NYCHA's website or call (212) 306-6088.

THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

Below is a partial list of names of individuals who have been excluded permanently from NYCHA's public housing developments. This list keeps residents informed of the Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of its facilities. The full list can be viewed at on.nyc.gov/nychanotwanted. The following are the people, with their former addresses, excluded as of June 13 through June 20, 2012.

Prohibited as of June 13, 2012

Michael James Saint Nicholas Houses, 217 West 127th Street, Apt. 13G, Manhattan

Richard Jorge a/k/a Richard George Wagner Houses, 80 Paladino Avenue, Apt. 2E, Manhattan

Bryan Rodriguez a/k/a Brian Rodriguez Astoria Houses, 3-20 27th Avenue, Apt. 1G, Queens

Jamie Little Williamsburg Houses, 160 Stagg Walk, Apt. 1B, Brooklyn

Dewin Vargas Adams Houses, 721 Tinton Avenue, Apt. 3E, Bronx

Prohibited as of June 20, 2012

Kenneth Ballou Gowanus Houses, 187 Hoyt Street, Apt. 3B, Brooklyn
Lonnie Brockington Pomonok Houses, 65-48 Parsons Boulevard, Apt. 2A, Queens

Jeffrey Brown Drew-Hamilton Houses, 2680 Eighth Avenue, Apt. 15H, Manhattan

Daniel Jordan Drew-Hamilton Houses, 2680 Eighth Avenue, Apt. 15H, Manhattan

Malik Lane Drew-Hamilton Houses, 2680 Eighth Avenue, Apt. 15H, Manhattan

Hipolito Thomas Clinton Houses, 1505 Park Avenue, Apt. 3C, Manhattan

Kevin Williams Seth Low Houses, 365 Sackman Street, Apt. 7G, Brooklyn

Residents' Voices

November 11, 2012

(via Facebook)

NYCHA RESIDENTS: THE STORM IS OVER, TIME TO WORK TOGETHER, REBUILD OUR LIVES AND RESTORE OUR HOMES!

Super Storm Sandy caused devastation and disorientation to every level of our Public Housing Community. Some people lost everything, including their lives. And yet after being hit hard, the Resilient Spirit of Residents and NYCHA Leaders once again created an impromptu network that connected all of the impacted areas. And along with all New Yorkers, we got back on our feet to recover from the Super Storm.

I would like to especially single out Chairman Rhea, Commissioner López and the NYCHA Board, for being on point with the emergency plan for our coastal zone properties and for making sure we had direct access to the Mayor's Emergency Management plan/system which got the National Guard, FEMA, and the Elected officials to open the flood gates of needed relief to our Public Housing Communities. I would like to commend President Herma Williams, District Chair of Bronx North, President Ann Cotton Morris, District Chair of Queens, and the rest of the CCOP Board leaders, for being on the front line for residents in their districts and citywide beyond their districts.

Special recognition also goes to the resident



leaders of Brooklyn South's Coney Island and Queens Rockaways area, in particular President Carolyn Walton of Glenwood Houses for creating and maintaining the "Coney Island Network Connection," President Shirley Aiken, Carey Gardens Houses, who said "just put up a table," President Deborah Carter, Gravesend Houses, serving more than three developments out of her RA office and President Peggy Thomas of Hamel Houses in the Rockaways. They were all cut off by the storm, surviving for days in the cold and dark. They created "Operational Resident Recovery Centers," receiving and distributing much needed equipment, food and supplies before and when help began to arrive.

Special mention goes also to the Resident Leaders of the Lower East Side, Mr. Steele of Rutgers Houses, Ms. Torres of Smith Houses, Ms Ortiz of Vladeck Houses and of the leaders of Staten Island, Scherisce Lewis and Brenda "Kiko" Charles. It was mentioned that all of our resident leaders teams are on point. Thank you all, your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

The CCOP, resident leadership, and NYCHA, the Housing Police Department, the Mayor and the City of New York must be commended for being prepared for and responding appropriately to this unprecedented storm, and continuing to deliver in its aftermath.

Reginald H. Bowman, Chairman, Citywide Council of Presidents, Seth Low Houses

Tell us what is on your mind!

Residents' Voices accepts letters, photographs, poems, drawings – anything that allows you to express yourself!

Please include your full name, development name, address and phone number. We will print only your name and development on our pages; we need your address and phone number for verification purposes only.

Please limit written submissions to 250 words.

The *Journal* reserves the right to edit all content for length, clarity, good taste, accuracy, etc. Because of space limitations, we must limit all contributors to one letter per person per issue.

There are many ways to share your thoughts with us at the *Journal*:

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 250 Broadway, 12th floor
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Send a fax to 212-577-1358

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

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Got a web-enabled smartphone? Now you can access NYCHA's Facebook page and bonus content in this issue by scanning or taking a snapshot of the QR codes. The QR code for NYCHA's Facebook page is on the right. **Step 1:** Download a QR code scanner application from your phone's marketplace (many of these "apps" are free to download).

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NYCHA Adds More Security Cameras at Amsterdam and Bayview Houses



Amsterdam Houses Resident Association President Margarita Curet speaks during the announcement of new security cameras at the Manhattan development on October 22, 2012. Joining her from left to right were City Council Member Gale Brewer, State Senator Thomas K. Duane, NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea, and Resident Association Recording Secretary Angela Miller.

By Eric Deutsch

NYCHA recently announced the installation of more Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in targeted areas of NYCHA's Amsterdam Houses in Manhattan and Bayview Houses in Brooklyn. The new 21 cameras at Amsterdam – which were added to 49 cameras that already were in place – were installed with \$300,000 in funding from New York State

Senator Thomas K. Duane. The 30 cameras at Bayview – which previously had no cameras – were installed with \$350,000 in funding from State Senator John Sampson and Assembly Member Alan Maisel.

"These new cameras not only will greatly enhance security here, but we believe also will give residents a greater sense of safety in the place they call

home," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "This is another building block in improving safety in public housing."

Senator Sampson underscored Chairman Rhea's comments. "We have done something that we need to do because we understand the importance of safety and security in our community," he said.

The work to decide on where the cameras should be installed was a collaborative process among NYCHA, residents, elected officials and the New York City Police Department. "This job is completed and the cameras are in!" said Senator Duane. "We have worked hard to do two things – make people as safe as we possibly can and also let the community know that residents of NYCHA housing deserve the same level of safety as other New Yorkers."

Amsterdam Houses Resident Association President Margarita Curet played a key role in working to determine exactly where the cameras would be located in her development. "We are very

grateful that we have the cameras, and I believe they will be very helpful in adding protection, especially for our seniors," she said.

Sylvia Whiteside, past President of the Bayview Houses Resident Association, had been working to get cameras in her development since 2007, and hopes to get more in the future. "We finally got our cameras installed, and we look forward to working with our elected officials, Chairman Rhea and all of our residents to see the job is done," she said.

Assembly Member Maisel was impressed with just how hard Bayview residents worked to get the cameras. "This is their home, they want to be there and do the best they can to make Bayview the best development it can be," he said. "Today marks an opportunity to renew that effort."

The cameras are part of a larger effort to install layered access control – including CCTV, mechanical door locks, electronic key fobs and direct-call intercoms – that was recommended

by the NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force, which is led by NYCHA staff, residents and the NYPD. While some cameras were installed in interior locations and elevators, the focus was on building exteriors. "This will ensure some of the hot spots the residents are aware of will be covered," said Chairman Rhea.

The NYPD can access footage in cases of reported criminal activity. That was good news to Amsterdam Houses Resident Association Sergeant-at-Arms Harold Smith. "Now we know that when a knucklehead is outside and doing something, it will be recorded," he said. "Some of this nonsense will stop because we'll have a record of it."

Since the inception of the CCTV surveillance program in 1997, NYCHA has installed 6,680 security surveillance cameras of varying scale at 538 buildings in 101 developments citywide. NYCHA is on track to complete installation of CCTV, along with layered access control, at 85 developments by the end of 2013.

NYCHA Youth Plant Daffodils – and for More than One Reason



More than two dozen children living in Clinton Houses planted some flowers on October 25, but not just to make the Manhattan development more beautiful. They took part in the Daffodil Project, which was founded in 2001 as a living memorial to the victims of the attacks

on September 11. The planting marked the kickoff of a partnership among NYCHA's Gardening and Greening Program, the Daffodil Project and the nonprofit New Yorkers for Parks.

NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea and City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito joined the children to plant the bulbs. "A daffodil bulb has the ability to divide and re-divide endlessly," Chairman Rhea said. "And year after year, this perennial flower will bloom in the spring, a vivid pleasure for all to enjoy and a vibrant reminder of the care and pride that NYCHA residents have invested in this city."

With nearly five million free bulbs planted citywide by more than 40,000 school kids, parks and gardening groups, civic organizations, corporate volunteers and other New Yorkers, the Daffodil Project is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the city's history. New Yorkers for Parks distributed more than 170,000 bulbs across the city for planting this fall, including at Seth Low Houses in Brooklyn.



NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea joins NYCHA youth to plant bulbs as part of the Daffodil Project on October 25, 2012.

Saul Barrios: 24/7 Gardener

By Eric Deutsch

This is the last in a series of Journal profiles of NYCHA's resident gardeners as part of the celebration of the 50th year of the Authority's Gardening and Greening Program.

If you are trying to find Saul Barrios at Gun Hill Houses, it is not hard to do. Just walk by his garden, and the odds are he will be there. Mr. Barrios is committed to his garden with the highest passion. "I work very hard, I don't get tired and I'm there every day," he said. "Many times, I'm there all day. I enjoy myself."

Zucchini, peppers, cilantro, cabbage, tomatoes, squash – growing these and more tasty tidbits earned Mr. Barrios the top prize in this year's citywide vegetable garden category at NYCHA's Garden and Greening Competition. He likes to share them with his neighbors. "They tell me they're fresh and taste better than anyone's. They ask me for more and more. I wish I could have a big farm," he said.

But Mr. Barrios does not confine his garden only to vegetables – he also plants fruits and flowers. And he also does not restrict his activities just to tending to his plants; he buys his own tools to install fencing, paint railings and break the soil, all while incorporating ideas of other residents. "I like to decorate and to get opinions from other people. They

have beautiful ideas and I can take them and put them in place," Mr. Barrios said.

One of Mr. Barrios' biggest fans is his son, Daniel, who says his father's dedication rubs off on him. "He's a very good gardener. He sets a very good example to me," Daniel Barrios said. "It's what keeps him busy. He's retired and he really loves doing this."

Despite winning awards, receiving accolades from his neighbors and drawing praise from his son, Mr. Barrios has no intention to just keep doing what he has been doing. "What I don't have in my garden this year, I'll do next year. And I'm going to build more," he said. "When I was little I used to plant for my mother, so when I had the opportunity at NYCHA, I started planting everything. I love it."



Photo by Lloyd Carter

NYCHA RESPONDS TO



NYCHA Board Member Margarita López speaks to residents at the Coney Island Community Center in Brooklyn on October 27 to help them prepare for the coming storm.



Damage to the Hammel Houses Community Center in Queens on October 30. Photo by Gina Tutt.



NYCHA staff remove a tree knocked down by the storm at Howard Houses in Brooklyn on October 29. Photo by James Luka.



A National Guard member helps an Ocean Bay (Queens) resident get nonperishable food on November 2.



Astoria Houses (Queens) residents line up for food on November 1.



As part of a food distribution at Ocean Bay Houses on November 2, residents received cupcakes.



Residents at Hammel Houses charged their mobile devices at a charging station on November 3.

HURRICANE SANDY



From left to right, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, NYCHA General Manager Cecil House and NYCHA Chairman John Rhea surveyed the damage at Hammel Houses on November 3.



A generator provides power to Carleton Manor in Queens on November 3.



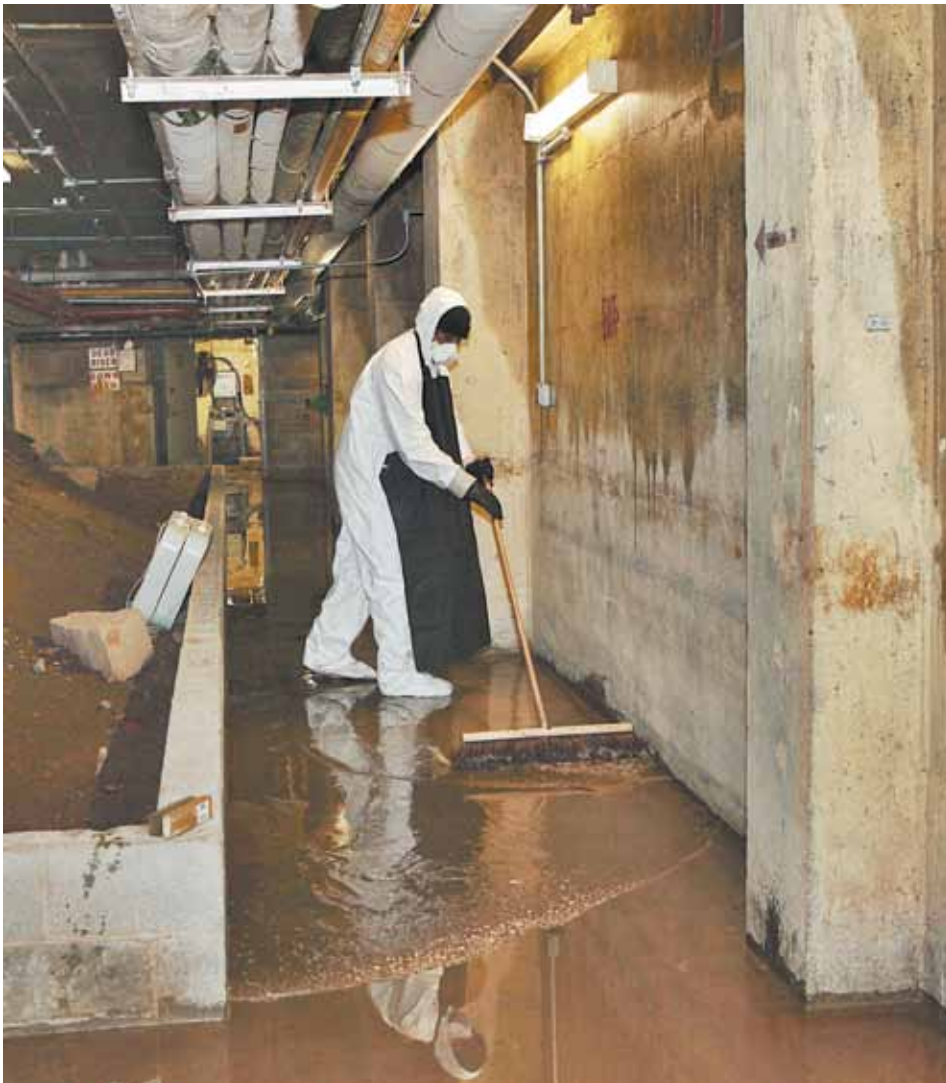
To see more photos from NYCHA's Hurricane Sandy Relief Efforts, point your smartphone's camera here, or go to <http://bit.ly/nychasandypics>.



Many buildings damaged by the storm had sink holes that allowed water to flow under the structure, such as at Carleton Manor, shown on November 3.



NYCHA staff shovel out the sludge left behind by the flood water at Red Hook East in Brooklyn on November 5.



A NYCHA employee uses a broom to remove water and sludge from the basement of Gowanus Houses in Brooklyn on November 8.



A NYCHA employee checks to make sure a Red Hook West (Brooklyn) resident is ok as part of a door-to-door effort on November 13. Photo by Keith Piaseczny.



NYCHA Vice Chair Emily Youssouf (right), General Manager Cecil House (center) and Board Member Margarita López (left) meet with residents at Haber Houses in Brooklyn to inform them of NYCHA's restoration effort on November 10.

\$300K Grant to Aid Revitalization Efforts in Bronx Developments

NYCHA received a \$300,000 grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will be used to help revitalize Betances Houses and transform the surrounding area of Mott Haven in the Bronx. NYCHA chose Mott Haven to use the money from the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative after reviewing the neighborhood's developments' and residents' needs, as compared to other public housing communities.

"This is an incredible opportunity for NYCHA to make a tangible difference in the quality of life of many of the residents of Betances Houses and the Mott Haven community in general," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "With these funds we are better equipped to work with public and private partners to develop a wide-ranging plan that will address the needs of this distressed public housing development and surrounding community, and in effect create a 'choice neighborhood.'"

More than 17,000 public housing residents live in five NYCHA developments across 84 buildings in Mott Haven – Betances, Mill Brook, Mitchel, Mott Haven and Patterson. The community historically is challenged by high crime, low performing

schools, disinvestment in infrastructure and poor health of residents.

"The grant will enable us to develop a plan for creative ways to attract additional resources to public housing neighborhoods," said NYCHA Vice Chair Emily Youssouf. "Winning this grant demonstrates to HUD, residents and our citywide partners that we will do our best to pursue funding opportunities, particularly when they align with Plan NYCHA."

NYCHA will join public and private partners to find ways to improve the Mott Haven community, including encouraging open space and greening improvements; expanding access to educational and career opportunities; and better access to healthy foods.

"I am pleased that we have received this grant, which will make it possible for us to make great strides towards improving the Mott Haven area," said John Johnson, President of the Mott Haven Resident Association and Chair of the Bronx South District.

Choice Neighborhoods is a program of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative.



Mill Brook Houses is one of the NYCHA developments in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx that will benefit from a federal grant to revitalize the neighborhood.



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Comments? Questions? E-mail Journal@nycha.nyc.gov.

NEW HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NYCHA SENIORS

20 one-bedroom units are available for rent to eligible NYCHA seniors at **MARKHAM GARDENS MANOR IN STATEN ISLAND**. HUD funded 80-unit building with supportive services. Rent capped at 30% of income.

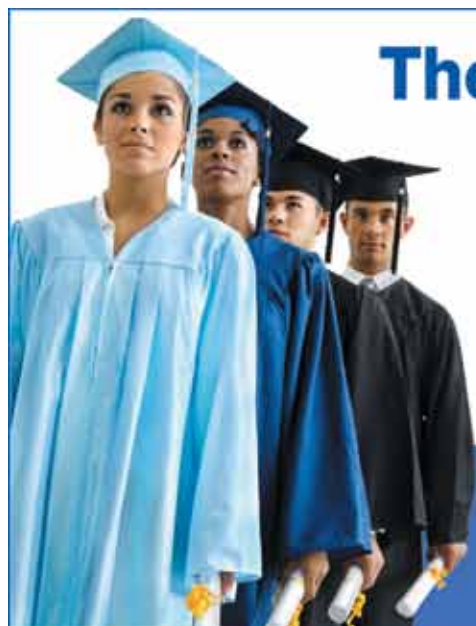


Building being completed for the Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corp at Richmond Terrace and North Burgher Avenue north of West Brighton Houses

Apartments Available for NYCHA seniors aged 62+

- with income below \$29,050 for one person or
- below \$33,200 for two persons

Call Sisters of Charity Housing Development Corporation at (718) 343-1546 or (516) 486-1000 to receive an application. Interested parties who have already called Sisters of Charity will be mailed applications. A lottery will be held and NYCHA seniors will be admitted based on their position in the lottery.



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*January 2012 VNSNY CHOICE membership data



Redevelopment of Randolph Houses Moves Forward

The redevelopment of Randolph Houses took a big step recently when NYCHA and the City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) chose the companies that will rehabilitate and preserve the Manhattan development. The reconstruction will result in 36 buildings with 314 units of housing – 147 NYCHA public housing units and 167 affordable housing units. NYCHA will contribute up to \$40 million in federal capital funding towards the construction of the public housing units. The companies that will perform the work are Trinity Financial, Inc. and West Harlem Group Assistance, Inc.

Randolph Houses will be the first-ever development in New York City to combine public housing units and affordable housing units. It will include community space and outdoor open space for the use of all tenants.

"This is a significant milestone in the commitment made to the current and former residents of Randolph Houses and the greater Harlem community," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "Once completed, this project will represent the largest number of new public housing units completed since the late 1990s."

Randolph Houses will incorporate green building practices. New resources will include library/computer rooms, additional community space and laundry rooms in the buildings. The development team will collaborate with Randolph Houses residents to create a program of social services to be offered.

"I'm excited about the fact that we've gotten to this point," said Randolph Houses Resident Association President Roberta Coleman, who has been

involved in the project since its inception. "It's been a long time coming and right now we feel that it's finally going to happen."

The Randolph Houses rehabilitation is part of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's New Housing Marketplace Plan, an initiative to finance 165,000 units of affordable housing by the end of the 2014 fiscal year. The Plan has funded the creation or preservation of more than 140,920 units of affordable housing across the five boroughs so far. The NYCHA-HPD partnership began in 2005 and has produced more than 2,200 affordable housing units, with another 1,600 in construction or in the development pipeline.



Randolph Houses is made up of 36 tenement buildings on West 114th Street between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard and Frederick Douglass Boulevard in Manhattan.

Resident Watch Training Drill Gives Real-World Experience

By Eric Deutsch

Residents at Bushwick Houses in Brooklyn are better prepared now to assist in case there is an emergency in their development. Members of the Bushwick Resident Watch participated in a mobilization drill with NYCHA and the New York City Police Department on October 4 that simulated a missing child. "We handed out flyers and put them up in the buildings and told people what we were doing," said Diana Hector, a Bushwick Resident Watch Volunteer. "We stay downstairs, and the police officers go upstairs to check the building."



Janet Marrero, a Resident Watch Supervisor at Bushwick Houses in Brooklyn, participates in a training drill on October 4, 2012.

Resident Watch members get instructions from the NYPD during mobilization drills, and would work with them in case something really happened. "The drill achieved its goal of putting the residents in a frame of mind that they would be better prepared in a real event," said Nora Reissig, Director of the NYCHA Family Services Department, which oversees the Resident Watch program.

The mobilization drills are held several times a year in different developments. They help meet the goals of the NYCHA Safety and Security Task Force to increase the number of Resident Watch volunteers and strengthen the abilities of current members.

"It was a great drill, because if it happened to me, I wouldn't know what to do. Now if my kids get lost, I know how I can find them," said Janet Marrero, a Bushwick Resident Watch Supervisor, who has a 13-year old son and eight-year old daughter. "I told my daughter I learned what to do if she is missing, and she said, 'That's good.'"

NYCHA Begins \$69 Million Worth of Construction and Renovations

More than a dozen developments across the city are getting new boilers and bathrooms and having roofs and elevators repaired thanks to \$69 million included in NYCHA's 2012 Capital Plan. During the next six months, more than 36,000 residents will benefit from the construction, including at Edenwald Houses in the Bronx, where work has begun. "The residents are very happy. This is work they were waiting for, especially replacing the boiler," said Edenwald Resident Association President Walter McNeill.

Ongoing renovations to both the interior and exterior of NYCHA buildings and apartments are needed to keep them structurally sound and in a state of good repair. The work is funded by capital grants from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"Despite a 35 percent drop in federal funding, NYCHA continues to spend its money wisely, on time, and in the



Among the projects that will be completed during the next six months using \$69 million in capital funds is a new boiler system at Edenwald Houses in the Bronx.

best interests of residents," said NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "Major upgrades are needed regularly to ensure that heating, plumbing and other systems continue to function properly, especially because NYCHA buildings are aging structures – 70 percent of our buildings are more than

40 years old."

The construction projects have another benefit as well – employment. "They hired two Edenwald residents so far for the work here through Section 3, and hopefully they'll hire more" said Mr. McNeill, referring to the HUD program that provides jobs to public

housing residents.

The work being done with the \$69 million includes:

- ▶ 131 St. Nicholas Ave. - Boiler replacement
- ▶ Breukelen - Elevator rehabilitation
- ▶ Douglass - Electrical service upgrade
- ▶ East 173rd St.-Vyse Ave. - Building entrance improvements
- ▶ East 180th St. - Boiler replacement
- ▶ East NYC Line - Roof replacement and brickwork
- ▶ Edenwald - Boiler replacement
- ▶ Elliot - Replacement of underground steam lines
- ▶ Lexington - Boiler replacement
- ▶ Red Hook East - Exterior brickwork
- ▶ Red Hook West - Exterior brickwork
- ▶ Riis - Exterior brickwork and replacement of underground steam lines
- ▶ Sumner - Exterior brickwork
- ▶ Taft Rehab - Bathroom renovations
- ▶ Washington Heights III - Boiler replacement
- ▶ Washington - Boiler replacement

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

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- ▶ Space heaters should be at least three feet from anything that can burn and always should be turned off when leaving a room or going to sleep. Space heaters are temporary heating devices and only should be used for a limited time each day.
- ▶ Never use an extension cord with a space heater. Space heaters should be plugged directly into an outlet.
- ▶ Never use a space heater with a frayed or damaged cord, even for a small amount of time.
- ▶ Young children should be kept away from any heater or appliance that has hot surfaces that can cause burns.
- ▶ Ovens and Stoves: Please do not use the oven or stove to heat your apartment, this is a fire hazard and can cause toxic fumes.
- ▶ Candles: For your safety do not leave candles burning through the night and do not leave candles unattended.
- ▶ Generators: Please do not use a generator inside your apartment for electricity or heat, operating a generator in a poorly ventilated area can cause carbon monoxide poisoning, which can be fatal.

New York City Public Schools: Stay Connected

Is today a school holiday or snow day? When are Parent-Teacher Conferences? When is the deadline to register for high school entrance exams? New York City public school families now can stay informed by texting "nycschools" to 877-877 to receive text messages throughout the school year. Thousands of families have signed up to receive school-related information, including calendar updates, reminders and tips on how to access school resources. Standard text messaging rates may apply.

NYCHA BOARD MEMBER VICTOR A. GONZALEZ HELPS CELEBRATE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



Melrose Houses Celebrates 60th Anniversary

NYCHA staff members mark the occasion.



Pomonok Houses Celebrates 60th Anniversary

Monica Corbett, Pomonok Houses Resident Association President (center right), was on hand to celebrate.



Lafayette Gardens Celebrates 50th Anniversary

NYCHA staff members commemorate the event.



Stapleton Houses Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Geraldine Parker (center), Stapleton Houses Resident Association President and Staten Island District Chair, joined development and borough staff.



Pomonok Resident Has Seen It All – Literally



At least one Pomonok resident knows all about the Queens' development's 60th anniversary – because he's been there the whole time. Ralph Calinda, 90-years old, has lived there since the day it opened. He was given an award by the Resident Association. He is joined here by Pomonok Resident Association President Monica Corbett (second from right) and her son Carver, NYCHA Board Member Victor A. Gonzalez (center) and development and borough staff.

Lehman Village Teens Add Some Color to Their Community

NYCHA youth from Lehman Village in Manhattan helped brighten up the Lehman Community Center on September 29. Publicolor, a youth services nonprofit, held a repainting event at the community center as part of their mission to share the power of color and design by transforming City public spaces. The youth joined NYCHA

Chairman John B. Rhea, City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito, State Assemblyman Robert J. Rodriguez, union volunteers and community activists to give the center a fresh yellow-green coat. Shown are Lehman Village Resident Association President Patricia Burns and Lehman Village Youth Council member Fantasia Anthony.



SENIOR NEWS



Medicare Enrollment Flexibility for People Affected by Hurricane Sandy

Although Medicare's Open Enrollment Period ends on December 7, seniors affected by Hurricane Sandy still can make changes. Call **1-800-633-4227** for assistance. This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Have your Medicare number with you and say "Agent" to speak to a live person. Tell your agent that you were affected by Hurricane Sandy.

If you have original Medicare or a Medicare Advantage Plan (HMO), you may do the following:

- Change, add or drop a Medicare Advantage Plan
- Change, add or drop a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan (Part D)

An agent can compare your current coverage with other available options, and make changes too. If you decide to make a change then your enrollment in your new plan will start the first day of the month after you enroll. For example, if you enroll on January 9, your plan coverage will begin February 1.

Social Security Benefit Increases

Monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will increase by 1.7 percent due to a cost-of-living adjustment. This increase will be automatic beginning in January 2013. For answers to questions and more information about Social Security call **(800) 772-1213** or go to www.socialsecurity.gov.

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Oct. 1, 2013, to Dec. 31, 2013, 7 days, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Easy Choice Health Plan of New York is the marketing name for Atlantis Health Plan, Inc. Atlantis Health Plan, Inc., is a health plan with a Medicare Advantage contract. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. (1) Our HMO-SNP plans are limited to persons with certain chronic conditions. (2) You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. (3) Limitations, co-payments and restrictions may apply. (4) Benefits may vary by plan selected. This information is available for free in Spanish. Please contact our Member Service number at 1-888-300-9320 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-662-1220). Esta información está disponible gratuitamente en español. Para mas informacion, por favor llame a nuestro Departamento de Servicio de Miembros a 1-888-300-9320 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-662-1220).

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