



## ATTAIN Lab Opens At Drew-Hamilton Community Center

The digital divide is getting smaller! A grand opening ceremony was held for the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) fifth ATTAIN lab which opened on February 27th at the Drew-Hamilton Houses Community Center in Harlem, with a traditional ribbon-cutting. ATTAIN stands for Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking and the goal of the program, which is funded by the State Legislature, is to increase access to new technologies in economically challenged neighborhoods. There are 37 ATTAIN labs throughout New York State, administered by the State University of New York's (SUNY's) Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD). The Drew-Hamilton Grand Opening was hosted by Assembly Member Keith L.T. Wright, the UCAWD and NYCHA. Among the distinguished guests who spoke were NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales, Assembly Member Wright, Drew Hamilton Resident Association President David Welch and UCAWD Interim Director William Chalmers. In his remarks, Chairman Morales congratulated Mr. Welch on obtaining his GED at the ATTAIN Lab at NYCHA's Polo Grounds Community Center in Manhattan, saying he was an inspiration. The lab will provide qualified facilitators and training for over 30 academic, occupational, and life skills courses, utilizing 24 state-of-the-art workstations with broadband Internet connectivity. The Drew-Hamilton ATTAIN Lab is open from Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM. Other NYCHA locations with the ATTAIN Labs are: Berry Houses and South Beach Community Center in Staten Island, Farragut Community Center in Brooklyn and there are plans to open a new ATTAIN lab soon at 303 Vernon Avenue in Brooklyn. For information on the Drew-Hamilton ATTAIN Lab, call (212) 306-3400.



**SUPPORT** City Council Members Melissa Mark Viverito, Albert Vann, NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales, NYCHA Secretary Vilma Huertas, and City Council Member Diana Reyna at NYCHA's Annual Legislative Breakfast.

## NYCHA NOW MORE THAN EVER! NYCHA's Annual Legislative Breakfast

By Eileen Elliott

MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS WHO ATTENDED NYCHA'S ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST, HELD AT CENTRAL OFFICE IN MANHATTAN ON MARCH 3RD, SHOWED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S AGENDA IN THE COMING YEAR AS EXPRESSED BY CHAIRMAN RICARDO ELÍAS MORALES. The meet-and-greet gives NYCHA an opportunity to make its priorities known to the City Council. Those priorities for 2009 are: obtaining 100% funding from the federal government, maintaining the State's \$3 million allocation, working together to federalize NYCHA's 21 unfunded City- and State-built developments, and aggressively implementing NYCHA's "green agenda" to increase efficiency, and save money and the environment.

"We invited you here to show you how you can help us by knowing who we are and by understanding that this institution is an economic engine that helps keep this City going," said Board Member Margarita López in her introductory remarks.

### NYCHA's Green Agenda

After commenting on the Housing Authority's 75th Anniversary and thanking Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the City Council and residents for their support, the Chairman broached his main topic of discussion, NYCHA's "green agenda."

"We're moving forward on a very aggressive agenda for the greening of NYCHA," said the Chairman. "Through our green initiatives we contribute to saving the planet by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the carbon footprint.

(Continued on page 7)

## CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING



NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales with Board Member Margarita López presented testimony on NYCHA's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 to the City Council at City Hall on March 9th. The Chairman emphasized NYCHA's commitment to maintaining the proud legacy of public housing as NYCHA celebrates its 75th Year. The Chairman testified that NYCHA has been underfunded by the Federal government for seven years in a row and has a deficit of \$172 million for the current year. The Plan is to reduce the deficit

(Continued on page 3)



**CONNECTED** Assembly Member Keith Wright (left) and NYCHA Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales with young residents at the new ATTAIN Computer Lab at Drew-Hamilton Houses in Upper Manhattan. The lab is one of five ATTAIN labs on NYCHA sites that offer Internet access and a wide range of computer courses.

**PAGE 3**  
SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMER  
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

**PAGE 7**  
READ NYCHA'S FAIR  
HOUSING POLICY

**PAGE 11**  
CHANGES IN RENT HARD-  
SHIP AND PET POLICIES



**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

**More Than 50,000 New Yorkers Claimed City Child Care Tax Credits Totalling More Than \$30 Million In The Program's First Year**



IN ITS INAUGURAL YEAR, MORE THAN 50,000 NEW YORKERS CLAIMED THE CITY'S CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT, ONE OF THE FIRST MUNICIPAL CHILD CARE TAX CREDITS IN THE NATION. The Child Care Tax Credit, which is designed to help more families afford child care and help more parents work full-time, is just one of many successful innovations under the Center for Economic Opportunity which oversees the City's ambitious anti-poverty strategy. In 2008, New York City Child Care Tax Credit filers received more than \$30 million with an average refund of \$600.

The Department of Consumer Affairs' (DCA) Office of Financial Empowerment leads the annual Tax Credit Campaign. The City's Child Care Tax Credit awareness and access efforts are part of an array of initiatives that this Administration has quickly expanded to help New Yorkers make the most of the money they have earned and to help them weather the economic downturn. City residents who earn \$30,000 or less and pay child care expenses for children age three and under may qualify for this local tax credit of up to \$1,733.

Our Child Care Tax Credit is a successful program that is part of our larger anti-poverty strategy. Coupled with the Earned Income Tax Credit, the refund can be significant and help move hard-working New Yorkers up the economic ladder. An estimated 30,000 NYCHA families are eligible for the EITC. Particularly during these tough economic times, all eligible families should be sure to apply so they can receive the money they deserve.

This year, as a safe and affordable alternative to professional tax preparation services, the City expanded its Tax Prep Plus program to offer professionally prepared tax returns by a Tax One professional for only \$20 at 12 community-based organizations throughout the five boroughs. Families earning less than \$55,000 and individuals earning less than \$30,000 qualify. Tax Prep Plus sites will not offer refund anticipation loans and other predatory products to their customers, ensuring that consumers get every penny of their refund.

New York City residents with dependents and who earn less than \$45,000, as well as individuals who earn less than \$20,000, are also eligible for free income tax preparation at one of the City's 54 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites. Volunteers at the VITA sites will help residents file for the tax credits for which they qualify including the Earned Income Tax Credit and the New York City Child Care Tax Credit.

In 2007, New Yorkers claimed approximately \$2.14 billion in total Earned Income Tax Credits. VITA sites helped more than 82,000 New Yorkers obtain an average Earned Income Tax Credit refund of \$2,600. There are 12 Tax Prep Plus sites which are run by the City in collaboration with four partners: Food Bank for New York City, Project Hospitality, Arriva and Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration. The Mayor's Commission on Women's Issues launched a public awareness campaign on the Child Care Tax Credit program last year at their Women's History Month event. The campaign included distributing and displaying posters, both in English and Spanish, on bus shelters and phone kiosks in targeted areas.

I urge all eligible New Yorkers to file for the Child Care Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit this season. It could be the boost you need to help you move up the economic ladder. Call 311 for the location of the VITA site or Tax Prep Plus site nearest you. After all, it's your money!

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**THE FACES OF NYCHA**

**Meet Soundview's Resident Association President Mary McGee**

By Ashley Grosso  
Intern

YOU CAN TELL MARY MCGEE USED TO WORK IN CUSTOMER SERVICE BY THE WAY SHE SELLS HER COMMUNITY. Once a retail employee at Toys R Us and the Home Depot, Ms. McGee spent last summer working at the Parkside Community Center with children in the Summer Day Camp, in the Soundview neighborhood of the Bronx and she hopes to do the same this summer. She said that Parkside is the "number one community center in all five boroughs." The vibrant Parkside facility certainly looks top notch, especially with the colorful mural painted by the children and teens with the help of NYCHA's Harborview Arts Program.

In the summer of 2008, Ms. McGee held the position of NYCHA summer seasonal employee for the second year in a row. "It was a fun-filled summer!" she said enthusiastically, filled with trips and lots of arts and crafts projects, as well as recreational activities. Two trips that stood out in Ms. McGee's mind were to Great Adventure, in Jackson, New Jersey, and to the Liberty Basketball Games at Madison Square Garden.

Also a NYCHA resident, Ms. McGee has lived for 14 years in the Soundview Houses, where she is the Resident Association President. She spoke enthusiastically about the state park, new baseball field, and landscaping at her development. She said the development is on the quiet side because it is far from everything, including the nearest supermarket, which is four blocks away.

Ms. McGee encourages residents to advocate for increased funding for public housing. She was chosen to speak with Senator Charles Schumer's aides when a large group of NYCHA residents made the trip to Washington, D.C. last summer to meet with their Congressional representatives.

McGee herself represents New York's diversity. Of Irish and Puerto Rican descent, her parents owned different businesses when she was growing up, including a pizzeria.

In addition to being an engaged resident, Ms. McGee is also an involved parent. Her daughters, ten and 23 years old, are exactly 13 years and one day apart in age. Ms. McGee also has a grandson who is



**TOP NOTCH** Soundview resident Mary McGee called the Parkside Community Center, where she has worked as a seasonal employee, the "number one in all five boroughs."

almost one year old. Though she has always been active in her children's lives (for example, taking them to school every day), she started getting involved in a more organized way through Learning Leaders, a school volunteer and parent engagement program. Currently the President of the Parent Teacher Association and a member of the School Leadership Team, Ms. McGee says her daughters are "lucky there isn't PTA in college."

Aside from her work on behalf of residents and children, Ms. McGee's other priority is senior citizens. She used to call bingo at the senior citizen center before she began her position at Parkside. She misses the seniors, who she says are like her second family. "Children are the future," she says, "and seniors are our history." Through her efforts with seniors, children, and all residents, Ms. McGee has contributed to respecting history, investing in the future, and preserving public housing.

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**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

**NYCHA's Commitment to Transparency**



TOGETHER WITH NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) VICE-CHAIRMAN EARL ANDREWS, JR. AND BOARD MEMBER MARGARITA LÓPEZ, I HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH RESIDENTS TO GIVE YOU A SENSE OF WHERE THE HOUSING AUTHORITY STANDS WITH REGARD TO OUR FINANCES AND OUR PRIORITIES IN THE CURRENT YEAR.

We are working to provide transparency in our budget process. Transparency will give you, the more than 400,000 residents who make your homes with

NYCHA, the information you need to continue to participate in the constructive dialogues which are essential in our approach to the many administrative and operational issues we face.

Under the leadership of NYCHA's Environmental and Sustainability Committee Coordinator Margarita López, NYCHA is implementing an aggressive "green" agenda which will have the dual benefits of saving the Housing Authority money through increased efficiency, while reducing our carbon footprint caused by greenhouse gas emissions. As a leader in energy-saving "green" initiatives NYCHA has replaced old outdated hot water heaters with more efficient instantaneous hot water heaters in hundreds of buildings. And we have installed 178,000 Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in over 30,000 apartments. NYCHA's lighting upgrades and water heater replacement measures completed through 2008 will help NYCHA save more than \$5 million in utility costs. This year NYCHA anticipates greater reductions. Our green agenda includes an educational component, and we are working with residents to create Green Committees in your developments.

If you were among the 90 or so resident leaders who attended one of our presentations, or you have seen our presentation at your development, then you are aware that NYCHA's budget for 2009 includes an estimated deficit of \$172 million. This deficit has been caused largely by circumstances that are beyond our control, such as chronic underfunding by the Federal government, which continues in the current year. Other contributing factors include the lack of operating subsidy for the 21 City- and State-built developments in NYCHA's portfolio, skyrocketing energy expenses and non-negotiable labor-related expenses, such as the cost of health insurance for employees and pensions for those who have retired. Simply put, NYCHA cannot sustain itself at our current level of spending.

In response to our structural deficit, NYCHA has made cost containment a priority. We have implemented a green agenda, raised rents, reduced staff, and closed some Community Centers.

The Housing Authority plans to reduce our current deficit to \$45 million by transferring \$76 million from capital funds to operating funds, reducing Central Office costs by approximately \$10 million.

One important initiative which we are in the process of implementing that adds to our revenue is the transfer of 8,400 units in the 21 City- and State-built into the Section 8 program. These developments do not receive any funding for operations from any source, so the Section 8 subsidy NYCHA will receive from the Federal government for them is essential for maintaining operations at these developments. Once all 8,400 units are transferred we expect an additional \$75 million annually.

I'm pleased to announce that thanks to the support of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, the New York City Council and the New York Congressional delegation, NYCHA will be receiving \$423 million in capital stimulus funds, enabling us to undertake significant capital improvements.

As always, I look forward to working with you, NYCHA's residents, elected officials, unions, and NYCHA's staff in creating a new NYCHA that will continue to meet the needs of low- and moderate income New Yorkers for generations to come. NYCHA remains committed to maintaining its proud legacy.

*Ricardo Elías Morales*

**NYCHA's 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program**

NYCHA is seeking youth between the ages of 14 and 21 for the 2009 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and the 2009 program will run from July 1, 2009 through August 14, 2009. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is **not** required to qualify for the program.

NYCHA's SYEP participants gain valuable employment experience working in Community Centers as Counselors-in-Training (16 and 17 year olds only), or on NYCHA development grounds. Starting April 1st, interested youth can apply on-line or download an application from the City's Web Site: [www.nyc.gov/dycd](http://www.nyc.gov/dycd). Starting April 2<sup>nd</sup>, SYEP applications will also be available at NYCHA development Management Offices, Community Centers and at the Department of Resident Employment Services, located at 350 Livingston Street in Brooklyn. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA development Management Office. The deadline to submit an application is May 15, 2009. For more information about SYEP, please visit DYCD's Web site or contact NYCHA's SYEP Program Director, Katrina Porter at 212-306-3969.

**It's tax time. Go get your EITC refund!**

Tax season is here once again – which means that you could be eligible for tax credits and free or low-cost tax preparation. Your family could be eligible for up to \$6,500 with the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). You might also benefit from the New York City Child Care Tax Credit and other tax credits for parents, which could add up to an even bigger refund. Call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/ofe](http://nyc.gov/ofe) when you receive your W-2 form(s) to learn more about your eligibility for tax credits and to find a convenient location near you that prepares taxes for free or for just \$20.

**CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING**

*(Continued from page 1)*

to \$45 million for the current year by transferring \$76 million from capital funds to operating funds, reducing Central Office costs by approximately \$10 million, and continuing the transfer of 8,400 public housing units in unfunded City- and State-built developments into the Section 8 program. This transfer will generate \$75 million annually when completed. There was also a focus on NYCHA's "green agenda" and new capital money from the second Economic Stimulus Package. (See Chairman's Column at left.) The Chairman also noted that he has been reviewing NYCHA's over-all operations since his appointment in December and that the Preliminary Budget does not reflect the final plan for dealing with NYCHA's financial issues.

**DEBORAH'S DIARY** *By Deborah Williams*



**A Valentine to Remember**— Valentine's Day means much more to Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Hill than heart shaped boxes of candy and flowers — because it was on Valentine's Day 61 years ago that Sara met William Douglas Hill. During their first year of marriage, the couple moved into Marcy

Houses in Brooklyn, on January 10, 1948. According

to Sara her daughter Brenda Hill McWhite was the first child born in the development.

Both Sara and William Douglas Hill are retired now. Sara was an employee at the Health and Hospitals Corporation and William was a NYCHA Maintenance Worker and Union Shop Steward.

On February 13, 2009, Sara and William renewed their wedding vows at the New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge during the "Brooklyn Sweethearts Married 50+ Years" event sponsored by Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz and his wife, Jamie Snow-Markowitz. They celebrated the day along with 300 other couples who renewed their vows, celebrating with cake and champagne. The event aired on Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) on March 4th and March 11th.



**Sara and William Douglas Hill**

*Wow! Sixty-one years of marriage—it must be LOVE! What you have is more precious than gold. I congratulate you! I wish you many more years together!*

## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. What follows is a partial list of the people excluded after hearings were held on February 4, 11, and 18, 2009. For a full list of the "Not Wanted" visit NYCHA's website at [nyc.gov/residentscorner](http://nyc.gov/residentscorner). **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

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

*Prohibited as of February 4, 2009*

Josef Harper	Case 389/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 5814 Farragut Road, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.
Glen Bowman, Sr.	Case 482/09 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1125 University Avenue, Highbridge Gardens, the Bronx.
Dwesley Johnson	Case 424/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 311 Osborn Street, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
Lawrence Merrriweather	Case 465/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 21-20 34th Avenue, Ravenswood Houses, Queens.

*Prohibited as of February 11, 2009*

Raurice McLauren Jamel Jenkins	Case 7152/08 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 335 East 112th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.
Junnie Torres	Case 495/09 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2375 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Emma Brown	Case 494/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 644 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.
Frankie Louie	Case 6169/08 formerly associated with the third floor of 65 Manuel Roman Jefferson Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.
Charles Moore Christopher Moore	Case 6783/08 formerly associated with the second floor of 80 Bush Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.
Latona Allen	Case 594/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 820 Henderson Avenue, Markham Gardens, Staten Island.
Michael Negeron Michael Negronna	Case 70/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 2205 2nd Avenue, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.
Lawrence Terrell	Case 285/09 formerly associated with the first floor of 40-10 12th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Queens.
Keith Brown	Case 628/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 240 Lockman Avenue, Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island.

Fernando Ortega	Case 596/09 formerly associated with the twenty-second floor of 2955 8th Avenue, Polo Grounds Towers, Manhattan.
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Eduardo Santiago	Case 618/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 30 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan.
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Desean Loyd	Case 619/09 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 81-10 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Hammel Houses, Queens.
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*Prohibited as of February 18, 2009*

Mannix Dixon	Case 658/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 2242 Bragg Street, Nostrand Houses, Brooklyn.
Jonathan DeLeon	Case 707/09 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 29 Fleet Walk, Ingersoll Houses, Brooklyn.
Jerry Smith III Marcus Futrell	Case 597/09 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 611 Crotona Park North, Murphy Houses, the Bronx.
Jose Hernandez	Case 732/09 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 2060 Third Avenue, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
Nelson Simpson	Case 7278/08 formerly associated with the third floor of 162 Troy Avenue, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.
Tony Love	Case 775/09 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 456 Richmond Terrace, Richmond Terrace, Staten Island.
Johnny Stevens	Case 828/09 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 75 LaSalle Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Cliff Robinson	Case 778/09 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 1428 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.

For a full list of the "Not Wanted" visit NYCHA's website at [nyc.gov/residentscorner](http://nyc.gov/residentscorner).

### Your Financial Health...

The article below was submitted by Carol O'Rourke, Executive Director of the Coalition for Debtor Education. It is the fourth in a series on financial health.

## It's Tax Time!

### Are you expecting a tax refund?

If you haven't filed your income tax return yet....

Get going! Your return must be postmarked by midnight on April 15. If the thought of calculating your 2008 tax return overwhelms you, there's help. Find a free or low-cost tax preparation site; they are available throughout the city. **Call 311 or visit [www.nyc.gov](http://www.nyc.gov) for locations.**

### Beware of Rapid Refunds

Be mindful of tax preparers who offer a "rapid refund." The "rapid refund" is really a loan until the Federal government processes your return. One nationally known tax preparation company I checked charges a \$29.99 fee, up to \$100 in interest, and a flat \$31 "handling fee" — all of which is then deducted from the actual government refund.

The tax preparers who offer this "service" may charge a low "teaser" rate for basic tax preparation but have a list of additional fees for everything from electronic filing or document preparation to an extra cost for a "professional review." It's better to prepare and file your taxes yourself, or get the help of a tax preparation service you located through 311, and simply wait for your full refund.

Read the fine print before you engage a tax preparation service that offers quick refunds.

### If you have filed your tax return and have a refund on the way...

This may be the largest lump sum of money you will receive all year. Mentally, you may have spent it several times over already. But before you cash the check to buy that flat-screen TV, think about how you can use that money to help you and your family become more financially secure. While certainly less fun than a new TV, here are a few suggestions to consider:

(Continued on page 9)

Are you a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident with a family member who has served or is currently serving in the Armed Forces?

Are you a NYCHA resident who has lost a family member in the Armed Forces?

NYCHA is looking to honor residents who are currently serving or are veterans of the Armed Forces, or who are former members of the Armed Forces and are no longer with us.

Please contact us at (212) 306-3322 or by e-mail at [NYCHA75@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCHA75@nycha.nyc.gov) and let us know your name, address, the name of your development, your telephone number, the name of the NYCHA resident who is or was in the Armed Forces and their relationship to you. We will contact you regarding the upcoming event. Thank you.

## We Can Help You Find Child Care!

Call us at (212) 206-8043

Our professionally trained staff can provide FREE information on:

- Infant/Toddler Programs
- Nursery Schools
- Head Start Programs
- After-school Programs
- Summer Camps
- Child Care Centers
- Licensed Family & Group Family Child Care

We are bilingual in English and Spanish!



**The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc.**

Would you like to be a licensed child care provider? We offer the trainings you need and can help you every step of the way. Call us at (212) 206-8043 for more information.

## SAVE \$ ON FOOD, APPLY FOR THE FOODCARD



The FoodCard is easy to apply for and works just like a debit card. Call 'The Food Bank' at 212-894-8060 for information and to see how much money you can save on food. Specialists are available to help you from 9am-5pm, Monday through Friday. Adults of all ages are encouraged to apply.

# 75 Years of Public Housing



This is the third article in a special series which will run each month in the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Journal in 2009 commemorating the Housing Authority's 75th Anniversary.



On February 17, 2009, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott presented a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg to NYCHA's Board at a Black History Month Celebration in honor of the Housing Authority's 75th Anniversary. Shown in the photo above, from left, are: Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member Margarita López and Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales.



The first meeting of the Board of the newly created New York City Housing Authority, February 20, 1934. Seated from left are: veteran socialist and general manager of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, Charney B. Vladeck; NYCHA's first Chairman Langdon Post, a former state assemblyman and head of the Tenement House Commission; Vice-Chair Mary Simkhovitch, founder of the settlement organization Greenwich House. Standing are: Louis Pink, a former settlement house worker and lawyer on the State Housing Board; and Monsignor E. Roberts Moore of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Photo courtesy of the LaGuardia Wagner Archives.

## Are You a NYCHA Resident With Fond Memories to Share?

To commemorate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the New York City Housing Authority is collecting photos and stories from residents about your experiences living in public housing. How has being part of a NYCHA community had a positive impact on your life or the life of a family member? Perhaps you attended a NYCHA-led job training workshop that launched your career; or maybe a caretaker, development manager or neighbor was instrumental in getting you help when you needed it most; maybe you bonded with a Housing Bureau Police Officer as a child and decided to become an officer yourself when you grew up? If you have fond memories to share, we want to hear them! We will post selected stories on the Residents' Corner of our Web site at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha) and publish one story each month in the *NYCHA Journal*. Please e-mail stories and photos to: [NYCHA75@nycha.nyc.gov](mailto:NYCHA75@nycha.nyc.gov). If you don't have electronic files to send, you can mail to:

*THE NYCHA Journal*  
Department of Communications  
250 Broadway, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

Don't forget to include your full name, age, the name of your NYCHA development and the number of years you've been living in public housing. Also please make sure your return address is on the envelope if you would like us to mail your photos back to you.

Ms. Victoria Johnson (shown in the photo below, center, with two friends) from General Grant Houses in Manhattan submitted the following poem to show her appreciation for public housing in response to our call for fond memories.

### "Public Housing"

By Victoria (Vicki) Johnson, 1976

Public housing replaced City's slums  
For tenants it surely was a treat  
Living in the new modern suites  
Walkways and lawns were great  
Children could run and play  
Never to be chased away  
Public housing lifted up the mind  
The living standards were fine  
From windows you saw the trees  
Greenery and beautiful scenery  
From slums you saw a backyard, not a street  
Unless the rent was steep.  
Landlords charged big sums  
Many charged to see the sun  
Glad I lived to see folks leave the slums  
Hope they appreciate public housing some.





**\$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NYCHA RESIDENTS**

If you are a NYCHA resident attending a City University of New York (CUNY) Community or Senior College, you may be eligible to receive a \$1,000 NYCHA Resident Scholarship.

**This year the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) celebrates its 75th anniversary. NYCHA is especially proud, during this milestone year, to offer residents the opportunity to apply for a \$1,000 NYCHA Resident Scholarship.**

To qualify for the scholarship you must:

- Be enrolled full time in an Associate or Baccalaureate degree program at any CUNY, Senior or Community College.
- Be an authorized New York City Housing Authority resident.
- Be a sophomore, junior, senior.
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Major in film, broadcasting, dance, drama, fashion, marketing/merchandising, journalism, music, photography, literature or fine and/or performing arts, public administration, public affairs, business.

Apply by filling out the NYCHA Resident Scholarship Application available at [www.cuny.edu/nychascholarship](http://www.cuny.edu/nychascholarship) (must be typed in lower case).

The application deadline is April 30, 2009.

Scholarships will be available for a limited time.




## NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Board Meeting Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The meetings for Calendar Year 2009 are as follows:

- April 1, 2009
- April 14, 2009 (Tuesday)
- April 29, 2009
- May 13, 2009
- May 27, 2009
- June 10, 2009
- June 24, 2009
- July 8, 2009
- July 22, 2009
- August 5, 2009
- August 19, 2009
- September 2, 2009
- September 16, 2009
- September 30, 2009
- October 14, 2009
- October 28, 2009
- November 10, 2009 (Tuesday)
- November 25, 2009
- December 9, 2009
- December 23, 2009
- January 6, 2010



Please note that these dates are subject to change. Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's Website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) and in the *NYCHA Journal* to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting. These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration of speakers is required. Those who wish to register must do so at least forty-five (45) minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments are limited to the items on the agenda. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration. Speaking time will be limited to three (3) minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of thirty (30) minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first. For Board Meeting dates and times, and/or additional information, please visit our website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) or contact us at (212) 306-6088. Copies of the agenda can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3P.M. on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting. Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting, should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five (5) business days before the Board Meeting.

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## NYCHA NOW MORE THAN EVER!

At the the same time we save NYCHA money by reducing fuel consumption and create 'green collar' jobs for residents."

The Chairman thanked Board Member López for spearheading the Housing Authority's green initiatives, as the head of NYCHA's Environmental and Sustainability Committee.

He also elaborated on recent approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for NYCHA to move ahead on its Performance Contracting Building Retrofit Program which will utilize state-of-the-art technology to retrofit buildings and leverage future savings to invest in infrastructure. The Chairman also mentioned that NYCHA is working with residents to form green committees in the developments to raise awareness.

### Council Members Speak

Nearly all of the City Council Members present voiced their support emphasizing the importance of public housing to the entire City.

Council Member David Weprin who chairs the Council's Finance Committee was the first to speak, telling the group, "The future of NYCHA is really the future of New York City. So many wonderful people and wonderful things started in NYCHA. We are going to work with you. We want you to consider the City Council your partner as we progress. We need NYCHA now more than ever."

Council Member Melissa Mark Viverito praised the Council's Public Housing Subcommittee Chair Rosie Mendez, herself a former NYCHA resident, for her leadership and support of public housing and mentioned the recent announcement that NYCHA will be getting capital funding from the stimulus package. "Our next battle is to make sure we get dollar for dollar from HUD," she said, referring to HUD's long history of underfunding.

Other Council Members who spoke included Daniel Garodnick, who remarked that "with the new Administration in Washington we have reason to be encouraged and hopeful at the same time." And Council Member Diana Reyna, former Chair of the Public Housing Subcommittee, raised the issue of the importance of federalizing the 21 State and City developments in NYCHA's portfolio so that NYCHA receives money for their operations.

Council Member Albert Vann spoke about the importance of adequate resources for public housing. Also attending were Council Members Helen Foster and Leticia James

### Residents Add Their Voices

Each of the resident leaders in attendance also had a chance to voice their support. That support was eloquently expressed by Queens Council of Presidents (COP) Chair and Woodside Houses Resident

(Continued from page 1)

Association President Ann Cotton Morris, when she said, "Speaking for the 20 developments I represent as COP Chair, we are ready to rock and roll on any issue that is going to better our situation in public housing."

Other resident leaders who spoke were Wise Towers Resident Association President Victor Gonzalez, Manhattan South COP Chair and Isaacs Towers Resident Association President Rose Bergin, Citywide COP Chair and Seth Low Resident Association President Reginald Bowman, Tilden Houses Resident Association President Marie Boone, Boulevard Houses Resident Association President Inez Rodriguez, Bronx South COP Chair and Highbridge Houses Resident Association President Joanne Smitherman, Reid Houses Resident Association President Hyacinth Forrester and Bland Houses Resident Association President Craig Kinsey.

### In Conclusion

"We've been doing something right for 75 years," the Chairman said in conclusion. "We've been home to millions of people who have gone on to do great things. We are an economic engine. We put money back into the economy. Our next 75 years are going to be great. The concept of greening can save our planet and make NYCHA a vision for our country. Let's work together for that new NYCHA."



NYCHA residents joined Chairman Ricardo Elías Morales (fourth from left) and members of the City Council at NYCHA's annual City Council Legislative Breakfast. Resident leaders shown above, from left are: Wise Towers Resident Association President Victor Gonzalez, Manhattan South Council of Presidents (COP) Chair Rose Bergin, Tilden Houses Resident Association President Marie Boone, the Chairman, Citywide COP Chair and Seth Low Resident Association President Reginald Bowman, Queens COP Chair Ann Cotton Morris, Bronx South COP Chair and Highbridge Houses Resident Association President Joanne Smitherman, Reid Houses Resident Association President Hyacinth Forrester and Bland Houses Resident Association President Craig Kinsey.

## NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY FAIR HOUSING NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of the New York City Housing Authority to provide equal housing opportunities for all qualified applicants and residents. In the selection of families and in the provision of services, there shall be no discrimination against any person on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, familial status, marital status, partnership status, military status, disability, lawful occupation, lawful source of income, alienage or citizenship status. This policy also prohibits retaliation.

This policy is in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended by the Fair Housing Amendment Act of 1988, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the New York State and City Human Rights Laws.

Any resident or applicant who wishes to report housing discrimination or retaliation MAY FILE A DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT (NYCHA 036.024) by contacting the Department of Equal Opportunity from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday or their development management office between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM:

**New York City Housing Authority  
Department of Equal Opportunity  
250 Broadway, 27th floor  
New York, NY 10007  
Telephone (212) 306-4468  
Fax: (212) 306-4439  
TTY: (212) 306-4845**

**Or by contacting any of the following federal, state or city human rights agencies listed below:  
New York City Commission on Human Rights  
40 Rector Street, 9th floor  
New York, NY 10006  
(212) 306-7500**

**New York State Division of Human Rights  
20 Exchange Place, 2nd floor  
New York, New York 10005  
(212) 480-2522**

**United States Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity  
26 Federal Plaza, Room 3532  
New York, New York 10278  
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A translation of this document is available in your management office and online at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha).

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## Centralized Call Center Hours Change for Scheduling Repairs

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS CHANGING THE HOURS DURING WHICH RESIDENTS CAN SCHEDULE ROUTINE APARTMENT MAINTENANCE REPAIRS THROUGH THE CENTRALIZED CALL CENTER, OR CCC. Beginning April 6th, NYCHA residents will be able to schedule appointments for routine maintenance repairs Monday through Friday from 6:00 AM to midnight. Additional call-takers will be available to address the high volume of calls received during this time so that calls can be answered more quickly.

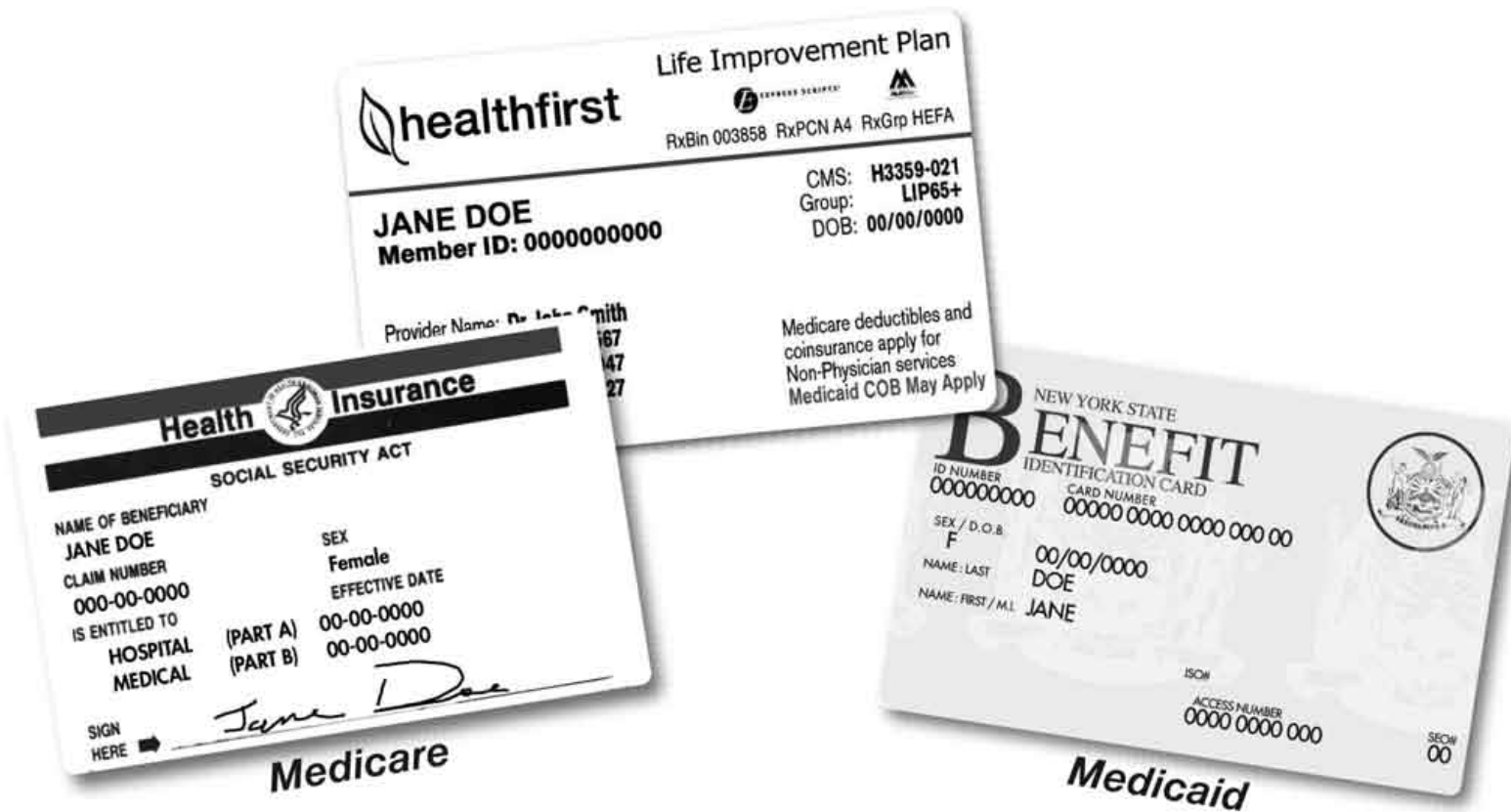
Residents who call the CCC to schedule repairs on weekends, holidays or between the hours of midnight and 6:00 AM will hear a recording reminding them of the new hours. Call-takers will also ask residents who telephone to schedule a repair to call back at the appropriate time.

The CCC will continue to operate 24/7 for emergencies and public space issues, such as elevator outages, reports of vandalism, broken intercoms, and other safety concerns.

The change allows the CCC to use resources more effectively during high volume call hours. Visit NYCHA's website at [www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha) for more information.



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## It's Tax Time!

(Continued from page 4)

- Pay down the balance of a credit card. At 20% interest or more, you'll save a lot and cut your monthly spending by having one less bill to pay off.
- Open an IRA account. Start saving for your retirement years.
- Start or contribute to your "rainy day" fund. You won't have to borrow if you have emergency savings to tap if you need car repairs, have a medical emergency, or lose your job.

### The good news...

The new stimulus package includes the Make Work Pay credit, worth 6.25% of earned income or a maximum of \$400 to individuals making less than \$75,000 and \$800 for families with a combined income of less than \$150,000. This means less will be deducted from each

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## SPRING CLEANING? PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN MIND WHEN DISPOSING OF YOUR TRASH...

### Compactors

Compactors are the machines that compress trash after it is deposited in the hoppers located on each floor. Please keep in mind, compactors are for trash not for recyclables!

Here are some rules to follow:

— Only throw into the hopper trash that will slide down easily. Don't force it! Take anything that is too large for the hopper to a designated trash area. Do not dispose of any trash in hallways, stairways, elevators, lobbies or rear exits. Call your Management Office if you have a large quantity of trash that you don't know what to do with, or something that is too large for the hopper.

— Don't throw mops and broomsticks, rags or old clothes into hoppers; they will cause jams. Wrap or tie them into bundles and bring them down to the basement ramp, or if your building does not have a basement ramp, to the bulk pick-up area. Your Housing Assistant will tell you where this is.

— Don't throw newspapers, magazines, wire coat hangers, cardboard boxes or other recyclables into the hoppers. Bring them to the appropriate recycling container.

— Please, if at all possible, place your garbage in the hopper between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM. When everyone puts their garbage in the compactor during the evening hours, it can result in jams that can cause health and fire hazards.

AND, NEVER place burning materials in any compactor chute!

Please dispose of all trash neatly.

### Recycling

Recycling your mixed paper and cardboard, and metal, plastic bottles and jugs, and glass is one way that you can contribute to the preservation of our natural resources.

(Continued on page 11)

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# Changes to NYCHA's Pet Policy

RESIDENTS OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) MAY OWN EITHER ONE DOMESTICATED DOG OR ONE DOMESTICATED CAT PER APARTMENT, PROVIDED THE PET OWNER FOLLOWS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY'S PET POLICY. However, because of an increase in biting incidents, beginning May 1st, NYCHA will be implementing a revised Pet Policy to better ensure that development grounds and buildings provide a safe environment for residents, visitors and guests. The revised policy includes a list of prohibited breeds of dogs and a change in the weight limit for full grown dogs from 40 pounds to 25 pounds. Dogs which have already been registered with NYCHA before the implementation of this revised policy, whether or not they are on the list of prohibited breeds or exceed the weight limit, are permitted.

**Prohibited Breeds:** NYCHA has designated a variety of mixed and full breed dogs that cannot be owned or registered by NYCHA residents. The prohibited breeds are:

- Akita Inu
- Alangu Mastiff
- Alano Español
- American Pit Bull Terrier
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Argentine Dogo
- Bedington Terrier
- Boston Terrier
- Bull and Terrier

- Bull Terrier
- Bully Kutta
- Cane Corso
- Dogue de Bordeaux
- Dogo Sardesco
- English Mastiff
- Fila Brasileiro
- Gull Dong
- Gull Terr

- Irish Staffordshire Bull
- Korea Jindo Dog
- Lottatore Brindisino
- Neapolitan Mastiff
- Perro de Presa Canario (Canary dog)
- Perro de Presa Mallorquin (Ca de Bou)
- Shar Pei
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Tosa Inu

**Weight Limit:** Dogs with projected full-grown adult weight that exceeds 25 pounds are not permitted. The previous weight limit was 40 pounds. Service animals are exempt from any weight or breed restrictions.

Unless you registered your dog prior to the implementation date of the revised pet policy you are not allowed to own or register a mixed or full breed dog which is a prohibited breed or is projected to weigh over 25 pounds when full grown.

**Other Pets:** Reasonable quantities of other pets are permitted if not prohibited by the New York City Health Code. Permitted pets include small caged birds (canaries and parakeets), fish, and small caged animals such as gerbils, guinea pigs, and hamsters if their numbers do not create a nuisance or unsanitary condition. You may not keep animals prohibited by the NYC Health Code, which

are illegal anywhere in New York City, or animals deemed to be vicious or dangerous.

### Pet Registration and Fee

Pet owners must register their dog or cat with NYCHA on a one-time basis, at any time, but no later than the time of the annual review. The registration includes the completion of a Dog and Cat Veterinarian Certification showing that NYCHA pet requirements are being followed. There is a one-time, non-refundable pet registration fee of \$25.00 for all residents who do not reside at project based Section 8 developments. Service animals

and animals that live in buildings designated exclusively for senior citizens are exempt from the fee.

**In Addition:** Dogs must be licensed by the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and wear their license tag when in public. They must also be on a leash, six feet long or less when in public.

Residents must comply with NYCHA's Pet Policy as a condition of your lease with NYCHA. Visit NYCHA's Web site at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://nyc.gov/nycha) to view the full pet policy.

**To make a complaint or report any dangerous illegal animal on NYCHA property, Call 311, the City's Citizen Service Center, which is available 24 hours a day. If there is an immediate threat involving a dangerous or illegal animal, call 911.**

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# Rent Hardship Policy Revisions

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) has changed its Rent Hardship Policy to allow residents to apply for an Interim Rent Change when there is a 5% reduction in gross income, the current rent is more than 30% of the net income AND the reduction of income has lasted two months. The table below shows ALL the requirements needed for a NYCHA household to qualify for an Interim Rent Change based on the new Rent Hardship Policy.

### You can qualify for an Interim Rent Change IF:

Old Policy	
There is a 10% reduction to gross income, AND	There is a 5% reduction to gross income, AND
Your current rent is more than 30% of the net income, AND	Your current rent is more than 30% of the net income, AND
The reduction in income has lasted at least three months.	The reduction in income has lasted at least TWO months.

The new policy reduces the waiting period from 3 months to 2 months of unemployment or long term disability. **When a resident becomes unemployed or is on long term disability they are required to report the change in income to their Housing Assistant.** If the reduction in income lasts 2 months the housing assistant will recalculate the rent and a rent notice will be mailed to the resident.

## SPRING CLEANING?

(Continued from page 9)

White and green containers and white dumpsters, usually located near stairhall entrances or outside near building exits are for paper products: newspapers, magazines, cardboard boxes, paper bags, old mail, catalogs, phone books, flattened corrugated cardboard boxes and paperback books. Do not recycle Styrofoam, soiled paper plates and cups, paper towels and napkins.

Blue receptacles are for glass, plastic bottles and jugs, and metal items. These include metal cans, aluminum foil, aerosol cans, small metal items and wire coat hangers. Larger metal items, such as toasters and bed frames should be left at the designated drop site or on the basement ramp.

If you have any questions about what to recycle, or where to put it, ask your Housing Assistant or Building Caretaker.

COMMUNITY OPERATIONS // DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

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