NEW JOBS PLUS CENTER BUILDS FUTURES FOR PENN-WORTMAN RESIDENTS

WHEN SHERWIN DARDEN, a Penn-Wortman Houses resident, walked into the new Jobs Plus Center in his neighborhood, he didn’t have a Social Security card, government identification, or health care, let alone a job. Now he’s got all of those, and he’s helping his neighbors too. He’s been hired by the center to be a community coach there, and has helped nine other residents land jobs so far. He has also been a mentor to his son, who is headed to Princeton in the fall.

The new center is the first Jobs Plus site funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

(continuing on page 3)

NYCHA and KaBOOM! Begin New Partnership

ON NOVEMBER 4, volunteers transformed an unused recreational area at Pomonok Houses in Queens into a safe, fun, beautiful playground.

It took just six hours for residents, neighbors, and volunteers from NYCHA, KaBOOM!, Playworld, and JetBlue to pour and lay concrete, paint a basketball court and playground floors, and assemble playground equipment to build a new playground based on drawings made by children at Pomonok Houses during a KaBOOM! workshop.

This the first playground built through NextGen NYCHA Plays,

(continuing on page 14)

Young volunteers help add color to the playground.
NEW JOBS PLUS CENTER BUILDS FUTURES FOR PENN-WORTMAN RESIDENTS

(continued from page 1)

From left to right: Diana Reyna, Deputy Borough President for Brooklyn; Lynne Patton, HUD Regional Administrator for New York and New Jersey; Tracey Capers, Executive Vice President of Programs/Organizational Development at Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, and NYCHA Chair Shola Olatoye at the opening of the Penn-Worman Jobs Plus Center.

Making NYCHA Developments Cleaner

JANITORIAL STAFF AT Ingersoll House spent a day learning how to use new floor-cleaning machines that will save them hours of labor, make developments cleaner, and improve quality of life for residents. NYCHA plans to buy over 1,000 machines so that all NYCHA developments have access to this time-saving equipment. All janitorial staff will be trained on how to use the machines by the end of the year.

Benjamin Mapwood, Supervisor of Housing Caretakers at OldsWay Gardens Consolidation, gets a hands-on lesson on how to use one of the new floor-cleaning machines.

Anthony Jones, Supervisor of Housing Caretakers at Marineter’s Harbor, takes the Kaivac OmniFlex for a spin.

NYCHA BOARD MEETINGS

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

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

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

| ESTABLISHED 1970 • CIRCULATION 200,000 |
| PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS |
| 250 Broadway New York, New York 10007 |

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City Hall in Your Borough: Manhattan

NYCHA JOINED MAYOR BILL DE BLASIO for “City Hall in Your Borough: Manhattan,” from September 25 to 29, spending the week focused on the needs and concerns of Manhattan residents. This was the fourth borough in the Mayor’s City Hall in Your Borough initiative.

September 25
NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye and Council Member Helen Rosenthal toured De Hostos Apartments and discussed solutions to replace the development’s roof.

September 26
At Grant Houses, NYCHA General Manager Michael Kelly, City Council Member Mark Levine, Resident Association President Carlton Davis, and residents toured the construction site of their future laundromat. Grant is home to more than 4,400 residents, but the closest place to do laundry is a 10-15 minute walk away. Thanks to $1.1 million from

NYCHA’s getting greener! Two new urban farms are being built at NYCHA developments. One is currently under construction at Forest Hills in the Bronx, and another will be built at a development on Staten Island.

NYCHA Chair & CEO Shola Olatoye joined First Lady Chirlane McCray, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, restaurant owner Carla Hall, co-host of ABC’s “The Chew,” Wagner Houses Resident Association President Katie Harris, and others at Wagner Houses Farm in East Harlem for the announcement.

“We are thrilled to expand NYCHA’s farm program to two more developments,” said Chair Olatoye. “Farms at NYCHA are innovative and create an important cornerstone for our communities.”

The two new farms are funded by $500,000 from the Mayor’s Building Healthy Communities (BHC) initiative—a $12 million program started in 2016 that brings together numerous City agencies and private funders to work on improving health outcomes in 12 neighborhoods. In these targeted areas, BHC is increasing access to healthy and affordable food, providing more opportunities for physical activity, and fostering public safety.

The first NYCHA farm was built at Red Hook Houses in 2013, followed by three farms built through BHC in Brownsville, Canarsie, and East Harlem; all the farms are supported through BHC. Green City Force, an AmeriCorps program that trains 18- to 24-year-old NYCHA residents in green jobs, builds and maintains the farms. NYCHA’s farms are responsible for more than 25,000 pounds of fresh produce that has been distributed to residents.

September 27
NYCHA participated in City Hall’s Resource Fair held at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in Washington Heights.

September 28: New Farms at NYCHA
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September 29: Harlem River Houses Turns 80
NYCHA celebrated the 80th anniversary of New York City landmark Harlem River Houses with a celebration that brought together residents, community members, and elected officials.

Harlem River Houses is rich with history: It opened its doors in 1937, was named a National Historic Landmark in 1975; and is home to the Macomb Bridge Library, the smallest branch of the New York Public Library—it has just 12 chairs!

Soon, the library will move into a renovated 3,375-square-foot space across the street from Harlem River Houses. The new space, owned by NYCHA, will increase annual visits while connecting residents to resources they need.

“Harlem River Houses is not only a national landmark but a New York City asset,” Chair Olatoye said. “New York City set the standard for affordable housing with developments like Harlem River, which was the first federally funded public housing development in the country, built for African Americans. It’s important we acknowledge this anniversary and remember our history as we strive to preserve the Authority for future generations of working New Yorkers.”

The anniversary party included a proclamation from the Mayor’s Office, a performance of “We Are Family” by seniors from the Lincoln Senior Center, and a song and poem recital of Langston Hughes’ “My People” by children from the Mary Watston Day Care Center. A NextGen NYCHA Resource Fair at the development featured a visit from the NYCHA Mobile Command bus to address residents’ maintenance issues, as well as food, games, face painting, music, and an opportunity to hop onto one of NYCHA’s Digital Vans.

The celebration was organized in partnership with the Harlem River Resident Association, Congress Member Adriano Espaillat, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, New York State Senator Brian Benjamin, and New York City Council Member Bill Perkins.

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Safe, Clean, and Connected: NYCHA Makes Seniors Comfortable
by Victor González, NYCHA Resident Board Member

MOVED INTO WISE TOWERS when my wife and I got married in 1972, and 45 years later I still call it home. I raised three daughters in this wonderful community. From the day we opened the door to our new apartment, Wise Towers offered the best of New York City Neighbors from all walks of life shared cultures and helped one another out. Kids never missed their needs can be addressed.

the Authority’s NextGeneration NYCHA strategic plan is reaching public housing for the 21st-century needs of seniors.

the Authority is issuing millions to provide age-friendly improvements at 89 developments, including more comfortable outdoor seating areas, hallways throughout corridors, and accessibility renovations in apartments. We all know there is not enough affordable housing for seniors in our city, so NYCHA is also using its land to build 650 new units of 100 percent affordable senior housing.

Better buildings are just the beginning. At NYCHA’s 78 senior-only buildings and 13 NORCs (naturally occurring retirement communities), seniors and their caregivers receive assistance on-site and nearby healthcare professionals through classes on computer literacy, digital photography, financial management, social media, and health and fitness.

Seniors who need assistance with transportation, buying and preparing food, paying bills, getting settled, doing house chores, or other daily needs are supported by trained staff from Presbyterian Senior Services’ Circle of Care program.

Many seniors need live-in help from medical professionals and caregivers, and NYCHA permits caregivers to join a household when possible. Recognizing that many caregivers are family members, the Authority will also accommodate caregivers’ requests for leave for paid/unscheduled rights if the caregiver qualifies for tenancy. Seniors with disabilities can request accommodations that will make it easier for them to age in place in their apartment.

Seniors with questions about any of these programs should talk to their Property Managers.

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The live-in caretaker performs janitorial and maintenance work in the developments during regular business hours. As a result of the development, he or she is also available to respond to emergencies around the clock.

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Victor González at a NextGen NYCHA Resource Fair held at Wise Towers over the summer.

NYCHA Cares About Seniors

Round the Clock Caretakers Improve Service and Customer Satisfaction

AS PART OF NYCHA’S EFFORTS to improve customer service, the Authority is piloting a live-in caretaker program at three public housing developments in the Bronx: Boston Road Plaza, Middletown Plaza, and Tien Park Plaza.

The program is based on a recommendation from Council Member James Vacca: “We have seniors who are vulnerable, seniors who often need assistance, seniors who need practical help, and someone on the premises means that their needs can be addressed. This is going to be an invaluable resource for those tenants.”

The live-in caretaker performs janitorial and maintenance work in the developments during regular business hours. As a result of the development, he or she is also available to respond to emergencies around the clock.

Randy Cordero, a NYCHA employee since 2010 and formerly a caretaker at Canver House, is proud to be the new live-in caretaker at Boston Road Plaza. “The feedback that I’m getting (from residents) is that I’m doing a good job, and that’s what I like to hear. I was born and raised at Van Dyke Houses, so I know what tenants want and need,” he explained. “As a live-in caretaker, I would like to keep the residents happy. By keeping the building clean, it makes them happy. And any problems that they have, if I can help, I’m more than willing to help.”

Laurene Talbert, Vice Resident of the Boston Road Plaza Residency Association, has resided in the development for 25 years. “I noticed a difference within two days of Antonio being here. The floors, elevators, and lobbies are cleaner, and I’m hearing good things from neighbors as well. Our building has been kept immaculate. He does an awesome job, an excellent job.”

NYCHA Cares About Seniors

A NYCHA Love Story

Longtime Edenwald Residents Celebrate Their 74th Wedding Anniversary

By Shamsa Feliciano

November 15, 2017, Edenwald residents Mr. and Mrs. Solomon are proud to be the new live-in caretaker at Boston Road Plaza.

The Solomon family has grown to include 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and one three times great-grandchild. Their family says their love story is one that shows true commitment and dedication, a lifetime of living and working deeply rooted in love, faith, and strength of family.

Shamsa Feliciano is the granddaughter of Charles and Arlanda Solomon. She is a Supervisor of Custodians for Yonkers and Mitchel Houses and a former Edenwald Houses resident.
NYCHA Cares About Seniors

Better Than Ever

NEARLY 80,000 PEOPLE age 62 or older live in NYCHA developments. As the anchors of their communities, seniors contribute to the strength and vitality of their neighborhoods. The healthier and more engaged they are, the more they will have to offer. The writer Betty Friedan said that "aging is not lost youth but a new stage of opportunity and strength." Here are some recommendations to help you or your loved ones age successfully:

• Take your medications carefully. Keep a list of your medications, and review it with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist at each visit. Always take your medications as prescribed. Ask if any medications (or medications you are taking together) increase your risk of falling.

• Reduce your risk of falls by keeping your bones and muscles strong with physical activity, having your vision checked, and clearing your floors of safety hazards. Make sure floors are well lit so you can see where you are going.

Resources for a Good Life

NYCHA partners with a variety of providers throughout the city to connect seniors to life-changing programs. Visit the NYCHA website to learn more.

• Visit one of the 11 senior centers at NYCHA developments to get involved with a wide range of recreational, health, and cultural activities, services, and resources. The majority of these centers are sponsored by the Department for the Aging (DFTA). They offer free meals, counseling on social services, and assistance with public benefits.

• At five senior centers—Queensbridge, Jefferson, Melrose Mott Haven, Red Hook, and Stapleton—an organization known as OATS (Older Adults Technology Services) teaches seniors classes in computer technology (including Microsoft Office), digital photography, financial management, social media, and health and fitness.

• DFTA’s Grandparent Resource Center helps seniors who are raising young relatives at the 15 NYCHA developments that are the focus of the Mayor’s Action Plan (MAP) for Neighborhood Safety. Through the program, seniors and their caregivers can participate in workshops on community mental health, senior scams, nutrition, falls prevention, and child and elder abuse.

• Street Easy (www.streeteasy.org), a New York City government initiative, helps seniors a helping hand with daily, offer 65 weekly activities, and provide 42,000 meals a year. It will also offer the community a modern, inviting space for meetups and celebrations, youth activities, and the potential for new programs of all kinds.

A Ride and Meals on Wheels

• Presbyterian Senior Services’ Circles of Care program gives seniors a helping hand with transportation, buying and preparing food, paying bills, getting vital benefits and entitlements, doing household chores, or other daily needs. The program currently is available to residents of Saint Nicholas Houses, Sandra Thomas Apartments, UPACA, and Cassidy-Lafayette Houses, also provides caregivers with guidance, training, and interpretation services.

• The Harlem Health Advocacy Services program helps residents of King Towers, Lehanan Village, and Clinton, Johnson, and Tall Houses improve their health through coaching and referrals. The initiative is a collaboration of the City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, NYCHA, the Community Service Society, and the NYU-CUNY Prevention Research Center. For more information and resources, visit the Department for the Aging’s website, www.nyc.gov/aging.

Improving Lives For Seniors

O N NOVEMBER 2, NYCHA, the Hudson Guild, and the Department for the Aging (DFTA) held a special sneak peak of construction progress underway at the Fulton Houses.

Fulton Houses Community Center is home to a longstanding neighborhood resource, a senior center that provides programs for residents of Fulton Houses and the greater Chelsea community. Operated by Hudson Guild in partnership with DFTA, the center had not been renovated since it opened in 1966.

When the center is finished it will feature a wider, easier to navigate entrance, an updated auditorium with improved sound and lighting, upgraded and ADA-compliant bathrooms throughout, a new, more functional kitchen, plus a separate teaching kitchen for activities, and much more.

Scheduled to reopen in 2019, the center will serve 200 seniors daily, offer 65 weekly activities, and provide 42,000 meals a year. It will also offer the community a modern, inviting space for meetups and celebrations, youth activities, and the potential for new programs of all kinds.

The event, Fulton Houses Resident Association President Miguel Acevedo spoke about how important the center is to the community, especially for our vulnerable seniors who come to the center to eat. “Involvement in the community, getting out, and getting involved,” he said. “Our seniors are some of the loneliest people in New York, but they feel comfortable coming here. They have conversations, they play dominos, they play pool, everything they need is done here and it’s been done for 50-plus years. We at the tenant association appreciate the Hudson Guild and are looking forward to the Future NextGeneration is truly next generation—without NYCHA and our partners it doesn’t happen.”

Funding for the renovation was provided by NYCHA, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, State Senator Brad Hoylman, Assembly Member Dick Gottfried, Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, City Council Member Corey Johnson, and several individual donors.

Educating Seniors About Domestic Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AFFECTS victims of all ages. On October 27, 2017, about 150 seniors attended the Brooklyn Senior Domestic Violence Program, organized by NYCHA’s Community Engagement and Partnerships department. Representatives from the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, the Brooklyn District Attorney’s Office, and the Urban Justice Center gave presentations or were in attendance. Seniors performed skits and read poetry about domestic violence situations, the Senior Choir sang, and NYCHA social workers provided referrals to social services.

Held in Queens, the Bronx, and Brooklyn, the breakfasts reached 600 seniors with information on available City resources.

NYCHA Senior Choir perform a few songs while wearing purple, the color to raise awareness about domestic violence.
When Your Business Is Child’s Play

NYCHA Supports Childcare Center Entrepreneurs

SHANEADI BABY

Family Day Care
Ms. Adams has been a NYCHA resident for 18 years and a caregiver for many years. She spent 10 years as a resident manager of a group home and works part-time as a caseworker for an agency that provides care for people with developmental disabilities. She is also a foster parent. Her business is licensed to care for 10 children.

Fatou Lowe

Fatou Lowe Group

Family Daycare

Ms. Lowe has lived at Adams for seven years. She worked at an outside daycare facility for two years and had plenty of experience caring for children with her six sisters and one brother. She is also a student at Borough of Manhattan Community College studying liberal arts.

Latoya Culp

Latoya Culp Group

Sheephead Bay

House, Brooklyn

Ms. Culp has lived at Sheephead for 17 years. As the oldest of six, she has been caring for children since she was a little girl. She is a mother of four children and a grandmother to one. Her business is licensed to care for eight children.

“We are in the process of trying to obtain my license myself but it was taking a while. Going through the CBP program helped me learn how to market my business, how to maintain the educational standards in the area and make my daycare unique, and how to handle finances. I'd like parents of children with special needs to know that my daycare is open to them. I used to work in group homes, before adults with special needs come into our group homes, they're children at home with their parents, and they need support. I have volunteers willing to provide speech therapy and physical therapy for children who need it. Eventually, I want to have a center-based setting. And I'd love to be able to expand and have more than one location.”

To learn more about the Childcare Business Pathways program, visit opportunitynycha.org/business-developmen-childcare-business-pathways.

Shanique Blake

Daily ‘B’abies Group

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“Taking care of kids is something that just comes to me. Even when I was a teenager, people called me ‘Grandma’ because I was always taking care of someone. I knew it’s going to take time to get it off the ground, but my plan is to expand my business. There’s a commercial space here in my neighborhood I would love to have. I have already recommended CBP because it gave me more confidence in starting a business. CFNP offered a lot more than I would’ve received if I tried to do things on my own—I wouldn’t have been able to afford starting my own daycare on my own.”

To learn more about the Childcare Business Pathways program, visit opportunitynycha.org/business-developmen-childcare-business-pathways.

Meet three CBP graduates who are proud owners of new daycares.

Updated Heating Season Temperature Requirements

From October 1 through May 31, New York City building owners must maintain an indoor temperature of at least 68 degrees between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when it’s below 50 degrees outside. From 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., indoor temperature must be at least 62 degrees regardless of the temperature outside. Hot water must be kept at a minimum temperature of 120 degrees year-round, with emergency systems with heat or hot water. Building owners should report any water issues to the MyNYCHA app or web version.

DO

- Pour cooking oil or grease down the kitchen sink, toilet, or any other drain in your home.

DON’T

- Pour cooking oil or grease down the kitchen sink, toilet, or any other drain in your home.

For more information, please visit: nyc.gov/dep

NYCHA TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AGENTS

Keeping the streets of New York City safe and moving

- Potentially earn over $30,000 after 1 year of service
- Enjoy a competitive benefit package
- Free parking and Deferred Compensation available

Employment Requirements:
- Be at least 18 years of age at time of appointment
- Have a High School Diploma or equivalent
- Pass a background investigation and drug screening
- Must be a NYC resident (8 boroughs) within 30 days of appointment
- Candidates must be legally authorized to work in the United States and be a U.S. Citizen or Naturalized Citizen
- A valid NYS Driver’s License is required for this position

For more information, please visit: nyc.gov/dep

PROPER DISPOSAL OF COOKING OIL AND GREASE

- Cooking oil poured into a drain clogs pipes in your home and city sewers.
- Clogged sewers cause sewage backups into your home and neighborhood.
- Clogged sewer pipes can release sewage into local waterways, harming the environment.

Before washing pots, pans, and dishes:

DO

- Wipe off oil and grease with a dry paper towel.

DON’T

- Pour cooking oil or grease down the kitchen sink, toilet, or any other drain in your home.

For more information, please visit: nyc.gov/dep

COOKING OIL AND GREASE
NYCHA’s Going Solar
Low-Cost, Clean Energy and Jobs for Residents in the Booming Solar Industry

NYCHA HAS LAUNCHED its first large-scale solar pro-
gram, which will use light and heat from the sun to provide clean, low-cost energy to low- to moderate-income New York-
er residents, including public housing residents. The program will also create jobs for NYCHA residents in the growing solar industry. NYCHA is looking for de-
velopers to install solar power on rooftops and parking lots at 14 developments, which will provide energy for 500 to 1,600 households. The developments are located throughout the five boroughs: Queensbridge North, Queensbridge South, Polo Grounds Towers, Wyckoff Heights, and Gouverneur. Developers will be chosen in
2018, and the first solar installations are expected to begin in 2019. NYCHA will lease the sites for up to 25 years, developers will install, operate, and maintain the solar systems and sell the power to low- to moderate-
income residents citywide. By 2025, NYCHA plans to install solar at 190 developments, which will provide power to up to 6,600 households. Since the release of its Sus-
tainability Agenda last year, NYCHA has been working with
partners to provide better ser-
vice for residents, reduce energy and costs, and curb the effects of climate change. NYCHA’s solar program will play a major role in helping meet the City’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050. “I’m glad this solar program is finally happening at NYCHA build-
ings and that the City is progress-
ing and moving towards renewable energy,” said Miguel Rodriguez, a Lillian Wald Houses resident who has worked in the solar industry through NYCHA’s Green City Force partnership. After graduating high school, Mr. Rodriguez enrolled in a com-
puter science program but found he couldn’t successfully manage working 30 hours a week to help support his family while also at-
tending college full time. He spent several months unemployed then enrolled in Henry Street Settle-
ment’s Employment Coordina-
tion Program, where he learned about Green City Force (GCF), which provides young people ages 18–24 training, education, and lead-
ership opportunities in preparation for careers in the energy economy. After graduating from GCF’s Clean Energy Corpo-
rate Program, he landed an internship with GRID Alterna-
tives, a nonprofit solar electric installer, and then took a job as a solar installer. “This is going to make a huge difference within our commu-
nity,” Mr. Rodriguez said.

Celebrating NYCHA’s Resident Gardeners & Gardens
HUNDREDS of NYCHA’s resident gardeners, NYCHA
staff, and partners gathered at Johnson Community Center in Manhattan on November 3, 2017, for the 54th Annual NYCHA Garden & Greening Award Cer-
emonies. More than 600 NYCHA gardens, tended by over 1,000 gardeners, were judged by a panel of respected horticultural professionals. The ceremony was sponsored by Unilever and highlighted the hard work and dedication of NYCHA’s resident gardeners and NYCHA’s Garden & Greening Program, a year-round beautification, environmental preservation and education initiative that benefits residents as well as seniors, the greater community, and community centers citywide.

Download New App to Get Important NYC Updates
THE NYC NOTIFY app is a new service from the City that
sends important information and updates to subscribers’ phones. The app is available for free on Apple or Android devices and provides news on events such as hurricanes and blizzards, major traffic and mass transit disruptions, public health hazards, school closings, and unscheduled parking rule suspensions. Features include:
• Receiving messages based on current location. Users can also add up to five addresses to receive alerts specific to home, work, or school.
• A “receive all” mode that provides all emergency notifications, regardless of location or topic.
• A map feature that provides detailed information about the locations of emergencies in relation to a user’s current location.

NYC Center Open to Help Families Displaced by Hurricanes
MANY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES displaced by the recent hurricanes in Puerto Rico, Texas, Florida, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and other Caribbean islands have relocated to New York City to stay with family and friends. To connect these individuals and families to resources, the City has opened a service center to provide information and assistance. The service center opened on Thursday, October 19 at the Julia De Burgos Latino Cultural Center at 1680 Lexington Avenue in Manhattan, and is open from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Saturdays, and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Sundays. Visit nyc.gov or call 311 to make an appointment.
Scholarship Competition for NYCHA Resident Actors and Actresses

The Lee Strasberg Theatre & Film Institute is offering two 12-week acting scholarships to qualified residents of the New York City Housing Authority. To participate, you must be at least 6 years of age and must audition and be interviewed.

From October 31, 2017, to January 12, 2018, auditions will be held every Tuesday and Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Straus Performing Arts Center, located at 225 East 27th Street, New York, NY 10016.

For more information and to schedule an appointment, contact 718-707-5479 or email citywideprograms@nycha.nyc.gov. Read about last year’s scholarship winners here: https://www.nychajournal.nyc/ready-limelight.

POMONOK HOUSES BUILDS A PLAYGROUND

(Continued from page 1)

A partnership between NYCHA, the Fund for Public Housing, and KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit dedicated to play. The partnership plans to build many more playgrounds at NYCHA developments through the initiative. What makes the KaBOOM! experience so special is community involvement in the design and build process from the beginning.

At the end of the playground build, NYCHA Chair and CEO Shola Olatoye thanked the volunteers and partners for making the playground a reality. She said to residents: “Go back and talk to your friends, your community, your cousins who live in the Bronx and Queens, and tell them about something good that happened here today. Ask them to work to bring it to their communities, because we need them to ask for it, we need them to talk to their local elected officials, we need them to talk to their fellow residents to say ‘we want this in our community as well.’”