A Holiday Breakfast to Remember!
Senior RESIDENTS are cordially invited to attend a Holiday Breakfast hosted by Norwalk Housing Authority staff! This FREE event will take place on Dec. 18, 2019 from 9:30am-11:30am. Breakfast will include: Breakfast Sausage, Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Muffins/Danish/Rolls, Coffee, Tea and Orange Juice.
You MUST RSVP to Alison Mukhtar at 203-838-8471 ext. 140 for this event by Dec. 13th. Breakfast will be served at the following sites:

- 20 West Avenue Community Room
- Leroy Downs Community Room
- Senior Court Community Center
- Ludlow Village residents go to Ludlow Commons dining room
- Irving Freese Community Center

Holiday gifts for NHA residents. We hope to see you there!

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk will be conducting a Public Hearing regarding its Five Year Public Housing Agency Plan on December 10, 2019 at 6:00PM at the CNI Office located at 149 Water Street, 2nd Fl, Norwalk, CT. Proposed documents are available for review from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and Tuesdays 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Norwalk Housing Authority Central Office, 24½ Monroe Street, Norwalk and on our website at www.norwalkha.org/news. Additional copies are located at the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency and at the Public Libraries on Belden Avenue and Washington Street in Norwalk. If you have any questions regarding the Plan, please contact Kras Carlucci, Director of Housing Operations at 203-838-8471 ext. 125.

Start a NEW Career in 2020!
Learn about FREE training at Southwestern CT Health CareerX Academy. Offered through the Workplace, some training opportunities include C.N.A., Pharmacy Tech, Patient Care Tech, Medical Billing and Coding, and more. Eligibility requirements are based on family income or those that have been unemployed (27 weeks or longer). Pre-registration is required.
Dates: Dec. 2nd, 10AM or 2PM on Dec. 9th, 10AM
Place: NHA/CNI Field Office, 149 Water St., 2nd Fl., Norwalk
Call 203-838-8471 X681 (Nadine) or Lisa(X188) to register for the information session.

First-time Homebuyers Certification Program on Dec. 7th, 9:00AM – 5:00 PM.

Come to this FREE program presented by Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, to learn what’s involved in becoming a homeowner on December 7th, 9:00AM – 5:00 PM. Take the confusion out of home-buying. You’ll be guided step by step through the process including reviewing your finances, determining how much you can afford, reviewing your credit, shopping for a home, obtaining a mortgage, preparing for the closing, and more. This popular class fills up quickly! Pre-registration is required, space is limited. This program will be held at the NHA/CNI Field Office, 149 Water Street, 2nd Floor, Norwalk. Contact 203-838-8471 Nadine(x681) or Lisa (X188) and to learn the steps you can take TODAY to become a homeowner! Transportation available to NHA residents only with at least one-week advanced notice. NHA Federal Public Housing and Federal Section 8 residents may qualify for mortgage subsidies for up to 15 years!
NHA Welcomes Conzuelo Salas
Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Coordinator

NHA is pleased to announce that Conzuelo Salas has joined the Self-Sufficiency Team as an FSS Coordinator, assisting NHA public housing residents. Conzuelo came to NHA from working with the Homeless, Veteran and Immigrant community in the Greater Bridgeport area.

Following a 30-year career in the Corporate sector, Conzuelo joined the social services sector because there she found satisfaction in serving the ‘at-risk’ population. Conzuelo actively mentored and enjoyed working with grade school age youth while their parent(s) were incarcerated.

Her prior experience in mentoring led Conzuelo to enjoy working with families and youth in low income communities. She hopes that sharing her personal life experience can assist and benefit others.

Conzuelo earned a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Connecticut, in Stamford. In her spare time, she enjoys advocating on behalf of those that are under served, in the community where she lives. Her hobbies include photography, do-it-yourself projects and appreciation of the Arts.

Conzuelo speaks both English and Spanish and looks forward to working with the NHA community providing services that will help the residents flourish and succeed.

If you are an NHA Federal Public Housing resident and are interested saving a portion of your rent as your earned income increases while obtaining assistance with setting and achieving your goals, contact Conzuelo at 203-838-8471 X186.

The HOLIDAYS Are HERE!
Need Extra Cash? Come To Express Employment’s Event!

Would you like to pick up some extra cash over the summer and beyond? Is it time for a new job or a career change? Meet the professionals at Express Employment and find out about the many choices they have for you. Express can connect you with warehouse work, office and administrative positions, help desk work, as well as professional accounting and sales positions, and much more. Temporary and permanent work options are available!

Tuesday December 10th, 1:00 p.m.
NHA/CNI Offices, 149 Water St., 2nd fl., Norwalk, CT

Employment & Training Opportunity

If you are receiving SNAP benefits and not receiving money from Temporary Family Assistance (TANF), you may be eligible to receive a scholarship to participate in SNAP Employment & Training for certain credit and non-credit programs offered at Norwalk Community College. Some non-credit programs include computer repair, group exercise instructor, security officer, homemaker companion and many more. Some credit certificates include Culinary Arts, Early Childhood education, Medical Office Specialist and more. A representative from NCC will be available to discuss opportunities and the application process:

Date: December 5th, 10AM – 11:30AM

OR

January 14th: 5:30PM – 7PM

Place: NHA CNI Field Office, 149 Water Street, 2nd Floor, Norwalk

Call 203-838-8471 X681 (Nadine) or Lisa(X188) to register for the information session.

Connecticut Food Bank Mobile Pantry

4th Saturday of each month (December 28th, January 25th, February 22nd …)

10:30AM to 11:30AM at Ben Franklin Center, 66 Bayview Avenue, Norwalk

Connecticut Food Bank in partnership with Filling in the Blanks of Norwalk and Family & Children’s Agency, will be distributing a variety of FREE, fresh and nutritious food to families in Norwalk on the fourth Saturday of each month. No signups, documentation or income eligibility requirements. Bring your own reusable grocery bags!
2020 Census Throwdown

Enter for a chance to win $500 and have your lyrics judged by a celebrity!

Did you know the 2020 Census is safe, easy, and important for you and your family to participate in? This is an opportunity to use your power as a student and help your community by creating original lyrics for a Census Throwdown.

Here’s how to count yourself in by entering our Census Throwdown today!

CONTEST CRITERIA: Use the Census 2020 information provided below to create unique lyrics about the Census. Your submission may be based on any musical style, whether rap, reggae, trap, hip-hop, rock, or whatever inspires you. And, you may work alone or with friends. Musical background is optional. Your lyrics will be judged on creativity and how clearly you express information about the 2020 Census. You may use some phrases provided here, but do not have to. The more creative, the better! The sky’s the limit, with one exception - entries with put downs or obscene language or references will not be considered.

HOW TO ENTER: Once your submission is complete, upload a video to Instagram with the hashtag #N2Bcensusthrowdown and be sure to tag our account @norwalk2bridgeport! Include your name, school and grade in your caption.

PRIZE: Winning entry will be chosen by a celebrity judge. The winning entry will receive a cash scholarship of $500.00 and your lyrics will be promoted broadly throughout the state and across social media!

SUMMARY OF ENTRY RULES:
- Entries must include lyrics that relate to the 2020 Census and be in English.
- Additional videos may be submitted of the same lyrics in another language. Only the English version will be judged.
- Entries must be received no later than January 31st, 2020 at 11:59PM.
- All participants must be at least 13 years of age and attend high school in Norwalk, Westport, Fairfield or Bridgeport, Connecticut.
- Winner will be notified by Instagram message.
Reading to Children is Essential to Learning

Being able to read and understand is the cornerstone of a good education. As the season of Christmas approaches family will often have more time to spend together. Why not spend that time reading to your children. Reading to your child has so many benefits. Research shows children who are read to have a larger vocabulary than those students who are not read to. Let’s read to our children daily. Here are some things to think about:

Choosing books gets challenging when kids are older and have developed more definite tastes. Don’t limit yourself to just books. Kids like getting mail. A magazine subscription in their name to a children’s magazine like National Geographic Kids or Highlights for Children provides a variety of new things to read each month. Many kids who avoid traditional books also find that they enjoy reading comics, which can be slightly more accessible and still offer a solid reading experience.

NHA STEM Names NASA’s Next Mars Rover!

The Mars 2020 Rover is preparing to launch to the Red Planet in July 2020, but it doesn't have a name yet. NHA students along with other students across the United States send in essays with their best name ideas. By participating in the essay contest, students:

• Learned about real NASA missions
• Applied their critical thinking skills
• Learned something new, and formed questions about a place they may never have heard of
• Conducted research using NASA websites
• Applied their writing skills

This rover has a new, more capable wheel design, among other improvements compared to past NASA Rovers. For the first time, the Rover carries a drill for coring samples from Martian rocks and soil. Visit the NASA webpage in mid-January to participate in their public poll and tell them your favorite name choice.

She’s BACK!

NHA is pleased to announce that Carla Conway has returned to coordinate the NHF Scholarship Program. Carla will be overseeing scholarship outreach into the NHA community and assisting new students with additional scholarship applications. She will also oversee the NHF scholarship students in college, provide assistance with navigating any academic, FAFSA, or other college-related problems that various students may encounter, plus collect the reports that NHF scholarship students are required to submit documenting their academic progress. The NHF Scholarship Application will open in mid-January. If you know of any NHA residents or their children who may be interested in learning more about the NHF Scholarship and other scholarships available to NHA residents, please have them contact Carla Conway by phone at 203-838-8471, ext. 190 or by email at CarlaConway@NorwalkHousing.org.

Celebrating Norwalk Housing College Scholarship Graduates

The Norwalk Housing Foundation Program has come of age. Hundreds of students have been assisted, and we’d like to share their achievements and contributions. We’ll start with Nadege Francois, who lived with her mother Suzelle Francois in Colonial Village. Nadege was a good student, played sports in high school and participated in some of the creative activities at the Learning Center. Nadege had always wanted to make a difference by helping others, especially juveniles and children in need. She graduated in 2012 from Central CSU (Major: Sociology/Minor Writing) and received high praise from the NHF Scholarship Committee for volunteering at the New Britain Courthouse to help juveniles in need while in college. Everything was not easy for Nadege. She had problems in her Sophomore year with time management and over-extending herself. As a Sophomore she over-booked herself, trying to fit attending classes, college assignments, studying, two outside jobs and volunteering into one life. The result was little sleep, getting very ill and getting low grades, including an “F”. She learned time management from this experience, went on to graduate CCSU and had two job offers waiting until she graduated. She achieved her Masters in Social Work from Springfield College, MA in 2016, making the Deans List with a 3.9 GPA in her first year. She was a skilled social worker for the Department of Children and Families, a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, active in the Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church and very proud that she had bought a home for her mother. Unfortunately, she passed away suddenly in October at age 29. But in her too short life, she helped hundreds of people and so we are doing this first coming of age profile of the NHF Scholarship Program Alumni celebrating her life and accomplishments.