



# NHA News

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## GOAL SUNDAY PROGRAM



Prospective students and parents are invited to attend College Goal Sunday on January 25, 2009, where financial aid administrators will offer **FREE** assistance in completing financial aid forms. College Goal Sunday will take place at Norwalk Community College at 1:30 p.m., and all participants will have a chance to **WIN** a scholarship. In order to complete the forms, those attending should bring their driver's license, social security number, previous year's W-2 forms, student and parents last Federal Income Tax return, current bank statements, untaxed income records for previous year, current business records and information and proof of citizenship. Students and parents are strongly urged to register in advance at [www.collegegoalsundayct.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayct.org). For more information and a complete listing of event sites in Connecticut you can visit the College Goal Website at [www.collegegoalsundayct.org](http://www.collegegoalsundayct.org). You may use the computers at NHA Learning Centers to register.

## New Resident Council at 25 Chapel Street

On December 11<sup>th</sup> the residents of 25 Chapel Street elected a new Resident Council. Elected council officers are: President: Ernesto Morales; Vice President: Briggettie Grant; Secretary: Melissa Bochicchio; Corresponding Secretary: Maria Rodriguez; Treasurer: Ofelia Morales.

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

### PHADA Scholarship Applications Available for \$7,000 and \$5,000

PHADA (Public Housing Authorities Directors Association) college scholarship applications are now available. The scholarships are for public housing and Section 8 high school seniors who plan to attend college full time next year and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 (B average) for all high school years. Scholarships are for \$7,000 and \$5,000. Call Carla Conway, Scholarship Coordinator at 838-8471, ext. 176 for more information and applications.

### 2009 Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Applications Now Available

Norwalk Housing Authority residents planning to attend college next fall on a full-time basis should contact Carla Conway, Scholarship Coordinator, at 838-8471, ext. 176 to put their names on the application list and come to the NHA Main Office at 24½ Monroe Street to pick up the 2009 NHF Scholarship applications and discuss scholarship packages. Only NHA residents in good standing may apply for the NHF Scholarship. Last year \$105,000 was awarded to 32 students.

## NHA Staff Serves Senior Breakfast



Tuesday December 16, 2008, senior residents from Norwalk Housing Authority were served a FREE holiday breakfast. For convenience breakfast was served in each community center.

Volunteers from the Norwalk Housing Authority staff organized the breakfast and served breakfasts at all the locations. Many generous donors from Norwalk's business community came together and donated food to make the breakfast special. The kindness of these merchants during these hard economic times is especially appreciated by the NHA staff planning the event and by the senior residents for whom this breakfast had been planned.

Generous donors include: Bull's Head Market, Costco, with donations supervised by Tom Daly and staff, NCC Campus Café, Norwalk Police Department, Liz Sue Bagels, and United Way of Norwalk and Wilton, which donated shirts that said "Live United". In addition, Norwalk Housing Authority staff donated funds to help cover costs for the breakfast.

The NHA "Senior Breakfast Planning Committee" included Barbara Antzoulis, Guillermo Bendana, Neal Brodsky, Fred Diaz, Joe Francis, Giselle Hanson, Ewart Lauder, Nicole Ruffin and Alan Sale.

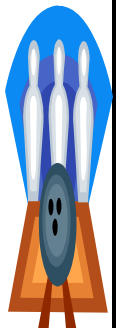
"It feels good to give a helping hand," said Joe Francis, expressing the sentiments shared by all the members of the committee and other members of NHA staff who donated to the breakfast celebration. "I would love to do it again next year."

## Struggling To Keep Your Unit Warm?

Due to the times we are in, there are many who may be struggling to pay their utilities. There is help out there. You can call **211** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) to get in touch with agencies that can help. You can also go to the website: [www.infoline.org](http://www.infoline.org)

## Diageo Bowling Blast

Sixty-five Learning Center students were treated to a bowling party for the holiday season at the Rip Van Winkle Lanes in Norwalk. The event was sponsored by the Diageo Foundation, a Norwalk based company. The students participated in bowling and face painting events, received holiday gifts, and ate to their hearts content! The Diageo Foundation was also gracious enough to make a donation to the Housing Authority to fund programs for students.





### Listening to Your Preteens & Teens, Part 2 (Continued from December issue)

- Ask your teen to teach you facts or ideas from their homework or act out a character from their reading. When teens bring learning to life it helps them remember the information.
- Allow your teen to make speeches, while you listen for supporting evidence and persuasion.
- Support your teen's use of technology for presentations. Most public libraries offer free computer access. Free computer access is available at NHA's Learning Centers. Call Ken Green at 838-8471 ext. 184.



### Holiday Decorations

**REMEMBER:** Decorations are nice but be careful! Do not nail or screw anything into the siding or you will be responsible for the repair. Decorations must be removed by Monday, January 12, 2009.

### Zero Tolerance for Drug Sale and/or Use!

Norwalk Housing Authority has a zero tolerance for drug use. If any tenant is found to have violated this policy, this means an arrest is cause for immediate eviction (we don't need a conviction). Is your apartment worth this? Even more important are your children worth the risk? Have a problem? Help is available, but you have to want it. Dial 211 for more information.

### Preterm Notices



Preterm Notices will be sent immediately to anyone not abiding by the Norwalk Housing Authority lease. Tenants should keep in mind that "live ins" are not allowed. Guests staying over night for more than fourteen (14) days must provide written notification to the Authority and receive written consent from NHA. Any questions, please speak with Lillian Ortiz at ext. 122 or Aurora Holley at ext. 123.

### Westport Country Play House's Playmaking Program

Several NHA students have participated in a playmaking program that has been sponsored by the Westport Country Playhouse. These students have learned how to shape their ideas for a play, write and refine scripts, and work with actors in preparation for the performance of their plays. The group is in the final stages of preparing for a performance for their families and fellow learning center students in January.



### Emergency Calls Afterhours

When calling in for service, whether for heat, water leak, etc. you must leave your name, apartment number and a phone number where you can be reached. This is needed incase the on-call maintenance person needs to call back to get the specifics of the problem.

### United Way & NHA- A force To Be Reckoned With!

United Way is a great support to the mission of NHA, which is to improve the quality of life for Norwalk residents. Recently, an annual fundraiser was held and annual contributions from NHA employees to United Way rose a whopping 23% from last year. United Way helps to support valuable programs for resident children such as the Learning Centers and also contributes to the college scholarship program for public housing residents.

### NHA LOCK OUT PROCEDURE

In the event a resident reports a lock out with a request for entry, the responding Maintenance employee (defined as employee responding for day/night emergency call, or standby assignment) will follow the procedure below:

1. Apartment access will be limited to the head of household only. Other family members are **NOT** eligible to gain entry without the head of household present.
2. The head of household resident will provide his/her name, address and telephone number. He/she must also provide the location he/she is calling from.
3. The head of household resident must provide the responding Maintenance employee with a photo ID, such as a driver's license in the presence of the Norwalk Police Department.
4. Upon confirmation that the resident is indeed the head of household, the Maintenance employee will open the unit. Before leaving, the Maintenance employee will secure the resident's signature as a work order.

#### LOCK-OUT CHARGES:

DAY TIME SERVICE CALL	\$42.00
NIGHT TIME & SATURDAY SERVICE CALLS	\$52.00
SUNDAY & HOLIDAYS SERVICE CALLS	\$62.00

### 2008 Eviction List!

The numbers are in and they tell the story! As requested by tenants during the RASS Survey, that NHA enforce the rules of the lease. We have! There were a total of 47 evictions for lease violations. They are as follows:

Non-payment of rent	21
Drugs	8
Unauthorized occupants	8
Failure to report income	3
Failure to do community service	2
Firearm	1
Failure to maintain unit	1
Failure to recertify	1
Disturbing neighbors	1
Not occupying unit	1