NHA NEWS
September 2012

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NHA LEARNING CENTERS FOR THE FALL!!!

Learning Center fall programs begin on September 4th. Program hours are 2:30pm to 7:00pm and all youth need to be registered with updated contact information in order to participate in the program. Please make sure you contact your Learning Center for registration packet or contact update form. The Learning Centers provide academic support, homework help and quality enrichments programs. Our goal is to partner with parents in supporting their children in reaching academic success and we invite you into the program either through volunteering and sharing a special talent or donating to assist in offsetting the cost of the programs. To all of the parents who have already contributed to the NHA Learning Centers either through volunteering or donations, a big thank you! Starting this fall we have developed an 8th grade program at 20 West and all 8th graders will be going to 20 West for after school programs. Students can be dropped off from school and will have NHA van transportation home. The 7th grade students will have an opportunity to attend 20 West on Fridays and K through 6th grade will remain at their home learning center. An informational sheet will be sent to all parents regarding the various programs that will occur at our centers this fall. If you have any questions please feel free to contact either Patricia Marsden-Kish or Wendy Gerbier at 203-852-1144.

STRIVE for Jobs! Sept. 17 – Oct. 5 Guaranteed Interviews!

Are you new trying to get back into the workforce? Tired of endlessly going from employer to employer to apply for a job, only to be rejected or ignored? Norwalk Housing Authority is partnering with Career Resources, a nationally recognized workforce development organization, to bring this three-week intensive job-readiness training and job placement assistance program to you! Training focuses on developing positive attitudes and work habits for successful long term job retention. STRIVE is an international employment program with successful employment results. In Connecticut, there are over 3000 graduates with over 70% employment rate! While STRIVE cannot guarantee jobs, program graduates are guaranteed interviews. Interested STRIVE participants MUST attend a one-half hour appointment with a Career Resources professional prior to starting. STRIVE is scheduled for Monday September 17th through Friday October 5th. Classes are Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 4:00PM. Participants MUST be able to attend ALL days and are responsible for their own childcare during this time. All STRIVE graduates will be eligible for a drawing for a FREE refurbished DELL computer & flat screen monitor! For more information and to register, please call 203-838-8471 X188 Lisa Roger or X181 Sandra-Ann Nolfo.

Utility Assistance Program Open

If you need assistance with utility bills and are in an emergency situation, Operation Fuel is now taking applications for the Summer Utility Assistance program. The program provides a one-time cash grant of up to $500 (paid directly to the utility) to help income eligible households in an emergency situation. Emergencies include job loss and certain medical conditions. Assistance is for heat or non-heat gas or electric utilities. Households that have received assistance from Operation Fuel over the past 12 months are not eligible to apply. The program will end by October 31st. Dial 2-1-1 for more information.

Seniors: Visit Mystic Seaport or Aquarium

Seniors come spend the day at Mystic Seaport or Aquarium on September 4, 2012. The bus leaves at 9:00am from Irving Freese and returns at 5:00pm. The cost for the Seaport is $22.00 and the cost of the Aquarium is $26.00. Reservations are required and space is limited. For reservations, please contact Emily Hartwell at 203-838-8471 ext. 187.

FREE Commercial Driver’s License Training!

If you have a valid driver’s license and are an NHA Federal Public Housing resident, you may qualify for FREE truck driver training in just two weeks with New England Tractor Trailer Training School in Bridgeport! This program is valued at $2500 and can lead to earnings of $47,000! Please call 203-838-8471 X188 (Lisa) or X137 (Guillermo). Space is limited, call TODAY!
Homeownership – Save the date! Did you miss our most recent Homeownership workshop in April? Our next 8-hour HUD sponsored Homeownership workshop is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th. Contact NHA’s self-sufficiency team, 203-838-8471 X187 (Emily) or X135 (Guillermo) and learn the steps you can take TODAY to help pay for a mortgage for up to 15 years if you qualify!

NO SATELLITE DISHES are allowed on NHA properties.

National Award of Merit for Math Literacy
Norwalk Housing Authority was awarded the 2012 National Award of Merit in Program Innovation – Resident and Client Services for the Public Housing Youth Math Literacy Program from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, in Washington, DC.

Intergenerational Quilting Group!
Peace by Piece will restart on September 7, 2012 from 3:00pm until 6:00 at Senior Court Community Center on 9 Union Ave. Classes are held on Mondays and Friday and all are welcome to attend.

A Website for Grown Folks!
At Last! A website designed for grown-ups. For senior-friendly health and wellness information, check out www.NIHSeniorHealth.gov. This premier government website is east to use: You can make the text bigger; You can make the contrast better and you can make it TALK! NIHSeniorHealth was developed by the National Institutes of Health- the Nation’s Medical Research Agency.

Lock-Out Policy
Tenants are responsible to pay for lock outs. As you know if you are locked out of your apartment during normal business hours there is $35.36 to open your door. After hours the Authority must pay the employee overtime to come out. After 5:00pm and on Saturdays the charge is $106.08 and on Sundays and holidays it is $141.44.

Violence Against Women Act
Things that you should know…
Did you know that every 15 seconds somewhere in America a woman is battered? Both Housing and Section 8 tenants that are victims of domestic violence are protected under this act. If at any time you are a victim please protect your rights and yourself from future violence and call your Occupancy Specialist immediately at 203-838-8471. Please, protect yourself and your family.

Are You Moving Out?
First, if you are moving out your lease requires you to give us a 30 day written notice by the first of the month. Secondly, you need to think about your security deposit. Security deposits will be returned within four to six weeks after your move-out date. The amount returned is less charges and/or cleanup. Anything (furniture or garbage) that needs to be removed from the apartment by our maintenance staff is back charged against your security deposit. Any clean up of the apartment or NHA appliances will also result in a charge. Think ahead and you will be surprised at the amount you can save.

Your Source for Legal Help in Connecticut
Check out www.ctlawhelp.org for self-help guides, audio/video resources and much more!

Free Concert Featuring Native and Classical Instruments!
Mayor Richard A. Moccia will host INTAKE Organization’s concert on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 7PM at Norwalk Concert Hall, featuring a collaborative performance between the Norwalk Youth Symphony and the INTAKE (Instrumentally Native Taking on the Classics) Ensemble. Rossini’s “William Tell Overture”, Strauss’ renowned “Blue Danube Waltz”, and music from Latin America and the Caribbean will be included in the culturally rich and diverse repertoire. Bring your family and enjoy a unique concert. For more information, contact Maricarmen Godoy, 203-952-8718 and visit www.intakemusic.org.

Colonial Village Residents
Come to a special meeting to nominate candidates for various offices for the Colonial Village Resident Council on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at the Colonial Village Learning Center at 7:00PM (Sharp!) All Colonial Village Residents who are 18 years or older and are listed on the lease as legal occupants are qualified to run for office, nominate residents and vote. Residents will run for only one office. Offices that are OPEN are President, Vice President, Secretary; Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer.
20 West Student Visit PEZ Visitor Center

20 West students visited the PEZ Visitor Center located in Orange, CT. The students enjoyed learning about the pop culture phenomenon and its origins. In addition to learning about the candy’s origins, the students viewed a demonstration of how the candy is manufactured and packaged. Eating the newly made candy was thrilling for students as well as receiving new PEZ dispensers. The students look forward to visiting the PEZ Visitor Center again.

Terrence Williams strikes a pose during a recent trip to the PEZ Visitor Center in Orange CT.

Be a Botanist

Norwalk Housing Authority science summer enrichment is all about learning through hands on experience. Science and Math Coordinator, Sheiree Powell introduced students to the field of Life Science in a fun and creative way, in which the children participated in hands on activities entitled “Be a Botanist” which included: Create a Herbarium Library, Nature Exploration of Cranberry Park and Planting 101.

NHA Creative Arts Center Visits Schomburg

The Creative Arts Center students and staff visited the “Gordon Parks: 100 Moments” exhibit at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, NY on August 15, 2012. The exhibit displayed a retrospective of the dynamic photographer, Gordon Parks’ work that showed people and events that took place after WWII, during segregation and economic discrimination in Harlem. Students explored many facets of Parks’ work and were able to relate some of the elements in Park’s work to their own present day lives.

Bicycling Teaches Persistence

Students from 20 West Ave, have been out riding bicycles! Everyone has enjoyed exploring little known areas of Norwalk and some of the students have discovered a new sense of self confidence. They’ve tackled some difficult hills going into Rowayton. The first few times the students had to walk their bikes up the hill; but with persistence and encouragement, they succeeded in climbing the hill without having to walk the bike. This success on the bike leads to future success in their lives as they learn they can push themselves and succeed in school and life! Who knew you could gain so much from a simple bicycle ride?

Reader’s Theater

Reader’s Theater is an integrated approach for engaging students in reading, writing, speaking, and listening activities. Students perform and use their voices to depict characters from texts, giving them the opportunity to enhance reading comprehension and further develop fluency. Students that attended the Literacy Center took part in the Reader’s Theater script titled “Sunlight and Moonlight”. This short Tibetan folk tale tells the story of two young princes that escape from danger at home in the palace, only to find even greater danger in the wilderness. Each student was cast in one of sixteen parts and was encouraged to read their lines with an expressive voice and grand gestures.

These young ladies know the important of safety first! Helmets everyone!!

Students explore the trails of Cranbury Park all while learning about nature and how it relates to science.
NHA’s MOMMY & ME PROGRAM
Early Childhood Activities for September 2012

MONDAYS
Art/Story Time will begin on Sept. 10th from 10:00-11:00 at a location to be announced.

TUESDAYS
Swimming will begin on Sept. 4th from 10:00-11:00 at YMCA, 370 West Ave, Norwalk.

WEDNESDAYS
Stepping Stones Museum for Children will begin on Sept. 5th from 11:00-1:00, 303 West Avenue, Norwalk.

THURSDAYS (Trips)
September 6
Sweet Claude’s from 11:00-1:00, 828 Main Street, Cheshire, CT

September 13
Silverman’s Farm (apple picking/petting zoo) from 10:00-1:00, 451 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT

September 20
Calf Pasture Beach (Pot Luck Cookout) from 10:00-1:00, Norwalk, CT

September 27
Little People, 345 Main Ave, Norwalk, CT
Once Upon A Child, 67 Newtown Ave, Danbury, CT
(Consign: Bring gently used FALL clothing/toys/strollers/DVDs for sale. Shop: Maternity/Baby/Children’s clothing for reasonable prices).

Registration for Ages 0-4
September 5 from 9:00-2:00 at the King Kennedy Community Center, Norwalk.

Special Activities
Parenting Workshop on September 17, 2012 from 10:00-11:00 at the Norwalk Community Health Center, 120 Connecticut Ave.
Topic: Developmental Stages 1-2-3

No ECP scheduled during most school holidays. Program will be closed on September 3 & 26.
All Housing Authority and Section 8 parents/guardians of children between the ages of 0-4 are welcome to attend. Please call Autier Allen-Craft, Early Childhood Program Coordinator (203) 644-4720 for further information, or to arrange NHA van pickup.

What Are Great Schools?
For over a decade, GreatSchools.org has been helping parents choose the right school for their children, and support their children’s education. They have it all! Videos about homework help; articles about protecting against bullies; tips on getting free tutoring from your child’s school and much more!
GreatSchools is easy to use and this is what you do:
- To find schools near you, go to www.GreatSchools.org and search using your city, address or just a zip code.
- Check off the boxes for public, charter, or private schools and grade level (preschool, elementary, middle, or high school) to find the schools you want.
- Find the schools and compare the schools on your list. Every school has a Great Schools Rating from 1 to 10. Ten is the highest rating. This means students in those schools score higher on tests.
- Also, check out the community reviews. This is where you can get the inside scoop about any school from parents, teachers and students.

Washington Village Fairytale Folk Tale Project
At the Washington Village Summer Camp, Mrs. Linda has been working with the children on a project based on classic children’s fairytale and folk tale stories. These stories included Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, The Three Bears, Snow White and The Three Little Pigs. However, out of all the classic stories the Three Little Pigs provided a great opportunity for writing. In small groups, the students wrote letters to the wolf. The letter started off with Dear Mr. Wolf and then the children had the chance to tell the wolf how they felt and that it wasn’t nice to always make the pigs feel so afraid. In addition, the students on their own put together a beautiful storytelling bulletin board of the Three Little Pigs. If you walk into the Washington Village Learning Center and immediately look to your right you will see the creative Three Little Pigs storytelling bulletin board. The Fairytale & Folk Tale Project is ongoing with exciting new activities on the way.