NHA NEWS

October 2012

Want to OWN your own HOME? You Can Do It!

Come to this FREE program presented by Money Management International (a member of the National Foundation for Credit Counseling) to learn what’s involved in becoming a homeowner on Saturday, October 20, 9:00AM – 5:00 PM, at LeRoy Downs, 26 Monroe Street. This workshop will take the confusion and uncertainty out of home-buying and guide you through the process, step by step. Topics include 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. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Contact NHA’s self-sufficiency team, 203-838-8471 (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!

Hot Meals Still Rolling into Norwalk

Thanks to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, FREE delicious and very nutritious meals are available in take home packages! No ID or income requirements are necessary! TUESDAY dinners, starting at 6:00pm, Washington Village Learning Center parking lot.
FRIDAY dinners, starting at 6:00pm, Roodner Court Learning Center parking lot, 261 Ely Ave.
SUNDAY Lunches, starting at 1:00pm, Ryan Park/Day Street (across from Washington Village)
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, and THURSDAYS, noon – 2PM – sit-down meals at Bridge Café, 20 N. Main Street. (In addition, free, gently used clothing is available at the clothing “store” during these times.)
Manna House of Hospitality at the Open Door Shelter, 4 Merritt St., provides hot meals DAILY:
Breakfasts: 6:00am – 7:00am
Lunches: 1:00pm–2:00pm
Dinners: 6:00pm – 7:00pm.
Take-out meals for lunches at 12:30 and dinners at 5:30 are also available. For take-out meals ONLY, annual registration is required including proof of address and ID’s for all household members, as well as birth certificates for children under the age of 18. Proof of family size required. Contact Veola Kelly, Monday through Friday 9:30am – 11:30am at 203-866-1057.

Informational Session & BBQ at Washington Village

Rose Sellers (left), Washington Village Vice President and neighbor speak with Eva Erlich from Trinity Financial, Inc. on September 22, 2012 to review Washington Village development possibilities.

Free Concert at Norwalk City Hall on October 20, 2012

Norwalk Youth Symphony Concert Orchestra and the INTAKE (Instructurally Native Taking on the Classics) Ensemble will host a FREE concert on October 20, 2012 at Norwalk Concert Hall, 125 East Avenue, Norwalk with the doors opening at 6:00pm (show begins at 7:00pm). INTAKE brings “an innovative approach to classical music by focusing on its interpretation through the use of native instruments from a variety of cultures representing local communities in diaspora. For more information, contact: Maricarmen Andino at:(203) 952-3762. If anyone needs transportation please call Sarah by Friday, October 19, 2012 at 203-852-1144 ext. 100.

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Call the Children’s Law Center Law Line
1-888-LAW-DOOR (1-888-529-3667)
What can CLC help me with?
The Law line helps callers understand the legal processes that involve children, such as custody, visitation, guardianship, abuse and neglect. CLC can also refer callers to other agencies or resources for help with getting an attorney, special education advocacy, and school law. For more info, go to: http://www.clcct.org/law-line

Grounds and Public Areas
Grounds and public areas are for the express use of residents and their guests. Abuse, alterations or damage of grounds and public areas is prohibited. Residents are responsible for any damage caused by themselves and/or guests. No soliciting or loitering will be permitted. Consumption of alcohol in public areas is prohibited.

EMPLOYMENT TIP FOR THE MONTH
Looking for a job is a full-time job. Check at least one job search engine each day and set a target as to how many jobs you will apply to a week. Applying to no less than three to five jobs per week is very reasonable and will yield positive results. A few excellent job search engines are: www.indeed.com; www.fairfieldcountyjobs.com; www.careerbuilders.com.

Good Health Prevention Tips
*Don’t use tobacco
*Eat a healthy diet
*Maintain healthy weight and include physical activity in diet
*Protect yourself from sun
*Avoid risky activities
*Get immunized
*Take early detection SERIOUSLY!!!

Senior Dinner Café Survey Results Are In!
A recent survey was conducted at the Irving Freese Senior Dinner Café and the results are here:
92% rated the food as good
76% rated the meals appetizing
84% rated the portions as adequate
92% rated the meals served were hot enough/cold enough
Seniors come have dinner at the Irving Freese Dinner Café, Monday-Friday beginning at 4:00pm. Reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance; please call Monica Beach at 203-241-2422. Suggested donation is $2, but not required. If you would like a ride to have dinner, call Sarah at 203-852-1144 ext. 100.

Preventing Illegal Drug Use
Illegal drugs are a major problem in our country. The Norwalk Housing Authority is no exception. If you know of any illegal drug activities, please text the Drug Tip Hotline at 274637 keyword NPD or email norwalkpd.com. ALL INFORMATION IS TOTALLY CONFIDENTIAL.

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! Call 203-838-8471 X188 [Lisa] or X135 (Guillermo). Space is limited, call TODAY!

No Text Is Worth Dying For!
“It Can Wait!” is a Message That Can’t Wait. Join the Coalition to Stop Texting While Driving. AT&T and the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce invite you to join efforts to halt the practice of texting while driving. Go to www.itcanwait.org and take the pledge!

Preparing For Your Job Search
Learn what you need to know and need to have when looking for a job. Two FREE workshops are being offered to help you do just that:

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| How to write a powerful cover letter, complete an application that gets noticed and do the impossible – get a reference | Tuesday, October 9 from 9:30 to 12:30
Or
Thursday, October 11 from 9:30 to 12:30 |
| How to prepare for an interview | Tuesday, October 23 from 9:30 to 12:30
Or
Thursday, October 25 from 9:30 to 12:30 |

All Workshops are being held at Leroy Downs Apartments located at 26 Monroe Street, Norwalk, CT 06854. You must call to reserve your spot: Jean Davis-French at 203-838-8471, ext. 147.
turn off the TV, video games and computer to get support an active and healthy lifestyle. As an official registered site for Nickelodeon’s 9th annual Worldwide Day of Play, Stepping Stones Museum for Children is encouraging children of all ages to turn off the TV, video games and computer to get out and PLAY WITH US!

CREATING EARLY COLLEGE EXPOSURE

You’re invited to be part of an exciting new program located at 20 West Avenue, Learning Center called Bridge to College. The program is geared toward supporting and preparing youth to be academically ready and informed about what they need to do to be successful in school and career. Activities include:

- In-class activities
- Field trips
- College tours

Join us on Tuesday’s for the middle school track and Wednesday’s for the high school track. Contact us to find out more about this program at 203-852-1144. Ask to speak with Wendy Gerber, Anthony Wilson or April Jackson. Come and join our team for success in your college goals! Some of the students went with staff on a college tour and also took in a football game.

Washington Village Summer Camp Awards Ceremony

On August 24, 2012 The Washington Village Summer Camp held an Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was a huge success and the hard work the students did over the summer deserved recognition. Each student was given an award in reading and daily participation. Some students also received recognition for positive behavior, good friendship and social skills and service. There were four special certificates given to students who each received Wal-Mart gift cards with their certificate. The outstanding listener award, service award, outstanding student award, and double diamond award were the four special awards. The recipients are: Kimberly Castillo, Double Diamond Award; China Tinnen, Outstanding Student Award; Dandy Cassy, Service Award and Mariah Browley, Outstanding Listener Award!

Students Embrace Physical Science

Did you know that you can change matter? Think about what happens when salt is added to an icy road on a cold winter day. It makes the snow and ice melt faster. What happens when you get a haircut? You look different, but the hair is still made up of the same substance as before the cut—just less of it. How about boiling an egg? Once the egg is cooked it can’t be changed back to its original condition. This is called a chemical change and it can also be seen in spoiled food, burning wood or rusted metal. Chemical reactions happen when something is broken apart and new matter takes its place. A great way to think of this is when a candle is lit or a cold pack melts. Norwalk Housing Authority Science enrichment is all about learning through doing. Science and Math Coordinator, Shiree Powell introduced students to the field of Physical Science in a fun and creative way.

Knitting and Crocheting at 20 West Ave.

Who would have known that a pair of needles, yarn, and positive attitude, would create such an encouraging impact on the young ladies who participated in 20 West’s Knitting and Crocheting class? Kyana Canino is a 7th grader at West Rocks Middle School enthusiastically said “I enjoyed the program because it taught us that we can create inexpensive fashionable items like scarfs and hats instead of buying them.” Elizabeth Williams, the instructor of the Knitting and Crocheting class was very impressed with the girls’ interest and commitment to trying something new.

For-Profit College Grads Also Earn a Life of Debt

Students seeking to move up in life by getting a degree from a for-profit college are being trapped in a growing underclass of education debtors. Students at for-profit colleges carry the biggest loans in U.S. higher education and Bachelor’s degree recipients at for-profits have median debt of $31,190 compared with $17,040 at private, nonprofit institutions and $7,960 at public colleges, according to Washington-based nonprofit Education Trust. The bottom line: Students at for-profit colleges graduate with higher debt loads and loan default rates than those who attend conventional schools. Call Carla for info. 203-838-8471 ext. 176.

New Education Coordinator at 20 West Avenue

Anthony grew up living in Roodner Court and attended Norwalk public schools. He is a recent graduate of Central Connecticut State University. Mr. Wilson attended CCSU on an Athletic Scholarship where he excelled in football and academics. Anthony graduated from Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Finance. Post-graduation, he made a career change that involves working with youth. He hopes to bring energy, awareness and motivation to students as he heads our Bridge to College program.

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Meadow Gardens Learning Center Students Enjoy The Only Game in Town

Meadow Garden students took a field trip to The Only Game in Town in North Haven, CT. The Only Game in Town offers lots of fun activities and games for people of all ages. Some of the activities that students engaged in included: mini-golf, the batting cage, arcade games and go-cart racing. For some of students, it was their first time experiencing mini golf and go-cart-racing, which turned out to be very thrilling and fun! We had a fantastic time!

Race Car Fun
Johsahiah Simms

Meadow Gardens Mini Golf Star Treyjon Lewis is ready to work his magic during an outing this summer!

Mr. Riley(MG Staff) , LeVaughn Lewis and Treyjon Lewis (Left to Right)

Ladies Arcade Pic with Julisa Evans, Cindy Makaba, Yvette Rios, Edith Rios and Irene Martinez (Left to Right)

NHA’s MOMMY & ME PROGRAM

Early Childhood Activities for Oct.

MONDAYS
Art/Story Time from 12:00pm-1:00pm at the Roodner Court Community Center

WEDNESDAYS
Stepping Into Senses Program at the Stepping Stones Museum for Children from 11:00am-12:30pm, 303 West Avenue, Norwalk

THURSDAYS (Trips)
October 4, 2012
Sweet Claude’s from 10:00am-12:00pm, 828 Main St., Cheshire, CT

October 11, 2012
Fall Foliage Road Trip from 10:00am-1:00pm, Kent, CT

October 18, 2012
Silverman’s Farm from 10:00am-12:30pm, 451 Sport Hill Road, Easton, CT
(Pumpkin Patch, Petting Zoo & Hayride).

October 25, 2012
Maritime Aquarium from 10:00am-1:30pm, 10 North Water Street, Norwalk, CT

Special Activities
Parenting Workshop on October 15, 2012 at the Norwalk Community Health Center, 120 Connecticut Ave
Topic: Mommy Time (Taking care of yourself as a parent/care provider)

October 29, 2012 Halloween Costume Contest & Party (Raffle) from 10:00am-12:00pm
At NHA’s Roodner Court Learning Center, 261 Ely Ave.

Come join the fun! For more information contact Ms. Autier the Early Childhood Program Coordinator at (203) 644-4720 or acraft@norwalkha.org, to reserve tickets/schedule transportation. Space is limited. Any parent who is a resident of NHA or on Section 8 is welcome to participate. Children 0-4 years old are eligible but must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Hamide and Ishmail Gemajli at Lake Quassy in Middlebury, CT