

20 West Ave. Scholarship Recipient Moves on to Advanced Degree

Hervens Jeannis a Norwalk native is and former NHA resident attending the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) for his graduate degree in Systems Engineering this fall. UMBC is currently the top "Up-and-Coming" school in America and is credited for its strong diversity and its competitive engineering program. Hervens, recently graduated from Syracuse University; upon graduation he received the Reinventing Scholarship Award from the Center for Graduate Preparation and Achievement among other recognitions. He has received a fellowship to pay for school tuition and fees, along with a stipend. He aspires to see the up and coming generation from his native city strive for the best and to avoid distractions. "Even though I never had the best grades, I always persisted to make sure my work was done." One piece of advice Hervens would like to give to the city youth is to "remember to stay focused, then set goals to achieve your dreams, the sky's the limit!"

Literacy Corner

Some parents may be reluctant to help their child(ren) with homework because they feel that they don't know the subject well enough or because you don't read or speak English as well as your child. But helping with homework doesn't mean doing the homework; it's about supporting them to do their best. You may not know enough about a subject such as geometry to help your child with a specific assignment, but you can help nonetheless by showing that you are interested, helping them get organized, providing a place and the materials they need to work, limiting distractions (turning off the television and music), monitoring their work to see that they complete it and praising their efforts.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!



Remember to Register to Vote in the upcoming November 3 election! NHA has mail-in voter registration forms on the front lobby table in English and Spanish or you can go to norwalkct.org and print a form and mail it in. The last date to register for the Nov. 3rd election is October 19, 2009. It is very important to cast your vote for the candidates of your choice. Call Katie Johnson at 854-7830 for details on voter locations.

FREE Light Bulbs For Seniors!



In August Norwalk Housing Authority staff and Summer Youth employees went to all of the senior developments and exchanged incandescent light bulbs and installed energy efficient bulbs in each unit which will result in lower electricity bills. Seniors residing in family developments may come to the main office to receive these free energy efficient bulbs. Seniors must bring their incandescent light bulbs in order to receive the **FREE** energy efficient bulbs. Any questions, please call Nicole Ruffin at 838-8471 ext. 140.

Early Childhood Fall Programs

Worth \$200.00, FREE For NHA Residents

- 7 week swimming classes at the YMCA from Saturday, **9/12-10/24, ages, 6 months– 2 .5 yrs 1:00-2:00 pm and 3-5 yrs 2:00-3:00 pm**
- Art classes and Stepping Stones at #89 Suncrest Rd. begins **9/25/09 through 10/16/2009 from 11:00-1:00pm**

Call Ann Prince, NHA Early Childhood Coordinator @838 -8471 ext. 187 for further details.

Come Have Dinner with CT

State Senator Bob Duff on Oct. 27, 2009 at Irving Freese Senior Café

Senator Duff will arrive at 4:00pm on October 27, 2009 to meet and greet residents and then he will have dinner which begins at 4:30pm. **FREE** van service is available for all NHA Senior developments. Call for reservations 24 hours in advance at (203) 241-2422. \$2.00 donation suggested, but not required. Call Dawn Drew for van service reservations at 515-3233. Irving Freese Senior Café, 57 Ward St. Norwalk.

Nuestra Voz Latina

A self-esteem event for Latina girls in grades 6 through 12 and their moms or other female caregivers. This will take place on Saturday, November 7, 2009 at Central High School, Bridgeport, CT. For more details, contact the Volunteer Development Department at 1-800-922-2770 or AdultDev@gsocfct.org.

Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency Program Success Stories

\$5,730.75

Is the amount Marcie a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) participant received for graduating the Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Marcie a Public Housing resident began the program with a goal of purchasing a home for her family with the Norwalk Housing Authority Section 8 Voucher Homeownership Program. As she began working on her goal, she found out that pursuing homeownership would not be possible therefore; she decided to concentrate on her education and made it a goal to graduate college. At the beginning of the FSS Program Marcie was automatically eligible to save a portion of her monthly rent whenever there was an increase in her income. With hard work and dedication Marcie received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Western Connecticut State University. The Norwalk Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Staff would like to congratulate Marcie for her accomplishments.

\$2,500.00

Jessy a Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) participant and a Norwalk Housing Authority Scholarship recipient set his mind on finishing college. Jessy's FSS goal is to receive a Bachelor in Sports Medicine. Jessy had accumulated \$2,500.00 in his Family Self-Sufficiency escrow account which he used to pay for some of his classes, giving him the opportunity to get closer to accomplishing his goal. (The FSS escrow account is based on your earned income increases, even though your rent may increase, the increased amount will be placed in an escrow account.) Jessy used \$500.00 to help pay for books and the \$2,000.00 to help pay for his classes. Under the Family Self-Sufficiency Program participants may use their escrow money to help pay for education, transportation and other long term goals they may have. The Norwalk Housing Authority Family Self-Sufficiency Staff would like to congratulate Jessy for his accomplishments and we encourage Jessy to continue pursuing his goal.

Call Guillermo Bendana at 838-8471 ext. 135 for more details about this promising program.

NHA WELCOMES NEW STAFF

MARTHA L. CHARRIS joins the Authority as Executive Secretary. For the past 14 years, Martha has worked for the Society of Plastics Engineers where she developed and honed her skills in event management, customer service, database management, editing copy in English and Spanish for various print formats and developed job function training guides. She is experienced in communications, management, customer service and copyediting. Martha is fluent in Spanish.

GREGORY J. LICKWOLA joins us as Construction Manager. From 1994 until 2009, Greg work for the Hartford Housing Authority and prior to that he was a General Engineer for the Hartford HUD office. Greg holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Hartford. He is experienced in short-term and long-range planning for the physical development and improvement of Housing Authority housing stock, involving residents and communities in projects. Greg combines an understanding of the needs and demands of public housing. NHA is a Mod High Performer.



What and Who Are Hearing Officers?

A "Hearing Officer" is an unbiased person selected by Norwalk Housing Authority to hear a Grievance Hearing requested by tenants and the Hearing Officer renders a decision with respect to lease violations. Persons selected to be hearing officers for NHA: Richard Novak, Marc Grenier, Robert Chesion, Curtis Law, Candace Mayer and Thomas Hickey.

NHA College Scholarship Students Are Enjoying College

The NHA College Scholarship Students have started the fall semester of college. Reports are coming in that they are enjoying both learning and meeting new people on campus. Marie Antoine, who is a Freshman at Sacred Heart University and was awarded a tuition free scholarship from the college, has reported that she loves the school and is excited about her classes and what she is learning. Jessica Angel, who attends NCC, reported that her classes are exciting and challenging, especially Public Speaking. Nadege Francois reported that she has more reading to do this year and likes the challenges her classes are offering her. She is grateful that she learned to budget her time last year as a Freshman.