October 2010

NHA News

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HOMEOWNERS Patience & Persevering Pays Off

The Nelson family from Colonial Village just bought their first home. They have been trying to buy a home for the last few years with Emily Hartwell's Family Self-Sufficiency Coordinator assistance. This September they bought a three bedroom, two bathroom, single family home. The Nelson family was so eager and determined that nothing stopped them from achieving their dream. They had to fix their

credit and make their monthly payments on time to build a stronger credit history. After just a year, their credit history was good and their credit score went up. The family began searching for a home. We congratulate the Nelson family for having tremendous patience and overcoming many obstacles. For further information regarding our homeownership program call Emily Hartwell at 203-838-8471 ext. 180 or Guillermo Bendana at 203-838-8471 ext. 135.

Exciting Learning Center Programs! Documentary Photography

Breakout your camera gear! Documentary Photography is back! Beginning Oct. 4, 10 at 20 West Avenue, photo classes will be open to all NHA student residents in grades 6 thru12. Students will learn the basics of camera operation, as well as get creative with self- portraits, fashion photography and night photography. Curriculum covers the proper way to take and print photos as well as possible careers in the field. All equipment needed for class provided. Contact 20 West Learning Center at 203-852-1144 ext. 124.

Storytelling

Tell me a story! NHA's Learning Centers are thrilled to have the "World Famous Professional Storyteller", Laconia "Lot" Therrio engage our students. Lot shares stories from around the world, be they folktale, fable, scary and on occasion personal (though they usually revolve around children). Using his own special style, Lot makes each story an experience to remember. Call your local NHA Learning Center for dates, times, and details.

Early Childhood Program

Get your infants and toddlers off to a great start with NHA's Early Chickadees Club! This dynamic new program is free to residents and allows parents to be involved with teaching their children social and pre-academic skills. The Club involves Storytime, Arts and Crafts Classes, Music and Movement Activities, Drama, Games, and Playtime. Each time you attend, your child will receive a free book to add to their personal library. Transportation and snacks provided. Parent workshops and activities too! Call Ann Prince for more details and registration 203-852-1144 ext. 121.

20 West Ave. Transportation

Would you like your Middle School or High School child to go to the 20 West Ave. Learning Center? Need transportation to and from the center? Well here is the answer! Most schools have a bus that drops the students near the Learning Center.



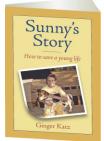
And the best news is that NHA will provide transportation home when the program ends! So, let your teen become a part of our exciting 20West Learning Center!

Students Exhibit Art at NHA Central Office!

NHA is proud to showcase the magnificent art work of students who attend the Creative Arts Center in Colonial Village! These wonderful pieces are displayed in the reception area of the main office.



Sonny's Story



Sunny, is a keen observer of damage done by drug use to his master, lan. He tells a heartwarming story that helps readers think twice about choices they make. Sunny's Story of love, caring and understanding are for both

young and old and to purchase **Sunny's Story**, visit the website <u>www.sunnysstory.com</u>.

A Community Conversation

A Community Conversation on the South Norwalk Railroad Station

Norwalk Railroad Station Neighborhoods will be held on Sept 28, 2010 at 6:30-8:30pm at NEON, 98 South Main St. For more information call Susan Sweitzer from Norwalk Redevelopment Agency at 203-854-7810.



Modernization Update & Plans!

Greg Lickwola, NHA's Construction Manager reports on NHA progress in its targeted programs and activities.

- The Authority initiated the site improvements at Chapel St. Apts. and King Kennedy that were possible because of ARRA Funds. These physical improvements which include new site lighting, parking, fencing, porches and sheds are completed and enhance the sites.
- In terms of promoting energy efficiencies in our developments NHA received two (2) competitive green grants under ARRA. Work items include the replacement of windows at Senior Ct. with energy



star windows and the installation of Solar PV panels for domestic hot water. Work items at Leroy Downs include a new roof and Solar PV panels/Sun-drum for heating domestic hot water. At 20 West Ave. Solar PV

panels/Sun-drum will be installed for domestic hot water.

- The Authority plans to continue its curb appeal in its developments by replacing the vinyl siding at King Kennedy with Hardi-plank, replacing the parking lot and windows at Chapel St., replacing the fencing and parking lot at Seaview Apts.
- Work has started on upgrading Fire Alarm Systems at Senior Ct. and 20 West Ave. Work has started on bathrooms at Meadow Gardens.

Resident Advisory Board Activity

RAB members will be attending the Annual Conference of the Connecticut Housing Coalition on October 27, 2010 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. Any RAB members interested in attending, contact Nicole at 203-838-8471 ext. 140 or to find out about joining the Board.



November 2, 2010 is Election Day!

Don't forget to VOTE! Register to vote by October 26, 2010 at Norwalk City Hall, 125 East. Ave., Norwalk. Go VOTE!

NHA Honored As A Community Leader

On November 6, 2010 at 6:30pm at the August Curtis Culture Center, 175 Main St., Meriden, CT the Public Housing Resident Network will honor NHA as a Community Leader. RAB members who would like to attend, contact Nicole at 203-838-8471 ext.

140 to make reservations and reserve transportation.



Exploring Entrepreneurship Seminar

An "Exploring Entrepreneurship" seminar will be held on November 30, 2010 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm at Leroy Downs, 26 Monroe St., Norwalk, CT. Starting your

own business requires more than just a good idea. The WBDC's FREE Exploring Entrepreneurship will provide aspiring business owners with insight into what they need to get started. Participants will take a thoughtful view of their ideas/visions and investigate the feasibility of turning them into reality. No charge/registration required!

1st Human Chess Game

Friends of Ryan Park, Inc. announce the 1st Human Chess Game to be held on 10/10/10 (rain date 10/17/10) at 1:00 pm at Ryan Park, located at Raymond and Day Street. Forty (40) volunteers are needed to serve as the different pieces on the chess board. Local Chess Masters will be on hand to take on all challengers. Anyone who wants to participate, please call Ruby Watkins, (203) 956-2424 or e-mail her rwatkins@johnmglover.com.

Horatio Alger National Scholarship Due 10/30/2010

The Horatio Alger National Scholarship Program is a major scholarship effort that targets high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, and a good academic record. Most importantly, they need a commitment to pursue a college education and a desire to contribute to society. For help with any questions, please contact James Starr at jstarr@achievehartford.org or phone at 860-244-3333. The 2010-2011 application form is available online at www.horatioalger.org/scholarships and must be submitted by Saturday 10/30/2010.

Parents As Teachers

Are you the parent of an infant or preschooler? Do you live in Colonial Village? The **Parents As Teachers** program at Fox Run School Family Resource Center has playgroups, field trips and answers to those important questions about raising your child. Call Akisha at 203-899-2326 for more information. **Parents may also get community service credits by participating**.

After the Bell: Improving Student Learning With After School Programs Symposium

On 10/14 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Cromwell, CT from 8:00am-11:00am keynote speaker Earl Phalen along with others will conduct a symposium that will discuss in-state and out-of-state education leaders. For details, contact CT After School Network at 203-483-1846.