



## Meet NHA's Astonishing Learning Center Staff

Barry Dancer graduated from college in 2006, where he majored in History and Secondary Social Studies Education. He is a New York State certified teacher and has a Master of Arts degree in American Studies. Barry joined the NHA in October of 2006 as a Lead Coordinator and has worked his way up to Director of Learning Centers.



## 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, Wayne A. Baker, Curtis Law, Candace Mayer and Thomas Hickey.

## "D2R2 - Dogs to Read to" Program

"D2R2 - Dogs to Read to" program will be offering two weekly sessions for children. Every Tuesday, a group of children from the NHA Learning Centers will meet for an hour at the East Norwalk Library, pick a book of their choice and read to Brasil - a specially-trained R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dog) Whippet. On Fridays, children from the NHA Early Childhood Education program will enjoy the same program experience. Call Barry Dancer at 203-852-1144 ext. 123 or Ann Prince at 203-803-6437 for enrollment information.

## NHA & OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Now is the time to apply for a NHA College Scholarship. Also, other scholarships are available. Contact Carla Conway: 203-838-8471, 176 for more information. You may pick up scholarships at the front desk or request them by email. Email Carla Conway at: [cconwa@norwalkha.org](mailto:cconwa@norwalkha.org).

## Housing Assistance For Veterans

The Peter Wojtecki Foundation seeks veterans who reside in Norwalk who need help with their rent or mortgage. Rent or mortgage will be paid for one year. Applications must be submitted by April 15. Interviews with each finalist are required. Get an application at [www.Wojtecki.blogspot.com](http://www.Wojtecki.blogspot.com) or call (203) 359-0169 or 203-801-0060.



## March Art Contest Winner

Benoise Celestin is the art contest winner from Meadow Gardens. The contest was to pick a folktale and illustrate it for Black History month.



## Writing Assistance Program

FREE writing assistance to all interested NHA student residents. Three Advanced Degree State Certified Teachers will be available to help you with the following:

- Writing Essays (High School and College classes, Scholarship Applications, College Essays required with applications).
- Filling out college and/or job applications.
- Creating resumes and cover letters.
- Specific one on one tutoring regarding the Writing Process.
- Practice writing mock essays for the SAT.
- Filling out Financial Aid forms.

Call for an appointment: 203-899-1739. Leave a message and someone will get back to you promptly to schedule an appointment. Location: King Kennedy Literacy Center, 43 Chestnut St., Norwalk, CT

## Spring Break Learning Center Hours

All five sites will be open from 9:00am until 2:00pm during the week of April 18- April 22. If you have any questions/comments, please speak with Barry Dancer, Director of Learning Centers at 203-852-1144 ext. 123.

## 2011 Older Americans: Connecting the Community Essay Contest

May is Older Americans Month to show appreciation and support for seniors as they continue to enrich and strengthen our communities. An essay contest will be held and this year's theme is **Connecting the Community**. The due date is April 27, 2011 and winners will be notified on May 13, 2011. For more information, go to "norwalkha.org" look under Resources and click on *Newsflash*. Feel free to use the writing program above.

## Help Your Teen Transform!!

Is Your Child: Skipping School? Yelling at or Hitting you? Involved in a Gang? Using Drugs? Drinking? Sexually Active? Stealing? Running Away? Rebellious? If you answered YES To any of these questions; then you may have an out-of-control or strong-willed child. Let the Parent Project Work for You! Empowering Parents and Transforming Teens! Learn how to:

- Never argue with your child again!
- Prevent or intervene in alcohol or drug use!
- Improve school attendance and performance!
- Find resources to help your family!

For more information come to our Open House, March 28 5-7pm; 10 Week Series Starts: Monday, April 4, 2011 at 149 Water St., 1st Floor, Norwalk. TO REGISTER NOW AT NO COST Call Janeen Perry (203) 523-5344. Call Shelly Ortiz at 203-852-1144 ext. 123 to schedule a FREE van ride.



## Want to OWN Your Own HOME? You Can Do It!

Come to a 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, May 7, 9:00AM – 5:00 PM**, at Leroy Downs, 26 Monroe St. 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. For additional information or to register, please call 203-838-8471 X187 or X135.

## REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLES

NHA Residents living at the following developments must register their cars in order to park in the on-site parking lots: 20 West Avenue; Chapel Street; Fairfield Avenue; Irving Freese; John Shostak; King Kennedy; Leroy Downs; Ludlow Village; Meadow Gardens; Roodner Court; Seaview/Fort Point; School Street; Senior Court; Washington Village. If you do not register your car, your car may get towed; cost to retrieve is **\$180**. To register your car, you must bring your driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance card to the front desk and fill out the vehicle registration form.

## Norwalk Community College Tour

NHA in conjunction with Norwalk Community College will conduct a tour on April 21, 2011 at 5:30pm for high school students and adult residents. NHA is working with Norwalk Community College to assess student readiness before college entry. Contact Barry Dancer for more information at 203-852-1144 ext. 123.

## New Benefits to Medicare in 2011!

Medicare now covers preventive services. Below are some of the preventive services covered by Medicare:

- Pneumococcal, influenza and hepatitis B vaccine and administration
- Screening mammography
- Screening pap smear and pelvic examination
- Prostate cancer screening tests
- Colorectal cancer screening tests
- Diabetes Outpatient Self-Management Training

And many more. In 2011 if you hit the Donut Hole you will receive a 50 percent discount on Brand name drugs and a seven percent discount on generic drugs. The government will not come between you and your doctor as you make health care decisions together, and nothing in the Obama plan rations care or prevents Medicare from covering treatment for a terminal illness.

## Norwalk Veteran's! Do You Need A Ride?

Free monthly transportation to the Veteran's Hospital. The bus leaves at 8:00am and returns at 12:00pm. You must call 203-847-3115 ext. 107 to make a reservation.

## Coming in May – We Can Get Along!

Youth ages 12 – 17 and their parents will learn how to recognize and resolve challenges including bullying, peer pressure and more. For more information on this upcoming fun and theatrical life skills workshop, please contact Mark Covello at 203-838-8471 X180.

## NHA Scholar Highlight: Nadege Francois

Congratulations to Nadege Francois, Colonial Village resident, whose course work at Central Connecticut State University and volunteer work at the New Britain Court House impressed her professor so strongly that he recommended her for a part-time job assisting at a Group Home for youth. Ms. Francois plans to work with youth as a parole officer upon graduation. She wants help young people who have had problems in the past turn their lives around. This new part-time job will help her on her way to her goal.

## "A Day for Girls' Health"

On April 30, 2011 from 8:30am to 2:00pm at St. Philip Church (Education Building) on 25 France St., Norwalk "A Day for Girls' Health" will provide information on prevention and living a healthier lifestyle through mini educational workshops and information tables. All participants are asked to bring one non-perishable food item to donate to the St. Philip food pantry. Pre-registration is required. For details to register contact: Lisa Cooper, Director of MFSAC, [lcooper@hscct.org](mailto:lcooper@hscct.org) or call 203.849.1111.

**This event is free and open to all middle and high school girls. Adults are welcomed to attend.** Call Shelly Ortiz at 203-852-1144 ext. 123 to schedule a FREE van ride or contact your Learning Center.



## Workshops To Help You Get the Job You Want!

Ace your next interview and land your next job! Sign up TODAY for a series of FREE motivational seminars. Five seminars will be held weekly from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at Leroy Downs on Tuesdays: April 12, and 26, May 3, 10 and 17. Learn how to identify your skills that you can offer to your next employer, write a winning resume, identify your interests and improve your interviewing skills – AND how to keep your job once you get it! Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Participants must attend all five seminars. For additional information or to register, please call 203-838-8471 X181 or X188 by April 4, 2011.

## Customer Service Survey Coming in April

Surveyors will be going door to door at the Colonial Village, Roodner Court, Meadow Gardens, Main Ave., 16 School St, 11 Fort Point St., King Kennedy and 25 Chapel St. complexes on Friday April 15, 2011 evening, all day on Saturday April 16, 2011 and on Monday April 18, 2011 evening to conduct informative surveys. Your participation in this survey is important so that NHA can provide the best services possible to meet your needs.