Deidra Davis Elected Resident Commissioner

Deidra Davis, a Roodner Court resident, was elected the new NHA Resident Commissioner on November 19, 2013. Ms. Davis looks forward to serving her fellow residents. “I want to thank all the residents who came out and voted for me and believed in me,” said Ms. Davis. “And I also want to thank all the residents who voted in this election for other people. I am looking forward to working with everyone. We can’t do it alone. We have to come together collectively to achieve a common good. It’s not about one person. It’s about all of us together.” Deidra Davis succeeds Bernadine Tatem of Seaview Apartments who served as NHA Resident Commissioner for many years. “I wish Ms. Davis good luck,” said Ms. Tatem. “I am proud to have served as Resident Commissioner. I am especially proud of the achievements I helped bring about including: the creation of the NHA Learning Centers, the college scholarship program, the senior dinner program, job training and certification programs, credit and housing purchase programs and the zero tolerance for drugs. I want to thank the NHA staff for supporting all these programs and helping to make NHA one of the best public housing authorities in the nation.”

20 West LC Students Strut The Runway

America’s Top Models should watch out for NHA 20 West Avenue Learning Center students Christiana Joyner and Penda M’Bengue who walked the runway at the Bauhaus Moda Fashion Show @ BMW of Darien on November 6. “Participating in the fashion show opened my eyes to other opportunities. I want to become a model,” says Penda. “The whole experience was a blast. I enjoyed getting my hair and makeup done. Walking on the runway, where the spotlight was just on me felt amazing. My dresses were absolutely stunning and I was ecstatic to showcase them.” Christina agreed with her friend. “I am very shy and I wouldn’t normally participate in this type of activity where I would have the spotlight on me. But my friend Penda encouraged me. I felt more comfortable after my first walk down the runway. I am interested in modeling as long as my buddy Penda is with me.” This opportunity is part of Learning Center efforts to expose students to future careers. For information about NHA Centers contact LC Director, Patricia Mardens-Kish at 203-838-8471, ext. 184.

NHA Needs Your Help To Stop Public Housing Federal Funding Cuts!

Call/Fax/Write your elected officials today! Tell them— NO MORE CUTS!

Congressman Jim Himes:
Web: Himes.house.gov
Phone: 203-353-9400; Fax: 203-333-6855;
886 Washington Blvd., 10th Floor, Stamford, CT 06901

Senator Richard Blumenthal:
Web: Blumenthal.senate.gov
Phone: 860-259-3940; Fax: 860-258-6858
90 State House Sq., 10th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

Senator Chris Murphy:
Web: Murphy.senate.gov
Phone: 860-549-8463; Fax: 860-541-4104
1 Constitution Plaza, 7th Floor, Hartford, CT 06103

Knowledge is love and light and vision.... Helen Keller

Meadow Gardens Staff & Students Connect

Vivaldi Demas, NHA’s Parent Coordinator joins a friendly Chess competition with students from the Meadow Gardens Learning Center. Vivaldi visits the Learning Centers on a weekly basis, during which, he is creating bonds and building meaningful relationships with our students. Students look forward to when Vivaldi visits because he is constantly making connections with our students during academic enrichment activities, as well as during Free Game Time. Some of the male students love to play Chess and Checkers and they invited Vivaldi to join in on the competition! Students really look forward to these fun game times, Which is a cool way for staff and students to interact with one another and enjoy. Vivaldi is a graduate of the Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Program who grew up in Colonial Village.
Health Insurance Enrollments

Employment Tip of the Month: Simplify the format of your resume
If your resume includes several different types of fonts, a border, and several walls of text you should definitely consider revising. Keep your resume design simple by limiting the number of fonts and steering away using too many design details. Your focus should be on conveying your professional skill set.

Get Started On A Career in Green Jobs!
Are you interested in a new career in the growing field of green jobs and energy programs? Qualified participants will be eligible to attend a FREE 5-week Building Energy Worker Training “refresher course” in Math & reading needed to perform multiple weatherization jobs starting January 2014. Students must have a high school diploma or equivalent to participate. Graduates can then enroll in either NCC’s combined BPI Building Analyst/Envelope specialist certification and/or continue their education in NCC’s undergraduate Building Efficiency and Sustainable Technology (BEST) program. (Workforce Investment Act funding and financial aid are available to qualified students to help pay for BPI & Best programs.) For additional information or to register, call Lisa Roger at 203-838-8471 ext. 188 or Guillermo Bendana at ext. 135.

Employment Tip of the Month: Simplify the format of your resume

WBDC Information Session
February 25th 2014
Women’s Business Development Council (WBDC) is the leader of Entrepreneurial and Financial Training for women in Connecticut. In addition to entrepreneurial programs, WBDC assists many clients with gaining control of their personal finances as well as preparing to re-enter the workplace. Learn about WBDC’s resources for business, personal finance and professional development and how to acquire the tools you need to prepare for your future! Pre-registration is required. For additional information or to register, call Lisa Roger at 203-838-8471 ext. 188 or Guillermo Bendana at ext. 135.

Health Insurance Enrollments

Did you know Connecticut has a new health insurance marketplace? It’s called Access health CT and its goal is to ensure that everyone in the state has access to health care coverage. Everyone needs health care coverage. Medical bills keep going up. And the majority of bankruptcies are related to health expenses. Protect yourself and your family. Remember, if you don’t have health care coverage on January 1, 2014, you may have to pay a tax penalty. Enroll now!

Enroll now!
Call or visit online to learn more, enroll in coverage, or find an Enrollment Center:
Accesshealthct.com; 1-855-464-2428
Text: HEALTH to 877877

HOW TO SIGN UP FOR HEALTH INSURANCE PLANS THROUGH ACCESS HEALTH CT

ENROLLMENT FAIR
Wednesday, December 4th, 3:30PM-8:30PM
The Tully Health Center
32 Strawberry Ct., Stamford CT
No appointment necessary!

SCHEDULE AN ENROLLMENT APPOINTMENT
NORWALK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Phone: 203-899-1770
120 Connecticut Ave., Norwalk, CT

DAY STREET COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER
Phone: 203-854-9292 X3764 (Shannon) OR x3676 (Louis)
49 Day St., Norwalk, CT

REMEMBER TO REGISTER YOUR VEHICLE
NHA Residents living at the following developments are required in their leases to register their cars at NHA to park in parking lots: 20 West Avenue; Chapel Street; Fairfield Avenue; Irving Freese; John Shostak; King Kennedy; Leroy Downs; Ludlow Village; Main Avenue; 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.
High Honors at Washington Village LC

Destany Virgile, a 6th grader at Nathan Hale Middle School, is doing an incredible job both at school and at the Washington Village Learning Center. Destany has received five A’s and four B’s the first quarter of 2013 earning her High Honors. Not only is Destany doing excellent work at school but she is also working hard in the NHA Washington Village Learning Center by helping create posters and signs with her artistic abilities. We are proud to have Destany as a student at our Center and wish her much success in the future.

Lights, Camera, POTATO = SCIENCE

NHA students discovered that potatoes are great mashed, roasted, baked or in clocks. That’s right; potatoes are nature’s tastiest battery. Check out the 411 on the science behind this powerfully delicious snack. A potato battery is an electrochemical battery, otherwise known as an electrochemical cell. An electrochemical cell is a cell in which chemical energy is converted to electric energy by a spontaneous electron transfer. In the case of the potato, the zinc in the nail students used reacts with the copper wire. The potato acts as a sort of buffer between the zinc ions and the copper ions. The zinc and copper ions would still react if they touched within the potato but they would only generate heat. Since the potato keeps them apart, the electron transfer has to take place over the copper wires of the circuit, which channels the energy into the light. Presto! You have potato power.

“Colonial Village Kids Love To Read!”

Thanks to Norwalk Reads’ ongoing support and generous donation of books, Colonial Village students will be starting their very own book club. On Saturday, November 2nd, Norwalk Reads held its Fall bi-annual book drive that included all Norwalk libraries and two of the Norwalk Housing Authority Learning Centers – Washington Village and Colonial Village. Over 600 books were given away. Students were able to take home four books they desired. After the distribution, Colonial Village staff asked and was allowed to select books for our young scholars, who have been hoping to get more books that peak their interests. Now, with a greater selection, the students are excited to choose novels that they will read simultaneously to encourage dialogue and healthy debates.

November 25 Roodner Court Family Night

The Roodner Court Learning Center will be celebrating a Thanksgiving Family Night on November 25, 2013. The children reflected and wrote about what it means to be thankful. Next they made a list of eight things they are grateful for. Then they placed these on their individual turkeys to present to their families during the celebration and will use the turkeys as Thanksgiving Centerpieces.

Thank you to our Generous Donors

NHA gives thanks to recent donors whose generous donations have enriched the lives of residents.

- CT State Department of Education After School Grant for K-5 After School Literacy Program
- United Way of Coastal Fairfield County for After School Math Literacy Program & College Scholarship
- Fairfield County Community Foundation for the Summer Youth Literacy Program
- CT Housing Finance Authority for the Teen Iron Chef Program
- Maurice Goodman Foundation for the Early Childhood Program.
SCHOLARSHIP CORNER
Scholarship Season Has Begun!

COLLEGE PLANNING
Attention High School Seniors and College Students – Scholarship Season has started. Below are some organizations you should look at for scholarships. Bethel A.M.E. Church held a forum and representatives from many of these organizations were there.

1) 100 Black Men of Stamford
2) Fairfield County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority
3) Interdenominational of Ministers Fellowship
4) Alpha Nu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
5) Omicron Upsilon Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
6) Person To Person
7) Prince Hall Grand Chapter of CT Order of Eastern Star
8) Stamford Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity
9) Westchester/Greater CT Chapter NBMBAA Leaders of Tomorrow
10) PHADA Scholarship: Contact Carla Conway: 203-838-8471, ext. 176.

Three Dates To Remember
College Goal Sunday: January 27 at NCC: Workshops on computer to help you fill out your FAFSA Application—Must have income tax information with you.
State FAFSA Deadline: February 15.
Federal FAFSA Deadline: June 30.
Remember to apply early for FAFSA. This past year money ran out and students who applied later got little or no funding.

Get on NHA’s College Scholarship List!
Call Carla Conway: 203-838-8471, ext. 176.

Important Event For Early Childhood Families—Please Come
Light Refreshments will be served & Childcare will be provided

Date: Friday, December 6
Time: 6:00 PM
Place: Roodner Court Learning Center, 261 Ely Ave.

Come join us as we explore the skills your child needs to succeed in school. All parents and guardians are welcome to join us to learn important information about social emotional development and how it is very important to your child’s school success.

R.S.V.P. Vivaldi Demas at 203-515-4276 or email vdemas@norwalkha.org.

Thank you from Wilson Lature: Junior, Pace University, Accounting

Wilson Lature of Washington Village recently wrote to the Scholarship Committee to thank them for encouraging him to transfer from a local college to Pace University for Accounting. “I never realized how important going to a school that is right for you is,” wrote Wilson. “I am thankful and appreciate the Committee inspiring me to come to Pace. Thank you for your guidance and support.”

The NHA Scholarship Program provides guidance as well as financial support to NHA residents. The NHH Application will be available in January. Contact Carla Conway NHF Scholarship Coordinator: 203-838-8471, ext. 176.

Get Your Scholarship Toolkit Ready
Have the following items ready for scholarships:

1) 3 Essays
2) 3-5 Letters of Recommendation including one that has quotes from other letters for applications that only allow one letter.
3) Your most current transcript
4) Your Updated Resume
5) (High School) Your SAT or ACT Scores
6) Most recent copy of your FAFSA Application showing your EFC number
7) College Loan Amounts Recent and Past
8) Documentation of Achievements
9) Cover Letter addressed to Scholarship Committee Listing all enclosed documents
10) List of other scholarships you have been awarded (only submit this list if asked to)

Good Luck and Happy Holidays!

December 2013 Early Childhood Schedule
Tuesdays
Early Learning Group, 10:00am-11:00pm, age appropriate activities focuses on developmental play, parent and me time, snacks, developmental screening. Birth - 5, Washington Village, Day Street, Norwalk CT.

Wednesdays
Stepping Stones Museum, 11:00am-12:30pm, Free Play & Exploration. Birth - 5, 303 West Avenue, Norwalk CT.

Thursdays
South Norwalk Public Library, 11:00am-12:00pm, Mini Musicians, Singing, Dancing & Musical Stories. Ages 3-5, 10 Washington Street, S. Norwalk, CT.

Snacks provided during all programs/trips. For details contact Autier Allen-Craft, Early Childhood Program Coordinator at (203) 644-4720 or acraft@norwalkha.org to schedule transportation. Space is limited & RSVP is needed for trips. Children must be 0-5 years old, and accompanied by an adult resident to participate, in all activities. NHA Early Childhood Program graduates may be eligible for a preschool program. Referrals are based on consistent participation.