

Putting Norwalkers back to work

Grant extension will give Housing Authority \$67,839 to help city's residents find employment

By **ROBERT KOCH**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has extended a grant to help Norwalk Housing Authority residents find jobs.

The federal department announced this week that the Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) will receive \$67,839 under its Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

The program helps public housing authorities hire or retain service coordi-

ators, who connect families with supportive services to gain employment.

"It's funding for a staff position to work with our residents in trying to provide training and helping them with employment," said Curtis O. Law, NHA executive director. The coordinator "meets with residents to help them work out a plan. She will work with organizations that come in and provide training, and sometimes provide in-house training."

The award marks the third year that HUD has

paid for the staff position, according to Law.

Other public housing authorities in Connecticut that were awarded grants under the program: New Britain (\$67,839), Stamford (\$67,524), Meriden (\$135,678), Ansonia (\$27,260), Derby (\$53,990), Bristol (\$66,195), and West Hartford (\$67,524), according to HUD.

Nationwide, HUD awarded \$57 million as part of the Housing Choice Voucher Family Self-Sufficiency Program, according to a statement released by

the federal department Tuesday.

"This is a modest investment that can make a world of difference for families looking to find their path to self-sufficiency," HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said in the statement. "As America's economy continues to recover, it's critical that we work to make sure every American has the skills and resources they need to successfully compete for jobs in the 21st Century."

The service coordinators paid for under the

program work directly with residents to connect them with local organizations that provide education and job training and placement opportunities; as well as childcare, counseling, transportation and computer and financial literacy services available in their community, according to HUD.

Participants sign a five-year contract that requires the head of the household to obtain employment and no longer receive welfare assistance at the end of the

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In Brief

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Garden club plans luncheon on Jan. 8

NORWALK — The Norwalk Garden Club will hold its New Year's Luncheon at noon Wednesday, Jan. 8, and kick off its 90th year of service to the community. Members are encouraged to bring their special dishes and desserts to the Gallaher Mansion on Grumman Avenue. Founded in 1924, the club has offered education programs, municipal gardening projects, fellowship and scholarships continuously. Noreen Normand, the 90th Anniversary Committee chairman, asks residents who might have photos or artifacts from mothers, grandmothers, friends or neighbors to contact the Garden Club website. There will be exhibits throughout the year featuring past memorabilia, names of former club members, and photos of early events.

Norwalk NAACP to meet Jan. 7

NORWALK — The Norwalk Branch of the NAACP will hold its first general membership meeting of the New Year at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Calvary Baptist Church, 21 Concord St. On the agenda will be committee reports and plans for the Year 2014, including observance of Black History Month in February. Members and friends are urged to attend and share their thoughts. For further information, visit website www.norwalkbranch-naacp.org

Library to offer class for writers

NORWALK — The Norwalk Public Library will offer "Resolved to Write ... A Creative Writing Journey" beginning at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15 in the Carnegie Room, Leslie Kerr, a published writer and editor for newspapers, magazines, and trade journal, will teach the class. She is the owner of LKB Associates and she recently taught a writing course at Norwalk Community College for the Lifetime Learners Program.

Participants will explore various genres; learn elements of story structure; how to create believable characters and how to write strong dialogue. Both fiction and non-fiction elements will be explored. Class assignments will offer participants the opportunity to write both. Students with a project in progress, or other completed past works, are welcome to bring to class for additional feedback. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their work with the class and learn ways to edit and refine their own work. The environment is positive, encouraging, and most of all — creative and fun.

Arrest made in theft at tattoo parlor

By **STEVE KOBAK**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — The second suspect in the burglary of a local tattoo parlor was arrested on a warrant Wednesday.

Brandon Lee, 32, of 12 Woodbury Ave., was charged with conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny. He posted \$20,000 bond and will appear in court on Jan. 10.

Lee's accomplice, Sunny Mills, was arrested Dec. 27 and charged with conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny. She was held on \$10,000 bond and will appear in court on Jan. 9.

Police say Mills and Lee entered Raven's Nest Tattoo, 197 Liberty Square, through the locked rear entrance on the afternoon of Nov. 24 after the owner closed shop. Having dated the owner of the shop for more than a decade, Lee knew the security code to the shop's keypad and was able to enter the business without breaking into it, police said.

The couple stole a safe, which contained \$1,800 in cash, and the DVR to the security system before fleeing the scene, police said.

The owner discovered the burglary on Nov. 25 at 10 a.m. Although the bur-

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Hour photo / Erik Trautmann

Norwalk Hospital plans to replace the turbine at its co-generation plant. The hospital says the plan would boost electrical generation capacity by 25 percent and reduce fuel consumption by 29 percent.

Hospital to upgrade co-generation plant

By **ROBERT KOCH**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — A Norwalk Hospital plan to replace a turbine at its co-generation plant will result in the equivalent of 700 cars being removed from the road, according to officials.

"The equipment, to be replaced within the existing footprint, will meet

new Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection air(-quality) guidelines, equivalent to 700 cars removed from the road annually, compared to our current equipment which meets 1990 standards," said Maura Romaine, hospital spokeswoman. "In addition, the hospital projects that its annual operating

expenses for the co-generation plant will be reduced by approximately \$1.4 million.

The co-generation plant, which went into operation in 1991, relies on two gas turbines that generate 2.4 megawatts of electricity. The plant generates electricity and utilizes the "waste heat" of that combustion to produce steam and

hot water.

The project, if approved, will install a new 3.0 megawatt natural gas engine manufactured by Caterpillar. Fuel consumption will decrease by 29 percent and the plant overall efficiency will increase by 14 percent, according to the hospital.

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Man, who told police he carries gun to college, arrested

By **STEVE KOBAK**
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — A city man who allegedly admitted to police that he regularly carries a gun with him to school at Fairfield University was arrested on a warrant Thursday.

Sean Livingston, 28, of 26 Belden Ave., was charged with carrying a pistol without a permit and released on a promise to appear in court. His

court date is Jan. 9.

Police encountered Sean Livingston while responding to a call of a suicidal person on Dec. 5 at the Norwalk Avalon apartments. Livingston's mother Melissa Livingston had written an e-mail to her lawyer, telling him she was going to commit suicide outside of her apartment building, and several officers responded to the scene, police said.

Officers encountered

Melissa Livingston as she was getting off the elevator in the lobby of the Norwalk Avalon, police said.

When Officer Joseph Martino asked Melissa Livingston's name, Livingston pulled out .357 Smith & Wesson revolver, aimed it at his abdomen and yelled: "No, no, no," police said. Martino grabbed the gun in such a manner that it prevented the hammer from moving forward. Officer Matthew

Policastro helped secure the suspect and Officer James Wright helped secured the pistol.

Melissa Livingston was taken to Norwalk Hospital and released. She was charged with criminal attempt at first-degree assault, carrying a pistol without a permit and assault on a peace officer.

Officers searched Livingston's apartment under exigent circumstances, fearing there might be vic-

tims inside of the apartment, court documents show. Sean Livingston was compliant with the search and told officers where in the apartment that the firearms were stored, police said. One of the firearms was stored in Sean Livingston's book bag, and officers also recovered three speed loaders and two boxes of ammunition from the

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Community News

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Foundation adds three new board members

NORWALK — The Fairfield County Community Foundation in Norwalk has added three new board members.

John Bailey of Darien, Greg Hartch of Greenwich and Elisabeth Morten of Fairfield were recently elected to serve a two-year term. As leaders in the business community and actively involved with nonprofits in their towns and across the

country, they bring a wealth of experience to help the Foundation make an impact throughout the region.

Bailey, a Darien resident, is the founder and portfolio manager of Spruce Private Investors.

Hartch, a Greenwich resident, is an executive vice president & portfolio manager for GE Asset Management in Stamford.

Morten, a Fairfield resident, is a Tony-nominated theatrical producer and Broadway League Tony voter.



John Bailey



Greg Hartch



Liz Morten