Blocked Egress?
If there is a room in your unit with only one window and an air conditioning unit is in that window this constitutes a Blocked Egress. When this situation is detected it is considered a lease violation and results in resident charges and possible eviction proceedings. NHA’s recommendation is to place a large air conditioner in a room with more than one window and place fans strategically throughout the unit to cool down all areas. Let’s be safe and let’s enjoy the good weather ahead.

HUD Visit Draws Local Officials
HUD Washington, DC toured Washington Village on April 10th as part of it’s consideration of the Norwalk Housing Authority's application for $30 million in federal funding to raze and rebuild the oldest public housing complex in Connecticut. “We were one of the six finalists for the Choice Neighborhood grant, and HUD officials were down to talk with our partners and tour the site and try to get a sense of the project,” said Curtis O. Law, Norwalk Housing Authority Executive Director. "It's like the basketball playoffs, we're in the finals and HUD will make a recommendation or an award late May or early June."

Pull Cord Alert for Seniors!
The emergency pull cords located in your apartments are not directly connected to the Fire Department. When pulled, the cords sets off an audio and visual alarm to notify neighboring tenants that you need help. If you hear or see these alarms call 911 immediately. The responding emergency personnel will follow the alarm to the apartment of the resident in need of assistance.

Book Sale at the Main Library, Belden Ave.
Children’s Book Sale: Bring a child and let them choose; or surprise them with a gift of books on May 1, 2014 from 3:00pm - 7:00pm
General Book Sale: May 3 from 9:00am - 5:00pm May 4 (Only the auditorium open) from 1:30pm - 4:30pm May 5 from 9:00am - 6:30pm May 6 from 9:00 am- 12:00pm in lobby
Employment Tip of the Month: FREE Online Job Hunting Tool & Workshop: KRAZOOM

When: May 1, 2014, 12:00PM – 2:00 PM
Where: Norwalk Public Library, 1 Belden Ave., Norwalk CT 06850

Employers want job seekers to match the requirements stated in the text of job postings before they apply. In fact the average job posting on the internet has 20 requirements. The challenge for job seekers: How do you find the job postings where you match the requirements? KRAZOOM, http://www.krazoom.com/, is a FREE online job search tool that allows job seekers to easily find job postings where you match the job requirements and helps you optimize a resume in a way that leads to more interviews. All participants: Bring a hard copy of your resume.

Jump Start Your Job Search!

Stand Out to Employers

This introductory and interactive workshop will guide you through the steps needed to obtain a great job; from resume creation and application submission to acing an interview. On average, out of every 1000 people who view an online job posting:

- 100 people will apply
- 4 – 6 people will be selected for an interview
- 1 – 3 people will be invited for a final interview
- 1 person will be offered the job, and
- 80% of those will accept the job offer.

Don’t be just a statistic! Learn to:

- Showcase your skills
- Create a winning resume
- Successfully submit online applications
- Ace your next interview

Jump start your search and regain the confidence you need to find a great job. MAY 20th, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, at Leroy Downs Community Room, 26 Monroe St, Norwalk CT. For additional information or to register, call Lisa Roger at 203-838-8471 ext. 188 or Guillermo Bendana at ext. 135.

Smoking…Are you in denial?

Think smoking isn’t affecting your health? Think again. Smoking reduces life expectancy by 15 to 25 years. It is the single most preventable cause of death. Why are you still puffing? Information taken from Wikipedia.

Don’t Block the Common Halls

During recent inspections at various complexes we noticed several residents had their hallways full of personal belongings. All residents should be aware that blocking an apartment entrance way is a serious fire code and lease violation. Please be sure emergency personnel can easily gain access to the entry doors. Remember, in the event of an emergency time is of the essence.

Financial Management Tip of the Month:

Track your debit card purchases!

It’s easy to quickly lose track of how much we spend. Save your receipts and use your old fashioned checkbook register to record your debit card purchases.

Starbucks, 555 Main Ave. Norwalk is Hiring Barista!

Contribute to Starbucks success by providing legendary customer service to all customers. Provide quality beverages, whole bean and food products consistently for all customers by adhering to all recipe and presentation standards. No experience necessary! Must be able to learn quickly, have good oral and written communication skills, able to work as part of a team. Available to work flexible hours that may include early mornings, evenings, weekends, nights and/or holidays. Visit the store or apply online http://www.starbucks.com/careers.

Are You Interested in A New Career in The Growing Health Care Field?

Learn about FREE training at Southwestern CT Health Career Academy. June 9th, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, at Leroy Downs Community Room, 26 Monroe St. Offered through the WorkPlace, training opportunities include C.N.A., Phlebotomy, E.M.T., Pharmacy Tech, Radiation Therapist and more. Eligibility requirements are based on family income or those that have been unemployed (27 weeks or longer) and have a high school or GED Diploma. For additional information or to register, call Lisa Roger at 203-838-8471 ext. 188 or Guillermo Bendana at ext. 135.

Needed Full Time Teachers

Fulltime Teachers are needed for NHA’s Head Start/ School Readiness early childhood education program. Minimum Bachelor’s degree required. Responsibilities include the following:

- Providing a quality early childhood education program
- Lesson planning
- Using curriculum guidelines
- Child assessments
- Working successfully as part of a classroom team.

One-year experience preferred, knowledge of best practices NAEYC and DPH day care licensing required. Send resume and cover letter to Nicole Ruffin, Human Resource Specialist, Norwalk Housing Authority, 24 ½ Monroe St., Norwalk, CT 06854. EOE. Open until filled.

Basements

All apartments with basements must be kept clean. They can’t be used for living areas due to both housing and building code regulations. Keep all smoke detectors and lighting in proper working order.

Financial Management Tip of the Month:

Track your debit card purchases!
Spring Decorating at Colonial Village
With the arrival of spring, the Junior Interior Designer Students at Colonial Village have been working hard decorating the Colonial Village Learning Center. The Junior Interior Designers dedicate their time creating ornaments for the Learning Center based on the holiday and season of that particular month. For spring, students created flowers, butterflies, and four-leaf clovers in celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. NHA believes that the Junior Interior Designer club will serve as a gateway for students to develop their artistic and creative abilities.

A Shining Young Star at Washington Village Learning Center
Brandy Edouard a Kindergarten student at Cranbury Elementary School has received an excellent progress report (report card). On Brandy’s report the teacher comment stated that, “Brandy is a wonderful student and a pleasure to have in class for her teachers and classmates!” In addition to doing excellent work at school, Brandy has been an exceptional student at the learning center. She has consistently demonstrated a desire to learn. Brandy has an outgoing personality and an infectious smile that will light up your day. She is a joy to work with and is always eager to help out around the center. We are delighted to share with the community how proud we are of Brandy and wish her continued success in the future.

Boys to Men Mentoring Group Wellness Day
On March 30, 2014 the Boys to Men Mentoring Group had its first annual Wellness Day! Several speakers came to discuss the importance of being healthy, confident and following your dreams. The main speaker, Mr. Audet, from the Iron Path Organization spoke to the young men about how to create a successful dream team. Mr. Festo was another speaker that shared his stories when he was an athlete and coach. He explained how important it was for the boys to follow through with their goals and never take no for an answer. Mr. Peter was the final speaker for the boys to follow through with their goals and never take no for an answer. Mr. Peter was the final speaker for the boys to follow through with their goals and never take no for an answer. Mr. Peter was the final speaker for the boys to follow through with their goals and never take no for an answer.

Stepping Stones Storybook Pajama Party
May 2nd 6:00pm - 8:30 pm
The fun doesn't end at 5:00 pm. Storybook Pajama Parties promote literacy in a fun environment that celebrates learning. Come in your PJs and listen to The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle. What to expect:

- Meet the life-sized storybook character
- Construct a colorful chrysalis
- Create your own Eric Carle masterpiece
- Design your own butterfly
- Join the butterfly parade

Members $10/person & Non-members $15/person
Stepping Stones is located at 303 West Ave., Norwalk
NHA News College Corner

The 2014 Allan R. Andrews Scholarship application is available online or at NHA office. Due May 12, 2014. GPA: 3.0. For NHA Residents and Section-8.

MassMutual Scholars National Scholarship Program for students entering sophomore, junior, senior or 5th year in pursuit of undergraduate degree. Must have a GPA of 3.0. Information online for this scholarship. Flyer in front lobby at NHA. Due Date May 2, 2014.

Online Lottery College Scholarship by Housing Authority Insurance Group for GPA 2.0 or better. For NHA and Section-8 Residents. Google HAI Group Scholarship. Due Date April 30, 2014.

FEDERAL FAFSA Deadline is by Midnight Central Time June 30th 2014. The Federal Award is up to $5,550 and is income based. If you get the State Award, that will be deducted from the Federal Award. The most is $5,500.

Now is the time college scholarships are becoming available. You should contact the NAACP and go online to: 100bmos.com for scholarships. Community service is important, so contact 100 Black Men of Stamford and other organizations with scholarships about what community service activities are acceptable.

Kids Get Depressed, Too!

Depression is a serious condition that occurs in children as well as adults. Would you recognize depression in your child? Would you know what to do about it? Checking for depression should be a routine part of your child’s annual exam, but it may be difficult for a doctor to discover it during that brief time, so you need to know the signs:

• Frequent sadness or crying
• Hopelessness
• Recurring physical symptoms such as headaches or stomachaches
• Increased irritability or anger
• Fascination with violent games
• Low self-esteem
• Causing trouble at school
• Weight loss or gain

If you suspect depression, speak to your child’s doctor, who is there to help. If depression is diagnosed, medication and therapy may be recommended. Make sure you child has a well visit every year and watch for signs of depression. Go to www.liveandworkwell.com for more information and help find a mental health professional.

Is Your Child Currently Enrolled in Preschool?

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) Head Start /School Readiness Program is a State and Federal Funded Program which offers pre-school services to children ages 15 months to 4 years old.

The Program has two different options:

• 6 hrs classrooms (9:00am – 3:00pm) – No fee involved.

• 10 hrs classrooms (7:30am – 5:30pm) – Sliding fee scale involved

The goal for the children enrolled at the NHA Head Start/School Readiness Program is to enable them to master social, emotional, cognitive, and physical skills, so that they can be better prepared when entering Kindergarten. The program also offers comprehensive services to the entire family based on the families’ needs while encouraging parent participation in their children’s education and encouraging them to become advocates for their children. Come down to the NHA Head Start/School Readiness Program, 11 Ingalls Ave. (203-956-6216) or at 165 Flax Hill Rd (203-939-9712) to pick up an application or call for details!!!

Literacy Students Write About Playground Safety

The NHA Literacy Program had thirty-four students, age 6 through 11, participate in the HAI Essay Contest, “Have No Fear, Playground Safety Is Here!” Students first visited the playground to see the dangers that can be found at a playground. Then, they went back to the Literacy Center and brainstormed. Students decided what kind of super power they would need to keep the playground safe. Some wanted to run fast and others wanted to have great strength. Students copied or used powers of existing super heroes like the Green Lantern or Superman, while some made up new super power heroes like “Lazer Man,” and “Drug Free Girl.” The essays were all very creative and imaginative and because the subject was meaningful, students were engaged in the writing process. The students brainstormed, wrote a first draft, edited, drafted again, and finally published their essay.

Kyrell Spencer points to a rope, attached to the playground equipment that could be dangerous.

Ulysses Flores, Aniya Prince and Betty Louis writing about their “superpowers” that help keep the playground safe.