



Senior Only Event!!

Come Join US for Thanksgiving Dinner!

We'd like to express our thanks this Thanksgiving by having Seniors join us for a delicious holiday meal.

November 27, 2014 @ 1:00pm

Irving Freese Community Center

57 Ward Street, Norwalk, CT

You MUST call Nicole to RSVP by Nov. 24, 2014 at 203-838-8471 ext. 137.

Curtis Law Receives National Award



The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), at its 2014 National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, awarded its highest and most prestigious award; the **2014 M. Justin Herman Memorial Award**—to Mr. Curtis O. Law, the Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the City of Norwalk (NHA).

The award recognizes individuals who most exemplify exceptional commitment and outstanding contributions in the field of housing and community development. According to the award letter, Mr. Law epitomizes the highest standards of the industry. In his 39 years as its executive director, he established a national profile for the NHA and expanded the purpose of a housing authority from the narrow concept of providing clean and affordable public housing to include a more progressive vision of providing free and accessible educational and job training for residents of all ages. Mr. Law's devotion to assisting children and students is particularly noteworthy, and resulted in his starting resident after-school learning, literacy, and art centers. He also founded the Norwalk Housing Foundation (NHF) in 2000 to facilitate funding a college scholarship program for resident students. Mr. Law works closely with many local philanthropists. In addition, Mr. Law promotes a philosophy of self-determination through self-sufficiency—the goal is to take the “public” out of safe and affordable housing by providing the skills and tools to residents of all ages to move up and out, and create their own futures. NAHRO formed in 1933 and is the nation's leading advocate and administrator for affordable housing and community development programs at the local level. Its M. Justin Herman award is named for the head of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency from 1959 until 1971.

Wait List Closures

The Norwalk Housing Authority closed some waiting lists effective, October 17, 2014. The lists affected by the closure are the two (2) and three (3) bedrooms for Colonial Village, and the two (2) and four (4) bedrooms for Public Housing. This decision was based on the number of waiting list applicants and the excessive waiting period to obtain a unit.



5 Things You Need to Know on Election Day, Nov. 4th

1. YOUR BALLOT, YOUR VOTE – Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted. You may be directed to another polling place or given a provisional ballot.
2. ID – DON'T GO WITHOUT IT – You will need to show I.D. To be safe, bring your driver's license, or a paycheck, utility bill, or government document that includes your name and street address.
3. WRITING ON THE WALL – Look at the signs at the polling place for directions on how to use the voting machines, a list of your voting rights, and instructions for filing a complaint if your rights have been violated.
4. WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK – Poll workers are there to help you. They'll show you how to work the machines and give you a provisional ballot if you need one. If you're at the wrong polling place, they should tell you how to get to the right one.
5. IN AND OUT – You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important.

Public Hearing on December 15, 2014 at 6:00pm

The State of Connecticut Office of Adjudication will hold a Public Hearing on December 15, 2014 at 6:00pm in the South Norwalk Community Center, 98 South Main St., Norwalk regarding a tentative decision on flood management certification exemption for Washington Village by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection .

EIV Income Verification

Norwalk Housing Authority has been using a system developed by the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to verify income and employment information for applicants and tenants in all of the agency's rental programs. The recent changes in HUD regulations regarding citizenship and required Social Security Numbers also made use of this system mandatory. The on-line Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) system contains information about employment and income for individuals who participate in HUD rental assistance programs. EIV will alert Norwalk Housing Authority if you or anyone in your household has used a false Social Security number, failed to report complete and accurate income information, or is receiving rental assistance at another address.





Public Housing Family Self Sufficiency Coordinator Needed!

Position focused on intake and working with families participating in and being recruited for the Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (PH-FSS) Program, identifying the families' basic needs, recommending services, education and training to meet their needs, and monitoring the families' progress throughout their participation in the program. Driver's license, Bachelor's degree in a social science, counseling, or a related field. Master's degree preferred. Send resumes to nruffi@norwalkha.org by November 12, 2014. NO PHONE CALLS.



Financial Management Tip of the Month: Be a money mentor to your child



Set a good financial example for your children. You are a role model and your child begins taking cues from you at a very early age. When kids learn about responsible money management at a young age, the lessons can last a lifetime. Helping children to live within their means and plan for their dreams makes it much easier to cope with life's pressures.

Health Insurance Open Enrollments Starts November 15, 2014

Get your health insurance HERE! Access health CT, Connecticut's health insurance marketplace for "Obamacare" enables everyone in the state to have 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, 2015, you may have to pay a tax penalty. **Enroll starting November 15th!** Call or visit online to learn more, enroll in coverage, or find an Enrollment Center:

Go to Accesshealthct.com or call 1-855-805-4325



Employment Opportunities

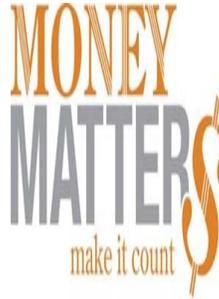
Maplewood Senior Living at Strawberry Hill is Hiring!

C.N.A's (all shifts) and Housekeepers. Come in to Maplewood at Strawberry Hill fill out an application, 73 Strawberry Hill, Norwalk CT 06855 and submit your resume; or email your resume and cover letter to strawberryhill-bom@maplewoodsl.com



Meals On Wheels

Did you know you can receive a fresh hot meal delivered to your door every day of the week? That's exactly what the Norwalk Meals on Wheels program does. Meals On Wheels is a special program for home bound seniors who have trouble buying and preparing their own meals. You can receive the service on a short term basis or on a long term basis depending on your circumstances. The meals are prepared locally and delivered to your door on a daily basis by volunteers. To receive meals on wheels call 203-847-3115.



FREE FINANCIAL CLASSES

Did you miss last month's Budgeting For Life workshop? **There's still time to take advantage of two more financial classes!**

Tuesday, November 18, 2014 **Financial Resiliency:**
The Steps to Financial Recovery & Stability

All classes will be held at the Washington Village Learning Center at 10:00AM Pre-Registration is required: Call NOW!! 203-838-8471 X135 (Guillermo) or X188 (Lisa)



Norwalk Housing Authority participants *only* will be eligible to join the **Frequent Rewards Program** and receive **FREE PRIZES**. Members who **ATTEND REMAINING** workshops have a chance to **WIN A TABLET**.



Employment Management Tip of the Month: Interview questions to ask a potential employer

Consider asking these open-ended questions early in the interview addressing the employer's needs to help stage your questions and responses going forward:

How would you describe the culture of the company?

What type of person works well with you?

What characteristics and traits are you looking for in a person for this position? (then speak to how you have those traits and more)

What would be the short-term goals and expectations for the first (3-months, 6-months, first year) of the position, and what would success look like?

What are your biggest challenges (personally and overall)?



20 West Learning Center is An Exciting Afterschool Program!

The program offers critical opportunities to pre-teens and teens for academic success. NHA provides a wide variety of classes such as: video production, culinary, photography, financial literacy and mentoring



Malcolm Clark, Video Educator, student Loukenson Paul and April Jackson, Education Coordinator chat about upcoming events

as well as a bridge to college track for upper high school students. The staff focuses on encouraging positive relationships with students in order to cultivate their self-esteem as well as support them in exploring new activities. If you are interested in attending 20 West Learning Center, please call at (203) 852-1144.

Person-To-Person will be hosting a **FREE COAT DRIVE** for ALL AGES at the Norwalk Police Dept. Community Room, 1 Monroe St., Norwalk on November 8, 2014 from 9am-1pm.



NORWALK READS! BOOK DISTRIBUTION NOV. 1ST

A Norwalk Reads! FREE Book distribution will be held at Colonial Village and Washington Village Learning Centers from 10:00am until 1:00pm on Saturday, November 1st. Books will also be distributed at the Main Library, South Norwalk Library and East Norwalk Library. Special Prizes for children who bring in their Norwalk Reads! Book Mark Passport with the books read by children or with parents filled out. Mark your calendars for this great children's book distribution.



The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go. — Dr. Seuss

Reading Rocks at Colonial Village

Colonial Village Learning Center students are ecstatic about the reading program!

It is designed to help improve students' reading skills and develop a passion for reading. Students enjoy working with Ms. Marta, Reading Coach, who keeps students engaged with different types of books. The most recent book that students read was Jumanji, written by Chris Van Allsburg. Tamia Smith, recent reader of the week, is in 5th grade and enjoys reading mystery books because they are very suspenseful. Staff encourage students to add reading to their daily activities to expand their vocabulary and become well rounded individuals. Building good reading habits helps students now, and prepares them for a bright future.



Test Your Dominant Side!



Students had a blast conducting an experiment that involved testing which side of your body is most dominant. Students went thru a series of exercises that tested their left and right side dominance in

regards to their eyes, arms, and legs. The objective of this experiment was to help students to gain a better understanding of the differences between the left and right hemispheres of the brain. In the end, each student better understood what skills they were best at in regards to left and right side dominance. Norwalk Housing Authority believes that the incorporation of science concepts into hands-on experiments will help students not only retain information, but aid in sparking an interest for science that will follow them throughout their academic years.

PRIVATE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Private Schools Are Now Holding Tours & Interviews for 2014-2015 Applicants!

Now is the time to visit private schools if you want your child attend one next year. Contact Carla Conway at 203-838-8471, ext. 176 for more information. Scholarships are competitive and students applying must have excellent grades.



Ballet Anyone?



What is ballet? Ballet is an artistic dance form performed to music using precise and highly formalized set steps and gestures. Classical ballet, which originated in Renaissance Italy and established its present form during the 19th century, is characterized by light, graceful, fluid movements and the use of pointe shoes. The Roodner Court Tenant Association has partnered with a dance studio in Wilton to teach young men and women how to perform ballet. **Parents, please contact Deidra Davis, NHA Tenant Commissioner at 203-919-3100 for further details by November 3, 2014. This opportunity is open to both Public Housing and Section 8 participants.**

Influenza (Flu) Season is Upon US!

The 2014-2015 influenza season (flu) is here. The flu virus can easily spread from one person to the next and can cause serious illness that might result in hospitalization or even death. Therefore, it's critically important for everyone to get vaccinated for seasonal influenza now. Please see your healthcare provider for the vaccine shot or call the Norwalk Health Department for an appointment for a flu shot at 203-854-7776.





Seniors Considering College Should Look at Norwalk Community College!



Seniors Considering College should look at Norwalk Community College.

Norwalk Community College (NCC) ranks as one of the top community colleges in the nation and its tuition is less than most public housing students will receive from their FAFSA Pell award. This means that you may be able to attend NCC at little or no cost that needs to be covered by loans. 4-year colleges are becoming more expensive. Even with NHA scholarship assistance, unless you are given an impressive scholarship from the school, you may end up with having to borrow a lot of money for tuition, room and board, books, college fees and personal expenses. Facts about NCC follow:

- NCC is a top Community College.
- NCC offers high quality Associate Degrees in many fields.
- NCC offers some select Associate Programs that feed into Bachelor Programs with partnering colleges.
- NCC is affordable. *Many students receiving FAFSA Pell Awards graduate without debt.*
- NCC has great scholarships for continuing to 4-year colleges
- NCC has a special program of incoming high school freshmen
- NCC credits transfer to all State schools and other 4-year schools.
- NCC offers excellent free academic tutoring for students.
- High performing NCC grads must be accepted by UCONN, Storrs.
- NCC Foundation has scholarships that can be used for living expenses to lessen the need for extra jobs

NCC was selected by the Gates Foundation (of Bill Gates/Microsoft) to receive funding to build new facilities, offers cutting-edge classes and has programs in fields as diverse as science, technology, medical service professions, pre-school education, arts and liberal arts. High School seniors should call Denise Rawles-Smith at 203-857-7361 or Gail Stevens at: 203-857-7186.

PHADA Scholarship Applications Are Available!

Public Housing and Section 8 high school seniors with a B average or better (3.0) overall GPA for all high school years should apply for the 3 PHADA (Public Housing Authorities Directors Association) Scholarships worth \$5,000 to \$7,000. Go online to www.phada.org to download the application or come to NHA's front desk for a hard copy of the application. Applications must be signed and submitted by NHA. NHA can only submit 2 applications. Applicants must submit their applications to NHA by January 21 for selection. No handwritten applications will be accepted. For further information contact Carla: 203-838-8471, ext. 176.

Is Your Child Currently Enrolled in Pre-school?

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
- 10hrs 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 their 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 at 11 Ingalls Ave. (203-956-6216) or at 165 Flax Hill Rd (203-939-9712) to pick up an application, or call for more details!!!

Head Start/ School Readiness Program Staff Participate in Annual Community Day

On September 27, 2014 Norwalk Housing Authority Head Start/ School Readiness Program took part in "The Annual South Norwalk Community Day" held at Ryan Park. It brought together many community stakeholders including the Norwalk Police Department, Maritime Center, Energy CT Connecticut, S.A.V.E. (Serving All Vessels Equally), Churches, Politicians, and most of all "the community." NHA Head Start/ School Readiness Program had the opportunity to share with the community the vision to rebuild a strong program that will have a positive and strong impact on children, families and the community. It was a positive experience and rewarding to reconnect with people in the community and stakeholders.



Pictured from left to right are Deputy Chief Susan Zecca, Executive Assistant Phyllis Johnson, Program Director Janice Joyner, NHA Board of Commissioners Chairman Cesar Ramirez, and Family Advocate Maritiza Ortiz.