



Visit us at [www.norwalkha.org](http://www.norwalkha.org)

Seniors are cordially invited to attend a Holiday Breakfast hosted by Norwalk Housing Authority staff! This



FREE event will take place on Friday, December 19, 2014 from 9:30am-11:30am. Menu will include: Breakfast Sausage, Scrambled Eggs, Muffins/ Danish, Coffee, Tea, and Orange

Juice. You **MUST** RSVP to Cathy at 203-838-8471 ext. 120 for this event by December 17, 2014. Breakfast will be served at the following sites: 20 West Avenue, Leroy Downs, Senior Court, Ludlow Village at Ludlow Commons and Irving Freese. We hope to see you there!

## NHA Names New Scholarship Coordinator

Kim Hein recently relocated from Philadelphia, PA where she worked at the University of Pennsylvania for nearly ten years. Her most recent position at the University of Pennsylvania was in the Wharton Undergraduate Division Student Life Department where she created and developed programs, events and initiatives for students to enhance their co-curricular experience. Kim oversaw large-scale events including Graduation and New Student Orientation. Prior to her tenure at University of Pennsylvania, she worked at the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Massachusetts in special events, fundraising and wish program coordination. Kim earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. in Spanish and Linguistics from Syracuse University. She enjoys cooking, reading and spending time with Chris her husband, 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter.



## Employment Job Fair Washington Village

An employment job fair will be held on **December 11, 2014 from 10:00am-12:00pm and from 5:30pm to 7:30pm** at the South Norwalk Community Center, 98 South Main St., 1st floor, Norwalk, CT 06854. The project consists of the new construction of 80 units of housing in two wood-framed buildings totaling approximately 125,000 square feet. The work will take place in a 16-18 month timeframe beginning first quarter of 2015.

Due to limited space, RSVP at 203-332-7366 or via email at [outreach@vaseconstruction.com](mailto:outreach@vaseconstruction.com).

## Job Fair For Trade Contractors

Learn about upcoming opportunities for trade contractors for the construction of Phase 1 of Washington Village on **December 4, 2014 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm** at the Calvary Baptist Church, 20 Concord Street, Norwalk, CT 06854. The project consists of the new construction of 80 units of housing in two wood-framed buildings totaling approximately 125,000 square feet. The work will take place in a 16-18 month timeframe beginning first quarter of 2015. Due to limited space, RSVP at 203-332-7366 or via email at [outreach@vaseconstruction.com](mailto:outreach@vaseconstruction.com).

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY AGENCY PLAN

The Norwalk Housing Authority will be conducting a Public Hearing regarding its 5 year and Annual Plan. The Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 5:30pm at Leroy Downs Community Room located at 26 Monroe Street, Norwalk, Connecticut. Copies of the Norwalk Housing Authority Agency Plan and supporting documentation will be available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. business days and on our website, [www.norwalkha.org](http://www.norwalkha.org).

## 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 So. 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. We urge Washington Village residents to attend.

**After years of hard work and dedication, it's time to take a permanent vacation! Please join us as we offer Carla Conway best wishes in Retirement! This event will be held on**



**January 9, 2014@ 5:30pm at the Double Tree by Hilton, 789 Connecticut Ave., Norwalk, CT 06854.**

**A buffet meal will be served. The cost for this event is \$50.00 per person, which will include the gift for Carla. Please contact Nicole Ruffin at 838-8471 ext. 137 by December 23, 2014 to advise if you and any guests will be attending. Please make checks or money orders payable to NHA.**



Please do not park in reserved handicap parking spaces.

## U. S. Veterans Consider A Career in Higher Education

The Metro New York/Southern Connecticut Higher Education Recruitment Consortium is the on the move to promote equity and excellence in higher education. Go to [www.mnyscherc.org](http://www.mnyscherc.org) for regional jobs and [www.hercjobs.org](http://www.hercjobs.org) for nationwide jobs to search their database of jobs that include teaching, healthcare, information technology, finance, technical and trades, social work and much more.



## Get Emergency Information and Notifications

CT Alert is Connecticut's emergency notification system that sends location-based alerts to the public in emergency situations. Alerts are automatically sent to traditional land lines using the state's Enhanced 9-1-1 database, but in order to receive alerts on your cell phone or by email you need to register on the CT Alert website. CT Alert is a free service, but the regular rates charged by your mobile phone or internet plan will apply to any text messages, phone calls, or other messages sent to you by the system.



## Are You Interested in a New Career in the Growing Health Care Field?

Learn about FREE training at Southwestern CT Health Career Academy. DECEMBER 8th, 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 Evelyn Caraballo at extension 187.

## Employment Management Tip of the Month: Tailor your resume

When reading through a job listing, make a list of the pertinent requirements contained in it. If it states that MS Excel experience is a must (and you do, in fact, have MS Excel experience), make certain that is on your resume. Copy any other requirements that the ad lists that you possess. Don't trust your cover letter to convey such details. Your resume may never make it through the "system" if it doesn't contain the requirements needed for the position.

### Let's Be Safe!

NHA would like to again remind residents to please refrain from opening the outside building doors to anyone that you do not know. In addition, if someone calls your apartment and requests to be let in and you do not recognize the person requesting entrance, please do not buzz them into the building. We ask this in order to help us maintain the safety of your home. Also it's very important that you call in a work order for any outside light that is out. YOU see it usually before we do.

## Financial Management Tip of the Month: Holiday Planning

The holidays can become a financial strain for many families. During this time, it's easy to spend more than you may have planned or can afford. Here are some tips:

Analyze what needs to be purchased: Create a list of people you'll be shopping for and what you'd like to buy for each person, and create a spending plan.

Budget before you go shopping: Determine how much money you have to spend before you buy. Avoid borrowing for holiday spending. Limit unplanned purchases.



Compare prices and quality: Be cautious about "buy now, pay later" offers. Use internet resources to easily compare prices and quality.

Low-cost gift giving ideas: Consider gives that don't cost money, such as your time. Split the cost of a gift with someone. Have everyone agree on price limits. Have everyone draw names and only buy gifts for the name drawn.

## FREE Income Tax Preparation is Around the Corner!



Why pay to get your income taxes done when you can have them done for *free*?! The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS-certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. Norwalk Community College and Family & Children's Agency in Norwalk will offer these services in late-January. Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) in January for schedules, and find out what to bring to your VITA site.

## Join us! Healthy Eating for the Holidays and Beyond, December 11th



Join Cora Ragaini, Registered Dietitian at Grade A ShopRite, for an interactive, fun and educational nutrition workshop. Cora



will demonstrate a healthy recipe, perfect for sharing with family and friends during the holidays. **FREE** delicious samples for all to enjoy, recipe cards, nutrition pamphlets and more. Learn tips for healthy shopping for the holiday season.

\*Healthy Recipe Cards

\*Delicious samples

\*Nutrition Pamphlets

\*Healthy Shopping Tips

**DECEMBER 11th, 10:00am– 12:30pm, at Leroy Downs Community Room, 26 Monroe St.**



## Literacy Program Update

The Literacy Centers are completing their second Author Study. In the month of November, the children explored the works of author and illustrator, Patricia Polacco. The children were busy comparing and contrasting her various texts. In addition, the students identified common features between the books of October's Author of the month, Chris Van Allsburg, and those of Patricia Polacco. Some of our fourth and fifth graders at King Kennedy are finishing Brian Selznick's "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." The students at Washington Village and Colonial Village continue to get additional support and activities with their center-based literacy teams. Please don't forget to read to your child or have your child read to you every night. Visit Norwalk Public Library so that your child will have an opportunity to find additional stories written by Chris Van Allsburg and Patricia Polacco. December's Author of the month will be Doreen Cronin. Doreen Cronin is the author of such books as "The Diary of a Spider" and "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows that Type."



For the past several months, students at the 20 West Learning Center have had the opportunity to participate in a special program which partnered the NHA Learning Center Arts Enrichment Program with Silvermine Art Center. Students studied the art of Jim Flora and used his illustrative art work as inspiration while photographing and documenting the annual Silvermine Arts Fest. Students edited their digital photographs in abstract and creative ways; with the guidance of poetry teacher Page McBrier. Ms. McBrier wrote poems to correlate with their photographs. The art work is being shown at the Mayor's Gallery in Norwalk City Hall, and will also be featured in a larger art display at Silvermine Art Center in January. The exhibit will not only display the student's photographs, but bring light to the creative poems they wrote describing the colors, shapes, actions, and sounds they feel their photographs reflect.

## 20 West Students Partner With Silvermine Arts Center

The exhibit will not only display the student's photographs, but bring light to the creative poems they wrote describing the colors, shapes, actions, and sounds they feel their photographs reflect.



Lillie Fortino, NHA Art Coordinator, Leslee Asch, Executive Director Silvermine Arts Center Angeline Moresca, Mayor Harry Rilling, Kimberly Castillo, Samira Velez, Samantha Velez, Andreyra Stokes and Joshua Garcia

## Quick Sand Goo

Anyone who has ever watched a classic western movie knows about the dangers of quicksand. You know that gooeey stuff that grabs a hold of its victim and swallows them alive? So, what is quicksand and how does it really work? In a recent science experiment, students' used ordinary cornstarch and other household materials to model the behavior of real quicksand. This enjoyable, interactive experiment defines our S.T.E.M Motto: Edu-tainment-learning while having fun. This experiment incorporated math, science, literature and critical thinking all in one!



Students patiently wait to experience the wonders of all that science has to offer.



Sam Bosquet, Mike Avilia, Kimora Prince, Bryana King, Katavia Torres look on as the magic of science begins.

## FREE Tickets To See The Nutcracker!

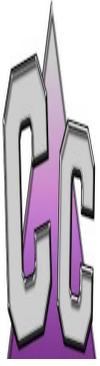
The New England Dance Theater proudly presents The Nutcracker on December 7, 2014 at 1:00pm at the New Canaan High School. Interested residents can enjoy this wonderful holiday experience by calling and reserving a seat with Wendy Gerbier by December 2, 2014 at 203-852-1144 ext. 102. The Nutcracker is the perfect way to celebrate the holiday season with the entire family!



## CHET Baby Scholars

The CHET Baby Scholars program provides up to \$250 toward a newborn's future college costs. Every baby born in Connecticut, who is less than a year old, and every adopted child, not later than the first anniversary of the adoption, is eligible for a CHET Baby Scholars grant in the amount of \$100. Then, if an additional \$150 is saved in the account by the time the child is four (of in the case of an adoption, by the fourth anniversary of the adoption), the account may be eligible for a second grant of \$150. Go to [www.aboutchet.com](http://www.aboutchet.com) for more details.





**The 2015 NHF Scholarship Application will be available at NHA office and on NHA website or by email on December 22nd.** Contact Kim Hein to get on the application list so you can learn of other scholarships. Phone: 203-838-8471, ext. 190. Kim is available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am-3:00pm. Free help with applications and essays is available at NHA's 20 West Learning Center. Call: 203-852-1144 to schedule an appointment.

**Dates to remember...**

**STATE FAFSA Deadline is February 15, 2015.** *The State awards up to \$2,000 on a first come basis until the funds run out that is income based.*

**SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE FOR MANY IN-STATE COLLEGES is February 15.** *You may need additional applications for various colleges so check with the college financial aid department. This date is the deadline for UCONN.*

**FEDERAL FAFSA Deadline is by Midnight Central Time June 30, 2015.** The Federal Award maximum for 2014-15 was \$5,730 and may go up for 2015-16. It is income based. If you get the State Award, that will be deducted from the Federal Award. However, last year the Federal Awards ran out and people applying late were refused or got lower amounts. So apply early!!!

**PHADA** is for high school seniors with a B or better average. The Application is online at the PHADA website: [www.phada.org](http://www.phada.org). Part of the application can be picked up at NHA's main office. But the Essay questions page is online.

**NCC College Scholarships** are available for students who are Freshmen entering their second semester and students who are going into their second year or continuing after graduation to a 4-year college. Contact the NCC Foundation for further information at: 203-857-7287; Web: [ncc-foundation.org](http://ncc-foundation.org).

**Jayro Ovalle Speaks at Wealth Managers Breakfast**

Jayro Ovalle, a cum laude graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science degree in Information Technology, spoke on November 4th at a breakfast of wealth managers hosted by Fairfield County Community Foundation at the Inn at Longshore in Westport. Jay spoke about the Norwalk Housing Foundation Scholarship Program, its importance and how it helped him. "In my senior year I was afraid of not being able to attend RIT due to a lack of funds," recalled Jay. "But thanks to the Norwalk Housing Foundation College Scholarship Program, I was able to go and expand my knowledge at the college I believed would provide me with the most positive challenges and pave a pathway to a successful and interesting career. This Program is very important." Jay currently works in Manhattan for JP Morgan in computer infrastructures



**From Poverty to Giving Millions: Ford Foundation President Credits Head Start in People Magazine**



Darren Walker was born to a single mom in a charity hospital in a poor rural Texas town. But even at a young age, he told People magazine this week, "I had a thirst for what was beyond the horizon." In 1965, his mother, a nurse's aide, enrolled him in a new educational program called Head Start, which gave him "a window into a world beyond my immediate circumstances." Today, Darren is president of the Ford Foundation, and he directs annual charitable giving of nearly half a billion dollars. His interview appeared in the November 17 print edition of People magazine, which has a circulation of more than 3.5 million. What a great tribute to the effectiveness of Head Start.

**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!!!

*Why fit in when you were born to stand out?-Dr. Suess*