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## Pictures from NHA Senior Breakfast!



NHA Seniors were invited to breakfast prepared by Norwalk Housing Authority staff on December 19th from 9:30am- 11:30am. This event was free and open to all NHA seniors. The menu consisted of breakfast sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, pancakes, muffins/danish, coffee, tea, and orange juice. Breakfast was served at five

complexes 20 West Avenue, Leroy Downs, Senior Court, Ludlow Village at Ludlow Commons and Irving Freese and holiday gifts were given to all who attended. Norwalk Housing Authority would also like to thank Russ Jones, Diamond Deli, Panera Bread, Jimmy's Mediterranean Deli and the entire NHA staff for donating to this wonderful annual holiday celebration.

## Washington Village NEWS Update

Housing Opportunities Unlimited (HOU) is looking forward to working with the residents of Washington Village as Norwalk Housing Authority's Case Management and Relocation Services provider under the HUD Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI). As you may already know, with the award of CNI funds to redevelop Washington Village comes a wonderful opportunity for residents to take advantage of a wide range of education, employment and health services that may not have been available in the past. HOU case management staff will begin work at Washington Village in January 2015.

## Give Your Child the Gift of Early Education! Enroll Today

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

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!!!

## NHA Appoints CNI Project Director

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative took another step forward with the appointment of Thomas

Ivers as Project Director. Tom has spent the last 13 years in the Milford Community Development office where he managed the Community Development Block Grant, housing rehabilitation and homeownership



programs. During his time there he converted an old firehouse to an art gallery, developed a 96 slot pre-school facility and several public parks and playgrounds. A Norwalk native, Tom was the Executive Director of Neighborhood Housing Services of Norwalk for 15 years renovating homes in South Norwalk and developing small apartment buildings as affordable housing. Tom holds a BA in psychology from Ithaca College. He lives in Milford with his wife Marcia and enjoys fishing with his four grandsons.

## Raquel James Takes Over Vehicle Registration

Carla Conway is retiring December 31, 2014. Raquel James will be in charge of vehicle registration. **Please remember to register your vehicles.** NHA Residents living at the following developments are required in their leases to register their cars in order to park in the on-site 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. To register your car, you must bring to the NHA front desk the following 3 documents: 1) your driver's license; 2) vehicle registration; 3) insurance. All documents must be current and in your name. At the front desk you must fill out the vehicle registration application form. **Applications must be complete to be accepted. You must bring all 3 proper documents at the same time.**

Call Kim Hein to get on the Scholarship Application List: 203-838-8471, ext. 190. Now is the time college scholarships are becoming available.



### NHA Hires Grant Writer

Stuart L. Goosman joined NHA as Grant Development Writer. In addition, he owns and writes for Executive Business Writing, LLC (EBW), a small, independent firm. Prior to EBW, he

wrote for Deloitte, working 12 years there as a financial services specialist in proposal writing, marketing and executive communications, most recently as lead writer for the CEO. Before Deloitte, Stuart spent 15 years in academia, first at the University of Washington, where he earned his Ph.D. and taught, then as a professor at The University of Texas at Austin in the School of Music and the Center for African and African American Studies. He is also a published, peer-reviewed author.

### Employment Management Tip of the Month: Keep your personal problems to yourself

Check your personal problems at the door when you come to work. Stay focused on the job and your work responsibilities. Sharing financial, family and relationship issues at work may cause others to view you as irresponsible, unstable or careless – qualities that aren't appreciated at the workplace. Keep your personal problems to yourself, and avoid using company time to solve them .

### Upcoming Job Fair!

#### New Location!

**Register:** <http://www.allcountyevents.com/index.php/job-seeker-registration>

**Date:** Thursday January 15, 2015

**Time:** 3:30pm - 6:30pm

**Location:** NORWALK INN, 99 East Avenue, Norwalk CT



### SAVE THE DATE!



Norwalk YMCA Proudly Presents Healthy Living Celebration! March 7th from 11:00AM–1:00 PM

Fun and fitness for the entire family!

Stay tuned for more!



### Financial Management Tip of the Month: FREE Income Tax Preparation!

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.

### 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. Call or visit online to learn more, enroll in coverage, or find an Enrollment Center:

[Accesshealthct.com](http://Accesshealthct.com)

1-855-909-2428

Or visit a partner site in Stamford or Bridgeport:

#### Stamford Ferguson Library

One Public Library Plaza, Stamford, CT 06904  
Mon Closed, Tues & Thurs 10:30am – 6:00pm,  
Wed 10:30am – 7:00pm,  
Fri 10:30pm – 5:30pm, Sat 10:30am – 2:00pm

#### Bridgeport Burroughs-Saden Library

925 Broad Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Mon Closed, Tues & Thurs 10:30am – 6:00pm,  
Wed 10:30am – 7:00pm,  
Fri 10:30am – 4:30pm, Sat 10:30am – 2:00pm



### Neighborhood Watch Works

Report any sign of vandalism or suspicious activity to the police immediately. Call Norwalk Police Department at 203-854-3000 and press 0. Tell the dispatcher you wish to remain anonymous and explain to them what is going on. Help your neighbors keep unwanted troublemakers away from their-home.





## YouthWorks

### A WorkPlace Opportunity

Are you 16 to 21 and not sure what you want to do? Need help deciding on a Career? Let YouthWorks help you! Discover, Plan and Prepare

- Discover today's growing careers
- Plan for training and job search
- Prepare for your job search

To register call or email Mr. Ray Hodge at 203-416-8489 or [rhodge@workplace.org](mailto:rhodge@workplace.org) or Mr. Karl Buckley Walden at 203-489-5046 or [kwalden@workplace.org](mailto:kwalden@workplace.org)

### Reasonable Accommodations at NHA

Norwalk Housing Authority takes reasonable steps to make developments as accessible for disabled residents as for non-disabled residents. If any member of your household is disabled or becomes disabled and needs accommodation or modification of the site or its policies, please tell your Occupancy Specialist. You must also inform them if your household has difficulty meeting its obligations under the lease or house rules because of a member's disability. Norwalk Housing Authority wants to make sure that disabled residents are treated fairly and have the same positive experience at the site as non-disabled residents, and we need your help in meeting this goal.



### Helping With Homework



Given the schedules of most parents, finding time to help children with homework is no easy feat. Nevertheless, the time you can spend together keeps you involved with your child, decreases the chances that you child will fall behind in class, and shows your child

that you value education.

Okay, so maybe you don't feel comfortable helping with fractions, physics, or diagramming sentences. There are still some things you can do to help your children complete their assignments:

- First, be available and watch for opportunities to praise them for staying on task with their homework.
- Second, set a positive example. Read a book. Write a letter, balance the checkbook, or make a grocery list while they are studying. Leave the TV and radio OFF. You help set the tone for the importance of homework. When there are questions you can't answer, and there will be, your children can call a classmate or teacher. Then, have them explain the answer to you so you both can understand what they're doing.
- Third, help your children organize their time and materials (for example, pens and paper) for homework. This might involve having them use a notebook for keeping track of their assignments. This notebook can be their school planner. At the end of each class, they write the assignment in their planner and bring it and related schoolbooks home after school. You also can use the planner to start discussions about their school day.
- Finally, they need to get started studying at the designated time. Kids generally do better if they have a routine to follow. Pick a time that works best for both you and your child. There will be times when activities prevent your children from studying at that time, but those activities should be the rare exception, not the rule.

**Free help with college applications and essays is available at NHA's 20 West Learning Center. Call at: 203-852-1144 to schedule an appointment.**

### Colonial Village Learning Center Sees Nutcracker

The holiday season is a joyful time filled with family, treats and gifts. On December 7th, some students from the Colonial Village Learning Center had the opportunity to see the Nutcracker Ballet production at New Canaan High School. Students had a magnificent time watching the ballerinas and their imaginative choreography. They also had the chance to take pictures with some of the ballerinas. At the end of the production, students were invited onstage to learn a dance routine. The Colonial Village Learning Center staff look forward to having students introduced to diverse arts and activities because it allows them to figure out what they are interested in.



*Students and staff from the Colonial Village Learning Center pose with ballerinas from the Nutcracker production held at New Canaan High School.*

***Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties.-Helen Keller***

## Lights on Afterschool Contest

Washington Village Learning Center had a magnificent opportunity to participate in the *Lights on Afterschool* event. They were given a tri-fold display to creatively show what they do at the center. Students displayed pictures of the literacy staff and program, students, parent involvement, and family nights. To further practice teamwork, a photo album was produced and students dressed in t-shirts which displayed the words "Steppin' into the Village" on the front and WVLC on the back. Students wanted to show everyone at the event how Washington Village families work together to make the learning center safe, fun, and an educational environment. Students were pleased as punch to share the 1<sup>st</sup> place prize with 20 West Learning Center.

## FREE FAFSA HELP on COLLEGE GOAL SUNDAY!



**DATE: January 25, 2015!**

**PLACE: NCC, East Campus.** Hands on help for the whole family with filling out your college student FAFSA Application. You must bring your family's 2013 & 2014 tax returns and student's ID. **FAFSA must be filled out by both student & parent(s)/guardian(s).** Parents of college-bound students: file your 2014 Income Taxes

early so your students can apply for FAFSA early.

### COLLEGE BOUND INFO:

**High school students in all grades should prepare early for college.** Contact Kim Hein at 203-838-8471, ext. 190, to start preparing for college in lower grades through great free college prep programs.

### PHADA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR SENIORS

**PHADA Scholarships** are 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 from Kim Hein, 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:

(Phone) 203-857-7287; Web: [ncc-foundation.org](http://ncc-foundation.org).

**NHA has College Information and Support Programs for Middle & High School Students who want to go to College and their Families.** Call 203-852-1144 and speak to Wendy Gerbier.

**Attention NHA Residents:** Private Schools are still holding tours & interviews for 2015-16 applicants. Call Kim Hein at 203-838-8471 ext.190.

## NHF Scholars Jersson Baker and Stephanie Lopez Complete College Programs



In December 2 NHF Scholars completed their college programs. Jersson Baker has finished his Culinary Arts Program at Norwalk Community College. Jersson is already working as a chef for Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and has catered for big Google events at their headquarters in Manhattan. Stephanie Lopez has completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree at University of Bridgeport with a Major in General Studies Social Sciences and a Minor in Psychology. Stephanie Lopez accomplished her goal of obtaining a BA while raising two children and working. Both NHF graduate scholars are residents of Colonial Village.

### Will You Apply Early or Late?

Many colleges have two deadline dates. An earlier date is for if you are applying for financial aid and a later date or "rolling admissions" is set for students who do not need aid. Please check your college to make certain of the earlier date. It is best to call the college and find out if both dates are not online (sometimes they are not). The award amounts given will be smaller if you miss the earlier date. This information is available from the Admissions office or online. Please don't confuse this with the "Early Admissions Date" for acceptance at your first pick college.



### Raising Readers Graduation Ceremony

A graduation ceremony was held for 11 parents of preschoolers at the Nathaniel Ely School. All of the parents attended at least 6 of the 8 sessions in the class which has helped them to learn the value of reading to their children frequently and how to make reading a fun activity at home. Each participant received a book at every session and a hard cover bonus book at the end. The class was offered in both Spanish and English by certified facilitators Mariela Schriel and Lynn Sadlon.

