



Norwalk Housing Authority will be hosting BINGO on Tuesday Nights beginning February 3, 2015 from 6:00pm-7:15pm in the Community Center at Irving Freese, 57Ward St., Norwalk. PRIZES and LIGHT REFRESHMENTS will be served. Come have fun and enjoy yourself!



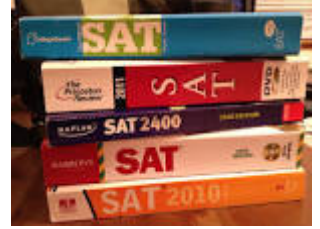
## Columbus Magnet School Accepting Applications



Columbus Magnet School is currently accepting 2015 lottery applications for all grade levels, kindergarten through fifth grade. It is open to students living in Norwalk. Applications are available from the school's main office. You may also download an application from the school's website. Applications must be submitted in person or mailed to Columbus Magnet School, 46 Concord St., Norwalk, CT, 06854. All applications must be received on or before Friday, March 27, at 4 p.m. to be included in the April 23, lottery drawing. Informational Open Houses are set for Thursday, Jan. 29, and Tuesday, March 3, both at 7 p.m. in the school library. Reservations are required. For further information contact Terry Lakin at [lakint@norwalkps.org](mailto:lakint@norwalkps.org) or (203) 899-2840 ext.111.

## Free SAT Prep Class Starts Feb. 5th

The Norwalk Education Foundation is working with an outside organization, *Let's Get Ready*, to offer free SAT prep to students who qualify. Priority will be given to students who can demonstrate economic need as well as those who are first generation applying to college. Classes will be held at Norwalk High School, beginning Feb. 5th, ending April 30th. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 -8:30pm. Students from any of high schools in Norwalk are eligible to apply. **The average cost for a 50 minute tutoring session is \$195.00, but this FREE.**



## Emergency Evacuation

Are you wheelchair bound? Do you use oxygen? In the event of a fire can you leave your apartment without help? Many times NHA doesn't know who can't leave their apartments in the event of an emergency when the elevator may not be working. If at night, the Fire Department certainly doesn't know. Call now and let your Occupancy Specialist know so NHA can put this information in your file and then send it to the Police and Fire Departments. If you are a neighbor of someone that you think would need assistance in the event of a disaster, call Raquel James, 203-838-8471 ext.138 and let us know and we'll check it out.



Go to [norwalkha.org](http://norwalkha.org) and look under Careers to find open positions.

## Former NHF College Scholarship Graduate Javier Ceja Raises \$1,100

Former King Kennedy resident and NHF Scholarship Recipient, Javier Ceja, who graduated from Pace University and now works in New York City in real estate with a friend raised \$1,100 for the 2015 Norwalk Housing Foundation Scholarship Campaign in a named scholarship in honor of Carla Conway. The surprise check was presented at Carla Conway's retirement dinner on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Upon presenting the check, Javier stated how important the scholarship program had been to him and how when he told his friends about it, they, too, thought it was a program to be supported. Javier and his sister, Suria Ceja, both participated in the program and graduated college. Suria graduated from UCONN, Storrs.

## Do You Want To Go Back To School?

You may be eligible for 3 FREE courses at a Connecticut college. Classroom and online classes are available. You may be eligible if:

1. You are a CT resident
2. You have completed at least 12 college-level credits before June 30, 2013 and haven't taken any credit-bearing courses since then
3. You must take at least 6 credits per semester, with the exception of your last semester.



To apply for your free classes, visit <https://www.gobacktogetahead.com/>

or call 1-844-428-4228.



## Reducing Resident Risks

Risk reduction in winter is especially important because of cold weather issues such as ice and snow. To assist us we ask that anytime that you see a potentially unsafe condition you inform the office so that our maintenance crew can address the situation. This not only includes ice and snow issues but any condition that may possess a risk to residents. Conditions such as site lights being out, ponding on sidewalks, trip hazards in paths of travel, and any other situation that you think maybe creating an unsafe condition should all be called in to the Maintenance Department at 203-838-8471 ext.139, so that we can take corrective action. With your assistance we can make our properties as safe as possible.



## Drive Only License

On January 2, 2015, DMV started a Drive Only program for undocumented individuals who are 16 years old and older and cannot establish their legal presence in the United States or may not have a Social Security number. The process involves applying for a learner's permit that can then lead to a drive-only license. The Drive Only license program was passed into law to improve public safety and to try to make sure that all drivers are tested, know how to drive and understand the rules and laws for driving. A Drive Only license cannot be used for state or federal identification purposes, and cannot be used to vote. The vision and knowledge testing for the Drive Only license began at DMV on January 2, 2015, by appointment only. Once an applicant passes the vision and knowledge tests at a DMV office, he or she will receive a learner's permit by mail. You can also call 1-800-842-8222 for more details.



## Job Corps FREE Education and Training



Job Corps is a **FREE** education and training program that helps young people learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and find and keep a good job. For eligible young people at least 16 years of age

that qualify as low income, Job Corps provides the all-around skills needed to succeed in a career and in life. If you or someone you know is interested in joining Job Corps, call **(800) 733-5627** where an operator will provide you with general information about Job Corps, refer you to the admissions counselor closest to where you live, and mail you an information packet.

## Financial Management Tip of the Month: CHET: College savings for newborns

CHET, Connecticut Higher Education Trust, is a college savings for newborns and newly-adopted children. The State will provide a one-time contribution of \$100 to families who open a tax advantaged CHET 529 college savings account by the child's first birthday, or within the first year after adoption. Families who save \$150 in the first four years will receive a state match of \$150 for a total state investment of \$250. For more information about CHET, go to [www.aboutCHET.com/babyscholars](http://www.aboutCHET.com/babyscholars), or call toll-free 877-253-8104. Go to view CHET's online webcast at [www.aboutCHET.com](http://www.aboutCHET.com).

## Employment Management Tip of the Month: What NOT to do on LinkedIn and Why

LinkedIn is a great professional and networking business platform. Here are some LinkedIn DON'T tips: LinkedIn is not Facebook. DON'T display your vacation and social pictures. When you want to leave comments, assume a potential employee, customer, employer or vendor will read it. DON'T endorse anyone you are not comfortable endorsing. Endorsing another person's skills that you know may also help them show up in search results. DON'T be a salesperson in your groups. Don't join a group just to promote your products and services. Use it to share useful information that others in the group will find informative.

## Money Matters Frequent Rewards Program



Nancy Delcin

Twenty-five people participated in the Money Matters Frequent Rewards Program, where participants earned points by completing specific financial workshops and activities centered around budgeting, credit, and financial stability/resiliency. Nancy Delcin completed all activities with a perfect score and received first prize of a Samsung Galaxy Tablet.



Glenda Figueroa

Conan Robinson and Glenda Figueroa each received \$50 Gift Certificates to P.C. Richard and Son. Congratulations to our winners and to all who participated!



Conan Robinson

## Upcoming Job Fair!

Date: Thursday February 19, 2015

Time: 3:30pm - 6:30pm

Location: 535 Connecticut Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854



## 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!



## Let it Snow!

Everyone knows that snow is the fluffy, moist and cold white stuff that falls from the sky. We used your child's natural curiosity about snow as a gateway into science exploration. Ask yourself; where does snow come from? Snow crystals are born in the clouds when water vapor freezes on a particle of dust, a floating bit of bacteria, or another solid material. When cloud temperatures are at the freezing point and there is an ample supply of moisture in the air, ice crystals form around a core particle. As water vapor condenses and freezes, the complex pattern of a snowflake is born. Snow can be further classified into six basic patterns called...Sorry, you will have to wait for our next lesson on Snowflake Composition to learn about that!



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 is beginning a Graduate School Scholarship too!



## Phillip Johnson Glass House

Norwalk Housing Authority Learning Center students had the opportunity to visit The Glass House, located in New Canaan and designed by architect Philip Johnson and completed in 1949. The Glass House began as an odyssey of architectural experimentation in forms, materials, and ideas through the addition of many new "pavilions", such as a Guest House, Lake Pavilion, Painting Gallery, Sculpture Gallery, Ghost House, Studio, and Visitors Pavilion along with methodical sculpting of the surrounding landscape. The 47 acre campus is an example of the successful preservation and interpretation of modern architecture, landscape, and art. Inspired by Mies van der Rohe's Farnsworth House, the Glass House's exterior walls are made of glass with no interior walls, a radical departure from houses of the time. The Glass House is owned and operated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



## NHA and Silvermine Arts Center Collaboration



A select group of NHA Learning Center students took part in a special arts enrichment photography program in collaboration with the Silvermine Arts Center. The Silvermine Arts Center holds an annual Arts Fest, and this year they asked the NHA Learning Center photography students to document the event through photography. Andreyia Stokes,

Angeline Moresca, Samira Velez, Samantha Velez, Joshua Garcia, Kimberly Castillo, and Sanaiah Dickson, all 20 West Learning Center students, acted as documentary photographers, photographing the different events that took place during the Arts Fest. Events included puppet shows, arts vendors, art gallery exhibitions, ariel artists, and other circus performances. Once the photography segment of the project was complete, students worked on digitally editing their photographs to alter the colors, contrast, and appearance of their photographs to best represent their documentation of the Arts Fest. Additionally, students worked with a poetry teacher to composed poems to complement their photographic art works. The student work is on display during the month of January at the Silvermine Arts Center Student Gallery, at 1037 Silvermine Road in New Canaan.

## The World of Authors is Going Strong!



The Learning Center staff are using Doreen Cronin's "Dairy of a Worm," "Dairy of a Fly," and "Diary of a Spider" to help students prepare for the upcoming reading portion of the Common Core State Standard tests. These books are great for teaching fact and fiction, point of view, and text features. In addition, the students also read informational articles and non-fiction articles to help them prepare.

Fourth and fifth grade students from all the centers who attend King-Kennedy Literacy Center are enjoying "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." The students learned about the early silent movies and how magic helped create these early films. Students are eager and are all a buzz about making their own silent video.



At Washington Village, the daily read-aloud is eagerly attended by students. They are reading "Wonder" written by R.J. Palacio. This story is about a 10-year-old fifth grader born with a with a very different-looking face, the result of a chromosomal abnormality. He must convince his classmates he is just like them even with a facial difference; a great story with many life



## FREE Income Tax Preparation!

Why pay to get your income taxes done when you can have them done for *free*?! Even if you don't *owe* taxes, you may be eligible for *valuable tax credits and refunds*! Make sure your family gets any free money they qualify for! The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers **free** tax help to people who 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 starting February 3, 2015. No appointment necessary! **Family & Children's Agency**, 140 Water Street, Tuesdays 5PM – 9PM; **Norwalk Community College** 188 Richards Avenue, Saturdays 10AM – 3:30PM in West Campus Rm. 138; Tuesdays and Thursdays in East Campus Atrium/Student Success Center. For additional sites in Fairfield County, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov), and to find out what to bring to your VITA site.



## Side by Side School Accepting Applications



Side by Side Charter School will be accepting enrollment applications for Fall 2015 for grades Pre-K (3 and 4-year-olds) through eighth grade. Lottery applications will only be made available during one of the school's scheduled Open Houses. In order to attend an open

house, you must make a reservation. For reservations, call (203) 857-0306. Open house dates are as follows:  
 Thursday, Jan. 29, at 10:30 a.m.;  
 Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 10:30 a.m.;  
 Wednesday, March 18, 5 p.m.;  
 Wednesday, April 8, at 5 p.m.  
 The Lottery will be held on Wednesday, April 22, at 5 p.m. in the gym at Side by Side. All applications must be received by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 10, in order to be entered into the lottery. Admission information can be found on the school website [www.sbscharter.org](http://www.sbscharter.org).



## ACT NOW WHILE SPACE EXISTS!

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) Head Start /School Readiness Program is currently accepting applications for 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 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 details!!!**

