



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

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



## CNI Education Coordinator Appointed

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative took another step forward with the appointment of Micheal Crafter as CNI Education Coordinator. Micheal has spent the last 7 years working at the Washington Village After School Program, first as an Education Coordinator and then the Lead Coordinator. He worked with students and families to ensure that each child received the assistance needed to complete homework activities and participate in the opportunities available. In his new capacity Michael will be working with the Case Managers from Housing Opportunities Unlimited. He will also be the Housing Authority liaison to the Norwalk Public School system to insure Washington Village students reach their full academic potential. He will be assisting adults, young and old, with setting new goals for personal growth through expanded educational opportunities and training programs.



A Norwalk native, Micheal grew up in Roodner Court and attended the afterschool program and was a very active participant in Grassroots Tennis. Micheal holds a BA in Sociology from Fairfield University and resides in Norwalk with his family.

## April 7th NCC Career Expo 2015

Norwalk Community College Career Center will be hosting a Career Expo featuring many employers who are looking to hire. Tuesday, April 7, 2015 from 12:00pm to 3:00pm in the East Campus Atrium, 188 Richards Avenue, Norwalk CT. Dress for success and bring your resume! Freshen up your resume by meeting with Lisa Roger. Call 203-838-8471 ext.188.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We want to keep illegal drugs and drug dealers off of NHA properties. Your family deserves to live in a safe, drug-free environment without safety concerns where you call home! If you see or are aware of any drug, gang or other criminal activity, PLEASE report it to Norwalk Police Department right away so that action can be taken. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO PROVIDE YOUR NAME!** You can report activity anonymously and we implore you to do so. Turning a blind eye to this problem will not make it go away; in fact, it will make it worse. We all have to work together to make a difference! Call 203-854-3000 and press 0. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



## March 5th, 24 Hours to Give Where You Live

The Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA) created the Norwalk Housing Foundation (NHF) in 2000 that raises money for college scholarships.

One hundred percent of NHF funds go to students. Remember, giving gives back, through lasting coalitions, broadly unified and cohesive communities, and by establishing sustainable self-sufficiency through education. The return on these kinds of investments will be in the form of resources, relationships, and reliability; they help to develop a loyal, stable, and educated workforce and a more prosperous and financially sound City of Norwalk for everyone.

**Fairfield County's Giving Day** is 24 hours of online giving by individuals, families and companies to support their favorite local charities.

### How Does Giving Day Work?

The Norwalk Housing Foundation registered to participate on a secure donation platform—[www.FCGives.org](http://www.FCGives.org). In addition, all registered nonprofits receive a dollar-for-dollar match, up to a predetermined amount, funded by Bank of America, partnering corporations, other institutions and individual donors.

### March 5, 2015 is Giving Day

Donors, friends, family and community members can go to [www.FCGives.org](http://www.FCGives.org) from midnight through 11:59 pm on March 5 and donate to Norwalk Housing Foundation. The Community Foundation's goals include registering at least 325 local nonprofits, engaging 9,500 unique donors, and raising \$1 million.

*Remember, every day can be giving day, and so if you can't participate through this special event, we welcome contributions by mail: NHF Scholarship Pro-*



24 hrs to give where you live FCGives.org



## Washington Village NEWS Update

Two Case Managers and a Workforce Development Specialist from Housing Opportunities Unlimited (HOU) began assisting Washington Village residents and are temporarily operating out of office space on the first floor of the Leroy Downs. They are: Emendya Edouard, Lead Case Manager, (203) 952-1461, Abby Chamberlain, Case Manager, (860) 559-6779, and Daphny Dolce, Workforce Development Specialist, (203) 952-1851. Office hours are as follows: Monday through Friday from 9:00am-5:00pm. Appointments can be made and meetings will be scheduled at the Leroy Downs office and at the Washington Village Learning Center. A permanent office location will be selected later this winter and will also be walking distance from Washington Village.





## Financial Management Tip of the Month: FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION!

Don't throw away your hard earned money! Don't pay to have your taxes done. Get the most out of any tax refunds you may be eligible for! IRS-certified volunteers (VITA – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) provide *FREE* basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to people who make \$53,000 or less, persons with disabilities, the elderly and limited English speaking taxpayers. No appointment necessary! Don't delay! *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 find out what to bring to your VITA site.



## If you have HUSKY You Have Dental Coverage

HUSKY offers a broad range of services by dentists all over the State. Access to dental care is literally a phone call away at 1-855-CTDENTAL (1-855-283-3682), Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Connecticut Medicaid (HUSKY) beneficiaries have the best access to dentists of any program in the country. 97.7% of beneficiaries have a dentist available within a 5 mile radius. Here is a brief summary of the dental benefits covered under HUSKY at no charge when you see a participating dentist:

- Oral exams/Cleanings/ Oral surgery
- X-Rays/Fillings/Extractions/ Root canals
- Dentures/ Crowns/Orthodontic Services (Under 21 years old with prior authorization)

Benefits are different for children and adults. Some services may require prior authorization. If you have any questions about coverage or want to find a dentist, call 1-855-CTDENTAL (1-855-283-3682).

## Winter Snow Removal Advisory

This has been a very harsh winter in the City of Norwalk specifically. One of the biggest challenges for NHA maintenance personnel as well as city public works crews has been the removal and disposal of major snow accumulations. Keeping roads and parking areas clear and accessible for residents and their vehicles has been hampered by the sheer volume of snow and the relentless frigid temperatures. Remember the responsibility for clearing parking lots and access roads belongs to maintenance workers and the task of cleaning off and moving vehicles is on the owner. Once the initial road and lot cleaning is done it is incumbent on the car owner to move his or her vehicle as soon as possible. This allows for workers to return for additional plowing/blowing to free up additional parking. By working together we can hopefully improve conditions in the future. We work hard and I personally welcome any suggestions you may have regarding this issue.

## Employment Management Tip of the Month: Google Yourself



Keep damaging information about yourself away from potential employers. Google yourself. Do a simple job search that an employer might do and review the results. If you use Facebook and other social media sites, be sure to set your security settings to "private" so that your profile isn't available for viewing by anyone you're not connected to. Similarly if you use Twitter or have a personal blog, consider using an alias so that current and potential employers will be shielded from any potentially controversial statements you may make.

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

Learn about FREE training at Southwestern CT Health Career<sub>x</sub> Academy. MONDAY MARCH 16th, 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, Dental Hygenist 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. Some starting salaries are \$16 per hour after 8 days of training. For additional information or to register, call Lisa Roger at 203-838-8471 ext. 188 or Evelyn Caraballo at extension 187.

## Health Career<sub>x</sub> Academy



## Our New Doctors Helping You Reach Out for Better Health

Internist Dr. Celeste Cox Baldwin and pediatrician Dr. Janet Karpiak: two new reasons you can depend on good care and good health at the Norwalk Community Health Center. We offer the best possible care to those in our community, regardless of their ability to pay, including:

- Adult Medicine, Pediatric and OB/GYN services
- Behavioral and Dental services
- Onsite financial assistance
- Multilingual staff, including Spanish and Creole
- Onsite pharmacy and lab
- Same day appointments for illness
- Door-to-door transportation service available

For more information, please call:

**203-851-1000**





## JOIN THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION Norwalk YMCA

**Saturday, March 7, 2015  
2:00PM-5:00PM**

**Side By Side Charter School  
10 Chestnut Street  
Norwalk, CT**

**Join the Norwalk YMCA to see just how much fun living healthy can be!**

**IT'S FREE! Bring your friends and family!**

**Zumba, health screenings, Pump It Up, Arts & Crafts, Musical games, My Three Sons, and more! Featuring DJ Co-Millenni!**



### Colonial Village Reader of the Week!

Colonial Village staff would like to recognize Zyare Bradley on being the reader of the week. Zyare is in the 4th grade and enjoys reading adventure books because it allows him to use his imagination. He is relentlessly excited when it is time for the fourth graders to do their reading exercises and activities with Ms. Marta, Reading Coach. Keep up the good work Zyare!

### Magazine Project

The All About Me Magazine Collage let students utilize a variety of magazines to create an interesting and fun collage. Students individually worked to create a poster filled with pictures, words or phrases that describe them; focusing on personal goals and what they desire or envision themselves to be. After searching and gathering ideas, a very vivid collage was created. Each student shared their collage with the group in a Show and Tell format. The presenter in this picture, Jahzaiah Simms was very excited to showcase pictures of his favorite celebrities, cool possessions he hoped to gain and his future interest in the military. Moreover, as the presentation progressed, it was great to see students learning and engaging with their peers because of these newly shared connections.



**Pictured students:** Tyleah Simms; Ulysses Flores; Presenter: Jahzaiah Simms; Samantha Garcia; Kamora Prince and Aniyia Prince.

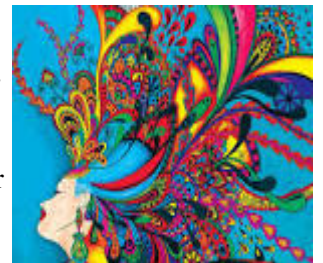
### The Lemonade War



Once a month Washington Village reading coach Mr. Whalen, does a read-aloud with the scholars at the center which allows them to listen, focus and converse with one another. Mr. Whalen also hands out a few books to the scholars to assist him in the reading, answering questions and filling out comment cards where they get to express their thoughts and feelings about the book. The Lemonade War, written by by Jacqueline Davies is a clever blend of humor, math wizardry, and business know-how. As it captures the one-of-a-kind bond between brother and sister, this poignant novel subtly explores how arguments can escalate beyond

### High School Summer Art Scholarship

NHA's Creative Arts Program is pleased to announce a partnership with the School for Visual Arts (SVA) in New York City. The partnership provides a \$3,900 scholarship to the Pre-College Summer Program for summer 2015. The Pre-College Summer students are immersed in study through lectures on art history, theory and the use of media and materials. The program is enhanced with a comprehensive list of caperoned activities that take full advantage of the social and cultural life of New York City. The summer program is scheduled for three weeks in July (July 13th to July 31) and classes are taught Monday through Friday from 9am to 4 pm and includes dorm lodging. Students will receive three college credits for the successful completion of the summer program. Come learn about this wonderful opportunity. Parents are welcome. Friday, March 6th, 2015 at 3:30 pm at Norwalk Housing Authority 24 1/2 Monroe Avenue, Norwalk, CT. Please call Patricia Marsden-Kish at 203- 838-8471 ext. 184 or Wendy Gerbier at 203-852-1144 ext. 103 if you have any questions. Transportation to and from meeting can be arranged.



### Apply for a NHF College Scholarship!

- Scholarships are available for High School Seniors, College Students, Recent High School Graduates and Returning Adults.
- You must be a resident in good standing with the NHA and must have lived in a NHA development for a minimum of one year.
- Applications available now at [www.norwalkha.org](http://www.norwalkha.org) or in the NHA Office.
- Applications due Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:30PM



Questions? Contact Kim Hein at [khein@norwalkha.org](mailto:khein@norwalkha.org) or 203-838-8471 x190.

*"You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes. You  
can steer yourself any direction  
you choose."-Dr. Seuss*





## Other Scholarships NHA Residents are eligible for:

### Allan R. Andrews Scholarship (NERC-NAHRO)

<http://www.nercnahro.org/Scholarship.php>

Deadline: May 2015

### Elizabeth Ambler Scholarship

<http://www.amblertrust.org/scholarship.html>

Deadline: April 2015



### Housing Authority Insurance Group Scholarship

<https://www.housingcenter.com/member-resident-scholarships>

Deadline: April 2015

### John J. Kelly Memorial Scholarship - Conn-NAHRO

<http://conn-nahro.org/Plugs/Scholarships.aspx>

Deadline: June 2015

### NAHMA Educational Foundation Grant (Colonial Village Residents Only)

<https://scholarship.indatus.com/nahma>

Deadline: May 2015

### Norwalk Community College Foundation (for current NCC Students)

<http://ncc-foundation.org/for-students/>

Deadline: Varies

**Free help with scholarship applications is typically available at your current high school or college!**

Contact Kim Hein at [khein@norwalkha.org](mailto:khein@norwalkha.org) or 203-838-8471 x190

## New & Improved 20 West Reading Corner



It was all smiles while the 20 West students peered at their new reading corner on Thursday February, 5, 2015. Thanks to the Beiersdorf Corporation company-wide book drive, students will benefit from a new selection of books. The new library contains a wide variety of genres students can choose from. In addition to

donating the reading corner, company executives and lawyers spoke to our students about the importance of reading. The speakers elaborated on how significant reading was in propelling their careers and success. The students are very grateful for the new books and reading corner which they thoroughly enjoy.

## Duct Tape Rose Pens

20 West Girls Teen Mentoring program is held every Wednesday. The program provides a wide range of activities that are hands on, engaging and inspiring. The Girls enjoy sharing their interest, feelings and creativity. If you are a teenage girl in search of a program that gives you full range to be yourself while being celebrated, we look forward to seeing you at our next weekly meeting on Wednesday February 18, at 4:30 p.m.



## The Business of Art



*Kimberly Castillo and Samira Velez stand at one of the many WPA murals located in Norwalk City Hall.*

On February 20th, 20 West Art students completed their participation in the "Business of Art" program by acting as Student Docents and giving visiting guests a walking tour of Norwalk's historic WPA Murals at the Norwalk City Hall. The Student Docent Tours come at the conclusion of a 4 month art program that joined the creative forces of NHA students with outside organizations.

Throughout this program, students were introduced to the business world of the creative arts. Students learned that there are many different business opportunities in art, ranging from being the actual artist, to being passionate about the history and knowledge of existing art, historical or contemporary. In the Spring, this program will expand Student Docents to giving outside walking tours of Norwalk's more contemporary community art located throughout SoNo, such as the "Traffic Graphic" boxes.



## Child First Services Available

Home-based, early childhood intervention program designed to decrease the incidence of serious emotional disturbances, developmental and learning problems, and abuse and neglect. Child First uses community partnerships to help identify children living in high-risk environments, or children who show the early signs of emotional, behavioral or developmental problems. Children referred to Child First receive intensive, in-home intervention by Masters or PhD. level mental health/developmental clinicians and B.A. care coordinators. The Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County is the lead agency for the Norwalk Child First Program and partners with Family & Children's Agency. We employ three Child First intervention teams, each with a M.A./PhD. level child development clinician and a B.A./M.A. level parent educator. The program is located on the 2nd floor of the Norwalk Department of Health Building, located next to City Hall. For more details call 203-939-9339 and speak with a live representative.