Visit www.norwalkcni.org
The Washington Village Choice Neighborhoods Initiative has launched a website dedicated to information and resources of interest to residents and the South Norwalk community. There are profiles of all the partners involved with the development including the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency, Trinity Financial and Housing Opportunities Unlimited. The site provides information on all of the local organization providing support services, employment & training opportunities and educational resources. A bulletin board will be maintained with notices on important events and social media links will soon be available. So pay a visit and “Contact Us!”

Save the Date: NICE Festival
The Norwalk International Cultural Exchange (NICE) is a Norwalk organization that seeks to promote and increase awareness of the diversity of peoples from around the world through arts and culture. The 2016 NICE Series will celebrate the rich global heritage and culture so evident in the music, food, art and talent of which we in Norwalk are so proud. NICE Festival Series 2016 will launch with a large multicultural festival in the summer of 2016. NICE will host dancers, musicians, vendors and local international restaurants; and encourage the community to spend the day together. NICE will endeavor to support global and local charitable organizations in their fight against the problems facing the modern world, which as we know, include poverty, hunger, sparse economic/educational opportunities, and slavery. The Festival will be held on July 9, 2016 at Oyster Shell Park, North Water Street, Norwalk, CT.

NHF Graduate Scholarship Application Still Available!
We recently started a Graduate Scholarship Program for NHA residents who are pursuing a graduate degree and need help financing their education. Application is 100% online this year: https://nha-application.fluidreview.com. Applications are due Wednesday, May 4th. Contact Kim Hein with questions at khein@norwalkha.org or 203-838-8417 x190.

Parents: Get Involved
2016-2019 Strategic Operating Plan Norwalk Public Schools
Public Information Sessions

Join Dr. Steven Adamowski, Superintendent of Schools, and members of the Board of Education for a review of the draft three-year Strategic Operating Plan for Norwalk Public Schools.

- Thursday, May 5, 2016 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at Nathaniel Ely School, 11 Ingalls Avenue
- Thursday, May 12, 2016 from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm at South Norwalk Community Center, 98 South Main Street

For more details go to www.norwalkps.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorwalkPS
Follow on Twitter: twitter.com/NorwalkPS

Norwalk Community College Scholarships Available
Are you a high school senior going to NCC in the fall or current NCC student? There are various scholarships you may be eligible for at NCC. Application deadlines vary but get started now! Scholarship and grant money is money you receive for college that you do not need to pay back. Visit their website for more information: http://ncc-foundation.org/apply-for-scholarships/

Person-to-Person Scholarship
Person-to-Person Scholarship Program, established in 1968, provides financial assistance for high school graduates who are applying to, or are already enrolled in, college. Students can go to P2phelps.org to complete the online application. Please email Kim Collibee at kimcollibee@p2phelps.org if you have any questions regarding the application process. All Applications Must Be Completed by Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at 4:00 pm EDT.
Financial Management Tip of the Month: FREE Online Learning
Interested in learning computer skills? Money management? Career options? From Microsoft Office and email to reading, math, and more, GCFLearnFree.org offers 125 tutorials, including more than 1,100 lessons, videos, and interactives, completely free. Visit www.gcflearnfree.org to start your free learning experience.

Fun and Informative Workshops
Credit workshop– learn all that you should know about credit history, scores, building and maintaining a strong credit report, credit scams and more. El taller será en Espanol y cubrirá los siguientes tópicos y más! Como conseguir tu reporte de crédito; Como crear y mantener una puntuación de crédito satisfactorio; Descripción general del reporte de crédito y la puntuación FICO. Como resolver problemas de crédito. May 5, Cinco de Mayo, EN ESPAÑOL, 12:30PM – 2:30PM.

Extreme Couponing Workshop- basic couponing principles meant to make saving money fun! Learn how to save more money by using coupons while not stocking up on unnecessary items. This seminar will be held on May 9, 2016 from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

Self-Empowerment Seminar -Where do you see yourself in five years? What are your goals and dreams? Take the wheels on your road to success. Identify your goals and create your own path to success. Learn different resources available to you, whether your dream is to own a home, save money, go back to school or obtain (better) employment, this seminar is your first step in the right direction! This seminar will be held on May 18, 2016 from 5:00pm–7:00pm.

Financial Resiliency Workshop
Would you be able to financially handle an unexpected expense or loss of income? Begin the path toward economic security and stability. Work towards assessing your current financial situation, identify ways to increase income, decrease and prioritize expenses. Develop your own financial recovery plan. This seminar will be held on June 8, 2016 from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

All events will be held at a NEW WORKSHOP LOCATION, at NHA Choice Neighborhood Office, 149 Water Street, 2nd floor, Norwalk, CT 06854. Call NHA to reserve your spot today, 203-838-8471 Marie (x186) or Raquel(x187)

Employment Tip of the Month: The O*NET Interest Profiler is a self-assessment career exploration tool that can help you discover the type of work activities and occupations that you would like and find exciting. Clients identify and learn about broad interest areas most relevant to themselves. They can use their interest results to explore the world of work. O*NET is FREE.

Are You Interested in a New Career in the Growing Health Care Field?
Training opportunities include C.N.A., Phlebotomy, E.M.T., Pharmacy Tech, Radiation Therapist, and more. Eligibility requirements include family income or unemployed. Must have a high school or GED Diploma. Starting salaries $16 per hour after 8 days of training. For additional information or to register, call Marie Juleau at 203-838-8471 ext. 186 or Raquel Taveras at extension 187.

A FREE training from the WorkPlace Southwestern CT HealthCareRx Academy. June 7, 2016 from 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM at NHA Choice Neighborhood Office, 149 Water St., 2nd floor, Norwalk, CT 06854.

Fire Code & Safety Reminders!
Please keep all hallways free and clear of everything, including these items. It is a SERIOUS NHA lease violation to store items in the hallways!

Washington Village Reception Held
Close to 100 residents turned out for a question & answer forum at the Choice Neighborhoods field office on Water Street in April. The Teen Iron Chefs from the Learning Center provided catering and an art exposition was on display with photographs taken by the Washington Village children and Turkish rugs designed by children at the Learning Center. Updates were provided and questions answered on the anticipated construction start, the planning process for the temporary relocation of residents, the future plans for Ryan Park improvements and the programs and services now available. Those unable to attend are encouraged to contact CNI staff for updates.
Connecting Students to the Community Through Arts

In March, 2 NHA staff were asked to represent the Learning Center program they run at the National Afterschool Association annual convention held in Orlando, Florida. Both presentations were a success and very well attended. Tiana Brown presented “Helping Girls Make Themselves Heard,” which focused on creating a girl chat group that helps teenage girls create a healthy self-image. Lillian Fortino presented “Connecting Students to the Community Through Arts,” which focused on introducing ideas and methods on how to connect youth with their local community through the arts.

A Schoolboy’s War

Author Derek Couturas is a World War II survivor who came to speak to students about his experience as a child during the war and how he and many family members were able to make it out of the war alive during the German bombardment. Derek spoke about close encounters with bombs, explosives, tunnels, and how his family returned home to find their house practically burned to the ground. At the end, students were eager to ask specific questions about Mr. Couturas’ experience and the process of putting his journey into a book for all to read.

Washington Village Teaches Giving

In conjunction with Bridgeport Rescue Mission, Washington Village students had the pleasure of working with Ms. Amy and Mr. Carl on giving back. The Bridgeport Rescue Mission helps and cares for many families in need. Many of those families have family members that have been sick and admitted to hospitals and/or nursing homes. The students made “Get Well” and “Someone is Thinking About You” cards for the residents and they were excited because the cards would put a smile on someone’s face. Students also put together Easter buckets for Mr. Carl and Ms. Amy to deliver to residents.

One Minute Matters

On any given day at the Roodner Court Learning Center afterschool program Christie Michel who is in the second grade will pull out a piece of literature and announce to the staff “I need you to read for me for 1 minute.” The staffs often laugh and ask her “Why do we have to read to you for 1 minute?” She would then realize that she has to read to a staff member for 1 minute. Each day as she reads her number of words increases, 40 words become 50, 50 becomes 70 and so on. What difference can one minute do to improve a child’s daily reading you might wonder? In Christie’s case it took her from a 1 to a 3. She has improved in her reading, comprehension, and retelling and is now able to use her vocabulary words in her writing. Christie is committed to her 1 minute reading routine and is an example of how determination pays off.

Tiana Brown New Assistant Director of Learning Centers

Tiana Brown has been working with NHA families for the past 11 years; first as an Educational Coordinator and then as Lead Coordinator at 20 West Learning Center. Tiana earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in History at Virginia State University and brings extensive experience as an Assistant Director of a summer program and a Therapeutic Support Facilitator at the Bridgeport Public Schools. She is excited to step into this new position where she will help to bring new and exciting programs to NHA students Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Mr. Couturas shares his personal story of survival during the German invasion to 20 West students.
How to build your child's self-esteem?

You Can:
1. Show them that they are lovable and loved
2. Support them in trying new things
3. Show them that you enjoy being with them and want to spend time with them. (put your phone away)
4. Help them to learn new skills and praise them for their efforts
5. Show them to be proud of themselves

Healthy self-esteem is feeling good about yourself, and feeling that you are a worthwhile person. While we all have self-doubts at times, it is important for children to feel okay about themselves most of the time.

Self-esteem enables children to try new things without too much fear of failing, to reach out and make friends, and to meet along the way. Self-esteem builds a solid foundation for coping with life and helps you to be the best person you can be.

Meadow Gardens Welcomes New Education Coordinator

Widline Brumaire recently joined the Meadow Garden’s Learning Center team. She holds a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Southern Connecticut State University and has experience working with children. Widline is on a mission to ensure that no child is left behind and that is displayed in her interaction with the students. Widline is fluent in Creole and loves the friendly atmosphere at Meadow Gardens!

TEENS: Learn To Finance College

- Learn about ways to finance a college education.
- Learn about advantages of pursuing a higher education.
- Learn how to apply for financial aid.

**Date:** May 17, 2016  
**Time:** 6:15pm - 7:15pm  
**Where:** NHA, CNI Office, 2nd Floor  
149 Water St. Norwalk, CT 06854

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED, SPACE IS LIMITED.**

- Light dinner will be provided.
- Transportation available upon request.

CALL NOW!! 203-838-8471 ext. 176 (Michael) or ext. 188 (Lisa).