NHA NEWS

NHA staff hosts holiday breakfast for seniors

Norwalk Housing Authority staff hosted its annual senior breakfast on December 19, 2016 at five senior developments. All NHA seniors were invited and residents feasted on a homemade breakfast consisting of fantastic fruit cocktail, decadent danish, terrific tangerines, blissful bacon, succulent sausage, sensational scrambled eggs, heavenly homefries, outrageous orange juice and captivating coffee.

Gifts were also given to all attendees. The Norwalk Housing Authority would like to give a special thank you to the following donors who graciously donated money, goods, time, or a word of encouragement for this awesome event:

- Villa Giselle Construction
- Kia of Stamford
- Seaside Design
- David’s Soundview Catering
- Diamond Deli
- A&S Italian Fine Foods
- Norwalk Housing Authority staff

Pictured above are residents Genice Jean Baptiste, Marveter McCoy, Maria Oszorio, staff Maria Duhan, Barbara Antarzouls, Anabell Delacruz and resident Gladys Vann.

On the left: NHA staff member Cynthia Schmitz talks to residents about the holiday season at the 20 West Ave. community center.

NHA Parking Procedure Reminder

Get your car registered with the Norwalk Housing Authority or be towed. The old NHA blue sticker no longer works. If you have not already gotten a new one, you must come to the main office at 24-1/2 Monroe Street to get the new white parking sticker.

You need to bring the following information:
- Current driver’s license
- Current insurance card
- Current vehicle registration

Come in and see Raquel James or Martha Rodriguez to get your new sticker. Failing to register your car will result in it being towed.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF RYAN PARK

Dear Community Members:
As many of you are aware, after many months, the construction phase of the Choice Neighborhoods project in South Norwalk is starting to break ground. The Day Street properties are currently closed and fenced for environmental remediation and project construction. The Ryan Park property is following close behind. December 14-16, 2017 the property closing will begin with installation of fencing. The Park will likely be closed about 8 months which will allow for site remediation followed immediately by construction of the planned improvements. Closure will include all Park facilities including the parking lot area. We are all sorry for the short-term inconvenience but look forward to the opening of a greatly enhanced Park facility in late 2017. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Sweitzer at 203 854 7810 extension 46791 or by email: asweitzer@norwalkct.org.

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LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Get your 2016 taxes done for free
FREE Tax preparation and e-filing services for low-to-moderate-income residents by IRS-certified volunteers are available. You MUST bring last year’s tax returns with you. Norwalk walk-in only sites include:
• South Norwalk Community Center, 98 South Main Street, starting 2/2, Thursdays 10AM – 5PM and Saturdays 9AM – 2PM.
• Norwalk Community College, 188 Richards Avenue Room W138, starting 1/24, Tuesdays and Thursdays 7PM – 9:30PM; Saturdays 10AM – 3:30PM. Call for location information, 203-857-7144.
• Norwalk City Hall, 125 East Avenue, starting 1/31, Tuesdays 1:30PM – 8PM.

Norwalk appointment sites include:
• Family & Children’s Agency, 140 Water Street, starting 1/31, Tuesdays 5PM – 7PM. Call for appointment, 203-523-5336.
• Norwalk Senior Center, 11 Allen Rd, starting 1/27, Fridays 9AM – 4PM. Call for appointment, 203-847-3115.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Don’t miss the 1st Job Club event of 2017
Representatives from Sheet Metal Workers International Association and Dress for Success will be discussing:
• How to become a sheet metal worker
• Salary expectations and career growth
• How to get free interview clothes
• Dressing for the job you want & much more

Wednesday, January 11th, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM
NHA’s CNI Office, 149 Water Street, 2nd floor, Norwalk, CT 06854
Space is limited. Call Nadine at 203-810-5681 or Daphny at 203-810-5673 to register. Transportation is available for NHA residents with at least one-week notice.
NHA kids receive gifts and coats at Christmas party

Members of the Norwalk-based House of Prophecies and Prayer, hosted a Christmas party in the cafeteria of Brian McMahon High School on December 17, 2016, for families from Meadow Gardens, Seaview Apts., Elmwood Ave., 25 Chapel St., 356 Main Ave., 36 Fairfield Ave., King Kennedy Homes and 16 School St.

The members of the congregation themselves each contributed an average of $125 in order to purchase dozens of bicycles, coats, toys, cosmetics, games and clothes. Residents arrived to find a meal of pasta, chicken, salad and much more, along with an abundance of wrapped gifts set aside by age group. Santa and Mrs. Claus were also on hand to help with the distribution.

“Giving is the greatest gift in the world. It comes back to you,” said Pastor Prophet Sadie Miles.”

Owning your own home is possible

The Statewide Downpayment Assistance Program is a low-cost downpayment assistance program for eligible homebuyers, offered through the Housing Development Fund and the Connecticut Department of Housing. The program offers loans anywhere from $15,000 to 25,000 for buyers across the state of CT.

These funds are available to first-time income-eligible buyers who are purchasing their primary residence.

For more information please contact HDF directly at: fthb@hdfconnects.org or 203.969.1830 http://hdfconnects.org/dap/

There will also be a 1st-Time Homebuyers workshop at NHAs CNI Office (SEE PAGE 2).

NHA would like to congratulate Alvin Sample for his 25 years of dedicated volunteer service to patients at Norwalk Hospital. Thank you Alvin for your service.

College & Career Corner

Students at 20 West Learning Center will engage with NHA scholarship recipients in a fun and interactive game that offers information related to the basic core concepts of colleges and universities while exploring potential career path options after high school graduation.

DATE: December 29, 2016
LOCATION: 20 West Learning Center, 20 West Ave., Norwalk
TIME: 10:00am-11:00am
(Walk-ins welcome)
It’s Star Scholar time at the Washington Village Learning Center (WVLC).

Star Scholar is the award students get in the Washington Village Learning Center for outstanding performance. One student who is good in all the fields of education, activity, attendance and following center rules, is picked to be the “Star Scholar Student of the Month.”

This month the award goes to Beyonce Vazquez for her outstanding performance. She is the shining star for the month of December.

She was rewarded by the staff of the Washington Village Learning Center with a $25 Bow Tie Cinemas gift card.

Roodner Court family welcomes Literacy Coach

By Sheron Rose

The Roodner Court Learning Center family welcomes Literacy Coach: Nancy LaRocca.

Ms. Nancy is a teacher at Trinity Catholic Middle School. She works as a Reading Specialist and has made her own mark on our center. She has a “dive-in and take-charge” attitude that we love. Ms. Nancy is open, willing, friendly and comedic at times. It is her comedic personality and quirkiness that makes her such a great fit for our team.

Ms. Nancy has won the hearts of our little ones, especially our little Carlie Barett, who has become Mrs. Nancy’s little clip-on shadow. It’s hard to see Mrs. Nancy without Carlie in tow. Ms. LaRocca takes the time to not only teach, but also listen, to all the children. She is Roodner Court’s special Literacy Specialist: We love you Ms. Nancy and welcome you to Roodner Court.

The importance of helping your children with reading comprehension

Readers need to understand what they are reading to succeed in school. Having strong reading comprehension skills is also necessary for passing academic achievement tests. Ensuring that your child is able to understand what he or she is reading effectively will help them be better prepared for their future career.

Parents can help their children improve their comprehension skills by having them:

- Reread the book
- Read out loud
- Read slowly
- Look at illustrations
- Identify confusing words
- Ask questions about the text

Staff, students, parents, siblings, and many seniors from 20 West joined together for a nice family night and Thanksgiving feast held at the 20 West Learning Center. Students invited their family members and residents to dine with them at 20 West. After a delicious dinner, everyone enjoyed a game of bingo using plain M&Ms as bingo chips.