



NHA Receives 2 Prestigious Awards

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) recently announced that the

Norwalk Housing Authority (NHA), Mr. Curtis O. Law, Executive Director, has won two prestigious Awards of Merit in Housing and Community Development one for the NHA's Youth Toastmasters Program and one for the Summer Success Reading Program for Grades 1-3. NAHRO has also nominated the NHA (and both awards) for National Excellence Awards—those winners will be announced later this year. The NHA also won awards for these programs from the New England chapter of NAHRO. NHA Learning Centers Director Wendy Gerbier accepted those awards this past spring in Cape Cod.

Ryan Park Improvement Planning

The Advisory Committee for the development of a new design for Ryan Park on Day and Raymond St. will hold a series of Public Forums for input on future uses and designs for the park. The first Public Outreach session will be held on September 10th at 6:30 PM at the South Norwalk Community Center. Participants are encouraged to visit and tour the park 30 minutes prior to the meeting. The purpose of this session is to get feedback from the community and complete what is known as a SWOT survey (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats). No plans or proposed designs will be presented as this is a forum for public input. Ryan Park, Washington Village and the surrounding neighborhood have been awarded a Choice Neighborhoods Initiative grant by HUD which will be used to make improvements to the park, replace all the streets and sidewalks and construct a new Washington Village community. For more information contact: Susan Sweitzer at the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency ssweitzer@norwalkct.org.

2015 CONN NAHRO Scholarships Awarded



NHA is pleased to announce that Genesis Hernandez and Javed Wright have been selected to receive 2015 CONN NAHRO scholarships. The scholarships will be given out at the CONN NAHRO Annual Conference which is being held at Mohegan Sun on September 1, 2015 during a noon luncheon. Congratulations to both Genesis and Javed.

NHA Welcomes Workforce Program Coordinator



Marie Juleau recently joined Norwalk Housing Authority as a Workforce Program Coordinator. Marie most recently was a retention case management specialist with Inspirica in Stamford, CT. She helped formerly homeless, low-income women and families remain housed, employed and provided mental health services to those

in need. Marie holds a Bachelor's Degree in General Studies from the University of Connecticut. She will soon be pursuing her Master's degree in social work from Southern Connecticut State University. Marie is interested in civil rights and activism and enjoys music, culture and different foods. She's fluent in French Creole. Originally from Haiti, Marie grew up in Stamford and is married with two young children.

SECURITAS looking for FT, PT, Temporary and Flex Security Officers WILL TRAIN!



Competitive wages, free uniforms, PAID site training, professional development training offered. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age, High School Diploma or GED, reliable transportation and valid driver's license. Must be willing to participate in Securitas's pre-employment procedures, including drug screen and background check. A valid CT Guard License is a plus, *however not required!* Applications accepted online only at www.securitasjobs.com

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Bi-lingual staff/ translation services are available

Financial Management Tip of the Month: Pay your monthly bills on time and avoid late charges



Take inventory of your regular monthly bills and make reminders for yourself on when each bill is due. That way you can avoid costly late fees, which can also damage your credit score.

Where are all the JOBS? FREE Workshop September 25th



Looking for a job? What's the job market like? What kind of job training is available to help you pursue a career? Come to this FREE interactive workshop Friday, September 25th, 10:30AM – 12:30PM, at Leroy Downs, 26 Monroe St. Anyone looking for employment opportunities or looking for better work will benefit from this program. Michael Shavel, Career Counselor with the American Job Center / CT Department of Labor will present this informative session. Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Contact NHA at 203-838-8471 X186 (Marie) to register.

Help Hotlines for Women

WomensHealth.gov offers a list of hotlines for women experiencing a mental or emotional crisis. The list includes hotlines for depression and bipolar disorder, eating disorders, domestic violence, and more. View the complete list at <http://www.womenshealth.gov/mental-health/hotlines/>.



2015 SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

Thinking of starting your own business? Not sure how to grow your existing business? *Don't miss out on this opportunity!* Learn how to **START AND SUSTAIN YOUR OWN BUSINESS** with this **FREE** program, addressing topics essential to running a successful business – presented by experienced professionals. This program runs each Tuesday starting September 29th, 6PM – 8PM, at the Norwalk Inn & Conference Center, 99 East Avenue, for seven weeks through Tuesday November 17. To enroll in this **FREE** informative program, contact Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, 203-866-2521, or email info@norwalkchamberofcommerce.com

Sponsored by:



Employment Tip of the Month: Prepare for 3 Questions Employers Will Ask!

There are really only three questions of interest to a hiring employer:

- **CAN** you do the job? Are you *capable* of the work involved?
- **WILL** you do the job? Do you have passion, excitement, a positive work ethic. Ask yourself, if *you* were the hiring manager, what would *you* be looking for?
- Will you **FIT IN**? What is the culture of the organization traditional, easygoing, creative. Be observant of the environment during your interview, ask your interviewer about the company culture, and then talk to how you would fit in.

Do your research ahead of time and prepare/practice your responses to these questions out loud.

Want to OWN your own HOME? You can do it!

Come to this **FREE** program "Home Ownership Step One: Getting your Credit Report Ready" presented by Money Management International on Wednesday, October 7th, 6:00PM – 8:00PM, at LeRoy Downs, 26 Monroe Street. Do you really want to be a homeowner? What new expenses will you have? Can you afford to purchase a home? What factors impact my credit score and what do lenders want to see? How can you improve your credit score? Come and find out for yourself! Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Contact NHA at 203-838-8471 X188 (Lisa) or X186 (Marie) and learn the steps you can take **TODAY**.



Free Job Search Assistance For Washington Village Residents

Assistance includes: interview prep, resume & cover letter help, interview clothing, & job placement assistance.

Contact Daphny Dolce, Workforce Specialist at 203-952-1851

d.dolce@housingopportunities.com

The Community Action Agency of Western Connecticut Case Management Services

They are providing temporary interim services in Norwalk for income eligible individuals and families who are in need of assistance. Case Management Services are now being offered for the Greater Norwalk area at 1 Park Street, Norwalk. Please call to make an appointment at 203-939-9650, Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Sheffield Island Tour



20 West students spent the day exploring the Sheffield Island lighthouse and nature trail. Students enjoyed the relaxing boat ride and the tour guide informed them of several facts about Norwalk's oyster beds, boating companies and about the neighboring small islands. Once they reached the island, students were guided through part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge. The guide spoke about the deer, birds, and other species that inhabit the island. After the walk, they visited the beautifully restored lighthouse. The house was furnished with antique furniture from the early 1900's, and the walls were decorated with paintings from local artists. The young man giving the tour explained facts about the owner of the house and described the important function of the lights helping boaters navigate through the waters of Long Island Sound.

Summer Movie Kids Series Rocks

Summer Movie Fun with NHA Learning Centers is a huge hit for students. Every Wednesday this summer, students traveled to Bow Tie Cinemas - Landmark 9 in Stamford, CT and enjoyed Free Summer Movies. The kid-friendly movie selection included lots of exciting and funny movies. So far, students have seen: The Croods, Mr. Peabody & Sherman, The Penguins of Madagascar, The Book of Life and The Night at The Museum- Secret of the Tomb. The students really looked forward to the weekly movies!



Shatrice Salters, Aniyia Prince, Tyleah Simms, Kamora Prince, Jahzaiah Simms, Kyle Briceno, Edwin Gonzalez, Anferny Garcia, Camila Santos and Miniah Edwin strike a pose at the Bow Tie Cinema.

The Sounds of Summer Can Be Found in the Drum!



Colonial Village Learning Center was filled with educational activities, sports, games, movies, music, swimming and more. Students were engaged in the ticket to read and V math programs along with other center activities. Each morning students were provided with breakfast and in the afternoon they enjoyed a delicious lunch. Swimming lessons and Latin drumming were two of the most popular activities. The summer program was a perfect opportunity to give students a break from school and the traditional ways of learning. Staff members were able to use stealth learning strategies to prepare students for the new school year.

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

Hazy Days of Summer Spent at Calf Pasture Beach

Meadow Gardens students were having a rocking good time at Calf Pasture Beach's Splash Pad. NHA's amazing summer program included hitting the beach and having a blast with learning center friends! On a hot summer day, students loved running their feet through the sand, followed by a nice cool sprinkle through the Water Splash Pad. Summer is better with a little splish splash and laughs!



Ulysses Flores, Francisco Segura, Samantha Garcia and Shatrice Salters are enjoying fun in the sun at Calf Pasture Beach!

GED, High School Diploma, E.S.L. & BASIC SKILLS Classes Offered

Norwalk Public Schools High School Diploma, GED, ESL, and Adult Basic Education Class schedules are available for Fall 2015. All classes begin the week of September 9. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. Registration for classes held at Brien McMahon High School will be held on September 1 and 2, 2015 from 7:00PM – 8:30 PM in the main lobby of Brien McMahon, 300 Highland Avenue. GED Monday & Wednesday 7PM – 9PM; Spanish GED classes are also available. English as a second language (ESL) classes are offered at Nathaniel Ely School/11 Ingalls Ave; Carver Center/7 Academy Street; and Brien McMahon High School. For schedules and additional information, pick up a schedule at Norwalk Housing Authority, or call the Continuing Education Office, 203-854-4115.



Penda Takes on SVA This Summer

Penda M'Bengue, was awarded a scholarship to The School of Visual Arts summer program. Penda spent three weeks on their New York City campus exploring the arts and focusing on Photography. Through

her experience she made great friends, and found her artistic voice. Penda's aspiration now is to go to an art college to study photography and has already started researching other programs she can attend to help her build her resume and portfolio in preparation for college applications. This has given her a reason to excel in other courses to be able to pursue her dream.

Enroll now for Preschool

**Free Program from 9:00 am-3:00 pm or
Sliding Fee Scale from 7:30 am-5:30 pm**



The Early Learning Academy is a Federally funded Head Start and State funded School Readiness/CDC Program for children 15months - 5 years old. NHA Early Learning Academy goals are to:

- Prepare children for Kindergarten
- Help children master their learning skills
- Help children develop their interpersonal skills
- Help children develop their physical skills
- Encourage parents' participation in the program
- Help parents become advocates for their children
- Provide speech services
- Help children with challenging behavior

Call Nathaniel Ely School at 203-956-6216 or Ben Franklin School at 203-939-9712 to register.

Roodner Court Summer Bucket List

At the beginning of the summer program students put together a Summer Bucket List and detailed all of the things they wanted to do by the end of the summer. Staff members are happy to report that students have fulfilled nearly all of their summer bucket list goals. Students had fun in the sun at the beach, in the pool and even at the sprinklers in the community. Students played lots of educational games and some visited the other centers for a fun Literacy program. They also saw several movies at the Landmark in Stamford and celebrated birthdays and enjoyed pizza and cake. They did not get to go to six Flags but will go to Playland, during the last week of the program. Overall, the students enjoyed the summer and all are looking forward to summer 2016.



Kids having fun in the sun at the R.C sprinkler. Front pose serenity samuels, Back: Rebbeccah Milbain, Chayla Dorleans, Tahshara Smith, Essence Dupree, Ryan Jackson, Lygend Menard and Jenaya Willoughby.

Three R's of Family Engagement: Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships

Honoring the needs and abilities of every child is at the heart of successful school-home partnerships. [Research](#) supports the theory that parent involvement helps children learn to read. Students whose parents are engaged in their learning tend to do better in school, whatever the family income. Traditional means of parent engagement, such as attending parent-teacher conferences, volunteering as a class parent, or chaperoning field trips—work, but there is more you can do! Norwalk Public Schools has an open door policy, you can visit anytime. You can communicate with the teacher via email or by phone. As a parent, you can request meetings to discuss your child's growth. Whatever the approach, building mutual respect, shared responsibility, and strong relationships is key to connecting parents, teachers, and schools.