



Keep your hard earned income! TAXES Done For FREE!

Did you know that many families are eligible for valuable tax credits every year? Whether or not you owe any income tax, you could get thousands of dollars in tax benefits. To get these credits, you MUST file a tax return. Individuals taking advantage of the e-file program will receive their refunds in half the time compared to returns filed on paper – and even faster when tax refunds are deposited directly into your bank account. FREE Tax preparation and e-filing services for low-to-moderate-income residents by IRS-certified volunteers are available.

PLEASE NOTE: You MUST bring last year's tax returns with you!

Norwalk walk-in only sites include:

- **South Norwalk Community Center, 98 South Main St.** Thursdays 10AM – 5PM
Saturdays 9AM – 2PM
- **Norwalk Community College, 188 Richards Ave., Room W138** Tuesdays and Thursdays 7PM – 9:30PM and Saturdays 10AM – 3:30PM; call for location information 203-857-7144
- **Norwalk City Hall, 125 East Ave.** Tuesdays 1:30PM – 8PM

Norwalk appointment sites include:

- **Family & Children's Agency, 140 Water St.,** Tuesdays 5PM – 7PM; call for appointment: 203-523-5336
- **Norwalk Senior Center, 11 Allen Rd,** Fridays 9AM – 4PM; call for appointment: 203-847-3115

Naturalization Information Session

HOU will be holding a Naturalization information session on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at NHA's CNI/HOU Office, 149 Water Street, Norwalk that will focus on eligibility, the benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen, problematic situations, and fee waivers. Interested residents should contact: Nadine 203-838-8471 ext. 681 or Keidy at 203-621-8092.

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Come Have A Bite To Eat...

Lunch is served daily at Norwalk Senior Center at 12:00PM. A van will be available to bring you to the Norwalk Senior Center for lunch. The pick-up time is: 11:30AM at the Irving Freese Community Room and drop off time is at 12:45PM. If you would like to have lunch and need transportation please contact Anabell De La Cruz at 203-838-8471 ext. 140.

Social Security Scams Targeted at Seniors

The Inspector General for the Social Security Administration (SSA) is warning the public, and Social Security beneficiaries in particular, to be aware of fraud scams that target personal information. Criminals use phone calls, emails, and other methods to obtain personal information, then use it to commit identity theft. In the most recent scam, identity thieves obtain the personal information of Social Security beneficiaries and use that information to attempt to open a 'my Social Security' account on SSA's website. If successful, they then use that account to redirect the beneficiary's direct deposit benefits to an account controlled by the thief. To verify the legitimacy of a caller who claims to be an SSA employee, call Social Security's toll-free customer service number at 1-800-772-1213. If you find that someone has stolen or is using your personal information to open credit accounts or for other non-SSA-related purposes, you should report that to the Federal Trade Commission at www.ftc.gov/idtheft or 1-877-ID-THEFT. You can also find more tips by phone at 1-800-269-0271.

Do You Have \$160.00 For Car Towing?

****All residents MUST register their car and get the NEW WHITE parking sticker. The blue stickers are INVALID.****

All residents who own a car must have a NHA Parking Sticker. If you do not have a sticker your car will be towed. Sticker must be displayed on the front windshield bottom left hand side. Towing enforced for vehicles parked in the fire lane. Must have a NHA parking sticker and a state handicap tag to park in a handicap space. Stickers are available at NHA, 24 ½ Monroe St. Please see Ms. Raquel James or Martha Rodriguez. You must provide the following information when you come in:

- Registration
- Insurance
- Driver's License

EMPLOYMENT/ TRAINING

Workforce Specialist

HOU is looking for a Workforce Specialist to establish contact and develop relationships with Norwalk-area employers, employment support and job readiness agencies toward the achievement of Washington Village residents' employment goals. Develop mechanisms for referral and follow-up; representatives from each entity should be identified and contacted regularly to make resources and employment options constantly available to residents. Go to norwalkha.org and select Careers for a complete job description.

Exterminator Needed

NHA is looking for an experienced exterminator who takes pride in their work. Applicant must have all necessary licenses to apply pesticides commercially in Connecticut. CT DEC Commercial Applicator License required. Only resumes from people with necessary experience and licenses will be considered. Position is full time with benefits. Should be familiar with light commercial and residential service. Experience required and IPM methods preferred. Familiarity with general pest control tools, methods, and procedures. We do NOT have any positions available for uncertified persons at this time. Forward your resume to nruf-fi@norwalkha.org by February 15, 2017.



**Construction Job Fair
February 1, 2017 at
4:30PM**



A major rehabilitation project will soon begin at the Cedar Court housing complex in Norwalk. Construction laborers are needed. Qualified NHA residents will be provided priority consideration for new hires. Meet the general contractor, Marous Brothers Construction, and the hiring subcontractors.

WHEN:

Wednesday, February 1st at 4:30.

WHERE:

Choice Neighborhoods field office, 149 Water Street, second floor.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged, 203-838-8471 X681 (Nadine) or X188 (Lisa)

Construction is scheduled to start in February. Construction laborers in several trades will be needed immediately. Training will be provided. Forms and additional information can be obtained on line at <http://www.norwalkcni.org/services/>

FINANCE

Do you feel lost when it comes to credit?



No worries, NHA can help! Join us for a FREE workshop on credit basics on Thursday, March 16, 5:30PM – 7:30PM at our Choice Neighborhood Of-

fice, 149 Water Street, 2nd floor, Norwalk CT 06954. Presented by Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust. Topics include easy and simple ways to understand credit reports, FICO scoring, Credit Repair, how to obtain a free copy of your credit report, credit regulations, identity theft, and what lenders look for in a “credit worthy borrower”. Habla Espanol? Nosotros Tambien! El taller sera bilingue. To register, call 203-838-8471 X681 (Nadine) or X187(Raquel). Transportation available upon request for NHA residents with at least one week’s advance notice.

**Borrowing Basics 101 For
Creole Speakers**

Learn everything you need to know about credit and loans. Know what creditors look for when applying for a loan and how to make good financial decisions. To register, call 203-838-8471 X681(Nadine) or X186(Marie). Transportation available upon request for NHA residents with at least one week’s advance notice.

Aprann tout bagay ou bezwen konnen sou kredi ak prète.

Konnen ki sa kreditè gade pou lè yap aplike pou yon prè ak koman yo pran bon desizyon finansye

Pou ou kapab enskri, rele 203-838-8471 X681 (Nadine) oswa X186 (Marie).

Transpòtasyon disponib pou moun ki abite NHA sou demand ak avi alavans nan omwen yon semèn

**Pay Statement for
Parents of NHA Early
Learning Academy**



Parents of children who attended NHA’s Early Learning Academy for the year 2016 can call Jamie Banks at 203-838-8471 ext. 180 to pick-up a payment summary. Parents have until March 31, 2017 to pick up this vital information that is needed for income tax purposes.

Charter School Enrollment Applications

Side by Side [Charter School](#) is accepting enrollment applications for the Fall 2017 to fill open pre-kindergarten through eighth grade seats. Lottery applications will only be made available during a scheduled Open House. To attend an open house, make a reservation by calling 203-857-0306. Open houses will be held at 10:30am on Wednesday, February 22; 5:00p.m. Wednesday March 22; and 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 5. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m., Friday April 7 and the lottery will be held at 5 p.m., Wednesday, April 26 in the school gym. For more information, go to www.sbscharter.org. The school accepts students from a number of different communities including Bridgeport.



NHA Staff Seek To Make A Difference



The NHA staff recently pledged a total of \$3,002.00 to the NHF Scholarship Program which provides a scholarship for students like Clara. Clara lives in Roodner Court and is a junior at Western CT State University where

she is majoring in business. Clara has an on campus job in the library and works hard in her classes. She is exploring the idea of studying abroad in China next year. When asked what the NHF Scholarship means to her, this is what she said: “Receiving the NHF scholarship means the world to me and not only that, it lets me know that somebody believes that I can have a great future. My parents have done a lot for me but college wasn’t one of their plans for me. With the scholarship and the help they have given me I get to have an education.”

Washington Village Resident Profile: Chantel Anderson



Chantel Anderson has been working with her HOU/CNI case manager on achieving her goal of becoming a licensed massage therapist. Ms. Anderson passed her exam in December 2016. Ms. Anderson and her HOU case manager will be working together to get her enrolled in classes at NCC to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy. Ms. Anderson is currently working full time as a massage therapist and would like to open up her own business in the future. Ms. Anderson said to her HOU/CNI case manager, “You are personally a great resource and aide through the many steps I’ve taken to reach each goal. I am forever grateful knowing that I have the backing and support from someone who followed me throughout this journey.”

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Five tips to make any networking event a little less scary and a lot more fruitful:



1. Be Authentic.

Networking isn't the time to pretend to be someone you're not! Wear your favorite outfit, whatever is professional and makes you feel the most confident. Don't try to force business, don't pretend to be someone you are not. It is a networking event and you're supposed to introduce yourself. “My name is Ali,” and an arm outstretched for a handshake or high-five, depending on the vibe. You want to get to know them a bit more, and want them to know you more. Make some friends.

2. Be Prepared.

Show up with more of your business cards than you think you can give away. If you have personal business cards, give them, too! Don't be shy or protective with your business cards; they're meant to live with someone else. If you run out, you can always save and share information on your phones.

3. Be Curious.

Come with an "I wonder" mindset. Ask people not just about what they do, but about themselves. Wonder about everyone you meet and ask them serious questions about what they tell you. Keep an open mind and growth mindset if you encounter new information. Rather than listening to respond, listen to understand.

4. Be Helpful.

Instead of going with a mindset of "How can you help me?" head to networking events with a mindset of "How can I help you?" Being at the conference, you can easily share what you've learned so far in workshops, what you thought of the keynote, or the perfect place you found for dinner the other night. Keep your own network "rolodex" top of mind.

5. Be Audacious. Did your favorite presenter, or even keynote, show up? Go up to them! Say hi! What's the worst that can happen? Or, even more powerful, what's the best that can happen?

Do You Need Help With Clothing Your Children?

Do you know a child who needs help with clothing for school? Clothes To Kids of Fairfield County is here to help! Families must meet the following criteria to shop at Clothes To Kids of Fairfield County:

- The family must live in Fairfield County.
- The children must be enrolled in a Fairfield County school, in grades K-12 or working toward earning their General Equivalency Degree (GED). ***They do not serve children who are not yet in kindergarten or who are younger than 4-years-old, even if they are attending daycare or Headstart.*
- The family must be considered in financial need of assistance, such as:
 - o Receiving free or reduced lunch at school.
 - o Receiving services from a social service agency, school or counseling center.
 - o In crisis due to natural disaster, poverty, homelessness or displacement.

Call (203) 533-9846 for more details on this awesome program.

Guests Speakers at 20 West



The Bridge to College & Career Program at 20 West Learning Center will be having the following guest speakers come in and speak with students about their careers during the month of February:

- February - Rondique Mclean, Engineer, Altieri Sebor Wieber

Call Oliva Dardy, Lead Education Coordinator at 203-852-1144 ext.

106 for date and time of these guest speakers.

Strive to Thrive by 25



Career Connections at Norwalk Community College is helping eligible young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 with scholarship support and

wrap around services in non-credit certificate programs in high-demand health fields. Eligible students must have graduated high school, currently be out of work and out of college with preference given to those applicants who are first generation. The link to the application is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5WL8C6G>.

Why Teach Vocabulary?



Vocabulary is one of the five pillars of reading comprehension as set forth in *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Reading compre-

hension depends upon the meaning readers give words. The more vocabulary words students know, the better they are able to understand. A large vocabulary opens students up to a wider range of reading materials. A rich vocabulary also improves students' ability to communicate through speaking, listening, and writing. Parents you can help your child develop or enhance their vocabulary by doing the following:

Using Illustrations and pictures to connect your child's prior knowledge to a new story, and in the process, help them learn new words.

Drawing Objects: can either be drawn on a blackboard, flash cards or paper.

Memorizing: write the words and its meaning have your child review and memorize.

Are YOU A Mother of A 2 ½ to 4 ½ Year Old Child?

Columbia University Medical Center in partnership with Norwalk Housing Authority will be conducting a study in Norwalk, CT

If You Answer "Yes" To One or More of the Following:

- **Would you like your child to be less demanding sometimes?**
- **Would you like your child to be able to sit still?**
- **Would you like your child to listen and obey?**
- **Would you like to have better eye contact with your child?**
- **Would you like to have a better relationship with your child?**



You might be eligible for our study! Participants will receive compensation. Call us at (917) 526-0614 or walk in anytime Monday/Tuesday/Friday 9:00am-12:00pm at Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, 2nd fl., 149 Water St, Norwalk, CT 06854

