



NHA NEWS

February 2018
Vol. 14, Issue 2

Important Notice Regarding Logisticare Transportation Services

As of January 1, 2018, Logisticare will no longer be providing non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) in CT. A new company has the DSS contract now: VEYO, a part of Total Transit Company. To request rides for medical appointments that will take place on or after January 1, 2018, the new telephone number to call is: 1-855-478-7350. Clients must still request rides 48 hours in advance. VEYO has established a local call center that is available with 24/7/365 access for trips on or after January 1, 2018. The call center number is 1-855-478-7350. The local office business hours are 7am to 6pm Monday through Friday except for holidays. After hours coverage is also available for urgent trip requests.



Residents Donate To Scholarship

NHA would like to thank residents for their monetary donations for the Norwalk Housing Foundation scholarship! The following residents graciously donated to the betterment of NHA's young minds! Every dollar goes to a scholar.

- Ms. Sonia Gonzalez
- Ms. Sylvia Harrell
- Ms. Veronica Istvan
- Ms. Myrna Johnson
- Mr. Carl Morales
- Mr. Hector Santamaria
- Ms. Matilde Valera
- Ms. Mayra Zapata

If you wish to donate to the NHF, please go to www.norwalkhousingfoundation.org



CNI RESIDENT PROFILE:

Pierre Antoine



Pierre Antoine is successfully working two jobs in the South Norwalk community. In just a few months he went from no employment to an abundance of work, which is what he was looking to do. Pierre is employed as a part-time night watch at the Open Door Shelter, where his sunny personality helps enrich the lives of the residents. Pierre also works

full time at Kelly's Four Plus Granola, a family-run food company, in the kitchen. Pierre prepares, cooks, and packs the granola. As he had food service experience in the past, this job was a natural fit for him. An added bonus: Both jobs are within walking distance of Washington Village, so Pierre can either walk each day or take the bus. We wish him continued success in 2018.

NHA Resident Commissioner Election!



NHA will be holding Resident Commissioner Elections to fill the Commissioner term expiring May 31, 2018. The Resident Commissioner is elected to the Norwalk Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and, as a member of the Board, represents all

NHA residents. This is an unpaid position. To vote a Resident must be 18 years of age by January 30, 2018 and listed on a NHA Public Housing or Section 8 Lease.

ELECTION DATE:

January 30, 2018 from 12:00pm to 8:00pm. You must bring a current photo ID.

***SNOW DATE:** February 13, 2018, 12:00 PM to 8:00PM

Voting places on NHA website & mailed previously

***SNOW DATE:** If Norwalk Public Schools are closed or early dismissal is announced before noon, the SNOW DATE will be used for the Candidate Forum or Election Date.

****Any further questions, contact Kras Carlucci, Director of Housing Operations at 203-838-7471, ext. 125. Find voting place by visiting; norwalkha.org, click on NEWS and then click on NEWS and Updates. Look under Updates.****

FREE Tax Preparations and E-filing Services!

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. IRS-certified trained volunteers at Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites offer FREE Tax preparation and e-filing services for low-to-moderate-income from mid-January through mid-April. *This alone represents a savings for each filer an average of \$200.* In addition, VITA Volunteers can determine if you're eligible for special tax credits, such as the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** and the **Retirement Savings Contribution Credit (Saver's Credit)**. Visit a VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) site at one of the upcoming 2018 Norwalk locations: Norwalk Community College, South Norwalk Branch Library, Norwalk City Hall, Norwalk Main Library, Norwalk Senior Center and Family & Children's Agency. Schedules are updated on Connecticut's 2-1-1 website: <http://uwc.211ct.org/free-income-tax-assistance/>



IMPORTANT NOTE: The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 (PATH Act), was enacted on December 18, 2015. The IRS will not issue a refund on tax returns claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit until Feb. 15. The additional time helps the IRS stop fraudulent refunds from being issued to identity thieves and fraudulent claims with fabricated wages and withholdings. **If you go to a tax preparation service outside of VITA and pay extra fees for rapid refund, you will still have to wait until after Feb. 15 to have your refund issued.**

Schedules are updated on Connecticut's 2-1-1 website: <http://uwc.211ct.org/free-income-tax-assistance/>. Below is the current list of VITA site locations and times available.

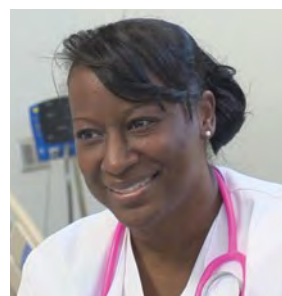
- **NORWALK COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
188 RICHARDS AVE., 203-857-7144
2018: Jan. 27-Apr. 17; West Campus - Room W138: Tues & Thurs: 7-9:30pm; Sat: 10am-3:30pm; Walk-in only; E-File Site
- **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S AGENCY**
140 WATER ST., 203-523-5336
2018: Jan. 30-Apr. 3; Tues: 5:30 - 9pm; Walk in; E-File Site
- **NORWALK CITY HALL**
125 EAST AVE
2018: Jan. 30-April 17; T: 1:30-8pm; Walk-in
- **NORWALK SENIOR CENTER**
11 ALLEN RD, 203-847-3115
2018: Feb. 2-April 13; Fri: 9am - 4pm; By appointment only
- **NORWALK MAIN LIBRARY**
1 BELDEN AVE.
2018: Feb. 1 - April 12; Thurs: 2:30 - 8pm; Walk-in
- **SOUTH NORWALK LIBRARY**
10 WASHINGTON ST
2018: Feb.3 - April 14; Sat: 9am - 2pm; Walk-in

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

NHA Federal Public Housing and Section 8 residents may qualify for mortgage subsidies for up to 15 years! Come to this FREE First-time Homebuyers Certification Program presented by Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust, to learn what's involved in becoming a homeowner on Saturday February 3rd, 9:00AM – 5:00 PM. Take the confusion out of home-buying. You'll be guided step by step through the process including reviewing your finances, determining how much you can afford, reviewing your credit, shopping for a home, obtaining a mortgage, preparing for the closing, and more. This popular class fills up quickly! Pre-registration is required, space is limited. Contact 203-838-8471 Marie (x186) or Nadine(x681) and to learn the steps you can take TODAY to become a homeowner! Please note change in meeting location: Leroy Downs Community Room, 26 Monroe Street (across the driveway from NHA's central office), Norwalk.



Are you interested in a new career in the growing health care field?



Learn about FREE training at Southwestern CT Health CareerRx Academy, March 8th, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM. Offered through the WorkPlace, some training opportunities include C.N.A., Pharmacy Tech, Patient Care Tech, Medical Billing and Coding, and more. Eligibility requirements are based on family income or those that have been unemployed (27 weeks or longer). Pre-registration is required. The Norwalk location of this workshop is not yet determined. For additional information or to register, call 203-838-8471 Jamie (ext. 180 or Nadine (ext. 681).

Create a Resume on the Career Coach Bus!

Looking for a new job in the new year? Creating an easy to read, effective resume can make all the difference. Join the Career Coach bus on Thursday, March 22 between 1:00 and 3:00 (exact parking location for the bus to be determined) to learn how to create a resume that best tells the story of you. The heated, comfortable bus features computer terminals where a skilled instructor will assist you in creating a resume or polishing one you may already have. The program is free but preregistration is required as seating is limited. Contact Nadine at 203-838-8471, ext. 681 or Lisa T. at 203-952-8308 to sign up.



NECA College Tour 2018

The tour will take place on Wednesday, April 4, Thursday, April 5 and Friday, April 6. They will be visiting Rhode Island College, Providence College, Salve Regina University and Roger Williams University. The cost for the tour is \$200. The application is available on each student's naviance page. After logging in, students need to go to the "about me" tab and click on the NECA College Tour application on the far left. The college tour is open to all grades. However, in order to be eligible to participate, scholars must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum 2.7 (B-) overall grade point average; No grade of F in any class for the marking period
- Satisfactory attendance (no excessive absences and/or loss of credit due to attendance)
- Demonstrated satisfactory behavior in all classes, school events, etc.
- Completed application submitted on or before February 23, 2018

Completed applications and a non-refundable \$50.00 deposit are due no later than February 23, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.



\$\$ YOU Shop, AMAZON Donates\$\$

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. **Please visit AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) and select "Norwalk Housing Corp." as your designated charity. Then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.**



NHA's Media Coordinator & Video Teacher



Introducing NHA's new Media Coordinator and video teacher, Hallie Picarello. Hallie most recently was a Studio Director at News 12, right here in Norwalk. She studied Television Production at Norwalk Community College and received a Bachelor's degree in Communications & Media Production from Western Connecticut State University in Danbury. Previously, Hallie was a music teacher at The School of Rock in Fairfield teaching kids of all ages how to sing and play the keyboard. Rumor has it, she can juggle! So come to video club at King Kennedy and say hi! Who knows, you might be able to cross "produce a music video while juggling" off your bucket list! She's happy to teach anyone who wants to learn. Let's all welcome Miss Hallie to the Learning Center family with big smiles!

CNI Office Flooded

On January 7th, the coldest day this winter, a pipe froze and burst on the unoccupied fourth floor at 149 Water Street, the NHA Choice Neighborhoods Initiative office. The pipe burst in the early morning hours and water cascaded throughout the building for hours. The Norwalk Fire Department was contacted by a neighbor who noticed water pouring out of the sides of the



building. They were able to turn off the water but not before substantial damage was done. The CNI team has been relocated temporarily to the Smilow Life Center at the corner of Chestnut Street and Merritt Place. Contact phone numbers remain the same for Case Management and NHA staff. It is estimated the repairs will take 2-3 months to complete.

Poor people cannot rely on the government to come to help you in times of need. You have to get your education. Then nobody can control your destiny.
—Charles Barkley

Raising Readers Parent Club



raising readers

Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn new ways to help your child become a motivated, successful reader!

- Receive a FREE, high-quality children's book every week.
- Discover classic children's books they like to read over and over again; books about feelings, your family's culture, heritage and values and about the influence of television and electric games and more.
- Meet with other parents and the facilitator while your child plays under the supervision of caring adults.

Dinner and childcare will be provided.

Dates: February 5th-9th, Monday- Friday from 6:00pm-7:00pm

Location: King Kennedy Literacy Center (43 Chestnut Street)

Facilitator: Josiane Charlot

If you have questions, call 203-644-4720 or jcharlot@norwalkha.org

Scholarship Applications Accepted

NHF provides college scholarships to residents of our housing communities. For the 2017-2018 school year, over \$200,000 was awarded to 48 students. Applications for the 2018-19 academic year can be started now and must be completed by April 18. Please visit www.norwalkhousingfoundation.org to learn more about eligibility and to apply. Questions? Contact Jennie Reul, NHF Scholarship Director at jreul@norwalkha.org or 203-838-8471, ext. 190.



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B2CC – Welcome Professionals Guest Speaker

Career professionals from various backgrounds have spoken to students about their career journey. Everyone's career journey is different and hearing the testimonials inspire students. Come hear April Floyd, Social Worker from Department of Children and Families in Bridgeport on February 22nd at 4:30pm at 20 West Ave.



STEM at The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Coordinator Sheiree Powell collaborated with the creative arts department to bring students to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Students visited "There Will Come Soft Rains" exhibit. This exhibit ties into the upcoming annual spring Urban Birding project. The art work was from James Audubon's seminal Birds of America and featured the following bird species: Carrier Pigeon, Ivory-billed Woodpecker and the Carolina Parakeet.

Reading is Fun!

Let Your KIDS Read Graphic Novels!



What are Graphic Novels? *Graphic novels are stories written and illustrated in the style*

of a comic:

- Vivid illustrations combine with short bursts of text, often presented in a series of rectangular panels
- The story unfolds in a clear sequence, and is often action-packed (and funny)
- Graphic novels can be fiction (for example: historical fiction, fantasy, science fiction, fairytales) or nonfiction (for example: history, biography, informational)
- The main characters don't have to be superheroes!

Graphic novels are widely accepted by youth librarians and teachers as books worth reading by kids of all ages and reading levels. Top children's publishers now offer graphic novels that are high quality (with strong characters, vocabulary, and storylines) and appropriate for young readers.

B2CC High School Track for 9th-12th Graders

February 7th from 6:30-7:30pm



The Bridge to College & Career high school program is held at the 20 West Learning

Center each month. Staff assist high school students in helping to identify their goals in order to prepare for college and career. This month's focus will be:

- ♦ How students are progressing on individual academic goals
- ♦ Addressing student interests to determine a possible field of interest to study
- ♦ What to look for in choosing a college/university program

Dinner and transportation are provided. Call 203-852-1144 ext. 103 and let them know you would like to attend by February 6, 2018.