

# City officials welcome Fair Housing Month

By ROBERT KOCH  
Hour Staff Writer

NORWALK — With the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, it became illegal to refuse to sell or rent a dwelling to a person based upon race, color, religion or national origin.

On Monday morning, members of the Norwalk Fair Housing Advisory

Commission and others gathered in the atrium of City Hall to recognize the 25th anniversary of the creation of the commission, the 44th anniversary of the passage of the federal law and its affiliate Fair Housing Act, and to proclaim April as "Fair Housing Month" in Norwalk.

"Forty-four years ago

this month, one week after the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., President (Lyndon) Johnson signed into law the Fair Housing Act and outlawed discrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing based upon race, religion or national origin," said the Rev. Jeffrey A. Ingraham, FHAC chairman. "Amendments to the

law then have prohibited discrimination based on gender, families with children, or disability."

Nearly 50 people stood in the atrium, including Mayor Richard A. Moccia, who read a proclamation supporting the work of the FHAC and encouraging residents to work "towards the day when no person will be denied housing on

the basis of discrimination."

A large blue banner reading "Discrimination in Housing is Illegal — Norwalk Fair Housing Office 854-7820 — April/National Fair Housing Month — was placed above the atrium for visitors entering City Hall to read.

"This is a time of the

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## Side by Side Charter accepts applications

NORWALK — Side by Side Charter School are accepting enrollment applications for Fall for grades Pre-K (3 and 4 year olds) through eighth grade. Lottery applications available at an open house. Reservations needed in order to attend an open house. For reservations, call (203) 857-0306. An open house is scheduled at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11.

## Roton Middle School High Honors List

Marking Period 2

### Grade 6

- Yesica Alcoser-Nava,
- Caith Bazoian, Ethan Blattman, Duly Bolivar, Alejandra Bonilla, Monica Bonilla, Carol Cabrera, Taryn Calderon, Ashley Carvajal, Rebecca Cavanagh, Kevin Cayo, Hannah Christie, Katrell Clay, Bennett Close, Fatima Contreras, Alison

- Coutts, Alessandra Cruz, Joshua DeSilva, Alexandra Ditaranto, Kathleen Downey, Kaileigh Doyle, Christopher Druin,

- Kimberlie Dupiton, Julia Ely, Emily Figueiras, Sabrina Forcellina, Jack Froelich, Madison Froelich, April Gall, Pilar Galvan, Zoe Garnett, Agron Gemajli, Remington Gibson, Sarah Gray, Chandler Greene, Trinity Hurd, Daniel Izquierdo, Skyler Keelips, John "Jack"

- Keller, Cameron Kelly, Christina Kirst, Sara Koenig, Sophia Konstantin, Stephen Kostohryz, Margaret Kraus, Elisabeth Krogh, Grace Lane, Samantha Lesson, Hayley Linder, Sophia Lindsay, Olivia Lipson, Taylor Livingstone, Jacqueline Lopez, Kyle Lumsden, Schuyler Luby, Victoria Major, Kora Makarska, Mariana Martinez, Maria Millan Centeno, Tayanna Molina, Jocelyne Moran, Ivette Naranjo, Grace

- Nash, Oona Nash, Grace O'Malley, Ashley Orellana, Paul "Pablo" Parizot, Jasmine Portugal, Alexis Reda, Peter Ripperger, Daniel Robillard, Miyah Rosa, Rachelle Sainval, Luis Santamaria, Jennifer Santos, Kristina Sequeira, Eleanor Smith, Katherine Stadler, Peter Tinnesz, Christopher Vega, Alison Walsh, Sean Walters, Charlotte Wilson, Thomas Wood, Natalie Zullo

## BMHS Class of 1967 schedules reunion

NORWALK — The Brien McMahon Class of 1967 will be holding its 45th reunion on Saturday, Aug. 11, at Norwalk Inn & Conference Center. Interested classmates are asked to email: bmhs67@yahoo.com or call Freddy and Betsy DeFinis at (203) 853-3496. Help is needed in locating missing classmates

## Norwalker helps Habitat for Humanity

NORWALK — Eleni Stefanatos of Norwalk, who is a student at Providence College, spent a week working for Habitat for Humanity as part of the college's Alternative Spring Break program.

She worked on a home project in Oak Ridge, Tenn. More than 100 Providence College students worked at Habitat home sites in 12 locations during spring break

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Pizzeria



## Fair Housing Month arrives

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year that we recognize the civil rights work that has happened before us and also recognize that we continue to pursue housing equality," Margaret K. Suib, the city's fair housing officer, told *The Hour* afterward.

Suib said discrimination persists despite the passage of the Fair Housing Act and subsequent state and federal efforts. From July 1, 2010, until June 30, 2011, requests for assistance from Suib's office remained near the record highs of the previous year, totaling 2,205. She attributed the increase to the depressed housing market. While most of the complaints were resolved

by working with the parties, 14 ended up in court or administrative hearings, according to Suib.

State Sen. Bob Duff, Director Adam D. Bovilsky, several Fair Housing commissioners, as well as representatives of Norwalk Public Schools, Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, and the Norwalk Regional Development Agency also participated in Monday's event, which included a book donation to the city's elementary schools.

The children's book, produced by The Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center and titled "The Fair Housing Five: the Haunted House," tells the story of a young girl and

her friends who act against housing discrimination in their community.

"Part of the Fair Housing Advisory Commission and Fair Housing Officer's mission is to educate people about Fair Housing laws, rights and remedies," Ingraham said. "We have never before reached out to the youngest members of our community, our children. Today we do."

Copies of the book will be placed in the libraries of the city's 12 elementary schools, Side By Side Charter School and the Norwalk Housing Authority's learning centers, according to Suib.

For questions about fair housing laws, call Suib at (203) 854-7820.

## Norwalkers visit Nagarote

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The Sister Cities Project between Norwalk and Nagarote seeks to build friendship and understanding between the peo-

ple of the greater Norwalk area and Nagarote and to break the cycle of poverty in Nagarote's poorest barrios. The project's development initiatives for youth, housing, reforestation, scholarships, preschool, and micro loans help the people of Nagarote help themselves.

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The couple is accused of stealing collector coins from Arciola's father and selling the merchandise to a gold and diamond dealer in Orange. They are also accused of duct-taping Delacruz's 2-year-old son to a chair while they went into another room to smoke crack.

According to their arrest warrant affidavit, the couple engaged in other bizarre, drug-fueled child rived, showed police pic-

abuse incidents, including blowing crack smoke in the boy's face and leaving him alone in a field. The child was placed in the custody of the Department of Children and Families.

The incident unfolded March 7 after Westport Police responded to a report of a domestic disturbance at 28 Bridge St. between Arciola and Delacruz.

Court records show that Arciola's friend, who was at the scene when officers arrived, showed police pic-

## Bond for couple lowered

tures on his cell phone of Delacruz's 2-year-old son duct-taped to a chair. The duct tape was across the child's mouth and around his chest and abdomen. The child appears to be knocked out or sleeping in the photos, police said.

According to court documents, police also found text messages on the cell phone, which allegedly detail Arciola's plan to steal valuable collector coins from his father and sell them for drug money to Fast Eddy Gold & Diamond Exchange.

The store's owner, Eddie Murieo, told police that Arciola and Delacruz visited his shop on three occasions to sell coins. Murieo said he was told the coins belonged to Arciola's deceased grandfather, court records show.

Murieo paid \$5,446 for the coins, which police say are valued at more than \$15,000. The coins were stored in an unlocked safe in the basement office of the owner's home, where Arciola and Delacruz had unobstructed access, police said.

Delacruz later told police that Arciola had put her son in time out because the

## Trip to Holy Land

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Lutheran World Federation, feeding the Palestinian homeless.

Wagner became interim minister at Wilton Congregational Church in August 2011.

Wagner originally wanted to become a missionary after graduating from William Woods University in Fulton, Mo., with a degree in art.

She later realized that her calling was in ministry. She attended Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Center, Mass., where she received a Master's degree in divinity.

rael, I did not have a church to come back to," said Wagner. "It was a self-funded sabbatical."

"It was sabbatical in the sense that I took time to reflect on ministry and do it in a place that I've been drawn to," said the St. Louis native.

She had visited many times previously through tours.

"I felt like I needed that extended amount of time because when you are on a tour, you're on the bus, then off the bus. I just

## Saint Matthew's  
E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H