The New Community Board of Directors has four new members: Diane Johnson, Anthony Marchetta, Ingrid Rasmussen and Jerome St. John.

The expansion to 11 board members is part of ongoing board development. NCC Board President Dr. A. Zachary Yamba is excited to move forward in 2019 with a larger board.

“We are delighted to have dedicated and qualified individuals who have agreed to join the board to help carry out the mission of NCC,” he said.

Several of the new members have long histories with New Community and all are committed to the organization’s mission: To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

“We have been very fortunate to have attracted four accomplished and well respected new board members to NCC. Each has a specific skill, experience and contacts to help propel NCC into its bright future,” said New Community CEO Richard Rohrman. “We have a rich mix of skills and community involved leadership in our board that will be a benefit for years to come. This is a major step in positioning ourselves to be a force in Newark’s future and I am thankful for their commitment to our mission.”

Johnson, who is the retired director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Newark Field Office, interacted with New Community and Founder Monsignor William J. Linder for decades in that role. She became a consultant for NCC in 2015.

“I joined the board because I’ve always believed in the mission and the programs of New Community and the various activities that they do to assist residents in the city of Newark,” Johnson said. “Whether it is families or seniors or children, New Community has touched the lives of all facets of those individuals.”

Marchetta, who formed and currently serves as the principal of ALM Consulting Group, worked with Monsignor Linder when he was the executive director of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJHMFA) from 2010 to 2017. Monsignor Linder was a board member of NJHMFA for 43 years and New Community also worked with NJHMFA on several projects.

“I’m honored to be part of this organization, which is legendary, and I’m happy it’s taking place with their financial house in order and with the town that they’re based in starting to see progress moving towards a more stable and positive future,” Marchetta said.

St. John is a retired judge, having served 10 years on the Superior Court. He retired as a judge in 2016. He has had a long history with New Community and the organization’s mission.

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The New Community Clarion

The New Community Clarion is published as a community service. The editor reserves the right to withhold articles and photographs once they are submitted. Opinions expressed in columns are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view of the newspaper.

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973-623-2800

Editor, Writer and Photographer
Michelle Lang

Graphic Design and Layout
RayZo Marketing, Inc.

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OUR MISSION
To help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual, God-given dignity and personal achievement.

New Community is recognized as:
• The largest and most comprehensive community development organization in the United States
• A large-scale deliverer of comprehensive programs and services
• A leader in affordable housing and economic development
• A model among non-profit, social entrepreneurship, and CDC communities
• Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national, and global level.

Around The Network

Extended Care Holds Drill For Emergency Situations

New Community Extended Care, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, held a drill Dec. 4 to practice staff members’ responses to emergency situations. The first scenario was an active shooter in the building, the second was a flood that required an evacuation of second floor residents without the help of elevators and the third was the disappearance of a resident. Representatives from the Newark Office of Emergency Management and NCC Security were on hand to witness the drill and provide feedback on the procedures.

Extended Care Maintenance Supervisor Javon Edwards and Director of Nursing Debbie Ogundele in the incident command center during the drill.

Extended Care staff members practice bringing a patient down the stairs during the evacuation portion of the drill.

Extended Care staff members successfully found the missing patient during a drill Dec. 4.

During the active shooter portion of the drill, Extended Care staff members subdued the perpetrator.

CHELC Holds Book Fair

Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, held a Scholastic Book Fair Dec. 3 to Dec. 7. Children got to view the books, as well as parents and guests, to decide what they wanted to purchase.
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Delya Holt

Delya Holt has worked at New Community in various capacities for more than two decades. She currently helps students at the Adult Learning Center prepare to obtain their high school diplomas.

Delya Holt has been part of the New Community family for more than 20 years, serving in different roles related to education. She currently is an instructor at the Adult Learning Center, where she teaches a variety of subjects in the high school equivalency classes four evenings per week.

Holt first became employed at New Community in 1997 as an education specialist for NCC’s after-school program. In 1999, she took a full-time position with Newark Public Schools but continued working part-time for New Community’s Youth Services Department. The grant she was working under ended, but NCC Community's after-school program. In 1999, she goes to the Adult Learning Center to teach classes Monday through Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

While initially it was an adjustment interacting in an education setting with adults rather than children and adolescents, Holt said she finds it easier leading a classroom of adults.

“When you teach children, you have to always make sure they’re on task, you have to make sure that they’re keeping busy and stimulated and engaged. And with adults, they’re here because they want to be here. It’s a goal that they’ve set,” Holt said. “So they’re a lot more engaged and they’re kind of hungry for everything you’re teaching them.”

Holt said her favorite part of being an instructor at the Adult Learning Center is running classes in 2001 so she began teaching high school equivalency classes at that time and never stopped.

Education has always been an area of interest for Holt. She has a bachelor’s degree in teaching and a master’s degree in school counseling. She served as a third grade teacher for eight years, a fourth grade teacher for three years and is currently in her ninth year as a guidance counselor for Newark Public Schools.

During the day, Holt works as a guidance counselor at West Side High School in Newark, where she has been for about five years. Then she goes to the Adult Learning Center to teach classes Monday through Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

“Ms. Holt has always been very committed to her students, their learning achievements and our program,” said Adult Learning Center Director Cristian Barcelos. “And it is always very moving when we see Ms. Holt’s students coming back to the school to share their high school diploma with her and the other students.”

“I like the mission and the vision of New Community,” she said. “And I’m from Newark so I never mind doing anything in the city.”

Holt currently lives in Orange. She’s a member of a sorority and spends her free time doing community service. She likes to read, particularly romantic novels, and enjoys Lifetime television.

New Community Director of Community Engagement Richard Cammarieri, Rutgers University-Newark Vice Chancellor for External and Governmental Relations Maricia Brown, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Newark Economic and Housing Development Department Manager of Affordable and Sustainable Housing Al-Tariq Shabazz and The Newark Alliance President and CEO Aisha Glover, left to right, at a press conference announcing the creation of the Equitable Growth Advisory Commission. Photo courtesy of Richard Cammarieri.
Students Sing For NCC Residents And Staff

Children in the choir at New Horizons Community Charter School visited Associates, Extended Care, Manor Senior and St. Joseph Plaza Dec. 18 singing Christmas songs for New Community residents and employees. The children ranged from first through eighth grades.”

NCC After-School Program Provides Enrichment To Thirteenth Avenue School Students

Continued from page 1

Currently there are 35 children enrolled in the program, which runs from 3 to 6 p.m. each school day. A portion of the afternoon is dedicated to homework and tutoring, both group and individual. There are different activities throughout the week, including sports and fitness, nutrition classes, dance and piano. A chess club and theater classes are planned in 2019. The program focuses on STEAM, including sports and fitness, nutrition classes, dance and piano. A chess club and theater classes are planned in 2019. The program focuses on STEAM, and piano. A chess club and theater classes are planned in 2019. The program focuses on STEAM, arts and mathematics.

“Art education teaches teamwork, analytical and creative skills along with providing youth with skills to express themselves. From the feedback that we are getting, we are happy that the activities in the program are being enjoyed by children and families.”

In addition to the academic help and activities, the students receive a light dinner and snack provided by the Newark Public Schools. The program also provides occasional field trips for students. Past trips have been to Medieval Times, Soul Circus, the Newark Museum and the Bronx Zoo. There is no charge to families for the trips.

Parental involvement is also an important part of the program, with family support services offered. The program has parent workshops, which have included topics like Effective Communication with the Child, Positive Discipline and Loving and Supporting Our Sons. Parent/child activities, such as family nights, are encouraged. Children in the after-school program are also invited to attend the annual NCC Father Daughter Dance.

“We provide a number of activities that promote and encourage family engagement,” said New Community Director of Youth Services Edward Morris.

Program staff members also work with school personnel, collaborating on parent workshops, checking in with teachers and getting feedback from Principal Simone Rose.

Rose said the program is having a positive impact on the children.

“It’s great to have New Community Corporation working with the students of Thirteenth Avenue School again,” she said. “Our students have been making progress with fractions. Math is a subject that some students shy away from, but NCC has offered opportunities that have students racing toward math problems and activities. A love for mathematics will lead to higher performance and student achievement is always the goal for all of our students. We certainly could not achieve this goal without the support of NCC.”

Called the Family Friendly Center, the program is funded by the New Jersey Department of Children and Families under the Family and Community Partnership Office of School Linked Services. It is licensed by the New Jersey Department of Licensing.

“This program is one of many after-school programs in elementary schools throughout the state of New Jersey to provide constructive, academic, recreational and social enrichment activities to the students and their families,” Morris said.

The NCC program has been in place since 2001, initially at Newton Street Public School. When that school closed three years ago, the program relocated to Thirteenth Avenue School.

Three Thirteenth Avenue School staff members run the after-school program for New Community on a daily basis: Sharlene Jackson, Abdul Carter and Jaleel Ritchwood. They meet with Morris twice a month to discuss the program.

Assessment of the after-school program is ongoing with Morris receiving feedback from staff, the school principal, teachers and parents.

“We also monitor the students’ performance in school,” Morris said. “We work with the teachers, we check test scores. We see where they’re lacking and where the help is needed.”

Staff members can also refer students to Family Service Bureau, an affiliate of New Community, if they’re having behavioral issues. FSB also does work at Thirteenth Avenue School.

In addition to working locally, Morris attends a statewide meeting with all family friendly centers in April and October.

“We meet twice a year to discuss the program, discuss ideas, concerns and issues,” Morris said. “There’s always something another program is doing that you may want to implement in your program.”

Morris said the students enjoy and benefit from the after-school program. “The kids really benefit from the program. Not only do they get supportive services after school, they’re also eating a nutritious meal after school;” he said.
New Community Workforce Development Center is actively recruiting students for its next session, slated to begin in early 2019. The accredited post-secondary career and technical institute offers several programs that prepare students to launch successful careers with family supporting wages. Individuals can choose from the following programs: Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Business and Computer Technologies, Clinical Medical Assistant, Culinary Arts Specialist, Diesel Technician and Patient Care Technician. All programs prepare students for exams that lead to nationally recognized certifications.

New Community Workforce Development Center is focused on helping graduates find jobs. Strong employer partnerships are in place in each program area, including with Ford Motor Company, Sansone Auto Group, University Hospital, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, Gourmet Dining, the catering divisions of American Airlines and United Airlines, Darden Construction and Roofers Local Union No. 4. A job developer is on staff to assist students with finding employment.

The programs are short-term and affordable. Financial aid is available to those who qualify.

To learn more about the programs offered and to fill out an application, visit www.newcommunity.org. Come to school headquarters at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, for a tour of the facilities. For additional information, call 973-824-6484.

Members of the New Community Board of Directors and NCC department heads celebrated Christmas at St. Joseph Plaza Dec. 18. The evening included a cocktail hour and dinner. All New Community employees were invited to attend a Christmas party Dec. 19 at St. Joseph Plaza. The event included hors d’oeuvres, desserts, music and dancing.
Social Security News

Extra Help With Medicare Prescription Drug Costs
By Ammy Plummer
Social Security District Manager
Springfield Avenue, Newark NJ

Paying out of pocket for prescription drugs can be a burden that many households can’t afford. The Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs program was designed to help people in getting the vital medicine they need to live healthy and productive lives.

Anyone who has Medicare can get Medicare prescription drug coverage. Some people with limited resources and income may also be able to get Extra Help to pay for the costs — monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments — related to a Medicare prescription drug plan. Extra Help can be worth up to $4,900 per year.

To qualify for Extra Help in 2019, your resources must be limited to $14,390 for an individual or $28,720 for a married couple living together.

You can apply for Extra Help at www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp. You can also call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to apply over the phone or request an application, or if you prefer, you can apply at your local Social Security office.

To prepare for your application you should:

- Identify the things you own alone, with your spouse or with someone else, but do not include your home, vehicles, burial plots, life insurance policies or personal possessions,
- Review all your income; and
- Gather your records in advance to save time.

The records you’ll need are:
- Payroll slips.
- Pension award letters; and
- Tax returns;
- Stock certificates;
- Investment statements;
- Statements that show your account balances at banks, credit unions or other financial institutions;
- Investment statements;
- Stock certificates;
- Tax returns;
- Pension award letters; and
- Payroll slips.

The program was created because there is a great need for prescription drug assistance. Social Security is here to help. To learn more about the Extra Help program, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/extrahelp.

Senior Spotlight: Randolph Scott

Douglas Homes resident Randolph Scott is a cancer survivor who enjoys helping others. He moved to the building at 15 Hill St., Newark, in 2004 and served as floor captain on the eleventh floor where he lives.

“Mr. Scott has been a dedicated resident to help his neighbors and care for those who are elder and in need of a good friend,” said Douglas Homes Care Coordinator Luz Toro.

Scott grew up in Virginia. He had to quit school at an early age because his father was diagnosed with cancer. Wages were low in Virginia at the time. He made 25 cents per hour, so he received $2 for a full day’s work. He moved to Newark in 1960 when he was 20 years old. He got a job at a car wash and started making $125 per week.

“It was like I died and went to heaven,” he said.

From there, Scott got a job working at a Cadillac dealership in Summit. The company paid for him to get trained on how to paint cars because he liked working on vehicles. He was employed there for 10 years. He also worked security part-time to help pay his expenses.

Scott served as a forklift driver at Port Newark for 20 years. His last job was at a spice company in Union where he was also a forklift driver. He retired from there after 10 years of service because of his health. He was diagnosed with cancer and was undergoing treatment so it became too difficult to work.

In addition to living in Newark, Scott also spent about 10 years in East Orange. Before moving to Douglas Homes, Scott lived in a three-family home on Fairmount Avenue in Newark. A Home Depot was moving into the area so he had to move. He said the city helped him secure housing at Douglas Homes.

At 78 years old, Scott is happy to spend his time at Douglas Homes.

“You get to a certain age, you just want to be by yourself,” he said.

Throughout his apartment are photos of his family members. Though most of them have passed away, Scott likes to look at the photos often to remember them.

Even though Scott has health problems of his own, he still likes to give back to others when he can.

“If I see you and I think I can help you, that’s what I’m going to do,” Scott said. “That’s the way I was raised.”

In his spare time, Scott enjoys watching sports on television, particularly baseball and football. He played football in school, serving as a linebacker.

“I love football,” he said.

Wellness Tip
January 2019

Tips for Better Eye Health

Eat Healthy
A diet high in green leafy vegetables like spinach, kale and collards, brightly colored fruit and vegetables and fish high in omega-3 fatty acids can help ward off age related vision problems.

Stop Smoking
Smoking has also been linked to age-related macular degeneration, cataracts and optic nerve damage all of which can lead to vision loss. If you are a smoker, consider quitting.

Take Care of Contact Lenses
Do you wear contacts? If so, make sure you take good care of them by disinfecting and lubricating them regularly. Be sure to wash your hands before taking them in and out and never sleep with your contacts in.

Take a Computer Break
Staring at a computer screen for too long can cause eyestrain, blurry vision, trouble focusing, dry eyes and headaches. For every 20 minutes you stare at the screen, take a 20 second computer break to avoid eyestrain.

Wear Sunglasses and Goggles
Aside from making you look stylish, UV sunglasses protect your eyes against the sun’s harmful UV rays. If you work with hazardous or airborne materials, wear safety goggles to protect your eyes from these foreign objects.
Annual NCC Crib Blessing

Father Beatus Kitururu led the annual New Community Crib Blessing at Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, Dec. 12. Because of the cold weather, the majority of the program was in the building’s Community Room. Participants heard the story of Jesus’ birth, sang Silent Night and received holy water. Those who were willing and able went outside to see the nativity scene.

NCC Tree Lighting Ceremony

New Community held its annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, Dec. 20. Father Beatus Kitururu led residents in prayer in the building lobby because of the rain. He blessed residents and the tree with holy water.

Groups Bring Holiday Cheer To HHELC

Three separate groups of individuals helped brighten the holidays for the children of Harmony House Early Learning Center by bringing them Christmas presents. Sales reps from Allergan Pharmaceuticals, students and faculty from Seton Hall College of Nursing and students from West Caldwell High School all donated and distributed the gifts before Christmas.
DO YOU HAVE A CHRONIC WOUND THAT DOES NOT HEAL?

Where you go first makes the world of difference!

The Vascular and Wound Care Center at University Hospital offers a proven multidisciplinary approach to wound healing and better quality of life.

Call to make an appointment: 973-972-HEAL (4325)
Residents of Associates enjoyed a Christmas Dinner Dec. 23 thanks to Bishop Speight. Photo courtesy of Bishop Speight.

Barbecue chicken was one of the items on the menu for the Douglas Homes Christmas Luncheon Dec. 20.

Members of the NCC Environmental Services Department enjoyed a Christmas party Dec. 12.

Hudson Senior hosted a Winter Solstice Party for residents Dec. 14.

Orange Senior residents enjoyed dancing at their Christmas Party Dec. 20.

Roseville Senior residents participated in a Christmas grab bag exchange this year. Photo courtesy of Roseville Senior.

Parents of children at Community Hills Early Center enjoyed the annual Holiday Program Dec. 19.

Children at Harmony House Early Learning Center put on a Holiday Concert Dec. 19 for parents.
Family Service Bureau

Holiday Cheer And Goals For 2019

Family Service Bureau is a voluntary nonprofit service agency that has been servicing the city of Newark since 1882. Family Service Bureau has two locations: one in Newark and one in Kearny. We have been able to work with numerous clients due to the great staff we have and several interns that we have throughout the year.

The holiday season is very hard for people, especially some of the clients we serve at FSB. We try to make it better for them once they walk into our offices. You will immediately see the holiday spirit. Within the agency, there are several programs in which we serve children, families and adults needing one-on-one assistance, including crisis counseling for children, mental health, domestic violence and substance abuse. We also have anger management and parenting groups.

We have over 15 different programs and have been able to make the holidays great this year, especially with the help of NCC Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson and her team. We were able to give 300 gifts, including toys, clothes and coats for children and their families. Additionally, NJ Cares donated over 75 new coats for the children we have. The FSB staff and interns have also been a great help in getting these gifts out and helping organize them. We thank all for helping to give some of our clients the one and only toy or gift for the season. This is what the holiday season is all about: giving to people.

Empowering our clients to have hope and know that recovery is possible is our goal and the team at FSB does that all year round, not only during the holidays. Our several different programs have been responding to and assisting the community with learning to cope in these tough times and helping them get through the holidays. We have been working six days a week in our Kearny office and it has been great, especially for those parents that can’t make weekday appointments.

Our goal for 2019 is to continue to serve our community and have our programs be accessible and able to assist with the needs of this very vulnerable population. We look forward to a great 2019!

If you have any questions, call us at 973-412-2056 for our Newark office and 201-246-8077 for our Kearny office.

Annual Breakfast With Santa Draws Hundreds

More than 230 children participated in New Community’s annual Breakfast with Santa event Dec. 15. Held at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark, the event included a hot breakfast, gifts for the children and a photo with Santa. Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.

Extended Care Celebrates Christmas

Faculty members from Seton Hall College of Nursing helped the residents of New Community Extended Care celebrate Christmas. Kathy Sternas and Nancy Innella visited the nursing home Dec. 14 with Roxie, a small dog that helped brighten the day of residents. A group of four faculty members — Afua Ampiau, Beth Jameson, Kathy Sternas and Linda Ulak — came to Extended Care to sing carols and hand out presents Dec. 19.
Now that the new year has begun, it’s time for time of reflection more
than likely occurred
moments before the
annual ball drop at
Times Square. You
counted 2018 out and now you are counting on things
perhaps being better or different for you in 2019. Out
with the old, in with the new.

Congratulations! You’ve made it to another new year. Your
time of reflection more than likely occurred
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Times Square. You
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perhaps being better or different for you in 2019. Out
with the old, in with the new.

By Lesley Leslie
Take an honest look at yourself and determine why you weren’t able to accomplish the goal. Did you try? Was your effort the best that you could give? Did the goal require you completing several steps before you could realize the final result? Are you willing and able to complete those steps now? Do you need help in obtaining the goal? In other words, is your goal too big for you to accomplish on your own? If so, are you willing to ask for assistance? Perhaps from someone else who has done what you are looking to do?

These are just a few questions you might ask yourself about why you may not have accomplished some of the things you set out to do last year.

Once you understand why things didn’t necessarily happen the way you planned, you can address those goals with a brand new prospective. Then try again!

May 2019 be a year of many blessing and accomplishments!
Members of the leadership team at University Hospital brought and served a holiday meal to the residents of Harmony House, New Community’s transitional housing facility for homeless families, Dec. 3. Dinner included chicken, vegetables, macaroni and cheese and rolls. Families also received drinks and desserts to enjoy.