Mayor Baraka Deserves Our Support

Editorial By Monsignor William J. Linder

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka was successful in his bid for re-election May 8, defeating Central Ward Councilwoman Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins by receiving about 77 percent of the vote.

I congratulate Baraka on his victory and I’m glad it was a clear cut win. We must support Baraka going forward in his second term.

The mayor is very involved with the youth in our city and he has been for a good number of years. He was principal of Central High School from 2007 until 2013 when he decided to run for mayor the first time. He was responsible for many reforms there. The kids know him and they identify with him.

Baraka is a Newark native and a product of the Newark Public Schools. He was a teacher when the district was first placed under state control in 1995 after allegations of severe mismanagement. He ran for his first term in 2014 campaigning to take back local control of the public schools.

After getting elected to his first term, Baraka worked with then Gov. Chris Christie on the city’s education system. In June of 2015, Baraka and Christie jointly announced that the Newark public school system would transition back to city residents’ control through the creation of the Newark Educational Success Board, which was tasked with setting benchmarks and developing a clear pathway to return of local authority.

The Newark School Board regained full local control of the school district Feb. 1 of this year, more than two decades after the state first took over. Now city residents can feel like they have a voice in the education of their children.

Baraka also expanded the city’s youth employment program after taking office. Last year, more than 2,700 young people participated in the program that sends youth to job sites throughout Newark for about a month during the summer. That’s compared to 1,000 who were involved in 2014.

Exposing young people to jobs and responsibilities early is a good thing. It keeps them busy and gets them thinking about their future. It also helps them learn about money management in a practical way.

Mayor Baraka is a positive influence on the young people in Newark. The youth of our city need that.

Newark 2020 Project Director Travis Reid explains the initiative to participants during the orientation at New Community Workforce Development Center May 14.

New Community Workforce Development Center has become the first community hub of the Newark 2020 initiative, which aims to connect 2,020 Newark residents to employment that provides family sustainable wages by the end of 2020.

As a hub, New Community Workforce Development Center is responsible for reaching out to individuals who signed up and submitted information through the Newark 2020 website, assessing their educational and professional backgrounds and connecting them to employment opportunities.

“We are serving as the liaison between Newark 2020 applicants and employers,” said New Community Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton.

Another part of being a community hub is providing employability skills training, helping candidates with resumes, practicing interviews and offering assistance in preparation for employment opportunities.

“We’re happy to have been selected as a community hub,” Brutton said. “It’s exciting.”

Mayor Ras Baraka announced the Newark 2020 initiative last year. It has support from a number of city employers, including Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, PSE&G, Audible, Prudential, RWJBarnabas Health, NJIT, Rutgers-Newark, Panasonic, United Airlines and New Community Corporation. The employers have agreed to hire a certain number of Newark residents.

New Community Workforce Development Center is in a good position to prepare applicants for jobs because as an accredited post-secondary career and technical school, it offers programs that help students receive certifications in their field of study.

“If a Newark 2020 applicant isn’t qualified for a job but is interested in training, we’ll be able to help them,” Brutton said.

Newark 2020 Project Director Travis Reid said New Community Workforce Development Center was chosen as the first community hub based on the results of a competitive bidding process and subsequent follow-up interviews with staff. Community hubs will help candidates develop resumes, provide best-in-practice case management to clients and facilitate effective matches between job seekers and employers.

“New Community Corporation’s existing infrastructure and deep experience in workforce development led to their number one ranking in a very competitive pool of respondents to our RFP,” Reid said.

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The New Community Clarion

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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.

Teachers at Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, were celebrated May 8 for Teacher Appreciation Day with a lunch in their honor and certificates recognizing the good work they do.

Celebrating The Haitian Flag
Orange Senior, 132 William St., Orange, hosted a Haitian Flag Celebration May 18 in the Community Room. Residents enjoyed music, dancing, food and prayer during the event.

Honoring Volunteers
New Community Extended Care Facility held a dinner for its volunteers April 18 at the nursing home, located at 266 South Orange Ave., Newark. Extended Care Administrator Veronica Onwunaka spoke at the event. Volunteers received certificates from Director of Activities Elizabeth Brokkins and Director of Social Services Avril Cunningham. Photos courtesy of Sister Elizabeth Lima.

Learning About Buying A Home
Financial Access Educator Crystal Moon-Boulware speaks with employees of New Community Workforce Development Center about the home-buying process.

New Community Workforce Development Center employees got some insight into the process of obtaining a mortgage to purchase a home. Crystal Moon-Boulware, who works for Capital One Bank as a financial access educator, discussed what goes into getting a mortgage and being able to buy a home when she visited the school May 4.
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: Migdalia Serrano

It’s easy to see that Migdalia Serrano enjoys her job as the administrative assistant at the Family Service Bureau office in Kearny. She greets those who walk through the door with a smile and knows all 300 clients by name.

“I love my people here,” Serrano said. “I always give them a warm welcome. I care.”

Serrano has an understanding of mental illness, which she honed after starting work at the Family Service Bureau 11 years ago. After interacting with many of the agency’s clients, she was able to recognize the symptoms of mental illness in her mother through phone conversations. Serrano’s daughter also has a mental health condition so she takes her responsibilities at FSB very seriously.

“I treat clients the way I want my mom to be treated,” Serrano said. “It makes me stronger and more dedicated in my job.”

Family Service Bureau Executive Director Manuela Garcia says Serrano is an asset to the organization.

“She runs the office and she does a great job at it,” Garcia said. “She really cares for the patients and advocates for them.”

Serrano was born in the Bronx, N.Y., and moved to Puerto Rico when she was 7 or 8 years old. She came to New Jersey when she was 19, settling in the north side of Newark. Five years ago, she moved to Kearny. She lives just a few blocks from her office and walks to and from work each day.

Serrano had 17 years of food service experience under her belt before coming to work for FSB. She spent 12 years at Hoffmann-La Roche and worked in food service at the federal building in Newark as well.

She decided to attend Essex County College to get her associate degree and certificates. She had always wanted to be a secretary and achieved that goal after graduating from Essex County College. She started working at the Family Service Bureau in Newark working from 1 to 9 p.m. and later transferred to the Kearny location, where she works 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Serrano is responsible for a variety of tasks, including answering phones, managing charts and doctor files, scheduling appointments and generating reports for the state and the agency.

“Every day can be something different,” she said. “It can be overwhelming but I love what I do.”

When Serrano isn’t at work, she likes to cook and clean and loves watching TV at night. She also attends church on Sundays.

She’s grateful for the experiences she’s had working at the Family Service Bureau, particularly being able to recognize her mother’s condition. She helped bring her mother from Puerto Rico to New Jersey for treatment.

“I am very happy and very blessed,” Serrano said. “This changed my life.”

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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.
Computer programming is an in-demand field with high paying jobs and has been called the most important job skill of the future. For many, the ins and outs of how computer programs work are a mystery.

But students in the New Community Workforce Development Center Academic Enrichment program were introduced to that world thanks to the Newark City of Coding Initiative.

New Community Workforce Development Center has been identified as a community-based partner to provide basic coding services as part of the Newark City of Coding Initiative, which is led by Rutgers-Newark under the leadership of Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Economic Development and Chief Financial Officer Arvelo Aponte. The goal is to align institutions of learning, economic development and community-based organizations “to create a citywide ecosystem that cultivates a culture of coding and digital agility.”

The Newark City of Coding Initiative brought New Community Workforce Development Center into a collaborative partnership with Apple. Apple provided training sessions prior to the day-long look at coding and iPads for the students to use. Academic Enrichment students are Newark residents between the ages of 16 and 24 who are working to obtain a high school diploma.

New Community Fellow Akua Achampong participated in the training sessions hosted by Apple representatives starting in October. She was the facilitator and instructor for the introduction to coding session the Academic Enrichment students participated in May 9.

Using the iPads, the students learned the basics of coding with Swift Playgrounds, an app that teaches the coding language Swift.

“This was the first time I heard of coding,” he said. “I want to learn more.”

“It opened my eyes and horizons to the computer world. I want to learn more.”

“Being able to offer a basic coding class related to computer science fits into our long-term plan to diversify our course offerings,” he said. “Ultimately we would like to offer a certificate-based coding program that lends itself to students ultimately earning an associate or bachelor’s degree in computer science.”

Rodney Brutton hopes the school can offer a full program in the future.

While the one-day experience was beneficial, New Community Workforce Development Center Director Rodney Brutton hopes the school can offer a full program in the future.

While Reid explained that employers are not required to grant interviews, those looking for employment at companies that have committed to Newark 2020 are better positioned to yield opportunities.

“Newark 2020 strategically leverages employer commitments to hiring locally to benefit the city’s labor force,” Reid said. “Community hubs are critically important because they help facilitate matches that mutually benefit job seekers and employers.”

Newark 2020 is open to all Newark residents, regardless of employment level. At the orientation, participants had a variety of career interests, including customer service, health care, communications, building maintenance and human resources.

Those interested in participating in Newark 2020 should visit newarkjobs2020.com and register. For more information about New Community Workforce Development Center and its course offerings, visit newcommunity.org or call 973-824-6484.

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New Community’s Youth Services Department hosted the annual Father-Daughter Dance at St. Joseph Plaza May 20. Girls ages 4 to 17 and their fathers (or significant male role models) came dressed to impress for the event. The 113 participants enjoyed food, dancing, prizes and giveaways. Photos courtesy of Edward Morris.
Retirement doesn’t have the same meaning for everyone. Some people plan to retire and never work again. Some people plan for second careers in occupations that wouldn’t have adequately supported their families, but they do the work for pure enjoyment. Some people, whether by design or desire, choose to work part-time or seasonally to supplement their retirement income.

Retirees (or survivors) who choose to receive Social Security benefits before they reach full retirement age (FRA) and continue to work have an earnings limit. In 2017, the annual earnings limit was $16,920 for those under FRA the entire calendar year. In 2018, it is $17,040. If you earn over the limit, we deduct $1 from your Social Security monthly benefit payment for every $2 you earn above the annual limit.

In the calendar year you reach FRA, which you can check out at www.socia security.gov/planners/ retire/ageincrease.html, you have a higher earnings limit. Additionally, we will only count earnings for the months prior to FRA. In 2017, the limit was $44,880. In 2018, it is $45,360. In the year of FRA attainment, Social Security deducts $1 in benefits for every $3 you earn above the limit.

There is a special rule that usually only applies in your first year of receiving retirement benefits. If you earn more than the annual earnings limit, you may still receive a full Social Security payment for each month you earn less than a monthly limit. In 2018, the monthly limit is $1,420 for those who are below FRA the entire calendar year. The 2018 monthly limit increases to $3,780 in the year of FRA attainment.

Once you reach FRA, you no longer have an earnings limit, and we may recalculate your benefit to credit you for any months we withheld your benefit due to excess earnings. This is because your monthly benefit amount is calculated based on a reduction for each month you receive it before your FRA. So, if you originally filed for benefits 12 months before your FRA, but earned over the limit and had two months of Social Security benefits withheld, we will adjust your ongoing monthly benefit amount to reflect that you received 10 months of benefits before your FRA, and not 12.

Most people understand that if they work while receiving benefits before FRA, their benefit may be reduced. What most people do not consider in their retirement planning is that we recalculate your Social Security monthly benefit at FRA to credit you for Social Security benefit payments withheld due to earnings over the limit. Explaining the earnings limit is another way that Social Security helps secure your today and tomorrow. Understanding both the earnings limit and the possible recalculation of your ongoing Social Security benefits will provide an additional perspective on retirement for you to consider.

Mohamed Ibrahim has lived in Jersey City since 1984 when he moved there from Egypt. After he turned 65, he started looking for more reasonably priced senior housing and came across New Community. He filled out an application to reside at Hudson Senior, 21-27 Orchard St., Jersey City, and moved there in November 2012.

He has found friends at Hudson Senior who he meets with in the Community Room. Some were surprised that he was living alone, but he’s used to it.

“I’ve lived alone for a long time,” he said. “It’s easy for me.”

Ibrahim feels secure living at Hudson Senior.

“There’s a lot of help,” he said. “If I need anything, the manager or care coordinator can help me right away.”

Building Manager Sandy Le says Ibrahim is a good tenant who always pays his rent on time.

“He’s a quiet man. He doesn’t bother anybody or complain,” she said. “And he spends much of his time helping people from his country.”

Ibrahim was born in Cairo, Egypt and had two sons before coming to the United States. His sister was living in Jersey City in the 1980s. One year after his first visit to her, he got immigration papers to come to the U.S. His sister helped him with the transition when he made the move by himself.

His sons remain in Egypt, although he said he completed immigration paperwork for them. They both have degrees and jobs in their home country and would have to start from scratch if they moved to the United States.

Ibrahim, who is now 76 years old, visits his family in Egypt once a year, usually for two to three months. In addition to his two sons, he has a grandchild.

While living in Egypt, Ibrahim worked for 18 years at an electric company and also built ships. When he came to New Jersey, he worked a variety of jobs, including at gas stations and security offices.

While Ibrahim made the move to the United States to provide a better future for his children, he doesn’t only help members of his own family. He spends much of his time at a mosque in Jersey City’s Journal Square. In addition to participating in prayer and seeing many friends, Ibrahim assists other members of the community while there, helping those in need find jobs and places to stay.

“I try to help people,” Ibrahim said.

He wants a positive future for all immigrants and encourages everyone who comes to the United States to learn English well to help them land good jobs.

“If you don’t have education, it can be very difficult,” he said.
Extended Care Hosts Adopt-A-Resident Day

New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, held its annual Adopt-A-Resident Day, which is meant to show appreciation to residents. Those living in the nursing home received a variety of gifts, including clothes, perfume and cologne May 16.

Newark residents took to the polls May 8 to cast their ballots in the municipal election. Incumbent Ras Baraka successfully kept his seat as mayor after a challenge from Central Ward Councilwoman Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins. Both candidates met with New Community residents prior to Election Day to answer their questions.

Mildred C. Crump, Luis A. Quintana, Carlos M. Gonzalez and Eddie Osbourne won the four Council At-Large seats. Anibal Ramos was victorious in the North Ward Council race and John Sharpe James won in the South Ward.

The council races in the Central, East and West Wards haven’t been decided yet. Because no candidate received a majority of the vote, winners will be decided in a runoff election June 5.

In the Central Ward, LaMonica R. McIver and Shawn X. McCray will face off June 5. McIver received 41.4 percent of the vote May 8 while McCray got 16.9 percent.

The runoff election in the East Ward will pit Augusto Amador against Anthony Campos. May 8, Amador received 43 percent of the vote to Campos’ 35.6 percent. In the West Ward, voters will cast their ballots for Joseph McCallum Jr. or Tomecca Mecca Keyes June 5. McCallum came away from the May 8 election with 31.4 percent of the vote to Keyes’ 28.8 percent.

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka meets with New Community residents at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, May 4. He won his re-election bid for mayor May 8.

Central Ward Councilwoman Gayle Chaneyfield Jenkins answers questions from New Community residents at Associates April 13. She challenged Ras Baraka for mayor in the municipal election May 8.
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Note: Three (3) doses of the HPV vaccine are required. Patients must arrange for the 2nd and 3rd treatment on their own. Financial assistance may be obtained through the University Hospital Charity Care Office.
New Community Workforce Development Center Recruits For July Session

New Community Workforce Development Center hosted an Open House May 22 to introduce prospective students to its post-secondary career and technical programs. The accredited school will host another Open House June 21 at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. for those interested in learning more and applying to the programs. The next session is scheduled to begin July 23. New Community Workforce Development Center is offering the following programs in the upcoming session: Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Business and Computer Technologies, Clinical Medical Assistant, Culinary Arts Specialist, Diesel Technician and Patient Care Technician. For more information, visit newcommunity.org or call 973-824-6484. To RSVP for the June 21 Open House, call Student Recruiter Aziza Johnson at 973-639-5633.

Learning Basic Life Support Skills

New Community employees underwent CPR/first aid training at Community Hills Early Learning Center, 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, May 10 and 11. Rapid Response Training LLC President George Greenberg came to the facility to show employees how to properly perform CPR, help a person who is choking and provide first aid care. The following departments sent employees for the training: Community Hills Early Learning Center, Harmony House, Harmony House Early Learning Center, Health and Social Services, Security and Youth Services.

Extended Care To Host Community Health Fair June 29

New Community Extended Care Facility will be hosting its annual Community Health Fair June 29 at noon in the parking lot of the facility, located at 266 South Orange Ave., Newark. Free health screenings will be available for participants, including blood pressure and blood sugar checks. Children’s health and immunization information will be available as well. Vendors are invited to attend to provide information about services.

For more information or to become a vendor at the event, contact Ann Hope at 908-357-9620 or ahope@newcommunity.org, Rhonda Nobles at 973-518-9167 or rnobles@newcommunity.org or Adalberto Diaz at 973-585-9604 or adiaz@newcommunity.org.
Family Service Bureau

Working To Prevent School Shootings

Family Service Bureau of Newark is concerned with the increase in the number of school shootings occurring. Talking about it and preventing it in our area is crucial. In the United States in 2018, as per CNN, “there have already been 22 school shootings where someone was hurt or killed. That averages out to more than one shooting a week.” (“There has been, on average, 1 school shooting every week this year,” CNN, 5/18/18)

We have several concerns going on with our youth and one of our main goals is to prevent, educate and inform our youth and young adults on the need to avoid certain things in order to be successful and offer alternative solutions to help them have positive outcomes in their future. Living in the area we are located, we worry about several different health care crises such as opioid epidemic, trauma histories, domestic violence, poverty, mental health, bullying, harassment, gang violence, etc. Rutgers University recently put out an article which helps shed some light on helping us understand the difference between “mass” and “street” shootings, titled Risk Factors for Youth Violence: Youth Violence Commission, International Society for Research on Aggression (ISRA). It’s available for download at http://youthviolence.rutgers.edu/gunviolencerisk/.

A dialogue between the media; county, local and state governments; teachers; schools; communities; parents; and their children can be created to discuss topics related to school shootings. Additionally, referring children for mental health counseling that includes effective treatment in anger management, self-regulation, self-esteem and several other techniques will help change the person’s coping skills and strategies to understand and see hope for their future.

Mentoring, strong role models and support is essential to help our youth be successful. Also, talking about it and educating the youth is a very essential piece, as well as the debriefing aspect of this epidemic. Likewise, increasing the awareness and availability of mental health counseling may be able to reduce the frequency and number of school shootings. As a community we need to develop safety strategies and educate the schools, communities and all citizens and break the stigma that exists.

At the Family Service Bureau, we offer several different individualized treatments for our youth, adults and families. We offer several different individualized counseling options: groups as well as Intensive Outpatient Programming for Substance Use Disorders. We work with the schools, community and individuals who need our assistance and the goal is to have our clients have a healthy outcome and be able to cope with the changes in our community.

Feel free to contact us if you will like to learn more. The phone number for our Newark office is 973-412-2056. The phone number for our Kearny office is 201-246-8077.

Recognizing Social Services Staff Members

Care coordinators enjoyed an afternoon of recognition April 27 during the Administrative Professionals Day Luncheon at Manor Senior. Assistant Director of Health and Social Services Donnette Burrowes-Williams organized the event to thank members of her staff for the hard work they do. Staff members ate lunch, played games and enjoyed each other’s company.

New Community Is Hiring

New Community participated in job fairs in May to recruit talent for open positions within the organization and provide information about job training options. Those interested in employment with New Community Corporation should visit newcommunity.org and click on “Jobs at New Community.” All open positions are listed and job seekers can apply directly online.

More information about training at the accredited New Community Workforce Development Center is also available at newcommunity.org.

The school is also hosting an Open House June 21 at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark. Two sessions are available: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Call 973-824-6484 for more information.

New Community had a table at the Essex County Job Fair at Essex County College May 24. Human Resources Manager Anna Sing-King, right, HR Receptionist Toshia Laberth, center, and New Community Workforce Development Center Student Recruiter Aziza Johnson, left, were in attendance talking with attendees about NCC jobs and opportunities for post-secondary career and technical training.

Human Resources Receptionist Toshia Laberth, seated left, and HR Manager Anna Sing-King, seated right, talk about open positions at New Community with attendees of the Westside Park Job Fair May 18. Photo courtesy of Toshia Laberth.

New Community Workforce Development Center Student Services Coordinator and Case Manager Ronald Prysock, right, explains the school’s offerings to a man at the Essex County Job Fair.
As we progress through the year and approach the official start of the summer season, this is also the month where many high schools around the country celebrate their seniors that are graduating. In addition, the month of June is also a time where fathers are recognized and celebrated on the third Sunday of the month.

While the growing consensus has always been that Mother’s Day is more celebrated than Father’s Day (Hallmark Cards sales are the proof), it is still a wonderful time that is set aside to recognize the dads in our lives. Some of those dads are stepfathers that become a part of someone’s life as a result of a marriage. Then there are the dads or father figures that may technically be someone’s uncle, godfather, grandfather, cousin or even a next-door neighbor.

As we celebrate the fathers in our lives this Father’s Day, a special “shout out” or word of encouragement goes out to all the wonderful father figures and male role models that are positively impacting the lives of our youth in our communities. Happy Father’s Day, You the Man!

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### Available Courses

**English for Speakers of Other Languages**
Mondays through Thursdays:
10 AM to 12 PM or 6 PM to 8 PM

**Citizenship**
Saturdays:
9 AM to 12 PM

**Computers – Basic & Intermediate Levels**
Saturdays:
9 AM to 12 PM or 12 PM to 3 PM

**ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (English only)**
Mondays through Thursdays:
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM or 5:30 PM to 8 PM

### Free Services

**Health Screenings**

- Physicals, Mammograms, Cholesterol, Nutrition, etc.

**Open Community**

Free workshops conducted by private institutions and/or volunteers for the general public

**Other Services**

- Community organizing
- Community rooms
- Social services referrals

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### Cursos Disponibles

**Inglés para Hablantes de otras Idiomas**
Lunes a jueves:
10 AM a 12 PM o 6 PM a 8 PM

**Ciudadanía**
Sábados:
9 AM a 12 PM

**Computadora – Nivel Básico e Intermedio**
Sábados:
9 AM a 12 PM o 12 PM a 3 PM

**ABE, Pre-HSE, & HSE (Inglés solamente)**
Lunes a jueves:
9:30 AM a 1:30 PM o 5:30 PM a 8 PM

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Talleres gratuitos conducidos por instituciones privadas y/o voluntarios para el público en general

**Otros servicios**

- Organización de la comunidad
- Sala de reuniones
- Referidos a servicios sociales

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Celebrating Mothers And Fathers At New Community

Several senior buildings throughout the New Community network held luncheons in honor of Mother’s Day and Father’s Day in May. Residents enjoyed food, music and company at the various events.

Commons Senior held its Mother’s Day Luncheon May 11.

Residents celebrated at Gardens Senior May 18.

Mothers at Manor Senior enjoyed lunch in their honor May 11.

Commons Senior moms were celebrated May 11.

Gardens Senior honored mothers and fathers at a luncheon May 18.

It was all smiles at the Manor Senior Mother’s Day Luncheon May 11.