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# NEW COMMUNITY CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS TO FOCUS ON BUSINESSES AFTER GRADUATION

Shawnette Maxwell and Zariyah Derrick both have a passion for cooking that they are hoping to turn into full-time careers. Both have started businesses where they sell their food and both decided to enroll in the Culinary Arts Specialist program at <a href="New Community Career & Technical Institute">New Community Career & Technical Institute</a> (NCCTI) to enhance their skills and earn a certification to prove their culinary knowledge to future clients.

Both women are serious about their culinary careers. They quit their jobs to attend NCCTI and pursue their passion. They both got their start cooking early in life, learning the basics of cooking as children. They found joy in it and knew they wanted to take their skills to the next level.

Derrick's sister and cousin both attended NCCTI and had positive experiences. Her sister earned her high school diploma through the High School Equivalency/GED program and then received a health care certification. Her cousin also completed a health care program. They both encouraged her to earn a culinary certification at the school.

Maxwell first learned about NCCTI in the Clarion newsletter and decided to inquire about the school after seeing its sign along South Orange Avenue.

Both are happy with their decision to enroll in the program.

"I've learned a lot," Maxwell said, explaining how Instructor Samuel Gaddy helped her master gravy making and taught her the importance of having a variety of cutting boards for specific purposes.

Derrick said the program taught her how to correctly use all the cooking equipment and the importance of details.

"I knew how to do big things. But the small things I didn't know. Like carving the fat off of a big roast," she said. "I never took the skin and properly shaved it off."

The women have excelled in the program.

"Both Ms. Maxwell and Ms. Derrick are exceptionally skilled women in culinary cooking. Their talents shine brightly when they prepare to showcase their unique entrees for their classmates to taste," Gaddy said. "More than often, compliments are thrown their way by Extended Care kitchen staff, fellow students and myself."

Instead of just searching for employment after graduation, Maxwell and Derrick plan to ramp up their businesses. Maxwell operates <a href="Sweety Catering Services">Sweety Catering Services</a>. She specializes in Caribbean cuisine but will prepare any type of food that is requested. She caters a variety of events, including birthday parties, weddings and cookouts. She currently operates an Instagram business page and plans to create a website soon. She's also working toward getting a food truck and possibly a storefront down the line

Derrick sells soul food by the plate through her Instagram page <a href="mass.parkerrs\_kitchen">mss.parkerrs\_kitchen</a>. She doesn't want to limit herself to that type of cuisine, however. She hopes to attend a culinary school in Europe to broaden her horizons and gain even more experience.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5** 



Shawnette Maxwell, left, and Zariyah Derrick, right, are students in the Culinary Arts Specialist program at New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI). Both have their own businesses selling food and plan to concentrate on growing those businesses after graduation.

# **Calling All Clarion Readers!**

This year, the Clarion will be printed bimonthly so you will receive six editions for 2023.

In between print editions, you can get New Community news on our website, newcommunity.org, and on social media:

Facebook: New Community Corporation

• Twitter: @NewCommunityCor

• Instagram: @newcommunitycorp

• LinkedIn: New Community Corporation

Did you know the Clarion is also distributed digitally? If you're interested in receiving the newsletter by email, please send a message to clarion@newcommunity.org.

We thank you for your support!



#### AROUND THE NETWORK

#### FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK CONDUCTS WORKSHOP FOR NEW COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

pepresentatives from the Family Service Bureau of Newark (FSB) conducted a Substance Abuse Workshop at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Feb. 3. Residents learned about the services FSB provides and had the opportunity to discuss their experiences with substance abuse, whether personal or through a family member or friend.

FSB is a licensed outpatient mental health and substance abuse treatment center, welcoming the use of medication assisted treatment and psychiatric intervention. It has offices in Newark and Kearny. For more information about its offerings, visit fsbofnewark.org or call the Newark office at 973-412-2056 or the Kearny office at 201-246-8077.







#### 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 views of New Community Corporation.

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newcommunity.org









#### **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:**

- One of 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 nonprofit, social entrepreneurship and CDC communities.
- Having beneficial partnerships on the local, national and global level.

# Want to Support New Community?

You can make a difference in the lives of inner city residents by making an online donation. Visit newcommunity. org and click "Donate" to give today! We appreciate all support.

#### NCCTI HOSTS CULINARY ARTS INFO SESSION



I ew Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted an information session for its Culinary Arts Specialist program on Feb. 8 at the school's Main Campus, 274 South Orange Ave., Newark.

Attendees learned about the school, the Culinary Arts Specialist program, its requirements and how to enroll. They also met instructor

Samuel Gaddy and other members of the NCCTI staff. The next session of classes will begin on April 24.

For more information about the Culinary Arts program or any of the school's accredited post-secondary programs, call 973-824-6484 or visit newcommunitytech.edu.

#### LEARNING IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION



esidents of Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, attended a presentation on Jan. 30 from a Rutgers representative about HPV. short for human papillomavirus. It is the most common sexually transmitted infection and usually clears up on its own, however, some types can cause health problems, including cancer. Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.

#### NCC RESIDENTS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY



esidents of Manor Senior, 545 Orange St., Newark, wore green and gathered in the Community Room on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, for a party. They enjoyed food and their neighbor's company. Photo courtesy of Guadalupe Cepeda.



#### NCC RESIDENTS HONOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

ishop Speight hosted a dinner Celebrating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at Associates, 180 South Orange Ave., Newark, on Jan. 27. Photo courtesy of Anne Moran.



# **NEW COMMUNITY CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

uring the month of February, New Community residents, students and staff members recognized Black History Month. Click here for more photos.



Students at Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) held signs and spoke about Black Lives Matter during the school's Black History Month program on Feb. 24.



**New Community Extended Care Facility hosted a** Black History Month celebration for residents and staff members on Feb. 17. Participants performed songs, read poetry and shared information about prominent Black figures.



**Students in the New Community Youth Services** after school program shared facts and information about Black individuals during the department's Black History Month presentation on Feb. 24.



Participants in the New Community Extended Care Facility Black History Month celebration learned about historically significant Black figures, including Ken Gibson who was Newark's first Black mayor and a founding Board member for New Community.



A student dressed as Ruby Bridges relays information about the historical figure during the **New Community Youth Services Black History** Month presentation on Feb. 24.



During the Black History Month program at Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC) on Feb. 24, children performed for their family members in the audience.

## NCC PARTICIPATES IN 17TH ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY HOMELESS CONNECT DAY

pepresentatives from Harmony House, New Community's transitional housing facility for homeless families, and the New Community Family Resource Success Center provided information to participants of the 17th Annual Essex County Homeless Connect Day on Jan. 25 at Essex County College. New Community Board Member and Outreach Coordinator Madge Wilson also attended and brought items like winter coats for the participants. The free event is held annually for homeless individuals to receive health screenings, haircuts, food and valuable information about resources. Photos courtesy of Yonette Fredericks.







## NCC DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE **DEVELOPMENT RETIRES**



ew Community Director of Real Estate **Development Tony** Tolles retired on March 31. Tolles worked at the organization for a total of 13 years and served in several roles.

**New Community** thanks him for his hard work and

dedication and wishes him a very happy retirement. The May/June Clarion will include photos from his last week.

#### NCCTI HOSTS HEALTH CARE CAREER FAIR



NCCTI health care students receive information from University Hospital.



A student speaks with a rep from **Newark Community Health Centers.** 

ew Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted a Career Fair for its Medical Assistant Clinical (MAC) and Patient Care Technician (PCT) students and graduates on Feb. 7. Participants received information from Newark Community Health Centers Inc., Premier Home Health Care Services Inc. and University Hospital. Many also had on-site interviews for open positions. We thank the employer partners and everyone who participated.



#### EXTENDED CARE RECOGNIZES LONG-TERM CARE ADMINISTRATOR'S WEEK

Staff members of New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, surprised Administrator Veronica Onwunaka with a luncheon on March 17, the last day of Long-Term Care Administrator's Week. Members of New Community's Executive Team, Extended Care staff members and vendors spoke about Onwunaka and what she means to the facility. New Community thanks her for her hard work and dedication to residents of Extended Care and the organization's mission. Click here to view more photos from the event.







# CHELC CELEBRATES VALENTINE'S DAY AND 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

Students and staff members at Community Hills Early Learning Center (CHELC), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, celebrated Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school on Feb. 14. Children and adults wore red or pink for the holiday and enjoyed music, dancing and treats. Throughout the hallway were posters representing 100 days of school that children created with the help of their families. Click here for more photos.









# NCCTI STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP



Specialist and Culinary Arts Specialist programs at New Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) participated in an entrepreneur workshop on Feb. 21. The guest speaker was Al Alvarez, Director of Programs at Greater Newark Enterprises Corporation (GNEC). He spoke about what it takes to start a business, including the importance of credit, how to fund a new venture and where to get assistance in developing a business plan. The students learned a variety of financial terms and were able to ask questions.

NCCTI is an accredited post-secondary career and technical institution that is currently enrolling for the following programs: Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Medical Assistant Clinical, Patient Care Technician and Culinary Arts Specialist.



# **FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU OF NEWARK:** DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

amily Service Bureau of Newark (FSB) is a social services agency providing a comprehensive array of services in mental health and addiction providing the necessary treatment and/or resources for those in need. At FSB, we'd like to remind the community that through mental health wellness we can renew our sense of existence. At times it may feel that all doors are shut for us; yet suddenly we realize that if only we take advantage of life opportunities and are adaptable to change, greater and better horizons await.

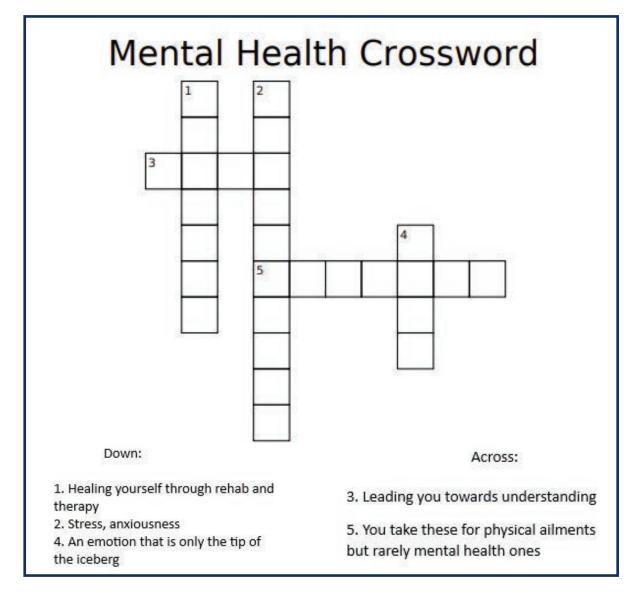
#### What should I do if I want to refer a person for services at FSB?

Get in touch with one of our two locations:

**Newark Office** 973-412-2056 274 South Orange Ave., 2nd Floor Newark, NJ 07103

Kearny Office 201-246-8077 379 Kearny Ave. Kearny, NJ 07032





## **NEW COMMUNITY CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE CULINARY ARTS** STUDENTS TO FOCUS ON BUSINESSES AFTER GRADUATION

#### **FROM PAGE 1**

Maxwell and Derrick's drive to succeed shines through to staff members. NCCTI Director Dr. Sylvia McCray is happy that the school has been able to put both women on the path to success.

"As a friend of mine, Jon Jernigan, Chef of Cathedral Kitchen, stated, 'We look for people who have a passion for cooking and are wanting to change their situation.' That is exactly what we found with these two ladies," McCray said. "They are determined to change their outcomes through hard work and determination, and NCCTI is here to help them do that. I am excited to see what they will do next."

NCCTI Financial Coach Akeen Downes said Maxwell and Derrick are promising students.

"They exceed expectations in the quality of their work as Culinary Arts students and businesswomen by ensuring they are present, engaged and take initiative to complete the task at hand," Downes said. "I am confident that both ladies will continue to thrive in their career path as they warm the hearts of many with their wonderful cuisines."

**NCCTI Career Services Coordinator Chanda** Webb said she admires their enthusiasm for cooking and their entrepreneurial spirit, as well as their positive attitudes.

"When these two stop by the office, they bring smiles and laughter with them," Webb said. "I really wish them the best in their future endeavors."

While Maxwell and Derrick are excited to complete the culinary program in April, they will miss coming to school each day, particularly because of the bonds they have formed with classmates and staff members.

"I got extended family," Derrick said. "These are women I know I could call even if I'm not in the program. Anybody in the office could help me with anything and I could talk to them. I'm going to miss them when we leave."

NCCTI is an accredited post-secondary

career and technical institution that is currently enrolling for the following programs: Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Medical Assistant Clinical, Patient Care Technician and Culinary Arts Specialist. NCCTI also operates a comprehensive **Financial Opportunity Center and Bridges** to Career Opportunities Program sponsored by the local and national Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) offices. For more information, call 973-824-6484, log onto newcommunitytech.edu or visit 274 South Orange Ave., Newark.



## **EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CRISTHIAN BARCELOS**



Cristhian Barcelos was a student taking English classes at New Community in 2001. Now he is the Director of the NCC Adult Learning Center.

Cristhian Barcelos can relate to the students he serves as Director of the New Community Adult Learning Center. He was in their shoes in 2001 when he was a student taking English classes at New Community. From there, he became a volunteer, a computer teacher and ultimately director.

In his current role, Barcelos oversees the Adult Learning Center, which offers educational programs to individuals who are 16 and older and out of the school system. Courses include English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), Pre-High School Equivalency (HSE), HSE, Computers and Citizenship. Day, evening and Saturday classes are available for students.

In addition to the classes, the Adult Learning Center invites outside agencies to provide services for students, including vaccinations, eye exams and nutrition programs.

"Any and every program that we can get our hands on that is willing to come and do their services here, we coordinate that," Barcelos said.

Adult education is important to Barcelos since he utilized those services when he came to the United States in 2001 from Uruguay. Although he knew some English when he arrived, he needed to become more proficient and heard about New Community's program. He enrolled and after he finished taking classes, he began volunteering at the end of 2002 because NCC's mission statement resonated with him. He later became an instructor, teaching Microsoft Office to students, and eventually took over as director.

Barcelos' favorite part of his job is watching students achieve their goals.

"You find those that need the help and are open to being helped and you see them

moving through the different steps," he said. "That makes my day."

Barcelos' commitment to the students and New Community's mission shines through.

"Cristhian is a passionate director who cares about the Adult Learning Center's participants, its staff and the program's results," said New Community Chief Operating Officer Fred Hunter.

In addition to his work with the Adult Learning Center, Barcelos also serves as Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of America, Essex and Passaic Counties and as President of New Jersey Association for Lifelong Learning.

He has always had a busy work schedule. In his home country of Uruguay, Barcelos managed a modeling agency that required much more than a 40-hour workweek. He decided to leave that life behind and joined his father in the United States before moving into his own attic apartment after nine months.

Barcelos now owns a home in Belleville and enjoys working with his hands in his spare time. He likes to grow bonsai trees and creates intricate wood carvings, many depicting birds.

## **SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: CAROL WALDON**

Carol Waldon was born and raised in Newark, very close to where she now resides as a tenant of Manor Senior, located at 545 Orange St.

She was very happy to move to the building six years ago because, at the time, she was staying with a friend and wanted her own place. The day after she was called about the apartment, she went to Manor Senior and got her keys.

"My furniture was still in storage but I went and bought blankets and I slept on the floor because this was mine," she said. "It felt so good to have the keys."

Shortly after she moved to the building, she signed up to be a floor captain for the third floor. In that role, she checks on her neighbors, welcomes new tenants, distributes the monthly building calendar and reports any issues to the building manager or resident services coordinator.

Manor Senior Resident Services Coordinator

Guadalupe Cepeda said Waldon is very helpful and involved.

"She always comes to the floor captain meetings. She's always available to help. She's very nice," Cepeda said.

In her professional career, Waldon also served in roles that helped people. She worked as a pharmacy technician, home health aide, dental assistant and medical assistant. It was personal experience that drew her to the health care field.

"My mom had a home health aide and I liked how she took care of her," Waldon said. "It was something I just wanted to do."

Waldon has three grown children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She loves to cook and shares her creations with other residents.

"At Christmas, my neighbor brings me the turkey and I cook," Waldon said. "And



Carol Waldon has been a resident of Manor Senior for six years.

whoever wants to come by, they can eat."

When she's not cooking, Waldon likes to watch TV, listen to music and play board games.

She enjoys living at Manor Senior.

"It's comfortable, it's clean, it's nice and the people are nice. I like it," she said.

# SOCIAL SECURITY NEWS: PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE DURING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

#### BY AMMY PLUMMER, SOCIAL SECURITY DISTRICT MANAGER, SPRINGFIELD AVENUE, NEWARK, NJ

A pril is Financial Literacy Month. Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. Our online tools can help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your Social Security Statement using your personal my Social Security account at <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/">www.ssa.gov/</a>

myaccount. Your Statement is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability and survivors' benefits.

Our Plan for Retirement tool in your personal my Social Security account allows you to check various benefit estimate scenarios. You can compare how different future earnings and

retirement benefit start dates might affect your future benefit amount.

Please tell your friends and family about the steps they can take to improve their financial knowledge by exploring their personal *my Social Security* account. If they don't have an account, they can easily create one at <a href="www.ssa.gov/myaccount">www.ssa.gov/myaccount</a>.



# NEW COMMUNITY YOUTH MEET RETIRED FOOTBALL STARS

Lew Community's Youth Services Department arranged for children to participate in an event held by The Children's Place on March 3 🛚 at Superdome Sports in Waldwick. At the event were retired Giants football players Eli Manning and Shaun O'Hara. Children enjoyed a variety of activities, including an obstacle course, football target practice and an Easter egg hunt. Photos courtesy of Youth Services. Click here for more photos.







# **FOUNDING CLARION EDITOR PASSES AWAY**



atricia Ann Foley of Woodcliff Lake, who served as the founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the New Community Clarion for many years,

passed away on Feb. 19 at the age of 94.

Patricia was born in Mount Vernon, N.Y., and lived in Woodcliff Lake for 62 years. She graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey and served as founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of the New Community Clarion in Newark for many years. With her husband David, she was an organizer of the Walk for Understanding in the City of Newark following the unrest in 1967. She and David were key individuals in helping to create New Community Corporation.

Patricia and David also were early supporters and advocates for the work of Renew International, founded by Monsignor Thomas Kleissler, whose mission is to renew personal faith and parish life — unlocking the power of small groups by equipping laity and clergy to share their Catholic faith and live it every day.

Patricia was dedicated to her faith and committed much of her life and service to Our Lady Mother of the Church. and before its founding, to Our Lady of Mercy. Patricia served on the search committee to locate and establish Our Lady Mother of the Church in Woodcliff Lake and served the church as a lector, teacher and member of the choir and liturgy committees, among others.

Patricia also worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for her eight children, helping to create the Woodcliff Lake Girls Softball Association and serving as a leader for Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts.

#### **NEW COMMUNITY PROVIDES FREE TAX PREP SERVICES**





The New Community Family Resource Success Center, 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, once again served as a free tax preparation site for those who qualify through the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which has operated for more than 50 years and is conducted nationally. Qualifying individuals drop off their documents for the certified IRS tax preparers to work on the returns. Once completed, the clients pick up their documents and the tax preparer explains why the client is receiving money back or owes money to the government.

#### CHELC CELEBRATES CULTURAL DIVERSITY DAY











tudents, parents and staff members at <a href="Community Hills Early Learning Center">Center</a> (CHELC), 85 Irvine Turner Boulevard, Newark, celebrated Cultural Diversity Day on Feb. 22. Parents and staff members shared information about the countries they or their families are from. Everyone learned about different styles of dress, languages, foods, music and dances from all over the world. Countries included Honduras, Jamaica, Nigeria, Indonesia and the Philippines. It was wonderful to see such a diverse group! Click here for more photos.

#### **NEW COMMUNITY CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE OPEN HOUSE**

ew Community Career & Technical Institute (NCCTI) hosted an Open House on March 15 at the school's Main Campus, 274 South Orange Ave., Newark. Attendees learned about the school, its programs and the enrollment process.

Open houses are held monthly. Please call the school at 973-824-6484 for more information.



**The New Community Clarion** 233 West Market Street Newark, NJ 07103 www.newcommunity.org

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# NEW COMMUNITY •• •









March/April 2023 | Volume 40 - Issue 2

# THE CEO'S CORNER | BY SIMONE GAGNERON



s we enter into the second quarter of the year, we look back on the past few months and celebrate what's to come.

During February, New Community recognized

Black History Month with a variety of events and programs that highlighted the significant Black figures that have made positive changes in our world. Children in our early learning centers and after school programs as well as staff members and adults in our skilled nursing facility celebrated those who have made history.

March was Women's History Month. We would like to acknowledge the great work of the women who volunteer their time on NCC's Board: Diane Johnson, Migdalia Martinez, Ingrid Rasmussen and Madge Wilson.

Now that spring is upon us, we're excited for warmer weather and the events we're planning at New Community.

Join us for Spring Up as we go from building to building planting spring flowers on April 28. Visit our website for additional information.

Our Youth Services Department will be hosting the Father-Daughter Dance on April 29 at Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza, 233 West Market St., Newark. Girls ages 4 to 17 and their fathers or significant male role models will enjoy an evening of food, dancing and fun. If you're interested in attending, call Youth Services at 973-242-7934.

Youth Services is also looking forward to another fun year of summer camp, which will be held June 26 to Aug. 18 for children ages 5 to 13 at the NCC Neighborhood Center, 56-68 Hayes St., Newark. Interested families should fill out the online application now at newcommunity.org to ensure a fun-filled summer for their children with field trips, sports, swimming, STEAM activities and more.

New Community Extended Care Facility, 266 South Orange Ave., Newark, is planning its annual Community Health Fair, which will be held on July 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parking lot at the back of the building. The event will be free and open to the public and will include free health screenings, food, music and games. Those interested in becoming a sponsor or exhibitor should call 973-624-2020 or 973-585-9610 to reserve a booth. Everyone else, mark your calendars for a fun and informative event! More information about Extended Care is available at newarknursinghome.org.

New Community is planning to open up Monsignor William J. Linder Plaza for jazz events and venue rentals this summer after a hiatus caused by COVID-19. The space has been the host to a variety of events including weddings, birthday parties, baby showers and corporate functions. Call 973-623-2800 for more information.

As we look ahead with excitement about the events that we have on the calendar, we never lose sight of the day-to-day work we do to support members of the community. Always at the top of our minds is our mission statement: to help residents of inner cities improve the quality of their lives to reflect individual God-given dignity and personal achievement.

We hope you will join us this spring and summer!

Be safe and be well.

Simone Gagneron, CEO