

CENTRAL WARD EXCHANGE

Official Newsletter of Councilman Darrin S. Sharif

Learning Community Celebrates Inaugural Session and The Future

Launched in April at beautiful Science Park High School, located at 260 Norfolk Street in Newark, NJ, the Learning Community kicked off its inaugural session offering free classes to residents of the Central Ward and the greater Newark area.

The Learning Community classes consisted of two, four- week sessions taught by volunteer teachers every Saturday through May. Classes included yoga, kaborobics, introduction to computers, literacy, financial management, character building classes for young girls, and chess.

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Do You Know?

There is a college scholarship search engine www.fastweb.com that will assist you in finding scholarship monies to fund your college education. It's free and simple to enroll.

Sabia Usted?

Hay una busqueda de beca universitaria www.fastweb.com el propósito es que le ayudará en la busqueda de fondos de becas para financiar su educacion universitaria. Es gratis y facil de inscribirse.

Public Safety & Stakeholder Meetings Continue Through Summer

The monthly Stakeholders & Public Safety meetings originated because of our basic first amendment rights; the right of the people to peaceable assembly and offer constructive criticism of its government. It is imperative to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues that affect us. A stakeholder is a person, group or organization that has direct or indirect stake in an organization because it can affect or be affected by the organization.

Councilman Sharif hosts these meetings at community based organizations and varied areas of the Central Ward to establish new relationships, share updates and address diverse concerns. Members of the Newark Police

Department, County & State Public Safety Departments engage in dialogue with community residents and local businesses to address issues.

NEXT PUBLIC SAFETY & STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Thursday, August 18, 2011

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

at Rotunda Recreation Center
located at 75 Clifton Avenue

Councilman Sharif's Tigers Won the Little League Championship Game on July 5th 2011

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Dear Central Ward Constituents!

As I start my second year in office, I have much to be thankful for. I have my health and the on-going support of family and friends. I have also had the pleasure of meeting hundreds of residents who love our great city and who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and do the hard work necessary to move the Central Ward and city forward.

When I decided to run for office, I understood the challenges our city faced – unacceptably high levels of crime and unemployment, too many schools that failed to educate our children, unsafe streets, and fewer dollars from the federal and state government for the kind of programs and services residents have relied on for many years. But as I talked to residents, community, and faith-based organizations during the campaign, and since I have been in office, I said the only way we would get through this difficult period and at the same time improve our city was by working together, depending on each other, and building the kind of partnerships that change our community in ways that we could “see” *and* ways that we could “measure.”

Real change comes, not by politicians and self-appointed leaders delivering well-rehearsed speeches designed to get applause and standing ovations, but by residents and other important stakeholders combining their resources, talents, and gifts, and using them to solve the difficult problems that have plagued our community for years. Our most important goal should be to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. For that to happen, each one of us has to be committed to making a small but important contribution to our community every day. That could mean being a tutor or mentor to a child who needs one; organizing a block clean up; putting together and then supervising a small recreational activity in one of our city parks; adopting one of our many vacant lots and transforming it into a beautiful vegetable garden or “pocket park”; starting a community book club; hosting a movie night; or establishing a block or tenant association. It’s by doing these small but significant things that we can change our environment. As elected officials, we have a specific role to play, but it is impossible for government to single-handedly transform our community. In order to change our conditions we must assume collective responsibility and make a joint sacrifice.

When deciding on a theme for my campaign I picked: “Building Partnerships for Change,” not because the phrase sounded catchy, but because I believe partnerships and collaborations are the most effective and cost-efficient way to leverage and deliver resources to the community. No one person, stakeholder, or organization has the dollars, staff, or resources to impact in any significant way the problems that are killing our community. But if every resident volunteered just one hour of their time each week... making that painful but necessary adjustment to their social calendar... to partner with each other or with the many community and faith-based organizations already doing great work, we could make major changes in our community immediately. If we could be successful in working together consistently and reliably, there would be no challenge too great for us to conquer. I am proud to say that I have practiced what I have preached by creating important partnerships that have benefited the lives of the residents I was elected to serve. The partnerships include: **Building-based Computer Resource Lab, Tech Warriors, The Learning Community, and the Rutgers, NJIT, and Essex County College Tutoring Program.**

Although I regret having to spend as much time as I did in City Hall during my first year in office, it was necessary. I spent that time understanding the important issues that face our city, learning about the different activities and projects underway in different departments, and developing working relationships with the directors of those departments and my council colleagues. But now that those relationships have been developed and I have gained a clear understanding of the subtleties of government and how it works, most of my time will be spent strengthening the partnerships we have built and creating new ones that address your most important needs. But, as I said during my campaign, I can’t do it alone. The most important partner I need to improve the quality of life in our community is you! We can do great things by working together. I am excited not only to listen to the great things you want to do to improve our city but to sit down and figure out a way to get those things done. Whether or not we succeed or fail will have less to do with what we get or don’t get from government and more to do with the covenant we make with each other to rebuild our neighborhoods, block by block. Ordinary people working together consistently can accomplish extra-ordinary things. As I make my way across the Central Ward this summer I hope to have the privilege of making your acquaintance. If you keep the faith we can change the world!

Sincerely,

Councilman Darrin Sharif

Partnerships of Change Built for You

Building-Based Computer Resource Lab	Tech Warriors	The Learning Community	Rutgers, NJIT, & Essex County College Tutoring Program
<p>Through a partnership with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Urban League of Essex County, NewarkWorks, and the residents of New Hope Village, my office launched a computer resource center on June 3, 2011 at New Hope Village. The computer lab will be used by both youth and adults for activities ranging from resume writing and job search to homework help and educational enrichment activities for our youth. We are also working with the management and tenant leadership at Oscar Miles Village, St. James Towers, and Garden Spires to establish computer labs in those facilities in the coming months.</p>	<p>Realizing there were many small community and faith-based organizations that do not have a dedicated room to house and secure desktop computers but whose clients still needed access to computer training, my office established the Tech Warriors program which allows us to set up a temporary computer lab in a community room or open space. The Tech Warriors program was made possible through a generous gift of 15 laptop computers by TD Bank and a grant from the Verizon Foundation to provide internet access to the laptops.</p>	<p>One of the keys to building strong communities is creating a culture of life-long learning. We made a small contribution to this important area by establishing a Learning Community at Science Park High School. From April 9, 2011 through the end of May residents, business owners, and people who love and care about our city volunteered their talents and special gifts to teach the following classes: Yoga, Kickboxing/aerobics, introduction to computers (I taught that class myself), chess, water coloring, and a self-esteem class for young girls. All of these classes were free for Central Ward and Newark residents. Classes were held each Saturday from 10am to 2:40pm. We were able to provide this free service thanks to our great partnership with Principal Thomas and Science Park High School.</p>	<p>One of our most important responsibilities as a community is to provide our youth with a world-class education. Sadly, thousands of our youth are two to three grade levels behind where they should be. Through a Partnership with the fraternities at Rutgers, NJIT, and Essex County Colleges, twenty-five college students provided tutoring services to students at Central High School and Quitman Street School. We hope to double the number of college students that participate in the program in the coming school year.</p>

One Down, 20 More to Go!

On Friday, June 3, in partnership with The Urban League of Essex County, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, and TD Bank, Councilman Darrin Sharif officially launched the New Hope Village Computer Lab. New Hope Village Computer Lab is the first of many scheduled computer labs to be developed through the Community Technology Advancement Initiative. Councilman Sharif noted: "We are focused on creating opportunities to increase the access to technology for individuals and families residing in low-income housing developments in the Central Ward of Newark, New Jersey.

Do You Know?

Newarkers who are 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled or the unmarried surviving spouse 55 or older can receive a \$250 deduction from property taxes.

Learning Community Celebrates Inaugural Session and The Future continued from page 1

“Having residents express extreme gratitude for the Learning Community has us eager to open enrollment for the next session this fall,” said Bret Dawson, Chief of Staff to Councilman Sharif. “Our goal is to open Learning Communities throughout the ward.”

Future locations for Councilman Sharif’s Learning Community will include Roberto Clemente, 257 Summer Ave., and Sussex Avenue Elementary School, 307 Sussex Ave.

Councilman Sharif understands the correlation between education, information sharing, opportunities and how that translates into economic and social empowerment. That’s why The Learning Community is so relevant. The Learning Community is an educational resource center

designed to improve the social landscape of Newark’s Central Ward through creating an intellectual environment that will nurture and support lifelong learning.

If you are interested in teaching at one of The Learning Community sites please call the Newark Central Ward office at one of the following numbers, 973-733-5870, 973-733-5871, or 973-733-5872, to find out how to get involved. Enrollment for the Fall Session will be announced later this summer.

Do You Know?

Newarkers may be eligible for a full property tax exemption if they are a 100% permanently and totally disabled war veteran or the unmarried surviving spouse of one.

Calendar of Events — July/August 2011

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
Present–August 1	Black Film Festival Youth Cinema	Newark Public Library/ Newark Museum	Various
Present–August 3	37 th Black Film Festival <i>*Featuring independent & cultural films</i>	Various Locations	Various
Present–August 12	NPS Summer Youth Development <i>*Students engage in academic, recreational, and personal development activities</i>	Various Locations	12:30pm–7pm
Present–October 3	Wednesdays in the Park Series <i>*Farmer’s Market, local restaurant vendors with musical artists</i>	Washington Park	12pm–2pm
July 29–July 31	Lincoln Park Music Festival <i>*Multi-cultural entertainers performing Jazz, Gospel, Pop, House & Latin sounds</i>	Lincoln Park	Various
August 2 nd	Movies under the Stars in the Park	Branch Brook Park	7:30pm
August 7 th	International Friendship Day	Newark YMCA 600 Broad Street	10am–2pm
August 18 th	Central Ward Stakeholders and Public Safety Meeting	Rotunda Recreation Center	6pm–7:30pm
August 25 th	Central Ward 70’s–80’s House Party	Prince Hall 188 Irvine Turner Blvd.	8pm–12am
August 27 th	Central Ward Day of Giving <i>*Residents, businesses & non-profits sharing resources</i>	Nat Turner Park	12pm–5pm
September 18 th	50 th Anniversary of the Statewide Puerto Rican Parade 2011	TBA	noon

Programa De Asistencia de Energía Del Hogar

Mejoramiento a la Comunidad: Los programas dirigidos al la conservación y eficiencia de energía en los hogares. Este programa de asistencia de energía del hogar ayuda a los dueños de viviendas e inquilinos que califiquen, a mejorar la eficiencia del hogar en conservar la energía por medio de servicios de mantenimiento, reparación o instalación tales como reparar o reemplazar las calderas de calefacción, remplazó de las ventanas para mejorar su eficiencia y aislamiento de filtración del frío en los edificios. Las mejoras son gratis a los inquilinos o dueños particulares quienes ocupan la unidad o con un cargo mínimo a los propietarios de negocios. El programa de energía del hogar para familias de bajos ingresos ayuda con los altos costos de energía previniendo la cancelación del servicio de energía o apoyo.

Además el programa podría proporcionar con combustible en casos de emergencia.

Para mas información, por favor comuníquese con las oficinas o con la encargada Norma Sessa al teléfono 973-485-0701.

Horarios de oficina y dirección

317 Roseville Avenue

Newark, NJ 07107

Lunes, Martes, Jueves (9 am–4pm); Miércoles (9 am–7 pm); Serrado los Viernes; Abierto cada Segundo Sábado del mes (9 am–1pm)

A los Participantes se les anticipan 2-horras de espera.

Tel: 973-485-0795 or 973-485-0796

*Baxter Elderly in partnership with
Councilman Sharif- Block Party &
Health Fair ... La Casa De Don Pedro*



LA Casa DE don pedro energy assistance

La Casa provides assistance to eligible low and moderate income households to meet and or manage the costs of home heating and energy under the federal Home Energy Assistance Program and Universal Service programs provided by the NJ Public Utility Board.

Through La Casa's Community Improvement Division home energy assistance can also provide energy conservation home improvement measurement that save energy and reduce renter and homeowner energy costs. Weatherizing homes and rental units can include heating units repairs/replacement, insulation and other measures. Home heating oil emergency services are also available to senior citizens in addition to other potential assistance for medical eligible households.

ENERGY SEASON 2011 BEGINS NOVEMBER 1ST

Hours of Operation:

317 Roseville Avenue, Newark,
NJ 07107

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
(9 am–4pm); Wednesday (9 am–
7 pm); Closed on Fridays; Open
Every 2nd Saturday of each month
(9 am–1pm)

Participants should anticipate a
2-hour waiting period.

Cecelia Aiken caiken@lacasanwk.
org / Tel: 973-485-0795 or 973-485-
0796

Do You Know?

There is a military web-site www.military.com that will assist military personnel and their families with employment opportunities, medical information, etc.

Sabia Usted?

Hay un sitio de busqueda para los militares www.military.com que le ayudara a los militares y sus familias con oportunidades de empleo, informacion medica, etc.

Inexpensive Family-Friendly Fun for All — in Newark and Beyond!

The Newark Museum is New Jersey's largest museum which features 80 galleries of world class collections: American, Asian, African & Classical. Kid-friendly galleries include a planetarium, 1784 schoolhouse, a fire museum & the "Once upon a Dime" exhibit. It is also hosting "Jazz in the Garden" on Thursdays this summer. The Newark Black Film Festival Youth Cinema is held on Wednesdays at 1pm through August 10th. For details contact 973-596-6550 or www.newarkmuseum.org.

The American Museum of Natural History located at 175-208 Central Park West, New York City is a favorite of schoolchildren everywhere. It's free to walk through the main sections of the museum and the Rose Planetarium. The Museum website is entertainment in itself, since there is a dinosaur time-lapse, an 'Ology' games section, and other fun features. For those of you with an iPhone or iPad, you can get a free download of museum guides to help you and your family understand what you are seeing when you get to the Museum. The site is ideal for students who want to understand more about science. For details contact 212-769-5100 or www.amnh.org.

WBGO in Newark (88.3 FM) is probably the best jazz radio station in the world. You listen to it over your computer or smartphone, or in your car or at home. Extend your knowledge of what has been called "America's Classical Music" with WBGO! <http://www.wbgo.org/>.

DORCA (Division of Recreation/Cultural Affairs) will be hosting a variety of activities for children/adults including tennis, soccer, tumbling, aerobics, Yoga & Tae Kwon Do for the physically challenged. Also, there will be a lunchtime downtown concert series in Washington Park on Wednesdays through October 5th. For details please contact 973-733-6454.

The Newark Public Library is a great and inexpensive way to find some entertainment for the summer. From books to DVDs of your favorite movies and television shows to using the internet, they have it all. For details contact 973-733-7815 or <http://www.npl.org/>. Check out the Summer Reading Challenge that runs through August 6.

Every year, a number of inner city children drown on school trips because they never learned to swim or get comfortable in the water. Help protect your child by giving

him/her a chance to learn how to swim at the John F. Kennedy Aquatic Swim Center. Swimming is also great, low impact exercise for all ages, especially senior citizens and people who need to get back in shape. For details contact 973-733-6550.

At the **Children's Museum** in Manhattan located at 212 W. 83rd Street, parents/children can explore five floors of hands on exhibits and participate in fun workshops/activities. Admission is \$11 for non-members. Each first Friday of the month, admission is free from 5pm to 8pm. For details contact 212-721-1223 or www.cmom.org.

The 6th Annual Lincoln Park Music Festival will take place in Lincoln Park, Friday, July 29th through Sunday July 31st. For details contact 973-242-4144 or www.lpc-cd.org. Liberty Science Center located in Liberty State Park at 222 Jersey City Blvd embraces children's natural curiosity by offering dozens of interactive exhibits on communication, animal life, energy & more within their three themed floors. The facility includes the largest IMAX Dome Theater in the USA. For details contact 201-200-1000 or www.lsc.org.

Harlem Week in NYC features a week long series of activities/events encouraging fellowship and success. Some of the events include an auto show, small business expo/fair, a salute to rhythm & blues, musical tributes to rock, gospel, calypso, children's festival & a film salute to Lena Horne. For details contact 212-862-8477 or www.harlemdiscover.com.

Liberty Science Center located in Liberty State Park embraces children's natural curiosity by offering dozens of interactive exhibits on communication, animal life, energy, and more within their three themed floors. The facility includes the largest IMAX Dome Theater in the USA. For details contact 201-200-1000 or www.lsc.org.

Greater Newark Conservancy is offering a variety of programs at the Prudential Outdoor Learning Center. For details contact www.citybloom.org or 973-642-4646.

Turtle Back Zoo interactive activities include pony & train rides, animal-themed playground, endangered species carousel & farm animal petting area. For more information contact 973-731-5800 or www.turtleback-zoo.com.

Making the Best Use of Summertime

Kids in school often say that they cannot wait until summer. Yet, when the summer finally does arrive, both kids and parents often discover that finding creative, fun, safe, and family-friendly ways of spending time is difficult.

The following list of activities will help the whole family take full advantage of the summer days, help spark creativity, offer a structured and safe environment, provide a good deal of enjoyment, and create a sense of accomplishment. These suggested activities and websites will help to make summer all that it should be.

Kids on summer vacation can choose any activity of interest and complete them in the order that they choose. Some activities do require parental permission/involvement. Others are suitable for school-age kids to complete on their own. Most activities are family-oriented.

- 1) **Make a scrapbook of everything you do this summer:** the basics of scrapbooking— www.42explore.com/scrapbk.htm
- 2) **Get a job (Parental permission needed):** Teens 4 Hire— www.teens4hire.org/
- 3) **Research your family tree:** Family Tree Online— www.familytree-online.com/
- 4) **Go without TV for a day:** TV turn off Network— www.tvturnoff.org/
- 5) **Learn some new outdoor games:** Games Kids Play— www.gameskidsplay.net/
- 6) **Make something from recyclables:** crafts from recycled products— www.makingfriends.com/recycle.htm
- 7) **Visit a National Park:** National Park Service Guide— www.nps.gov/parks.html
- 8) **Create a new world:** World Building— www.teenwriting.about.com/library/weekly/aa071602a.htm
- 9) **Travel in time:** Odyssey Online— carlos.emory.edu/odyssey/midelem_home.htm/
- 10) **Learn a foreign language:** free online language courses— www.word2word.com/coursead.html

Healthy Recipe For Kids: Symphony of Fruit Pizza

Let your child be the executive chef of your family's kitchen. You might be surprised to find kids will eat what they cook... even if the dish is good for them! Prepare these kid-friendly fruit and vegetable recipes and let them discover how delicious healthy foods can be.

Preparation time: 10 minutes

- 1 English muffin
- 2 tablespoons whipped fat-free strawberry cream cheese
- ½ cup strawberries, sliced
- ¼ cup red grapes, quartered
- ¼ cup canned mandarin oranges, drained

Nutrition information per serving: calories: 228, total fat: 1.3g, saturated fat: 0g, % calories from fat: 5%, % calories from saturated fat: 0%, protein: 10g, carbohydrates: 46g, cholesterol: 5mg, dietary fiber: 4g, sodium: 374mg

Each serving provides: An excellent source of vitamins A and C, and a good source of folate and fiber.

Instructions: Toast the English muffin until golden brown. Spread cream cheese on toasted muffin.

Arrange sliced strawberries, grapes, and orange slices on top of the cream cheese. Slice into quarters and "yummy – fruit pizza!"

Serves: 1

½ Cup of
Fruit per
Serving

Fruit Colors:
Red, Orange

**Healthy Kids Day @ The Newark YMCA
In Partnership with Central Ward Councilman Darrin Sharif - Having a healthy lunch with the kids**



Recipe is courtesy of Produce for Better Health Foundation and Shoney's, Inc. This recipe meets PBH and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) nutrition standards that maintain fruits and vegetables as healthy foods. Featured in Cool Fuel for Kids cookbook.





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Councilman Darrin S. Sharif

Newark Municipal Council
920 Broad Street Room 304
Newark NJ 07102

Tel: 973 733 5870
Fax: 973 733 5878
E-mail: MyCentralWard@gmail.com

**Working Together On
Issues That Matter**

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DarrinSharif.com



Councilman Sharif in the Community



*Healthy Kids Day @ The Newark
YMCA In Partnership with Central
Ward Councilman Darrin Sharif*



*Councilman Sharif at St.
Vincent's Toast Off*

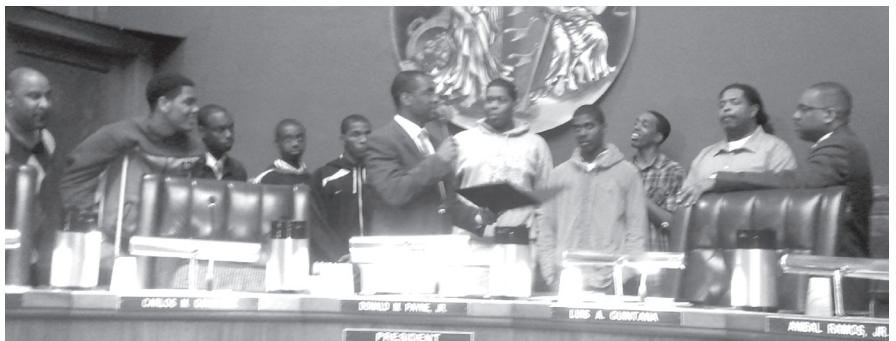
*Councilman
Sharif at Dr. E.
Alma Flag's
end of the year
celebration*



*Baxter Elderly in part-
nership with Council-
man Sharif—Block
Party & Health Fair...
Dancing with Miss
Latina, Kayla Torres,
of NJ*



*Councilman Sharif at the Senior Fashion
Show with residents from Court Towers*



Councilman Sharif honors Central HS BB players at Council Meeting