

## *Fairgate Farm Flourishes! Spring Activities are Underway*

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*Chief Financial Officer*

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*The Anthony Pellicci Pergola will be constructed at Fairgate Farm this Spring.*

### Board Meetings for 2018:

- *April 25, 2018*
- *May 23, 2018*
- *June 27, 2018*
- *July 25, 2018*
- *August 22, 2018*
- *September 26, 2018*
- *October 24, 2018*
- *November 14, 2018*
- *December 12, 2018*

*The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Post House, 40 Clinton Avenue in the first-floor meeting room.*

Spring has arrived and activities are now in full swing at Fairgate Farm! The Farm scenery is changing rapidly with the warmer days: spring flowers and trees are budding, and our spring crops are emerging through the soil!

An additional highlight to Fairgate Farm this spring is an exciting new project soon to be built, **the Anthony Pellicci Pergola**. A dedication ceremony will take place in memory of this iconic community member who was dedicated to invigorating the West Side neighborhood. The pergola or grape arbor will be a shaded structure where children, seniors and local residents can mingle while enjoying the outdoors and participating in gardening and health classes, cooking demonstrations, nutrition and outreach programs and everything the Farm has to offer.



Fairgate Farm held a successful fundraising campaign for the pergola project, raising over \$11,000 for the building materials. Contractors and volunteers are donating their time and labor for the completion of the structure in April. The farm is grateful to everyone in the community who have donated to this much-needed cause.

Pete Novajosky, Fairgate Farm manager, has been busy planning a diverse selection of fruits and vegetables at our all-organic farm. Pete started seedlings in the greenhouse in March, and he and the volunteers have nourished and watched them grow in the warmth of the sun before they'll be transplanted into the ground.

The greenhouse allows the young plants access to plenty of sunshine, while keeping them warm and insulated from the unpredictable spring weather. When these plants are cleared from the greenhouse in June, Pete will begin the hydroponic system and grow lettuce and other

greens straight through till early winter maximizing the amount of fresh vegetables the farm can grow!

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## Employee Profile: Jacqueline Figueroa



We are pleased to announce the promotion of Jacqueline Figueroa as director of Operations, Housing Programs and Quality Assurance, reporting to Natalie Coard, executive director. In this role, Jackie will be responsible for compliance, Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) and Property Management at Rippowam, Glenbrook, Clinton and Quintard Manors, Wormser, Oak Park, Lawnhill Terrace, Sheridan Mews, Ursula and Lawn Avenue Townhouses, Scattered Sites, Lawnhill Terrace LP, Fairgate, Westwood, Greenfield, and Palmer

Square, as well as Post House, Taylor Street and Summer Place.

“This is a well-deserved promotion! Jackie possesses a deep knowledge of our programs and the community and is an invaluable asset to COC,” said Natalie Coard.

Jackie began her career at COC in 1994 as an intern in the Purchasing Department. She formally joined COC in 1997 assisting in the Admissions Department. Since then she has assumed a diverse range of roles, including positions within the Data Processing and Finance Departments, based on her merit and continuous contribution to COC. Most recently, Jackie was the HCVP manager, where she successfully implemented several new initiatives that allowed the team to better serve our clients and community stakeholders.

In Figueroa’s new role, she will continue to uphold COCs’ vision to create safe and affordable housing for residents, and develop strategies and outcomes that continue to inspire a strong community, while also creating

training opportunities for her staff in order to better serve our residents.

One of Jackie’s most favorite aspects of her role is interacting with COC residents. “I look forward to getting out to all of the COC communities to meet as many residents as possible,” said Jackie. “The demand is extremely high in the leasing office. Some individuals have been wait-listed for years. When we provide our residents the opportunity for housing with a subsidy voucher or an affordable unit, that is where the real difference lies -- you can witness firsthand how we are positively impacting lives,” she adds.

Jackie graduated from Sacred Heart University with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and has attained numerous certifications. She currently resides in Stamford with her family who keep her busy with extracurricular activities including attending sporting, school and church events.

Please join us in congratulating Jackie on her new role at COC.

## Progress at Lawnhill Terrace Phase 2

Renovations are well underway at Lawnhill Terrace Phase 2! The upper quad (pictured in the front of the photo) is complete on the exterior with insulation, siding, exterior doors, windows, and sleeves for individual heating and cooling units. Also, the work is complete on the ADA ramps. On the inside of the buildings, most mechanical, electrical and plumbing work is done. Sheetrock and taping is on-

going in two buildings, with priming and painting begun in two others.

In the lower quad (pictured to the back of the photo) new windows and doors have been installed and siding installation is ongoing.

Mechanical, electrical, and plumbing renovations are nearing completion, and installation of indivi-



Aerial photograph courtesy of Viking Construction.

dual unit heating and cooling sleeves is ongoing. The project is currently on

schedule to be completed in summer and early fall 2018.





## Resident Profile: Alexandro, Maria & Family



Alexandro and Maria Morris are delighted to call Lawnhill Terrace their home. They moved to Stamford 14 years ago, relocating from Brook-

lyn, New York, which lead them to their current home at Lawnhill Terrace since November 2017. Alexandro explains, "My family and I enjoy the peacefulness and conveniences of Stamford. I'm happy with the services Stamford has to offer -- proximity to restaurants, stores, parks and playgrounds. The neighbors are friendly, the apartments spacious and the area peaceful."

Alexandro works as an Educational Manager at CDI Head Start in Norwalk. He has a full day supervising the classrooms and teachers and keeping up-to-date with state licensing and regulations. "But," he says, "My job helping children and families in need is extremely rewarding."

Their lives are busy raising four children especially since the children are in three different schools this year: Rogers International Elementary, Turn of River Middle and Westhill High. Maria loves her role as a stay-at-home mom. Her role gives her the flexibility to be available for her family and make her children's wellbeing a priority.

The family enjoys traveling to visit Alexandro's father in Massachusetts as well as family in Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. Looking forward to the warmer days ahead, they plan on family outings enjoying walks, fishing and the beaches at Cummings Park.

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According to Pete this year's harvest is expected to be a bumper crop. "There will be more produce choices than ever at the farm this season with over 200 different varieties of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers being grown spring through fall," explains Pete. "Exciting new varieties include rainbow-colored tomatoes, orange watermelon, and the Carolina Reaper, one of the hottest peppers in the world! The varied crops will complement the diversity of our West Side community."

Additionally, there are many exciting projects planned this year. Fairgate Farm is delighted to announce its first Farm Market season, beginning in June. The on-site market will meet the growing demand for organic produce available for purchase at affordable whole-sale prices from local farms. Details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Fairgate Farm relies on the assistance of committed, hard-working volunteers who share pride in the farm. Volunteers include COC residents, students, garden enthu-

siasts, neighbors, seniors, nonprofit organizations and corporate organizations that have dedicated countless hours to the success of the Farm. These volunteers are the reason that Fairgate Farm has been able to provide quality, organic food for volunteers, hunger-relief organizations, and individuals in need while serving as an educational resource and uniting our community.

Volunteer hours at the Farm are available to anyone in the community -- This is everyone's farm, and all are welcome! For the latest information to learn, grow and volunteer contact:

[PNovajosky@CharterOakCommunities.org](mailto:PNovajosky@CharterOakCommunities.org) or  
[FairgateFarm@gmail.com](mailto:FairgateFarm@gmail.com)  
Telephone: (203) 940-2305

**Hours of Operation at the Farm:**  
Tuesday: 9 am – 12 pm and 3 pm to 7 pm  
Wednesday: 9 am – 12 pm and 3 pm to 7 pm  
Thursday: 9 am – 12 pm and 3 pm to 7 pm  
Saturday: 8 am – 12 pm



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## Getting Your Nicotine Habit Under Wraps

By Alexa Griffin, Family Centers Resident Service Coordinator

With COC adopting a smoke-free policy by July 30, 2018, individuals may use this as an opportunity to quit smoking. Doctors and researchers have agreed that the most effective way to quit smoking and not relapse is through a combination of nicotine replacement and counseling. This may mean someone chooses to use a nicotine patch and go to a support group. To someone else this may mean chewing nicotine gum and chatting in an online forum with others who have quit or by attending a formal smoking-cessation program.

There are many different options for those who feel it's the right time to quit. Below is a guide to some of the resources available:

### Stamford Hospital Smoking Cessation Program

**Phone: (203) 276-7848**

One-on-one counseling that provides planning and education pre-cessation as well as follow-up support.

### Commit to Quit (State of CT DPH)

**Quit line: (800) 784-8669**

Chat online with others in the community and receive smoking-cessation workbooks free of charge



### National Cancer Institute

**Quit line: (877) 448-7848**

Online chat support with professionals in English and Spanish.

### Medicaid

Medicaid recipients can receive free nicotine replacement therapy products (patches, gum, etc.) with a written order from a Medicaid provider (doctor or psychiatrist).