



the Community Voice

CHARTER OAK
COMMUNITIES

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR COC RESIDENTS

“Caring Community” Celebrated at Summer Place

Vincent J. Tufo

Executive Director and CEO

Jonathan Gottlieb

Vice President, Rippowam Corp.

Lisa Reynolds

Chief Financial Officer

Natalie Coard

*Director of Property and Facilities
Management*

Christine Young, Editor



*Fairgate Farm will be celebrating
Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from
8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with educational
workshops and healthy outdoor
activities. Come and be part of the
community!*

Board Meetings for 2017:

- April 26, 2017
- May 24, 2017
- June 28, 2017
- July 26, 2017
- August 23, 2017
- September 27, 2017
- October 25, 2017
- November 15, 2017
- December 13, 2017

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

Spring is a time of new growth and inspiration, and Charter Oak Communities has many exciting events and activities planned over the coming months. On **April 12th at 11:00 a.m.**, COC and Inspirica will dedicate **Summer Place**. The dedication ceremony, at 992 Summer Street, will include Stamford Mayor David Martin; Commissioner Evonne Klein, Department of Housing; Alanna Kabel, representing the HUD Field Office for Connecticut; Vincent Tufo, executive director and CEO, Charter Oak Communities; and Jason Shaplen, CEO, Inspirica, Inc.

“Summer Place is for near-elderly and elderly residents (age 55 years and older), a growing segment of Stamford’s population in need of affordable housing,” Tufo explained. “It is replacing Czescik Homes, a 1960’s-era state-assisted housing complex on Greenwich Avenue that is both physically and functionally obsolete.

“Summer Place will be a ‘caring community,’ intended to foster independent living and a positive experience for residents as they age,” Tufo added. Located adjacent to Inspirica’s main facility on Franklin Street, Inspirica will provide Summer Place residents with a full range of supportive services, including counseling and clinical services, healthcare screenings, nutritional support and intervention assistance. Residents who are physically and socially active will be encouraged to offer their own volunteer services at Inspirica and elsewhere.

The five-story, 48-unit Summer Place apartments include living room, dining area, bedroom, a modern kitchen and bathroom. Five apartments meet ADA standards for handicap residents, with the balance being adaptable as needed. Summer Place will offer many appealing amenities. State-of-the-art community event space with kitchen, resident services and counseling space, security, restrooms, laundry facilities and a property management office are available to all residents. Finishing touches include a beautifully landscaped rooftop deck and covered rear patio. “It has been designed to be highly energy-efficient and visually attractive, while providing a superior quality of life for residents,” Tufo stated.

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Employee Profile: Rebecca Whitely



Rebecca Whitely, known as “Becky,” joined Scofield Manor in 1998 as a part-time Registered Nurse (RN). Over the years the needs of the residents became more extensive and Becky became a full-time employee. Becky’s position at Scofield Manor is impressive: She helps oversee the medical and health needs for a 50-bed

licensed residential care home, which also offers Certified Nurse’s Aides (CNAs) and attendants to provide assistance for the residents with bathing and dressing, medication management and making medical appointments.

Becky says she is happy to be at Scofield, and one of her favorite aspects is the family environment they share. “It is amazing to get to know our residents and staff. We work well together and enjoy assisting all individuals. I’m proud of the work we do at Scofield and the social services we offer,” Becky added.

Born and raised in Stamford, Becky attended Westhill High School. She graduated from Norwalk Community College and became a Registered Nurse (RN). Becky continued her education at University of Bridgeport and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Family time is important to Becky and her husband, who have three children and an extended family. A family tradition is to gather her nieces and mom for a special day of baking their traditional holiday Easter pies. Filled with ricotta, eggs and cheese, it is a family favorite!

Quilting is one of Becky’s greatest passions. She has completed hand-sewn quilts for all of her children, which they proudly display. Additionally, Becky enjoys cooking and gardening, and wishes she could find more time for these activities. Becky is also a parish nurse, providing blood pressure screenings once a month at her local church. Cape May is a favorite annual destination for her and her husband. The charming town, beautiful shoreline and friendly people, she explained, are always worth the visit!

COC Recognized in Workplace Wellness Program

Charter Oak Communities was honored with the 2017 Silver Wellness Award at The Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program, hosted by The Business Council of Fairfield County on February 14, 2017. COC, along with 46 other regional companies and organizations were recognized for offering the most forward-thinking wellness initiatives in the region. A program highlight was that our Farm Coordinator and Community Builder for Fairgate Farm, Maxon Keating, was selected as a panelist and honored with the 2017 Healthy Workplace Innovation Award.

The Healthy Workplace Employer Recognition Program has become the premiere award in Connecticut



COC employees left to right, Darnel Paulemon, Jan Tantimonico, Chris Warren, Luisa Correa, Suella Pergjoni and Maxon Keating, display the Silver Wellness Award at the Healthy Workplace Innovation Ceremony.

recognizing the outstanding achievements of businesses and organizations in implementing employee health promotion and wellness programs.

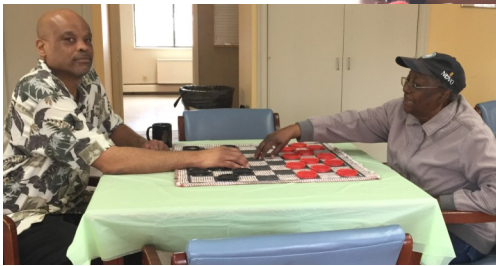


Coffee time with friends at Rippowam Manor

Complements of Family Centers' Resident Service Coordinator Victoria Mitlin, Rippowam Manor has started hosting a new community event, "Coffee Time with Friends," from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Refreshments are available in the lounge and everyone is invited to engage in activities or enjoy the peaceful environment with soft classical music playing in the background.

Residents have access to many board games such as chess, checkers and dominos, as well as cards and crossword puzzles, or can gather with a good book. People who were unfamiliar with one

another and didn't speak much with their neighbors before now have regular games of dominos! Although many of the residents come from different backgrounds,



ethnicities and some don't speak the same language, they are able to come



together over a cup of coffee and enjoy companionship with one another.

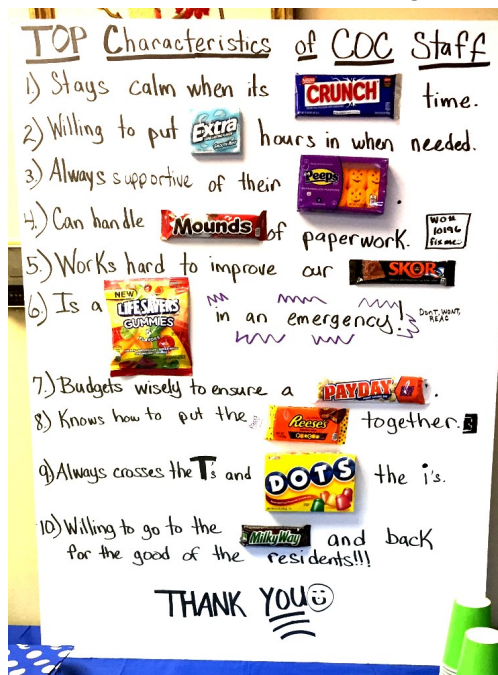
"Coffee Time with Friends" has become a congenial benefit for all residents to get to know one another in a friendly environment.

COC Maintenance Team Honored

After receiving a score of 97 out of 100 on the Real Estate Assessment Center's (REAC) Inspection, the management team at Glenbrook Manor had a congratulatory luncheon for the COC Maintenance staff.

COC's high REAC score provides HUD with information to help ensure safe, decent and affordable housing, and to maintain the public trust.

Thanks to the creative efforts of Glenbrook Manor Property Manager Monique Moye, this colorful poster was presented to the Maintenance Team.



Caring Community celebrated

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Creating exceptional housing resources and support for people with a variety of financial and personal challenges, the rental structure for Summer Place incorporates HUD Section 8 operating subsidies for half of the 48 units. This subsidy will enable occupants to live at Summer Place regardless of income, with rental payments based upon 30 percent of adjusted household income. The balance will feature deeply discounted rents for individuals earning no more than 60 percent of the Area Median Income.

The Summer Place senior housing complex was designed by Kenneth Bronson Architects of New Haven. Funding has been provided from a range of municipal, federal and state financing sources including Low-Income Tax Credits and Superstorm Sandy recovery funds.

Other upcoming spring activities to note include the modernization of Lawn Hill Terrace, a groundbreaking ceremony for Park 215, and the launch of the 2017 growing season at Fairgate Farm!



Come Visit Our New Website!

COC has updated its website with a new look, updated information and improved functionality!

After gathering ideas from staff members, residents and the public, it was determined that creating a stronger, more user-friendly website would improve access, make pages easier to navigate and attract more visitors. We also wanted to make it easier for people to find specific, up-to-date information on COC programs and services and be able to access applications, news about COC activities and policy information online.

Visit us at www.CharterOakCommunities.org to view our new look!



**CHARTER OAK
COMMUNITIES**



Join in the Spring to see what you will Sow!

Fairgate Farm Volunteer Open Hours:

Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.; 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday: 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Learning Opportunities Offered with our Spring Classes:

Composting:

Every other Tuesday beginning at 6 p.m.

4/11, 4/25, 5/9, 5/23

Wellness Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

With Yoga and a specific health topic such as

Juicing, farm-to-table & fermenting

Saturdays 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Farming Workshop 101

For Upcoming 2017 Classes & Events:

FairgateFarm.com