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Natalie Coard
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Lisa Reynolds
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Dr. Bruno of Elevated Living Consulting, LLC instructing students on an Afro/Brazilian dance of African origin.

Board Meetings for 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.

Homework Club and Reading Challenge Making a Difference

By: Mirlande Pressat, Resident Services Coordinator and Dorveline Gabriel, Social Worker Intern for the Lawnhill Terrace and Oak Park Homework Club

Lawnhill Terrace and Oak Park properties have been bustling with activities, much to the delight of the children and adults delighted to have the opportunity to partake in various programs right in their backyards!

The most recent event was a spring egg hunt conducted in various parts of the exterior buildings among a few designated complexes. The prizes inside the eggs were generously donated by the Lawnhill Terrace Resident Services Council.

In February the East Side held its annual Black Heritage celebration, which generated a large crowd of residents. The celebration included a skit about Brazilian art and Capoeira, which is an Afro/Brazilian dance of African origin that seamlessly incorporates martial arts movements with dance, acrobatics, hand chops and music. The skit was prepared and performed by the Lawnhill Terrace and Oak Park students who participate

in the Homework Club. To prepare for their presentation, the students worked under the direction of Daphnie Bruno, PhD, chief executive officer of Elevated Living Consulting LLC in Bridgeport; they met several times a week for a month.

Homework Club making a difference

These events have been well

received by the East Side residents; however, the main activity everyone is talking about these days is the Homework Club. It provides homework assistance, academic enrichment and extracurricular activities to children in kindergarten

through fifth grade Monday through Thursday at both Lawnhill Terrace and Oak Park.

Newly featured at the Homework Club was the Reading Challenge. Not only have we dedicated our time to

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Employee Profile: Lavern Jarrett



Lavern Jarrett began working at COC nearly six years ago as an eligibility specialist in the Section 8 department. Her career progressed well, and for the past three and a half years she has been the administrator at Scofield Manor.

Lavern's day is full and busy managing over 20 employees and spreading kindness and respect to all staff and residents. "My position at

Scofield Manor is very satisfying, especially knowing the huge difference the staff makes in assisting our residents," says Lavern. "It's important to make the residents feel respected, accountable for their actions and to be gentle with them, but firm." Lavern has mastered these tasks by spending special time with them and building personal relationships. Many residents don't have any family or visitors.

Lavern graduated from Eastern Connecticut State College with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, which has been beneficial to her work at Scofield Manor. Prior to working for COC, Lavern was employed with Ricoh in Stamford for 25 years as a Credit and Collections Manager; however, they relocated to New Jersey and Lavern decided to remain in Connecticut. Lavern's family migrated from

Kingston, Jamaica to Norwalk in 1969 with her parents, grandmother, three sisters and brother, and are happy to call Norwalk home ever since. Family is key to Lavern's happiness. She enjoys festive occasions and celebrations with good Jamaican food such as ackee with cod fish, escoviche fish, plantains, rice and peas, celebrating with everyone, including her daughter, son and fiancé.

Lavern has many interests -- from spending time in Manhattan at cultural events to visiting numerous museums with her son. Lavern loves listening to music and enjoys various genres including classical, reggae, rhythm and blues, gospel and pop. Traveling is one of her passions, and she has visited many islands in the Caribbean, enjoying the unspoiled beaches.

Activities Taking Place at Fairgate Farm

**SATURDAY
JUNE 2nd, 2018**

**THE
STRAWBERRY
FESTIVAL**

at
FAIRGATE FARM
Growing a Local Food System

Celebration from 10am to 12 noon!

Come join the fun at the popular annual Strawberry Festival with face painting, kids' craft table, live music, food samples, corn hole toss, and visit our

NEW FARMERS MARKET!

Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 29th, by email:
FairgateFarm@gmail.com

Visit FairgateFarm.com
129 Stillwater Ave., Stamford
Free Street Parking

NEW in Stamford! **FAIRGATE FARM** **NUEVO en Stamford!**
Growing a Local Food System

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Meet Our Partners:

- The Hickories**
- Gilberties**
- Sport Hill Farm**
- Ryder Farm**
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OPEN MAY 31 TO OCTOBER
Thursday 12-6pm
Saturday 9am-12pm

Don't miss the special events and presentations! Visit FairgateFarm.com

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Jueves 12-6pm
Sábado 9am-12pm

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129 Stillwater Avenue, Stamford



Resident Profile: Patricia Gonzalez



Patricia Gonzalez, who prefers to be called Patria, has resided in Oak Park for nearly 40 years. Patria is happy to call Oak Park home and praises the work of Resident Service Coordinator Ramon Lara. “Ramon is a helpful, special

person who makes sure I’m comfortable at Oak Park. It’s a quiet and safe neighborhood and people are friendly,” Patria says.

When I met with Patria, she was still glowing with a smile on her face as she told me how she recently celebrated her 94th birthday on April 27th! The party included her daughters, grandsons, granddaughters and several great-

grandsons and granddaughters, friends and church members – all who helped bring the birthday party to her at her apartment. Patria states, “It was a birthday party to be remembered with delicious Puerto Rican food, singing and prayers and some of my favorite cake, tres leches!”

Patria maintains her independence with the assistance of her granddaughter who does her food shopping, and a home healthcare aide who checks in with Patria Monday through Saturday and helps clean the apartment, cooks and provides bathing assistance.

As the warmer weather approaches, Patria looks forward to getting outside on her front porch with her many friends and family who come and visit, share their stories and keep her beaming.

Family Center Resident Service Coordinator Ramon Lara provided assisted in translation.

Homework Club and Reading Challenge Making a Difference

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making sure the children are completing their homework assignments, but it’s important that they are taking the time to read on a regular basis. As a result, the Reading Challenge was developed. When we began, we weren’t sure what course of action to take with the children considering that they were all of different ages and grade levels. Fortunately, we came up with an effective way to encourage them to read and reward them.

The Reading Challenge commits each child to dedicate at least 20 or more minutes to reading each day they attend the Homework Club. The goal is to read 10 books within a three-week period. We have created a chart to include each child’s name on it for both sites to keep track of how many books the children are reading – this is where the students begin to experience the challenge! When the three-week period has ended and most of the children have met their goal of reading 10 books, the Club celebrates as a group with a pizza party! Children participating in the Homework Club – as well as their parents – appreciate the assistance and opportunity to strengthen reading skills.

One participant, Nataly says, “The people at the Homework Club help me with homework, so when I go home I’m free to

watch television.” Another participant, Deiby states, he generally doesn’t like reading, but when he’s at the Club, reading is a lot more fun, which encourages him to want to read more.

Parents applaud the Club, as well. One parent, Christy, says, “The Homework Club has been a real life saver – being onsite it’s really convenient, so I don’t have to worry about transportation or traffic.” Additionally, a volunteer, Mrs. Cole, says she’s pleased to see major improvements in participants’ reading skills, especially with children who were struggling when they first came into the program. “The Club is truly helping these children,” Cole states. “This year they are reading more fluently and have moved on to selecting books that are on their reading levels.”

As program administrators, our hope is that each child who participates in this reading challenge becomes a stronger reader, reads daily and increases his or her love of reading. The parents have expressed their gratitude as this challenge has helped alleviate some of the fuss they receive from their children about bedtime reading. Now instead of fighting the request to read or listen to their parent read, they ask, “Can you read me one more book?”

Here’s to lifelong readers!



FREE TO BREATHE

Bringing healthy air home...



Charter Oak Communities
is going

SMOKE-FREE

JULY 30, 2018

Interested in quitting?

We're here to help!

In collaboration with Family Centers, Charter Oak Communities will offer resources and referrals for any resident who is interested in quitting.

In accordance with HUD requirements, Charter Oak Communities will be smoke-free as of **July 30, 2018.**

- Smoking will not be permitted indoors, including apartments.
- Smoking will not be permitted at least 25 feet away from all Charter Oak properties.

A smoke-free policy in all Charter Oak Communities' sites means that everyone who visits, lives, or works in Charter Oak Communities properties is free to breathe cleaner, safer, and healthier air.



Please contact your Property Manager with any questions or concerns.