

Email subject: Fairgate Farm Pellicci Pergola & Gaglio Farm Stand Dedication 9/8/18 at 11 am

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Farm photos available on this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FmCrMlInnP8JcbB3bBSGfkOy6Vh5Q8iP0?usp=sharing>

The public is invited to the Pellicci Pergola and Gaglio Family Farm Stand dedication ceremony at Fairgate Farm on Saturday 9/8/18

Fairgate Farm will be holding a dedication ceremony for the Pellicci Pergola and the Gaglio Family Farm Stand Saturday, September 8, 2018 at 11 a.m. at 129 Stillwater Avenue in Stamford. All are welcome to attend the ceremony, joining the Pellicci and Gaglio families, representatives of Viking Construction, staff from Charter Oak Communities and Stamford Hospital and *Vita Health & Wellness District* partners along with Fairgate Farm volunteers and contributors. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Thursday, September 6th, by email to cyoung@charteroakcommunities.org or Fairgatefarm@gmail.com.

The Pellicci Pergola is in the form of a grapevine-covered arbor where volunteers and other local residents can mingle while enjoying Fairgate Farm and appreciating the rich, cultural diversity of Stamford. Providing visual appeal and shade, grape vines native to the West Side are growing up the sides and will eventually cover the pergola, making it feel much like an 'outdoor classroom'. The structure is named in memory of Anthony Pellicci, a community member who was dedicated to invigorating the West Side neighborhood, where his family's restaurant has welcomed countless regulars, new arrivals and a few famous celebrities for seventy years.

The Gaglio Family Farm Stand houses the Fairgate Farmers Market on Thursdays from 12 noon to 6 pm and Saturdays from 9 am to 12 noon. The first farmers market on the Stamford's West Side has been made possible through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers Market Promotion grant program. The market has been operating since May and will be open through October providing the community with fresh, organic produce from six farms rooted in over 500 years of organic harvest. Participating farms include Gilbertie's Herb Farm and Sport Hill Farm in Easton, Connecticut; Ryder Farm in Brewster, New York; The Hickories in Ridgefield, Connecticut; Holbrook Farm in Bethel, Connecticut; as well as Fairgate Farm.

Funding needed to build the Pellicci Pergola and Gaglio Family Farm Stand was provided by many donors throughout the Stamford community, matched by generous contributions from the Pellicci and Gaglio families. In addition to these direct donations, the Farm employed an internet based "crowd funding" strategy that raised over \$10,000 from over 50 individual donors.

Fairgate Farm, in the heart of the West Side, is part of the *Vita Health & Wellness District* and is led by farm manager Pete Novajosky. It offers a jam-packed schedule of community events and activities including annual volunteer luncheons, healthy recipes and gardening workshops, a Strawberry Festival and Harvest Festival with live music, as well as hosting corporate groups, schools and organizations. The farm strives to boost awareness on the importance of eating nutritious fruits and vegetables, respecting nature and building community cohesion. It harvests thousands of pounds of fruits, herbs and vegetables annually which are donated back to the volunteers, hunger relief agencies, soup kitchens and homeless shelters. For details about the farm, events and volunteering opportunities, visit FairgateFarm.com or email FairgateFarm@gmail.com.