LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN

Marion Glowka, Streetscape Coordinator Extraordinaire

Have you ever wondered why the Downtown’s landscape of gardens, planters, flowers and hanging baskets are so creative and lush? Do you love seeing the beautiful four season palette of greenery and streetscape decor when you visit the Downtown? Do you remember two decades ago when there was barely a blooming flower to adorn our lovely city? If your answer to any of these questions is affirmative, then you should know there is an extraordinary woman who is responsible for Downtown being awash in greenery and blossoms. Her name is Marion Glowka and she has been the Streetscape Coordinator for Stamford Downtown for the last 22 years.

When Marion was hired two decades ago, she brought her love and knowledge of urban planting and gardening to an area badly in need of horticultural vision and focus. She worked with a dedicated team of volunteers, city landscapers, and gardening professionals to beautify the Downtown through an extraordinary streetscape program. Her ability to coordinate a complicated downtown horticultural plan and motivate her garden groomers and landscapers to implement her vision have created an inviting environment for all visitors to enjoy.

She and her team plan, prepare and purchase the seasonal plantings that adorn 17 garden areas, 6 downtown parks, 39 street planters and 180 hanging flower baskets. Four thousand bulbs and 4,500 annuals are planted each year. You can walk downtown and enjoy the daffodils, hosta, daylilies, canna, vibrantly colored petunias and bleeding heart coleus as well as dragon wing begonias and pansies. (Just to mention a few of the dozens of species of plantings that adorn the Downtown landscape.) Fun fact; if placed in a row, this greenery would stretch from Landmark Square to the Long Island Sound!

It is the beauty of it all----as each season brings new themes and greenery----that really represents Marion and her vision.

Alas, Marion has decided that it is time to retire, after so many years of working on behalf of urban beautification in Stamford Downtown. While we in the Downtown are sad to wave farewell, we wish her many more years of happy gardening as she embarks upon a new and exciting chapter in her life. Her unparalleled dedication to civic beautification will be her lasting legacy in our great city.
RESTAURANT & RETAIL SPOTLIGHT

There is an exciting California-based new restaurant joining the Stamford Downtown restaurant scene this fall. The Cheesecake Factory will take over 8,170 square feet of the space formally occupied by P.F. Chang’s, as part of the Stamford Town Center’s robust dining offerings. This will be The Cheesecake Factory’s fourth restaurant in Connecticut and 190th nationwide. “We will offer the same menu and wonderful service that are offered at all of our restaurants across the U.S.,” assures Alethea Rowe, the company’s spokesman. Come enjoy this upscale dining experience, complete with 250 menu items and more than 50 cheesecakes and desserts.

Another newly opened restaurant is the elegant Wayne Steakhouse at 5 Broad Street, beneath Target and across the street from UConn Stamford. It is worth a trip to indulge in this luxurious setting, equipped with a private dining room for business meetings or special occasions. A very professional staff awaits you to ensure a fine dining experience in Stamford Downtown.

Also well worth the wait, is the new chocolate shop called Pilar Artisanal Chocolates, located at 172 Bedford Street adjacent to Fleet Feet Stamford. Stop by to sample not only the rich artisanal chocolates, but specialty coffees, high quality juices and health shakes. The coffee is roasted in the Bonjo and Intelligentsia specialty coffee machines, while the smoothies are steeped in superfoods such as maca, matcha, goji berry, turmeric, and chia seed. Stamford residents can enjoy the same menu and wonderful service that are offered at all of our restaurants across the U.S.,” assures Alethea Rowe, the company’s spokesman. Come enjoy this upscale dining experience, complete with 250 menu items and more than 50 cheesecakes and desserts.

Cheers to Oceanblue Dive on the grand opening of its new location (108 Bedford Street) this past July.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate Fernando Alvarez, owner of Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery for being invited to exhibit at the renowned Venice Biennale – 57th International Art Exhibition next May!
DOWNTOWN DOGS

Downtown Dogs in Stamford
The love affair between Stamford Downtown and the Fazzino family continued this summer when Charles Fazzino used his exceptional artistic skills to decorate the informational kiosk on Bedford Street. Charles Fazzino, a renowned Pop artist, has had his artwork exhibited in over 600 museums and galleries worldwide and has been selected as an official artist for esteemed events including the 2016 Rio Olympics and the Super Bowls. For the Stamford project, Fazzino collaborated with another talented artist: his daughter Heather. Together they created Downtown Dogs in Stamford. “I have enjoyed working with my daughter,” said Charles. “When the DSSD came to me with this idea, I thought it was a perfect opportunity to meld Heather’s dogs with my cityscape backdrop into a piece of artwork that would brighten up the surroundings and draw some attention to Stamford and all of its beautification efforts. It took us a few months to get it realized, but it was fun to be with Heather and put on the final touches together.” Check out the stunning Downtown Dogs in Stamford in the kiosk alongside Capriccio Café at 189 Bedford Street.

Dog-Lovers Bond at 1st Annual BARK IN THE PARK
People of all ages and dogs of all kinds gathered on Sunday, September 11th for Stamford Downtown’s first annual BARK IN THE PARK, held in Latham Park.

More than 500 people attended the doggy fun day, which featured dozens of dog product vendors, an agility course, pet health demonstrations, best trick and costume contests and a dog-friendly photo booth. The event also offered a free microchip clinic—over 60 dogs were implanted with a rice-sized microchip that can help reunite lost pets with their owners. Local rescue groups that attended the event with adoptable dogs also had a successful day, as several dogs were adopted by loving families.

BARK IN THE PARK was not only a great place for dogs and their owners to socialize and play, but also a place to come together and celebrate the wonderful downtown community we live, work and play in.

TAKE A SEAT
Looking for a seat at your favorite park? Look no further than Latham Park, located at the intersection of Bedford and Forest Streets. Twenty-four colorful chairs are now available and free to use by the public during daylight hours both weekdays and weekends. They are movable. So find your favorite spot and rest your chair on the grass. Have a seat, and enjoy all the park has to offer. Be on the look out – bistro chairs may be added to other downtown parks in the future. Enjoy Stamford Downtown!
Giant Balloon Inflation Party
presented by
Point72 Asset Management
Saturday, November 19, 2016
3:00-6:00 p.m.
Summer & Hoyt Streets
Join us for this backstage look at the parade and watch the giant helium balloons come to life!

UBS Parade Spectacular
presented by
Stamford Town Center and The Advocate/Hearst Media
Sunday, November 20, 2016
12 noon step-off
Summer to Broad to Atlantic Streets
One of the largest helium balloon parades in the country, featuring everyone’s favorite giant balloon characters, award winning marching bands and fabulous floats. Fun for the whole family!

Heights & Lights
Rappelling Santa and Holiday Tree Lighting
presented by Reckson Associates, A Division of SL Green
Sunday, December 4, 2016
5:00 p.m.
Landmark Square and Latham Park
Watch and cheer for Santa Claus as he makes his daredevil descent from the top of one of Stamford’s tallest buildings, Landmark Square. Then follow Santa up Bedford Street to Latham Park for an evening of holiday music and fun and join in the countdown of the annual lighting of Stamford’s Holiday Tree.

Seeking Star Volunteers!
• Helium Balloon Handlers
• Route Marshals

No Prior Experience Necessary • Free Training Session

Stamford Downtown Special Services District is looking for enthusiastic individuals for the 2016 UBS Parade Spectacular on

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Balloons Handlers must be at least 16 years of age.
Route Marshals must be at least 21 years of age.

Please sign-up by Friday, November 4, 2016

To download a volunteer application, please visit the signature event calendar at www.stamford-downtown.com or contact us at: volunteer@stamford-downtown.com
203.348.5285