



news

• FALL 2017

• NUMBER 55

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN



Sandy Goldstein, President

The City of Stamford is the proud recipient of a \$2,000,000 CTNext grant for its innovation programs. The Downtown and the South End make up the Innovation District, which was created to link independently developed innovative initiatives and visions into a comprehensive whole. There are many objectives inherent in the District's formation among which are accelerating the development of Stamford's incubator-accelerator community, and strengthening the talent pool by creating an anchor institution that responds to changing talent demands and individual learning needs. The objective that CTNext considered very important was enhancing spaces that serve as gathering points for our diverse population and which define a connected urban culture.



Stamford Downtown was fortunate enough to be at the cutting edge of the "enhancing spaces" spectrum and was thus awarded \$695,000 of the grant because of its dynamic plans to activate Downtown spaces in order to attract and retain the millennial population. The Downtown programs that received the grant were **Alive @ Five**, **Veterans Park** and **The Palace Theatre**. **The Ferguson Library**, a major Downtown anchor, was also awarded grant monies and will be discussed in future articles.

Alive @ Five, the Downtown's outdoor concert series was awarded \$150,000 a year for three years because of its ability to draw 4,000-7,000 millennials to Columbus Park weekly on Thursdays during the summer. The concerts have become a selling point for brokers bringing businesses into Stamford: businesses which want an environment that appeals to its young workforce. Because of the success of the concerts, huge screens are necessary so that the audience can be engaged from long distances across the park venue. The grant monies will be used for the latter purpose.

Veterans Park sits in the heart of the Innovation District and is surrounded by 1,000,000+ sq. feet of office, retail and housing. The Park is in a major state of disrepair but has the potential to be a gem, where Veterans can be honored and people of all ages can congregate and enjoy the programs put on in an amphitheater built into the Park contours. A not-for-profit public-private partnership was formed to create a vision for the Park and to raise the \$5.85 million necessary to transform the Park. The City has committed to fund half of the latter amount. In addition to all the above amenities, public Gigabit Wi-Fi, solar charging stations and flexible seating will foster the occurrence of pop-up outdoor workspaces.

Entertainment venues, which attract the young innovative class are essential to a city. **The Palace Theatre** in Stamford Downtown is a perfect place to hold engaging concerts, where patrons have large spaces to stand and dance. The CTNext grant will provide the funds to remove the seats in the theatre's orchestra, hence increasing the number of attendees and allowing ticket prices to decrease. The seats can be re-installed as needed for traditional entertainment.

Stamford Downtown looks forward to the completion of the latter programs and acknowledges with gratitude the foresight and generosity of the State's CTNext grant program.

Look out for our new Stamford Downtown Street Pole Banners this Fall!



Board of COMMISSIONERS

CHAIRMAN: Reyno A. Giallongo, Jr., Chairman & CEO
First County Bank
VICE CHAIRMAN: Greg Caggainello, Sr. Vice President
Rockson, a Division of ST Green
TREASURER: Dan Stolzenbach, General Manager
Stamford Town Center
SECRETARY: Keith Grabow, Owner
FASTSIGNS of Stamford
IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR:
Randall M. Salvatore, President
RMS Companies, LLC

Fernando Luis Alvarez
Fernando Luis Alvarez Gallery

Carl Bildner, President
Bildner Capital Corp.

Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief
City of Stamford

George Boyce, Agent
State Farm Insurance Co.

Terrence Cheng, Director, Stamford Campus
UCONN-Stamford

Jack Condlin, President & CEO
Stamford Chamber of Commerce

Msgr. Stephen DiGiovanni
Basilica of St. John the Evangelist

Paul Dillane, Owner
Hudson Grille

Stephen J. Hoffman, Managing Partner
Hoffman Investment Partners LLC

Russ Hollander, President
R. Hollander Master Goldsmith Inc.

Robert H. Kahn, President
United Realty, Inc.

Robert Karp, President
BE Rep Group

Alice S. Knapp, President
Ferguson Library

Beth Krupa
Beth Krupa Interiors

Nancy Laist, Manager
The Fez

Michael D. Larobina, Esq., Secretary & General Counsel
Sacred Heart University

Diana Lenkowsky, Vice President
Purdue Pharma L.P.

Jackie Lightfield, Executive Director
Stamford Partnership

Todd Lindvall, General Manager
Courtyard by Marriott - Stamford Downtown

Gregory Lodato, President
MarLo Associates, Inc.

Norman Lotstein, Vice President
Pyramid Real Estate Group

Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development
City of Stamford

Michael Marchetti
Columbus Park Trattoria

David R. Martin, Mayor
City of Stamford

Frank J. Mercede, President & CEO
Frank Mercede & Sons, Inc.

Marjan Murray, Executive Vice President
Peoples United Bank

Robert Musumeci, President
RTA International, Inc.

Michael Pollard, Mayor's Chief of Staff
City of Stamford

Paul Senecal, CBSE Managing Partner
United Services of America

Randall M. Skigen, President & Deputy Mayor
Stamford Board of Representatives

Dr. Sharon J. White
Consulting Firm of Dr. Sharon J. White & Associates, LLC

Brett Wilderman, Principal
Forstone Capital, LLC

Tracie Wilson, Sr. VP of Programming and Development
NBCUniversal

Steven Wise
Steven Wise Associates, LLC

Sandy Goldstein, President

Lynne Colatrella
Vice President, Events & Marketing

Michael T. Moore
Vice President, Operations

Jacqueline R. Wetenhall
Vice President, Retail Development

Annette R. Einhorn
Director, Events & Marketing

Maryann Rockwood
Executive Administrator

Cheryl Vukelic
Sr. Manager, Operations

Kate Cook
Manager, Events & Marketing

Marisa Rogo
Project Manager, Operations & Retail

Joanne Parsons
Streetscape Coordinator

Published by:
Stamford Downtown Special Services District
Five Landmark Square, Suite 110, Stamford, CT 06901
Tel: (203) 348-5285 Fax: (203) 348-6857
www.stamford-downtown.com
Publisher: Sandy Goldstein | Editor: Marisa Rogo

Welcome to Stamford Downtown's New Vice President of Operations, Michael T. Moore



Michael T. Moore

Stamford Downtown is delighted to introduce Michael T. Moore, its new Vice President of Operations. In this role, Michael will work with stakeholders to position the Downtown as a center of the innovation economy and leverage Stamford Downtown's standing as environmentally sustainable and transit-oriented. High on Michael's to-do list is the improvement of Downtown's streetscape and placemaking programs. He will partner with the City in planning and implementing initiatives to foster a pedestrian and bike friendly environment.

Moore's background makes him exceptionally qualified to meet our challenges head-on. Most recently, he was operating President and CEO of the Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District for six years. Prior to that, he worked with the State Department of Economic and Community Development after spending eight years at the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency. *To discuss any issues or ideas, please reach Michael T. Moore at (203) 348-5285 or moore@stamford-downtown.com.*

UConn Stamford Dorms Open

On August 16, 2017, Governor Dannel Malloy, Stamford Mayor David Martin and UConn President Susan Herbst welcomed an enthusiastic crowd to the grand opening of the first residence hall at the UConn campus in Stamford Downtown. **UConn Stamford** complements the university's flagship campus in Storrs by offering students the opportunity to experience urban campus living and ready access to New York City. To create a stronger bond with the community, Stamford Downtown and UConn launched a pilot program this summer, where UConn students received a discount or perk at over 25 downtown organizations and businesses by showing their school ID. In addition, **UConn Stamford** offers thirteen 4 - year undergraduate programs including Business Data Analytics, Nursing and Digital Media + Design. Such programs will help foster the highly-technical workforce that Stamford and Fairfield County needs to build a competitive, innovative economy.

BARK! BARK! BARK!

That was the sound in Latham Park on Sunday, September 10th, when Stamford Downtown held its **2nd Annual Bark in the Park**. Multitudes of dogs (and their humans) came to participate in the Costume and Trick Contests, to shop, to play games and to hear advice from vets and trainers from all over the Tri-State area.



It was *pupperific* to see all the pooches. To say the *leashed*, they all looked *fetching*. Let's give them a round of *a-paws!*



Spotlight on New Restaurants:

The already vibrant restaurant scene in Stamford Downtown just got even more interesting with six new restaurants opening recently. If you haven't tried a new restaurant in a while, here are a few suggestions...

Bobby V's Restaurant & Sports Bar, at 268 Atlantic Street is calling all sports fans who have an interest in a major league atmosphere on 2 distinct levels. On street level, you'll enjoy the ultimate relaxed dining experience where guests of all ages can enjoy an upscale, yet affordable sports bar menu. Other patrons can experience an enticing selection of top-rated craft beers (with 32 beer taps) as well as the area's most extensive wine and drink menu, all surrounded by 200 plus HD TV's featuring one's favorite sports coverage.



Bobby V's Restaurant & Sports Bar



InThai Restaurant

Thai food lovers have an additional reason to celebrate at **Bedford Thai** located at 77 Bedford Street. Prakash Nath who owns this attractive trendy restaurant with a unique bar and premium Thai spices, also owns the Indian vegan restaurant **Navaratna** (133 Atlantic Street).

Sports fans can experience the next generation of wagering on horses, greyhounds or Jai-Alai powered by Winners on the second floor. An indoor HD golf simulator featuring 31 of the world's best golf courses is an option for corporate functions in a multi-functional private space.

Just up the street at 83 Atlantic Street is **InThai Restaurant**, where owner, Phenny Sunyaluxruechai, has realized her dream of bringing the flavors and dishes from her native Thailand to Stamford Downtown. The restaurant's design echoes its Thailand roots with the walls adorned with portraits of Thai's royal family and the Buddhism's Bodhi fig tree leaves.



Bedford Thai



Rascal Flatts

For music lovers, there's a new restaurant in town...**Rascal Flatts**, at the Stamford Town Center next to **Kona Grill**. Rascal Flatts is one of the country's most awarded country music trios with Grammys, CMAs and People Choice Awards. This is the first Rascal Flatts restaurant to open in the U.S. The restaurant will host live performances while serving Southern style favorites from celebrity chef Chris Gentile. "Come on down ya'll!"

Live jazz and outdoor dining are now possible at 75 Broad Street at **Bar Zepoli**, in the Courtyard by Marriott. Chef Antonio Greco serves up Italian-American cuisine from his hometown region in Italy. The late night bar menu is always an option as is the private wine room in an atmosphere reminiscent of Italy.



Bar Zepoli



Flinders Lane

To complement their already successful Manhattan restaurant on Avenue A, Chris McPherson and Chris Rendell, co-owners of the new **Flinders Lane** at 184 Summer Street, decided to bring a new style of restaurant to Stamford Downtown. Flinders Lane refers to the many laneways in Melbourne, Australia lined with cafés, art galleries, street art and bars. Experience the modern Australian cuisine offering a wide array of fresh seafood with fruits and vegetables served with the Australian attitude of no fussing.

Success at Chess Event in Latham Park



This past summer, Stamford Downtown and National Educational Chess Association (NECA), held three free chess events in Latham Park. Without reservations, or a knowledge of chess, the tables were open to anyone who passed by. Due to its popularity, two days were quickly added to the one day event!

The program was enhanced through the cooperation of Alex Eydelman, manager of the local NECA. NECA provides before and after school chess programs at over 25 public and private schools throughout Fairfield and

Westchester Counties as well as scholastic chess tournaments. We look forward to continuing our programing next summer.



STAMFORD DOWNTOWN
PARADE
SPECTACULAR

★ Presented by Stamford Advocate ★



STAMFORD ADVOCATE
 MEDIA GROUP



Seeking Star Volunteers!

- Clowns
- Helium Balloon Handlers
- Route Marshals

No Prior Experience Necessary • Free Training Session

Stamford Downtown Special Services District
 is looking for enthusiastic individuals
 for the 2017 Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular on

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Clowns & Balloon Handlers must be at least 16 years of age.
 Route Marshals must be at least 21 years of age.

Please sign-up by Monday, November 6, 2017

To download a volunteer application, please visit the signature event calendar at

stamford-downtown.com

or contact us at:
 volunteer@stamford-downtown.com

203.348.5285

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN
 FIVE LANDMARK SQUARE
 SUITE 110
 STAMFORD, CT 06901
 P: 203.348.5285



• FALL 2017

• NUMBER 55

STAMFORD
 DOWNTOWN



NEWSLETTER

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN EVENTS FALL 2017

GIANT BALLOON INFLATION PARTY

presented by
 Point72
 Saturday, November 18
 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Summer & Hoyt Streets

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN PARADE SPECTACULAR

presented by
 Stamford Advocate/Hearst
 Media
 Sunday, November 19
 12 noon step-off
*Summer to Broad to
 Atlantic Streets*

HEIGHTS & LIGHTS RAPPELLING SANTA AND HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

presented by Reckson
 Associates,
 A Division of SL Green
 Sunday, December 3
 5:00 p.m.
*Landmark Square and
 Latham Park*