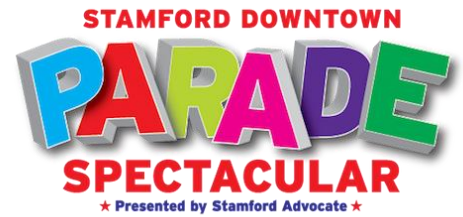


## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Stamford's Teacher of the Year to Appear on Featured Float in the Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular**

STAMFORD CT, November 8, 2017 – Parade goes at the 24th annual Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular presented by Stamford Advocate will be treated to many familiar faces in the procession, among them respected members of the community. One particular float is an annual favorite, carrying a beloved teacher on a float themed to his particular interests beyond the classroom.

Vin Urbanowski, a math teacher at the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering and Stamford's 2017 Teacher of the Year, will ride on one of the parade's six floats, entitled "Teaching Our Kids to Fly!" Along with his passion for aviation, Vin brings his experience as a musician, writer and engineer to help students grow their own wings of knowledge, skill and insight. Vin is proud to serve Stamford and to share the float with Teacher of the Year finalists Vibha Khetan and Jennifer Bernstein.

At AITE, a public magnet school, Urbanowski helps his students see math in a human context. Past corporate positions ranging from electrical engineering to television commercial writing helped develop his perspective and eventually led to a master's degree and teacher certification. Since beginning his teaching career in 2006, Urbanowski has earned much professional recognition, including a Congressional Award for STEM Innovation.

The parade, taking place on Sunday, November 19, is one of the largest of its kind in the country, with 16 giant helium balloons and more than 200,000 spectators annually. The parade is produced by Stamford Downtown Special Services District. **A press conference with a special photo opportunity and balloon training will be held on Monday, November 13, 12:00 P.M. at Latham Park on Bedford Street in Stamford,** at which full media kits will be provided and our special guest balloon The Very Hungry Caterpillar will be available.

Additional parade highlights include five new balloons: Captain Barnacles, Alphonso the Dragon, Ozzy the Octopus, Pirate Pete and Peppa Pig. Among returning favorites are Fred Flintstone, Kung Fu Panda, Mr. Potato Head and Paddington Bear. In addition to the procession's signature balloons, the streets will be filled with the sounds of 12 marching bands, including the NYPD Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band, the Fairfield County Police Pipes and Drums and high school groups from Stamford, Westhill, Trumbull, Brien McMahon, Uniondale, Brentwood, Bristol Eastern and Harrison. Comic daredevil Bello Nock will perform a sampling of his jaw-

dropping act and featured musical acts include Samba New York! and Silver Steel Band. Television personality and Stamford resident Alan Kalter will once again grace the grandstand, acting as the parade's Master of Ceremonies for his 14th year.

The parade is scheduled to begin at noon on November 19 at the intersection of Summer Street at Hoyt Street and conclude on Atlantic Street, just a few short blocks from the Stamford Metro-North Railroad Station. On the eve of the parade, Saturday, November 18, a Balloon Inflation Party hosted by Point72 will take place from 3-6 p.m. at the intersection of Hoyt Street and Summer Street in Stamford Downtown will allow spectators a behind-the-scenes look at the balloons as they come to life and offer music, parade talent including daredevil Bello Nock and cartoon characters and a meet and greet with Santa to entertain spectators.

For photographs and more information call 203-348-5285 or to see what's happening in Stamford Downtown, please visit [www.stamford-downtown.com](http://www.stamford-downtown.com) or follow us [@BalloonParadeCT](https://twitter.com/BalloonParadeCT).

**About Stamford Downtown Special Services District:**

Stamford Downtown Special Services District is responsible for creating, managing and promoting a quality environment for people, which enhances the economic vitality of Stamford Downtown.

[www.stamford-downtown.com](http://www.stamford-downtown.com)

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