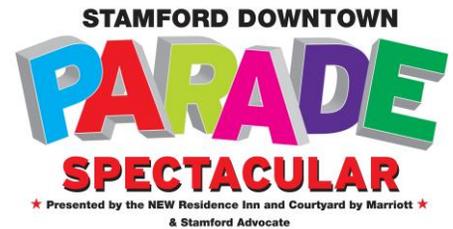


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Point72 Giant Balloon Inflation Party to Kick Off Parade Weekend in Stamford Downtown on Saturday

STAMFORD CT, November 15, 2018 – On the eve of the 25th annual Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular presented by the NEW Residence Inn and Courtyard by Marriott and Stamford Advocate, those curious to see how the parade’s 13 giant helium balloons come to life are invited to attend the Point72 Giant Balloon Inflation Party. This pre-parade event, hosted by Point72 and taking place on Saturday, November 17 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 take to the sky.

The party will offer live music, clowns and cartoon characters, and a meet and greet with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Jingles the Elf. Spectators will be treated to a special performance by BMX stunt team Perfection on Wheels, who will provide a sneak peek of the thrilling tricks and flips they have planned for Sunday’s parade. In addition, four different dance groups from Locust Performing Arts Center of Stamford, including the Junior Hip Hop troupe, two FOCUS groups and the center’s Hip Hop’s Finest, will all entertain the gathered crowd. And music will be in the air, provided by INTEMPO Music School and DJ Kunjan Collective with Music and Dancing in the Street. The event is a perfect sampling of parade talent, and has something for everyone.

The parade, taking place on Sunday, November 18, is one of the largest of its kind in the country, with more than 200,000 spectators annually. The parade is produced by Stamford Downtown Special Services District.

Parade highlights include balloons Clifford the Big Red Dog, Daniel Tiger and returning favorites Shrek, Mr. Potato Head, Paddington Bear, Peppa Pig, Bob the Builder and more. In addition to the procession's signature balloons, the streets will also be filled with fabulous floats, dance groups and 11 marching bands, including the NYPD Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band, the Fairfield County Police Pipes and Drums and high school groups from Stamford, Westhill, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Brentwood and Harrison. A favorite float, Stamford’s Teacher of the Year, returns to host this year’s recipient Camille Spaulding. Television personality Alan Kalter will return as the parade’s Master of Ceremonies at the grandstand for his 15th year.

The parade is scheduled to begin at noon on November 18 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.

For photographs and more information call 203-348-5285 or to see what's happening in Stamford Downtown, please visit 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

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