

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN



Sandy Goldstein, President

The Parks in our Midst

Stamford Downtown is blessed with five interesting parks in our midst: pockets of greenery enhancing the environment. They are the sites of quiet respite, engaging events, places to have lunch, a latte before work or locations to just “chill” away from home and office.

The 5 downtown parks which open their arms to visitors are: **Latham Park, Heritage Park, Kiwanis Park, Columbus Park**

and the gem of them all---**Mill River Park**. Each contributes to the Downtown fabric in a unique way.

Latham Park, a small oasis of greenery at the northern end of the Downtown, adjacent to two magnificent churches, serves as a green interlude for the Bedford, Forest and Spring Streets residents as well as for numerous office workers. Neighborhood children play there after school, retirees chit-chat on the benches, and countless patrons enjoy their lunches on the park tables. The park is illuminated all winter with a wonderland of tree lights and a sparkling Christmas tree. Each weekend of the summer, one can do yoga, play chess on the newly refurbished tables or shop for a wide array of produce and plants on Saturdays.

The park is also the site of the Downtown’s yearly Christmas tree lighting, which brings thousands of children to listen to the carols and to be mesmerized by the excitement of watching the holiday lights go on. In addition, two engaging events, *Brews on Bedford* and *Bark in the Park* invite people from the neighborhood and surrounding areas to enjoy the park.

Kiwanis Park and **Heritage Park** are two “postage stamp” parks that adjoin important buildings and are green buttresses for the surrounding areas. Kiwanis Park abuts **The Palace Theatre** and is the home to several world-class sculptures: Reuben Nakian’s *Hecuba* and *Minerva*. It is an interesting passageway from Atlantic to Summer Street re-

plete with murals, planters, and cascading lights during the holiday season. Heritage Park abuts **Old Town Hall** and is home to the noteworthy sculpture James Knowles’ *Dancing Girl* and Reuben Nakian’s *Sea Odyssey*. It leads its patrons to the larger park in the neighborhood: Columbus Park.

Columbus Park, sitting between Main and Bank Streets, is the home of the magnificent, stately and ancient oak tree bedecked with 63,750 lights during the winter holiday season. Thousands of visitors come to see the lights and marvel at the artistry. Excellent restaurants and clubs surround the park, which is also the site of 10 outstanding summer concerts with people dining in expanded outdoor cafés and enjoying outstanding entertainers. The ambiance during the concerts is simply magical as over 35,000 people enjoy Columbus Park during the concert season.

Veterans Park is an Atlantic Street gem “in the making.” After 30 years of neglect and disrepair, a dedicated and concerned group of citizens led by Rick Redniss formed the **Stamford Veterans Park Partnership, Inc.** and raised

the money, in partnership with the city and state, to revitalize and re-create the park. The park’s engaging design will honor veterans and house an outdoor, green amphitheater, which will serve as a site for theatre, concerts and important veteran events.

And, last but without a doubt the star in our Downtown park constellation is **Mill River Park**. Redesigned and reimagined by a team of dedicated city and community leaders led by Arty Selkowitz, the park was transformed

from a vacant, ill-repaired and dangerous location to a magnificent green oasis connecting the West Side to the Downtown. It is a mecca for thousands of children from all over Stamford who enjoy the creative playground, the carousel and the numerous children-oriented events. It is the “go-to” place for jogging and walking as well as a green respite for the many surrounding apartment dwellers. This winter the magical new water fountain will become home to an a large ice skating rink. There’s more to come for this park: expanded boundaries, a Discovery Center and more engaging events.

All told-----visit our Downtown and make time to enjoy our parks.



Latham Park

Columbus Park



Veterans Park Rendering (Credit: The BETA Group)

Mill River Park (Credit: Olivier Kpognon)

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Welcome Captain Hohn

Stamford Downtown is happy to welcome Stamford Police Department's Captain Dietrich Hohn into the Downtown community. He and his officers are quick to respond to any public safety concerns while also advising Stamford Downtown staff and Ambassadors on the proper response to street-level incidents. Recently, Capt. Hohn graciously participated in a questionnaire about his background and vision for Downtown's security.

How long have you been a member of the Stamford Police Department? What inspired you to become a police officer? I've been on the force for 23 years. No one in my family was a police officer but I had a yearning during my first year in college and pursued it. I also have three close childhood friends who became police officers in Darien, Westport and Norwalk. Their getting hired before me, made me more interested in policing and they all went on to get promoted to Lieutenant and/or Chief.

What roles did you have within the Stamford Police Department before your promotion to Captain? I started in patrol in 1995 and after a year and a half, I was brought into a veteran COPE PACT unit which was the street unit battling drugs and street crime. I was then transferred to the Narcotics unit where I worked for 9 years and was promoted to Sergeant. In 2011, I was promoted to Lieutenant and spent almost 5 years as the commander of the Detective Bureau. I moved back to the Patrol District and spent a year in patrol before getting promoted to Captain.

What is the structure of the Police Department's deployment in Downtown? The City is divided into four (4) districts. I command District 2 that encompasses the Downtown and South End, where there is always something going on. On every tour, I have at least six (6) officers and a Sergeant assigned to District 2. Two (2)

are assigned to the South End, two (2) Downtown and two (2) to the Bulls Head area. This area is the busiest because of shoplifting, car accidents, emotionally disturbed persons, traffic enforcement and any other incident which may arise.



Captain Dietrich Hohn

What is the biggest difference that you have experienced in your responsibilities since assuming your role as Captain? The biggest difference is that this position is mostly administrative, planning, and motivating employees. As Captain I am dedicated to the needs and concerns of the district and don't have much day to day interaction with the Officers unless they are in my district and an issue needs attention.

What is your favorite Stamford Downtown event? I must say I enjoyed the **Alive@Five** events. There is a lot of planning involved on all levels but at the end of the day we had a successful concert year with minimal problems. I also enjoyed **Arts & Crafts on Bedford**. I really like the idea of Bedford St. being closed down where people walk freely on the street and look at vendor booths, the farmers market, and then eat outside at the great restaurants.

What is your favorite Hobby? What do you like to do in your 'down' time? **Red Sox, Yankees or Mets?** Well I have two small children so right now between work and the kids it takes up most of my time. I do enjoy running, martial arts, and golfing. I am a Red Sox fan and a Dallas Cowboys fan.

Return of PARK(ing) Day

On September 21, 2018, **Park(ing) Day** returned to Stamford Downtown. Park(ing) Day is a one-day, worldwide event that allows businesses and community members to convert on-street parking spaces into pedestrian-friendly urban parks, or parklets. Each participant



Park(ing) Day

programs his/her parklet thus energizing the street with a variety of activities. Stamford Downtown, in partnership with the City of Stamford, is excited to have re-introduced parklets along Bedford Street.

This year six Bedford Street businesses participated – **16 Handles** (219 Bedford Street), **Chic Jack's Vintage Clothing** (95 Bedford Street), **Life Cycle** (135 Bedford

Street), **Lorca** (125 Bedford Street), **Metropolitan Dance Center** (105 Bedford Street) and **Stamford Yoga Center** (13 Spring Street). Their collective efforts invigorated the streetscape while highlighting the potential of long-term parklets.

Downtown Discoveries

Way before Alive@Five – George Washington enjoyed a beer at Columbus Park



Webb's Tavern plaque

Spotlight on Retail Openings

Bedford Street is now a tech hub, home to the newly opened **COMPCO** at **59 Bedford Street**.

COMPCO was started in 2015 by two brothers in a second story office at 441 Summer Street. Now it is a sleek electronic retailer on the east side of Bedford Street, selling computers plus tablets, smartphones and associated products. Patrick Foti is the brother in charge and on-site owner of the company. The store is a top rated e-commerce center offering repairs by certified technicians. Customers are treated to a welcoming atmosphere with excellent prices. For details: www.compco.biz.



COMPCO

To keep that summer glow, book an appointment at the new spa in town called **SPAVIA**, located at **300 Atlantic Street**. In many languages, the word “via” means route or journey to wellness, so SPAVIA’s philosophy is to ensure that each guest has his or her own journey to customized, result-driven treatments in a tranquil environment. Originating in 2005, SPAVIA has locations in over 30 locations including Colorado, Texas, and Florida, with Stamford Downtown as the first Connecticut franchise location. Owners Kim and Todd Barnes met ten years ago at the Sundance Film Festival while Kim was a makeup artist with HBO Media. Now they are running the resort-like spa with 12 treatment rooms and a professional staff of 8 qualified estheticians. For details on skin care and premier body treatments: www.spaviadayspa.com.

Matthew LoPresti, DDS is a newly opened family and cosmetic dentistry office, located on street level at **75 Tresser**. After working with his family’s practice in New York City for 5 years, Dr. LoPresti and his wife relocated to Fairfield County. They chose 75 Tresser because it is centrally located and a 5 minute walk to the train station. Dr. LoPresti enjoys Stamford because it is a happening city with “a big mix of people”. His newly built out office features on-site parking to service his Fairfield and Westchester County clients. For details: www.LoPrestiDental-Group.com



Matthew LoPresti, DDS

Stamford Downtown welcomes the following restaurants to the Downtown: **Bedford Hall Craft Kitchen** (135 Bedford St.), **Blackstones Steakhouse** (101 Broad St.), **Bull Pan** (485 Summer St.), **California Tortilla** (300 Atlantic St.), **Kano Noodle Bar** (227 Summer St.), **Peter Chang Stamford** (230 Tresser Blvd.), **Teena’s Apizza** (245 Main St.), **The Factory Bar & Grill** (261 Main St.), and **Verde Galerie** (79 Atlantic St.).



SPAVIA

Stamford Urby – Update

Under Construction: 648 residential units being developed by Ironstate Development Company and Brookfield Property Group, with architecture, interiors and landscaping by Concrete, the award-winning Dutch design firm responsible for citizenM Hotels around the world.

Stamford Urby will open during the summer of 2019. It will be the fourth residential community to recently open. Urby is defining a new category of residential hospitality by combining boutique hotel personality with imaginative architectural design, excellent service and engaging cultural programs that amuse and inspire residents.



Stamford Urby

Change Where It Counts

Panhandling and homelessness are common elements in Downtown environments throughout the country. Business Improvement Districts, including Stamford Downtown, are working creatively to assist those in need. The first step taken was to discourage pedestrians and visitors from providing money directly to panhandlers and instead to give money to social services providers who provide programming on behalf of the homeless. **Change Where It Counts** cards have been created to inform citizens about the organizations serving the homeless.

In Fall 2018, Stamford Downtown and the City’s Transportation Bureau will partner to repurpose a de-commissioned parking meter that will serve as a depository for donations on behalf of individuals in need. Stamford Downtown Ambassadors are also working with **Laurel House**, **Inspirica** and **Pacific House**, to undertake outreach to homeless individuals to identify their needs and help connect them to available programs such as mental health counseling, housing, and addiction services. Pro-active outreach and connections to service will help those in need and ensure a safe, welcome environment in Downtown.

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 2018 Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular on

Sunday, November 18, 2018

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 5, 2018

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

PARADE

SPECTACULAR

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• FALL 2018

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STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

NEWSLETTER

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STAMFORD DOWNTOWN EVENTS FALL 2018

Please visit stamford-downtown.com for more information on events

Giant Balloon Inflation Party
presented by Point72 Asset
Management

Saturday, November 17, 2018
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!

**Stamford Downtown Parade
Spectacular**

presented by Stamford
Advocate/Hearst Media

Sunday, November 18, 2018
12 noon step-off

**Summer to Broad to Atlantic
Streets**

One of the largest helium balloon
parades in the country, it features
everyone's favorite giant balloon
characters, award winning march-

ing 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 2, 2018
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 eve-
ning of holiday music and fun. Join
in the countdown of the annual
lighting of Stamford's Holiday Tree.