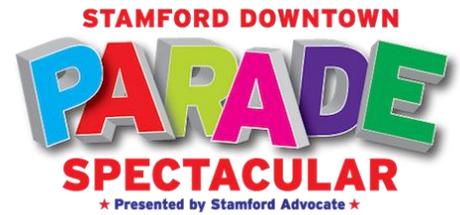


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Dazzling Marching Bands to Highlight Musical Entertainment at Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular

STAMFORD CT, November 4, 2019 – Melodic tunes will fill the air as hundreds of talented musical performers march down the route of the 26th annual Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular, headlined by the University of New Haven Chargers Marching Band and the Butler Golden Tornado Marching Band.

Under the leadership of Director of Bands Jason L. DeGroff, the UNH Chargers Marching Band is considered a source of spirit and pride for both the university and the surrounding community. Founded in 2009, the band has grown from 20 members to nearly 300 members in the past decade, making it one of the fastest growing collegiate marching bands in the country. The dedicated staff and members consider the band to be a family, supporting each other as they practice and perform music and drills for games, competitions, showcases and parades.

Headed up by Band Director Jeff Kroner, the Golden Tornado Marching Band represents the school district of Butler, Pennsylvania and consists of well over 200 students, all of whom have auditioned for their positions in the band. The Golden Tornado Marching Band has established itself as one of the top high school marching programs with an impressive national performance resume, and is considered the “Pride of Butler.”

In addition, other marching bands participating in the parade include the NYPD Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band, the Fairfield County Police Pipes and Drums, the Saints Brigade Drum & Bugle Corps and high school groups from Stamford, Westhill, Trumbull, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Brentwood and Harrison.

The parade, taking place on Sunday, November 24, is one of the largest of its kind in the country, with giant helium balloons and more than 200,000 spectators annually. This parade is presented by Stamford Advocate/Hearst Media and is hosted by Stamford Downtown Special Services District. **A press conference with a special photo opportunity and balloon training will be held on Thursday, November 14, 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 Octonauts will be available.

Planned highlights of the parade include Bello Nock, Comedic Daredevil and 14 giant balloons such as new

balloon Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and returning favorites Bob the Builder, Clifford the Big Red Dog, Elmo, Kung Fu Panda, Mr. Potato Head, Scooby-Doo, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and more. In addition to the procession's signature balloons, the streets will also be filled with fabulous floats and dance groups, and a favorite float, Stamford's Teacher of the Year, returns to host this year's recipient Katelyn Tavolacci. Television personality and Stamford resident Alan Kalter will once again grace the grandstand, acting as the parade's Master of Ceremonies for his 16th year.

The parade is scheduled to begin at noon on November 24 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, a Balloon Inflation Party presented by Point72 will be held on Saturday, November 23 from 3-6 p.m. at the intersection of Hoyt Street and Summer Street in Stamford Downtown. This pre-parade event will allow spectators a behind-the-scenes look at the balloons as they come to life and offer music, parade talent including Comedic Daredevil Bello Nock and cartoon characters to greet and entertain spectators.

For photographs and more information, please email pr@stamford-downtown.com or 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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