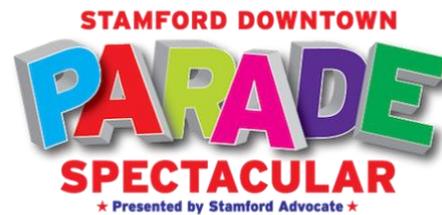


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## **Press Conference Set to Kick Off Parade Excitement in Stamford Downtown**

STAMFORD CT, November 7, 2019 – The holiday season is almost upon us, and nothing symbolizes this more than the approach of the 26th annual Stamford Downtown Parade Spectacular. To kick off the festivities, the press is invited to attend a **Press Conference with a special photo opportunity and balloon training on Thursday, November 14, 12:00 P.M. at Latham Park on Bedford Street in Stamford. Event sponsors, volunteer balloon handlers and representatives from Stamford Downtown Special Services will gather to announce details of the parade. Full media kits will be provided and our featured press conference guest balloon – The Octonauts – will make a special appearance.**

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.

Our guest parade balloon is based on the animated children's show about a team of underwater explorers who are always ready to dive into action, travel the ocean in search of adventure and fun, and to explore, rescue and protect from their Octopod home base under the sea. Featuring Captain Barnacles Bear, Kwazii Kitten and Peso Penguin in their deep dive rescue submarine the GUP-E, The Octonauts balloon is 30 feet long and filled with nearly 2000 cubic feet of helium!

In addition to The Octonauts, this year's planned parade highlights include a performance by Bello Nock, Comedic Daredevil and Annaliese Nock, Daredaughter and 13 other 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 and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. In addition to the procession's signature balloons, the streets will also be filled with fabulous floats and dance groups, and marching bands including the University of New Haven Chargers Marching Band, the Butler Golden Tornado Marching Band, 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, Roosevelt, Uniondale, Brentwood and Harrison. 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](mailto:pr@stamford-downtown.com) or 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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