## **STAMFORD DOWNTOWN**

#### A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



**PUBLIC REALM BEAUTIFICATION** 

Stamford Downtown encourages all to stroll through Downtown to enjoy the color and variety of the flora that make up our Summer seasonal plantings. Stamford Downtown has increased its investment in beautifying the parks, streetscapes, and open spaces that comprise Downtown so as to welcome back residents, employees, and visitors as the world emerges from COVID-19 restrictions. Stamford Downtown has retained Stamford-based Eastern Land Management to landscape 14 streetscape gardens, of varying sizes, throughout the geographic center of Downtown including, but not limited to, Latham Park, Old Town Hall, and Columbus Park. Stamford Downtown also plants and maintains 39 planters, including both granite and innovative self-watering planters. To supplement these planters and garden areas, Stamford Downtown installs 235 hanging baskets on decorative light posts along those streets that experience the greatest pedestrian activity.

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#### THE PERFECT PAIRING A DANCE SPACE





Board member Melinda Cloobeck cuts the ribbon for A DANCE SPACE with dancers from Parsons Dance and The Ballet School Stamford at Stamford Town Center. Photo: Travis Magee

Stamford Mayor David Martin talks with David Parsons at ribbon cutting of A DANCE SPACE at Stamford Town Center. Photo: Travis Magee

Stamford's dance scene just doubled its talent with the dynamic pairing of **The Ballet School Stamford** and the New York City-based contemporary American dance company **Parsons Dance**. Together the two companies have announced the creation of **A DANCE SPACE**, their joint new studio on the fifth floor of the **Stamford Town Center** (100 Greyrock Place), in the former Ann Taylor's space. This exciting joint venture will allow The Ballet School to increase its dance training programs in Fairfield County, and give Parsons Dance, a place for intensive rehearsal residencies while maintaining its administrative and artistic staff in New York City.

**Parsons Dance** is internationally renowned for its energized, athletic ensemble work. Founded in 1985 by Artistic Director David Parsons and Tony Award-winning lighting designer Howell Binkley, the company has toured to more than 445 cities, 30 countries, and 5 continents and has performed at such notable venues as The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Sydney Opera House, Maison de la Danse, Teatro La Fenice, and Teatro Municipal do Rio de Janeiro. "I am excited about the prospect of Parsons Dance establishing a satellite rehearsal studio in Stamford," said David Parsons, the company's Artistic Director. "In the past several years, the demand for rehearsal space in New York City has escalated, and for some time, we have been looking at possibilities for additional rehearsal space. The Stamford location, so close to Manhattan, is a great spot for us."

**The Ballet School Stamford** was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organization with a mission to foster the art of ballet. The current student body reflects the diverse backgrounds of its Fairfield County community while the school has earned a reputation of nurturing young dancers through a disciplined and focused training program that brings out the best of their natural talent. "Dance for All," the school's foundational outreach program, provides training opportunities for all students and has enabled over 20,000 youths to attend the school's annual Spring production at **The Palace Theatre** (61 Atlantic St.). Marti Etter, Executive Director of The Ballet School Stamford Foundation, said, "Sharing space with Parsons Dance opens up new possibilities for our students. This move will enable us to fulfill our mission of creating healthy, well-rounded dancers. The new studios at Stamford Town Center will bring us back Downtown and present us with new collaborative opportunities".

"We're thrilled to have this wonderful collaboration launch at Stamford Town Center as part of our ever-improving lineup of tenants," said Dan Stolzenbach, the STC's General Manager. "The Ballet School is a community staple that has offered outstanding dance instruction since 1998. The decision to partner with world-renowned Parsons Dance is genius, and we look forward to A DANCE SPACE opening later this year."

Placement classes for The Ballet School Stamford can be arranged by emailing info@balletschoolofstamford.org. For more information, visit <u>parsonsdance.org</u>. This summer's outdoor sculpture exhibit, *The Piano Project*, featuring 25 pianos painted by local artists, will be on display all summer for the public to interact with and play!



FAMILY



### NETFLIX RETURNS TO STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

Netflix is producing a small independent movie for their cable network. The film is called "The Noel Diary," based on Richard Paul Evan's bestselling novel of the same name. It is a sweet Christmas movie. It will be directed by Charles Shyer ("Father of the Bride"/"Alfie") and will star Justin Hartley ("This Is Us").

They will film scenes of two people eating dinner at **Remo's Pizza** (35 Bedford Street), then leaving and walking up the street. Currently, the scene is scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2021, with setup beginning at 7 a.m. It will be a night scene, with a scheduled 6:00 p.m. shooting call time, and film throughout the night until approximately 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 29th.

In the scene, one of the characters is a famous author and a City bus stops near the front of the restaurant displaying a larger-than-life advertisement of the author's face on the side of the bus. Following dinner, they exit and walk and talk up the street. For both these scenes, the City of Stamford will redirect traffic to control the street.

### THE STAMFORD ART ASSOCIATION PRESENTS: 21ST ANNUAL VIVIAN AND STANLEY REED MARINE SHOW



Exhibit Dates: June 12 - July 17, 2021 Location: Online

To help celebrate the Stamford Art Association's 50th year, they will select 50 pieces of art to be in this virtual exhibit. This is a multimedia juried exhibit with cash prizes. They asked artists to submit 1-5 pieces of artwork on the theme of any subject depicting the sea, the seashore, boats, and activity on or near the water. The exhibit is named after Vivian and Stanley Reed, two founding members of SAA and avid sailors. Winning artists will be asked to be part of a video. The art will be juried by artist, Mike Bagley, Director of Marine Operations for SoundWaters.

CATEGORIES: Painting, Mixed Media, Sculpture, Photography, Drawing, Printmaking

For more information: stamfordartassn@optonline.net (203) 325-1139 <u>stamfordartassociation.org</u>

Artwork by Gigi Barrett "Colorful Sales"

# **2021 Summer Events** IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN





Boot Camp and more!





Visit our site for a full list of events and details.



## HARBOR POINT TROLLEY RESUMES SCHEDULE

The free Harbor Point Trolley, that travels through Downtown and the South End resumed again after a more than a year hiatus because of COVID-19. With its return, the green and red trolley is a symbol that Stamford is recovering and restoring a sense of normalcy.

"It's just crucial that we have as many connections as possible between Downtown and the South End, be it sidewalks, bike lanes, ample roads, and transit, because we need these neighborhoods to reinforce each other. The trolley is an integral component to that," Stamford Downtown President David Kooris said.

The trolley will run seven days a week, and the whole route takes half an hour to complete. The trolley operates from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. on weekdays, from 9:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. on Saturdays, and on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Face coverings and masks are required at all times.

Passengers can track the trolley in real-time using <u>Harbor Point's live shuttle tracker</u> or the <u>Harbor</u> <u>Point Trolley app</u>.



## CONNECTICUT'S ALL SUMMER WEEKEND WHEELS

Governor Ned Lamont and his administration have launched **Weekend Wheels** – the fare-free CTtransit bus service that will be available to everyone in Connecticut each weekend this summer and includes all local transit district bus routes statewide.

In March, the governor announced plans to launch Weekend Wheels as part of his efforts to help the state and its residents recover from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is being supported with funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, also known as the CARES Act.

Under the initiative, customers will not be required to pay any bus fares on Saturdays and Sundays during 2021 between Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. The fare-free bus service will also include the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 31, 2021; the observed Independence Day holiday on Monday, July 5, 2021; and the Labor Day holiday on Monday, September 6, 2021. Bus services in this promotion include all CTtransit local routes, all routes operated by transit districts, and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit services.