

# STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



Wicked Scents Owners Miguel Goncalves, Gabriel and Klaudia Guzman

## WICKED SCENTS CANDLE SHOP OPENS

Nicely nestled across from Sweeney Todd's Hair Salon in the rear of the Bedford Street passageway is a new find, Wicked Scents Candle Shop, a charming boutique with beautiful handmade candles with unique fragrances. The specialty store is the brainchild of three partners Miguel Goncalves, Gabriel, and Klaudia Guzman. Miguel Goncalves, the founder, opened a Wicked Scents candle store at 163 2nd Street in Hoboken two years ago, and as a resident of Harbor Point was drawn to the Bedford Street area. In no time, he convinced his best friend Gabriel Guzman, and his wife Klaudia, to join him in his venture of opening up a sister location in Stamford.

The shop is filled with a wide variety of candles, ranging from classic scents like lavender and vanilla to more unique scents like pumpkin spice and bergamot. Each candle is made with high-quality ingredients, ensuring a long-lasting and aromatic experience. In addition to candles, Wicked Scents also carries a variety of home decor items, such as beautiful candle holders and decorative accessories. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable, and always willing to help you find the perfect candle or gift for any occasion.

With a goal of disrupting the candle industry, by appealing to all tastes and price points, Miguel and his partners are sure they can bring "a good vibe to your home by encouraging you to destress with scents that are designed to help relax and rejuvenate you," explains Miguel.

Stop by Wicked Scents Candle Shop at 189 Bedford Street Passageway or visit their [Instagram](#).



Dr. Jennifer Orlikoff, UConn Stamford Campus Director and her students

## MEET JENNIFER ORLIKOFF, UCONN STAMFORD'S CAMPUS DIRECTOR

Just eight months into her new role as UConn Stamford's Campus Director, Dr. Jennifer Orlikoff has earned high praise from the most important audience, the students themselves. A seasoned and engaging leader, she has come from top positions at several universities (West Virginia University, Potomac State College, and Rutgers University) as well as holding executive roles in the corporate sphere. Now at UConn Stamford, Dr. Orlikoff has earned the respect of the UConn community as she grows several popular programs including the Synchrony Digital Technology Center, The Werth Institute's Stamford Startup Studio (S3), the Career Center, and the Husky Harvest food pantry. In addition to the recently developed graduate degree and certificate in FinTech, Jennifer oversaw plans to add the undergraduate FinTech degree and a Masters in Quantitative Economics, beginning in fall 2023.

Speaking with Dr. Orlikoff about her top goals for this year, one of the most important is making a commitment to every student to see them all the way through to receiving their degree, while having an enriching experience on campus. Building the legacy of UConn families is a priority too. Another initiative of Dr. Orlikoff is giving the students a "sense of place" in Stamford Downtown. In essence, connecting them to the community whether they are residential students or commuters. Stamford Downtown has become a community partner by creating the UConn Discount Program where a 10% discount is available to students at over 60 downtown businesses.

Dr. Orlikoff serves as a valued member of Stamford Downtown's Board of Commissioners, where collaboration is ever-growing.



## THE NEW YORK COMEDY CLUB COMES TO STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

*"This is our first installment of the New York Comedy Club brand outside of Manhattan, and we couldn't think of a better place than Stamford. We are thrilled to deliver the kind of comedy that we produce in NYC locally in CT and to offer the best that comedy has to offer without having to travel into the city. We've built a very special venue and truly hope the City of Stamford and the entire state and region come to enjoy the experience."*

-Emilio Savone, Founder & Co-Owner

Stamford Downtown's vibrant nightlife just got even better with the opening of New York Comedy Club Stamford, featuring authentic New York stand-up comedians at 230 Tresser Boulevard. Situated on the Stamford Town Center Plaza, alongside The Capital Grille, Terra Gaucha, Pieology Pizzeria, Peter Chang, and the soon-to-open Puerto Vallarta, the club has a cozy nostalgic vibe reminiscent of the New York City comedy scene. Partners Emilio Savone, Scott Lindner, and Jim Panels saw the potential for the first New York Comedy Club suburban location outside of Manhattan in the former Plan B Burger space six months ago and were pleased to open on February 11th to TWO sold-out audiences. Connecticut native Savone, Stamford resident Lindner, and Panels also own Fairfield Comedy Club, Atlantic City Comedy Club, and California Comedy Club in Los Angeles. Stamford Downtown is now home to New York Comedy Club's third location, allowing residents and visitors alike to get a rare glimpse of New York's best comedic talent outside of their Midtown Manhattan and East Village locations. The 4,500-square-foot comedy club fits 220 people with a full-service bar and green room for talent. Celebrity comedians who have already appeared include Chris Distefano, Mark Normand, and Andrew Schulz, with future shows featuring Robyn Schall, Becky Robinson, and more. Currently, open for 1-2 shows per night Wednesday through Sunday, the club is also starting to book more nights of the week and soon will host open mic nights for community members to give their best comedy a go. Private bookings are also available. For a full schedule and details, visit [stamford.newyorkcomedyclub.com](http://stamford.newyorkcomedyclub.com).



## **SAVE THE DATE AND SUPPORT BAND APPLICATION IS OPEN ALIVE AT FIVE IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN**

Alive At Five is coming back to Stamford Downtown on July 13, 20, 27, and August 3, 2023, in Mill River Park! Stay tuned later this spring for the bands and ticket information.

Stamford Downtown is accepting applications through April 1 from acts interested in playing as an opening act at Alive At Five, Stamford Downtown's premier outdoor summer concert series in Mill River Park featuring national artists.

To apply, artists should visit the event calendar at [stamford-downtown.com](http://stamford-downtown.com), where complete application and performance requirements can be found. Application deadline April 1, 2022

For all information, click here: [stamford-downtown.com/events](http://stamford-downtown.com/events)

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## **ALEX NELSON GROWS IN HIS ROLE AS TEAM LEAD**



Alex Nelson, Team Leader

In 2022, Alex Nelson, a longtime member of Stamford Downtown's Environmental Maintenance Team, was promoted to the position of Team Leader. In that role, Alex assists the Operations Manager with oversight of all members of Stamford Downtown's Environmental Maintenance Team while helping to create team schedules and ensuring statistics reflecting team outcomes are properly recorded in Block-By-Block's online portal. Alex closely monitors team members to ensure daily curbside cleaning and special projects – such as painting, power washing, and removal of gum remnants – are executed properly and at the highest quality.

Alex recently led the Environmental Maintenance Team's response to the first measurable snow event of this winter season. During that storm, Alex and his team focused on clearing curb cuts along sidewalks that experience the highest level of pedestrian traffic while also clearing bus shelters and removing snow from around parking meters. This effort is crucial to ensuring downtown can return to business and full activity as soon as possible following the completion of a winter weather event.

Great job, Alex!! Thank you for all you do for Downtown!



## WASHINGTON BOULEVARD ROADWAY SAFETY STUDY

The Washington Boulevard Roadway Safety Study is a joint effort between the City of Stamford and the Connecticut Department of Transportation to comprehensively analyze roadway safety on Washington Blvd.

This study is focusing on the area of Washington Boulevard between Hoyt Street and Station Place. As part of the study, the team will analyze various data points such as crash history, roadway geometry, vehicle volumes and speed, pedestrian and bicycle usage, ADA compliance, and several other factors. A crucial component of this study is also the public's comments and feedback about how they use the corridor every day. Your feedback is paramount as we look to enhance safety on this roadway.

The City of Stamford has committed to eliminating roadway deaths and serious injuries by 2032, and this project is one component of the City's Vision Zero efforts. Washington Boulevard has had the highest rate of fatalities on any road in Stamford in the last three years, and this study seeks to address this issue and create a safer roadway for all.

The purpose of this survey is one part of the Study Team's outreach strategy to gain feedback about how the public uses the road every day. Your personal experience and insight are invaluable and the City thanks you for your participation in this process to create a safer Washington Boulevard.

As this is a safety-focused study, the below questions are in relation to roadway safety and perception of safety. For the safety study, click here for English or for the Spanish version.

You can learn more about the project on City's project webpage here.

### STAMFORD DOWNTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE & AMBASSADOR SERVICES FEBRUARY STATISTICS



**3,184**  
TRASH (LBS)  
REMOVED



**100**  
HOURS REMOVING SNOW  
FROM STORM DRAINS



**134**  
PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENTS



**16x**  
GRAFFITI WAS  
REMOVED



**29**  
HOURS USING  
GUMBUSTER



**7x**  
REMOVING  
DOG WASTE



## STAMFORD SMALL BUSINESS COVID-19 RELIEF GRANT

The City of Stamford established the Stamford Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant to provide limited, one-time direct financial assistance of up to \$10,000 to eligible Stamford for-profit small businesses that have been adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Stamford will reserve one-third of the total grants for small business enterprises that are owned and operated by minorities, women, people with disabilities, and veterans. Businesses that qualify for these reserved grants will need to submit a [self-certification form](#) as part of their application.

Please refer to the [Grant Guidelines](#) for more information, including eligibility requirements, upcoming information sessions, and office hours.

The City of Stamford will make the application for this grant available on its website on Monday, April 3, 2023.

*The deadline to submit the application will be Friday, April 28, 2023.*

**Virtual Info Session:** Tuesday, March 28th at 12:00pm - [Register here](#) - Recording will be available in English and Spanish.

### In-Person Office Hours:

Tuesday, April 11th

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Veteran Resource Center

175 Atlantic Street, Stamford

[Register here](#)

Thursday, April 13th

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Stamford Partnership Coworking

250 Harbor Drive, Stamford

[Register here](#)

For additional information and for grant guidelines in Spanish, [click here](#).