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Appropriate Downtown Development

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SANDY GOLDSTEIN



Appropriate downtown development is always on the top of the DSSD's agenda and essential to the city's economic vitality. In that regard, the following projects undertaken by the DSSD during 2001/2002 came to fruition this past summer: adult establishment regulations and a final review of the Master Plan regulations pertaining to the Downtown.

Where to locate adult establishments that sell and feature adult paraphernalia and videos which

could negatively impact Stamford neighborhoods was at the heart of the DSSD's agenda. The DSSD reviewed the existing regulations with the help of Attorney Kathy Emmett and zoning expert Rick Redniss. They drafted criteria which would allow adult establishments to locate in areas which were not zoned for residential, office or neighborhood commercial uses and which were far enough away from schools, houses of worship and city geographic borders. After a series of productive Zoning Board public hearings, a regulation presumed constitutional and beneficial to the residents of our city was enacted.

For the last two years the DSSD

has worked with the Planning Board staff and consultants to develop the downtown portion of the city's Master Plan.

The Master Plan is a document that will guide all economic development and growth in the city of Stamford for the next ten to twenty years. The draft of the new Master Plan affirms the Downtown's place as the center of the city's office, multi-family residential and retail development. A public hearing, held in July, witnessed testimony affirming the consultant's recommendations regarding the Downtown. The DSSD looks forward to the adoption of the document as proposed.



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Stamford Downtown was sizzling this summer! And we are not talking about the temperature. Even though it was one of the hottest summers on record, Stamford Downtown stayed cool with record-breaking events from June through August. For those of you who had the opportunity to attend one or more of the six concerts, or grab a gourmet lunch on a Thursday, or shop at the Farmers' Market you know exactly what we mean when we say that Columbus Park was the place to be this summer!

Alive @ Five Kept It Cool Downtown

The summer season was off to a swinging start with the **Alive @ Five** summer concert series, which drew 20,000 spectators and featured a line-up that was simply unstoppable with more than 15 performances over the course of six weeks. On June 20th, one of the countries hottest groups *America* performed for more than 4,000 people who came from near and far



Deep Banana Blackout

to hear such hits as *Horse With No Name* and *Tin Man*. But the music didn't stop there, **Alive @ Five** Thursday evenings with great blues and outrageous antics from *Little Charlie & The Nightcats* and an unforgettable set by *Sean Costello*, an evening of oldies with Stamford's favorite *Sharkey & the Unknowns*, the regionally acclaimed *Cufflinks*, and *GE Smith* designating Stamford Downtown as one of



Columbus Park

his favorite places to perform! On August 1st Connecticut's very own *Deep Banana Blackout* brought the house down with more than 6,000 fans who had a great time and danced the night away!

The series would not be possible without the many corporate sponsors who contributed more than \$50,000 and in-kind donations to cover the cost of the event. Kudos and thanks to Stamford Town Center, Holiday Inn Select, Dichello Distributors, Lightpath, MasterCard International, City Limits Diner, Robustelli World Travel, Poland Spring, Cox Radio, Wahstudio Photography, the Art Bar and Violets, for their dedication to bringing outstanding music and talent to our Downtown.

It Wasn't Too Hot In Our Kitchen

And that is what a few thousand people found this summer when they headed straight for the **Chef's Festival** in Columbus Park and experienced one of the hottest lunch hours in Stamford Downtown. Fourteen of Stamford's finest restaurants and their chefs in shorts participated in this year's event serving more than 5300 lunches over the course of 8 hours (2 hours, four consecutive Thursdays). And while it may have been served fast, it wasn't fast food – each chef carefully planned and prepared a gourmet lunch sampling enticing patrons to frequent their restaurants. Participating restaurants changed menus weekly but featured such delectable lunches as glazed

chicken sandwiches by Bank Street, steak sandwiches by Bennett's Steak & Fish Restaurant, penne ala vodka by Bobby Valentine's, crab cakes by City Limits Diner, mussels in saffron broth by Columbus Park Trattoria, sweet chili crusted striped bass by Corporate Culinary Services, pad thai by Galangal, tomato and mozzarella bruschetta by



Morton's serves up steak sandwiches

Girasole, eggplant rolatini by Il Falco, paella by Macarena, steak sandwiches by Morton's, chicken gumbo by New Orleans Au Bistro, curry chicken by Plateau, and Bing cherry pudding by Zanghi on Summer Street. And the price was irresistible! Where else could you have a gourmet lunch on white clothed tables under a beautiful oak tree for \$3.00 a serving – only in Stamford Downtown. Many thanks to People's Bank who sponsored this event and made it possible for thousands to sample the fabulous food the Downtown has to offer.

A Grand Summer Night

The Friends of Stamford Downtown know how to throw a party! On Wednesday, August 14th more than 400 people attended the 9th annual **Grand Summer Night** celebration, a fundraiser for the purchase of permanent outdoor art. The gala evening began at the University of Connecticut-Stamford Downtown campus with a cocktail reception that featured an awe-inspiring array of gourmet hors d'oeuvres provided by Beacon Restaurant, Bennett's Steak & Fish House, City Limits Diner, Court Square Café, David's Catering, Holiday Inn Select, Galangal, Grand, Sheraton Stamford Hotel, and Zanghi on Summer Street and complimentary spirits provided by S. Pellegrino, SBC Downtown, and Stamford Wine and Liquor. The evening concluded when all 440 patrons left the reception and strolled to a pre-chosen restaurant for dinner, dessert and more fun. The evening's festivities also included a very enticing raffle. Congratulations to the winners - Ellen Mellis who won the grand prize of two round-trip tickets to San Francisco, compliments of Robustelli World Travel and to Bill Gerardi who won a JVC DVD player compliments of County TV & Appliance of Stamford. And congratulations to the Friends of Stamford Downtown for another job well done!

Friends of Downtown



Front, left to right P. Kapiloff, M. Shapiro, J. Fields, Chairwoman, S. Goldstein; C. Tomasello; G. Fox
Back, left to right L. Fife; K. Denker; N. Kucera; B. Levinson; E. Jassey; R. Grosso; Camera shy: P. Bassett, A. Lyons, C. Malloy, G. Malloy, P. Mullender, A. Silberman.

Bright Stars Shine Downtown

Did you see Tom Cruise, Bill Murray or Meg Ryan in Stamford Downtown this summer? No, they weren't strolling down the street; they were on the big screen in Latham Park. Hundreds of Stamfordites turned out Monday evenings in Latham Park with their families, lawn chairs, blankets and picnics to watch the stars under the stars. The series started with an award winning Annie Look-a-like contest, which produced a winner who looked so much like Annie that she stole the hearts of the audience instantly! The movie was a hit too!!! The series continued with Groundhog Day, Ghostbusters and Top Gun. Many thanks to Archstone Communities for sponsoring the movie series. Their new apartment complex is a "skip" away from Latham Park and well worth visiting!

Movies in the park

Fall For Stamford Downtown

A Shopper's Paradise

Stamford Downtown will host the third annual **Arts & Crafts Show** this September. Mark your calendars for Saturday and Sunday September 28 & 29, when Veteran's Park will be transformed into an outdoor shopper's and crafter's paradise. The **Arts & Crafts Show** will offer the opportunity to buy handmade objects and observe artisans at work. The show will feature more than 70 juried professional crafters from



all over the country who vied for the privilege of participating in the Stamford **Arts & Crafts Show**. There will be a wide range of handcrafted treasures to choose from including ceramics, jewelry, clothing, metal, art, leather, handbags, photography, paper and more. It is a great opportunity to get a head start on your holiday shopping, or simply to enjoy the day while shopping al fresco in Stamford Downtown.

Sometimes It's The Big Things In Life That Matter

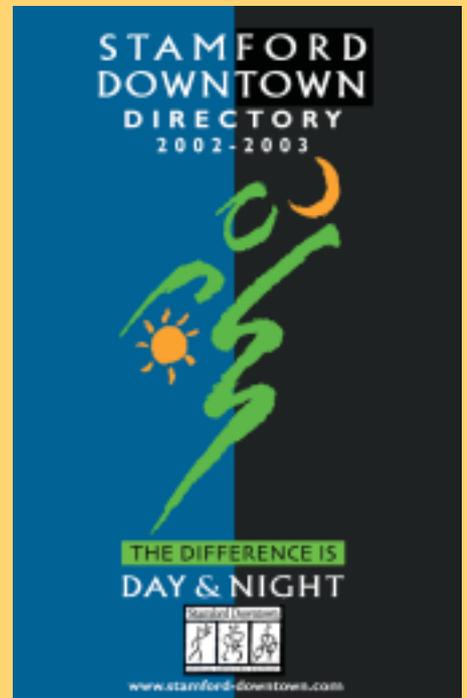
We've got big news for parade fans! 15 new gigantic helium balloon characters will be making their Stamford Debut at the **2002 Cablevision Parade Spectacular**, presented by Stamford Town Center in partnership with The Advocate/Greenwich Time. The irresistible Kermit the Frog, relentless Miss Piggy, outrageous Animal, Hot Hot Hot Billy Blazes, ferocious T-Rex, bigger than life Bear in the Big Blue House will fly sky-high through the streets of Stamford Downtown. These characters, and a few other new balloons (I can't give them all away), join the cast of favorites including Garfield, Bullwinkle, and Alvin the Chipmunk, just to name a few. In addition, award-winning marching bands including Westhill and Stamford High Schools, East Meadow High School and Uniondale High School, will come from all over Connecticut and New York to participate. The Governor's Horse Guard will once again return, presenting a mounted military drill with horses and volunteers wearing authentic Calvary uniforms. All in all, the 8th annual **Cablevision Parade Spectacular** will feature a great line-up with more than 22 gigantic helium balloons, and more than 30 award winning marching bands, spectacular floats, dance troupes, marching units and special guests! So, don't let the parade pass you by, step off is at 12 Noon in Stamford Downtown at Summer and Hoyt Streets November 24th.



Bear in the Big Blue House

And don't forget the Inflation Party on November 23. Join us the night before the big parade as we prepare for the spectacular event. Watch in amazement as the gigantic balloons come to life and grow to enormous heights of 60 feet! This backstage look at the parade is fun for the whole family.

Kermit the Frog, one of the 24 giant balloons.



Coming Soon – The Stamford Downtown Directory. Everything you need to know about dining, shopping, living and playing in the Downtown. Reserve your copy now!



Did You Know...Stamford has an Art Association?

The Stamford Art Association (SAA) was established in 1971 and is a non-profit organization for 300 area artists of all art mediums. The SAA has monthly juried shows in their townhouse gallery with jurors from museums such as the Bruce and the Whitney and local art galleries. On the national level two juried shows, the Faber Birren National Color Award Show in October (opening is October 6, 4-6pm) and the Stanley and Vivien Reed Marine Art Show in May, attract outstanding artists from all over the United States and include large monetary art awards. The annual High School Show in March exhibits works of young artists and provides Scholarship Awards. The Downstairs Gallery gives new members a chance to present their work on an individual basis. The SAA also has a Corporate Art Program that provides a rotating collection of members' art works that are displayed at businesses. The SAA is free to the public, open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12-3 and is located at 79 Franklin Street in Stamford. For more about upcoming shows and the association please call 325-1139.

Chef's Corner

Zanghi on Summer Street Poached Pears – Winemaker's

6 ripe pears – anjou, bartlett, comice • 2 cups fruity - red wine – beaujolais • 1/2 cup water
1 lemon – sliced • 1 orange - sliced • 1 cinnamon stick • 3 cloves • 1/2 vanilla bean
pinch salt • 6 cracked peppercorns • 2 bay leaves • 1/2 cup sugar

1. Combine all ingredients (except pears) in a saucepot.
2. Peel pears and slice a base so that pears will stand up-right.
3. Place pears in liquid, bring to boil.
4. Cover and then simmer for 8 minutes.
5. Transfer to a serving platter and reduce till liquid is syrupy.
6. Strain and pour over pears.



"Excellent, The New York Times. Contemporary seasonal French & Italian inspired cuisine in an urban understated décor. Zanghi on Summer Street, 201 Summer Street 327-3663





Stamford Downtown is Looking Up!

Have you taken a good look up and around the Downtown recently? The DSSD, Downtown property owners and tenants are making incredible architectural improvements which will enhance the Downtown streetscape on Bedford and Atlantic Streets. New exciting façades and landscaping improvements from the restoration of a Civil War era façade on Atlantic Street to the removal of the scaffolding on the Palace Theatre, to the addition of 6 hanging baskets on the light poles on Bedford Street will please your senses. The following are just a few highlights of the transformation that are taking place. So, don't forget to look up in Downtown.

Fabulous Facelifts

The Bridal Suite, Peter's Tailor & Clothier and Engel's Furs (95 Bedford St.) – Owners and tenants restored original building façade and created elegant signage



Galangal

Hwang worked with the DSSD on the development of his new façade, individually placing lettering lit from above and shoji screen type façade.

Galangal (35 Atlantic St) transformed a plain brick front building into an eye catching, inviting façade using warm glowing signage.

Sportscape (37 Atlantic St) has just completed a beautiful new façade and is currently working on a new interior. The renovated exterior transforms another plain brick box building into something of interest, which mirrors several of the older, attractively ornate buildings on Atlantic.

109 Atlantic St., which was deteriorating for many years, was transformed into one of the most attractive buildings on the block with the restoration of the old façade from top to bottom and the painting of the building with a historic mustard color.

97 Atlantic St. is now nearing completion. Several years ago one storefront was restored to the original Civil



109 Atlantic Street

War era façade, followed by a complete renovation of the brick face and trim on the upper floors. Currently the third and final phase is underway, a restoration of the second ground level retail space to complement the first.

A Treasure Reborn. The Palace Theatre, in its final phases of restoration, is slated for completion by the summer of 2003. The Palace renovation, which has spanned a decade, has included the acquisition of additional properties, systems upgrades, restroom



Palace Theatre rendering

and dressing room expansion, art gallery refurbishing, and doubling the size of the stage. The expansion of the lobby and the associated areas are the final steps of the process. Maintaining the original detail, charm and elegance of the historic façade is the jewel of the project.

Hanging in Style. A pilot program was implemented on Bedford Street this summer. Six hanging baskets with overflowing floral displays were placed on six street lamps.



Baskets on Bedford Street

The program tested aesthetic presence and plant endurance for a project which will eventually place the hanging baskets throughout the Downtown.

Light Up, Not Down. The City will be placing new streetlights on Bedford Street this fall. To determine which model is best suited to the historic context of Bedford Street, two test models were strategically placed on the street. The new street lamps do have a yesteryear feel to them, but are more energy efficient, have longer lasting bulbs, non-yellowing globes and most important, cast light down only. (Old style streetlights shine up as well and are responsible for light pollution worldwide.)



Mark Your Calendars...

All Events Are Free To The Public

Farmers' Market

Thru November, Mondays & Thursdays 10am – 3pm

Columbus Park

Fresh fruits and vegetables, cookies, pies, breads, pesto, mozzarella, flowers and more.

Stamford Downtown

Arts & Crafts Show

September 28 & 29, 10am - 6pm & 12noon- 5pm

Veteran's Park, on Atlantic Street across from Old Town Hall

Inflation Party for The Cablevision Parade Spectacular

Saturday, November 23, 4 - 8pm

Summer & Hoyt Streets

Join us as we prepare for the parade at a huge block party. This backstage look at the parade includes the inflation of 24 helium balloons.

Cablevision Parade Spectacular, presented by Stamford Town Center in partnership with The Advocate/Greenwich Time

Sunday, November 24, 12 noon Step Off

Summer & Hoyt Streets

Heights & Lights Reckson Associates Rappelling Santa and First County Bank's Colossal Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thursday, December 5, 6:30pm

Landmark Square

From 22 stories high at Landmark Square, Santa Claus rappels down Stamford's tallest building to the cheers of the crowds below. It's one of the highlights of the holiday season as throngs of "kids" cheer Santa in his descent. Then, follow Santa up Bedford Street to Latham Park and sing carols and join in the countdown for the annual lighting of Stamford's fully decorated, Colossal Christmas tree.