

#### Volume 1 • Number 23 • Winter 2003/2004

# Happy New Year from Stamford Downtown

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN, RICHARD TABER

the



I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. As we enter the New Year, there are many important areas of downtown revitalization which I

would like to share with you: most significantly, the Downtown's retail sector is once again a dynamic regional draw; a goal which has always been foremost for the DSSD. The location of two national retailers in the heart of Stamford Downtown was a major step in accomplishing the District's vision of securing retail anchors at both ends of Broad Street, stretching from Washington Blvd. including the former Caldor site and extending to Greyrock Place opposite Macy's. This vision got its jumpstart in May 2003 when multiple retail developments broke ground and started building and renovating in Downtown. At that time, one of the nation's largest and strongest retailers, Target, which purchased the three-acre parcel of land on Washington Blvd. and Broad Street started construction of its 150,000 square foot retail

store slated to open in the fall of 2004. In addition, Burlington Coat Factory leased the Caldor site and started its renovations which will bring another major department store to the downtown. These two giants alone will generate approximately \$1,000,000 in city taxes per year, 500 new jobs, 800 public parking spaces, and attract more than 2,000,000 shoppers to the Downtown.

Stamford Downtown continues to change and develop with additional projects that have been underway since early last year. The new Marriott Courtyard, located at the corner of Summer and Broad Streets, will bring an estimated 30,000 visitors annually with many of them patronizing the restaurant and entertainment venues of the Downtown. The project will generate \$180,000 a year in city taxes and employ 60 people. The extensive retail activity taking place Downtown will create a domino effect opening doors for retailers of the same caliber to seriously consider Stamford Downtown. And in fact the level of retail interest in our Downtown has already increased dramatically.

However, the work of the DSSD does not end with retail development, the DSSD continues to organize and produce quality

> Stamford Downtown Special Services District Five Landmark Square Suite 110 Stamford, CT 06901

events in the public spaces of the Downtown which attract hundreds of thousands of people throughout the year. This past fall the Stamford Safari Sculpture auction raised \$49,650 for local charities with the sale of 35 colorfully decorated sculptures displaying the visions of more than 30 artists. The fourth annual Arts & Crafts Show took place September 13&14 in Downtown's Veteran's Park where over 90 vendors displayed their works. The fun continued through the fall and into the Holiday season. The Advocate Parade Spectacular was an overwhelming success with 22 giant helium balloons and 46 marching bands, units and floats parading proudly through the streets of Downtown. The holiday season was ushered in with the annual Heights & Lights on December 7. Santa and 3 of his cohorts rappelled down the 22-story Landmark Building and then jubilantly led the crowd to Latham Park for José Feliciano's concert and the lighting of the Holiday Tree.

Bring your family and spend some time Downtown this New Year. From your friends at the DSSD, our retailers, merchants and area residents, Happy New Year! It is with pleasure that I invite everyone to share in the excitement of Stamford Downtown.

> PRESORTED FIRST-CLASS U.S. POSTAGE PAID STAMFORD CT PERMIT #734

#### WHAT'S INSIDE?

Letter From The Chairman1
Big Balloons, Big Crowds2
Mark of Zora
Santa Saves the Day3
Who You Gonna Call?4
2004 Calendar of Events4
Welcome Agos

## Board of COMMISSIONERS

#### *Chairman* Richard E. Taber

Chairman & CEO, First County Bank Vice Chairman

Stephen J. Hoffman Hoffman Investment Partners

*Treasurer* Kathryn Emmett, Esq. *Emmett & Glander* 

Secretary Seth Berger Director of Operations Baby & Toy Superstore, Inc.

Immediate Past Chairman Robert H. Kahn President, United Realty of CT, Inc.

Carl Bildner President, Bildner Capital Corp.

Mark Bridges Executive Director, UBS Investment Bank John P. Condlin President, Stamford Chamber of Commerce Nancy Greenberg Vice President, New Development Heyman Properties, LLC

Robert Karp President, Business Environments Mario J. Lodato, Jr. Chairman, MarLo Associates, Inc. MarLo J. Lodato Real Estate David E. Long Vice President of Human Resources, Purdue Pharma LP Norman Lotstein Vice President, Pyramid Real Estate Group Mayor Dannel P. Malloy City of Stamford David R. Martin President & Deputy Mayor Stamford Board of Representatives Michael J. McAndrews General Manager, Stamford Town Center George E. Moredock, III Executive Director, Stamford Center for the Arts Marjan Murray Vice President, Regional Manager, People's Bank Courtney A. Nelthropp Owner, Sir Speedy Laszlo Papp Executive Director, Urban Redevelopment Commission F.D. Rich III Senior VP-Chief Information Officer Reckson Associates Realty, Inc. Mary Schaffer

Telluride Robin Stein Land Use Bureau Chief, City of Stamford Werner Valeur-Jensen Owner, Valeur Realty Holding Co.

> Sandy Goldstein Executive Director

John Ruotolo Director of Operations Lynne Colatrella Director of Marketing & Special Events Annette Einhorn Manager of Marketing & Special Events Marion Glowka Streetscape Coordinator Maryann Rockwood Administrative Assistant

Published Quarterly by: **Stamford Downtown Special Services District** Five Landmark Square, Stamford, CT 06901-2704 Tel: (203) 348-5285 Fax: (203) 348-6857 www.stamford-downtown.com



On Sunday, November 23, 2003 the Advocate Parade Spectacular presented by the Stamford Town Center returned to



Stamford Downtown for its tenth consecutive year. The brilliant sunny skies and seasonably warm temperatures added



to the appeal of the event as many thousands of spectators lined up, at times 20 deep, from Summer and Hoyt Streets all the way to Atlantic and Federal Streets.



The 2003 Advocate Parade Spectacular featured 22 giant helium balloons, 36 marching units, 7 floats, and over 2500 volunteers and participants proudly parading down the 1.5 mile route. Alan Kalter from the Late Show with David Letterman, joked away on the main reviewing stage as our Master of Ceremonies. Parade Grand Marshall, Holly Graf, Commander of the Navy Warship USS Winston Churchill, proudly led the large Navy contingent including the White House Ceremonial Guard and the Silver Dolphins Drill Team from Groton. The ever-enchanting spectacle of colossal



cartoon characters floating overhead excited the crowds. Experienced Parade spectators shouted "Spin" and "Higher!" as these balloons floated by, some standing over 60 feet tall. New balloons included SpongeBob SquarePants, Pepe the King Prawn and Big Bird. The Hip Hopz Kidz, a Florida based performance dance troupe ranging in age from 8-17, had the crowd bopping. And the parade wouldn't have been complete without the antics of our 33 volunteer clowns. The DSSD conducted a clown training seminar again this year, teaching recruits the mannerisms and characteristics of clowning.

Save the date for this year's Advocate Parade Spectacular, November 21, 2004!









The mark of Zora has changed the way we view our downtown traffic signal boxes. Artist Zora Janosova has transformed many of Stamford's once ordinary traffic signal structures into beautiful works of art. Zora was commissioned to decorate the civic architecture in the downtown area as part of a continuing Downtown beautification campaign.





Zora's work is displayed on 10 traffic signal boxes throughout the Downtown, with another two to be completed in the Spring. Zora is also refurbishing the wall murals on Clark Street near Agos Restaurant.

Zora Janosova was born and raised in Czechoslovakia, where she mastered in Fine Arts at the University of Pavol Jozef Safarik.



Before



After



She came to the U.S. in 1996, where she continues painting. Her areas of expertise are sitespecific large murals, scenic painting for Broadway, off-Broadway and regional theatres, sculpturing of puppets and figures and interior design and finishes.

Some of her grand scale, site-specific large exterior mural commissions include Convent Avenue Family Center, New York City (120 feet long); Palace Theatre, Stamford, CT and Connecticut Design Centre, Norwalk, CT. Zora has also worked as a scenic artist on Broadway shows including "Voices in the Dark," "Epic Proportions," "RENT," "42nd St," "True West," "Hair Spray" and TV shows on MSG Metro channel and ABC's "All My Children."



Before

After

Some of Zora's works are on display as permanent collections at Yale University library, Georgetown University library, Stamford Museum and Nature Center and Norwalk Museum.

We are proud to have Zora's works of art as part of the Downtown's outdoor art collection. Thanks for the mark of Zora!

# r. Bah Humbug's Evil Plans Smashed

Despite high winds and chilling temperatures, Santa once again made his grand entrance down the 22 stories of Stamford's tallest building, the Landmark Building, for Reckson Associates' Rappelling Santa on December 7, 2003. The twist this past year was the appearance of villain, Mr. Bah Humbug, who attempted to foil Santa's approach. A total of four



rappellers participated in this family fun event. The crowds yelled to Santa, who appeared on various rooftops, "Hurry Santa! Help us Santa! Santa, his trusty Elf and Rudolph were able to save Christmas and captured and then forgave the evil villain.

Santa prevailed and his busy holiday schedule took him up Bedford Street in a gloriously decorated Fire truck (thanks to

> Stamford Big Fire Volunteer Fire Department) to Latham Park. There Santa joined José Feliciano and The Stamford Downtown

Children's Chorus for a holiday concert and First County Bank's Colossal Tree

Lighting Ceremony, featuring a live tree donated by Bartlett Tree Company.



## Who You **GONNA CALL?**

TO HELP BUSINESSES AND **RESIDENTS ANSWER THE PERPETUAL** QUESTION OF WHOM TO CALL WITH VARIOUS PROBLEMS, THE DSSD HAS COMPILED THE FOLLOWING CONTACT LIST. CLIP AND SAVE IT SO WHEN YOU HAVE THAT QUESTION YOU'LL ALSO HAVE THE ANSWER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS.

Assessment and Tax Collection
Abandoned Vebicles, Police Department977-4444
Air Quality, Health Department
Animal Management Complaints, Animal Control977-4437
Banners, Parks and Recreation Department, Beach Stickers, Department of Cashiering & Permitting977-4979
Bicycle Racks, Citizens Service Center
Building Permits, Licenses and Inspections977-5700
Building Violations, Licenses and Inspections 977-5700
Business Questions, Economic Development Office977-5089
Dumpsters, Health Department
Food Store/Restaurant Problems, Health Department977-4384
Graffiti, DSSD
Hazardous Materials, Solid Waste Management977-4140
Homeless Issues, Public Safety, Health & Welfare977-4153
Lost Animals, Animal Control977-4437
Narcotics Reports, Police Department
Noise Complaints, Police Department
Parking Meters, Department of Cashiering & Permitting977-4979
Parking Problems, Department of Casbiering & Permitting977-4979
Potboles/Sidewalks, Citizens Service Center977-4140
Recycling Questions, Citizens Service Center 977-4140
Rodents, Health Department977-4384
Signs, Citizens Service Center977-4140
Streetlights, Citizens Service Center

Water/Sewer Issues, Water Pollution Control....977-5809

## **2004 Calendar of Events**

#### SCULPTURE EXHIBIT IN DOWNTOWN STAMFORD

*June 9-August 31* 2004 Art in Public Places: "A Celebration of Women"

#### ALIVE @ 5 OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Thursday Evenings, June 24-July 29 Live music from National and Regional Headliners. Great music, great dancing and great times!

#### FARMER'S MARKET

#### July through November

Mondays & Thursdays 10 am – 3 pm Connecticut grown! Come down to Columbus Park for the freshest fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods and more! Straight from the farm and right to your home.

#### **CHEF'S FESTIVAL**

#### Thursdays, July 15-August 5

The most popular lunch hour in Stamford Downtown featuring terrific food from local restaurants prepared and served by your favorite chefs in shorts.

#### A GRAND SUMMER NIGHT, PROGRESSIVE DINNER

#### Wednesday, August 11

Organized by the "Friends of Stamford Downtown" this annual fund-raiser salutes fine dining in Stamford Downtown.

#### STAMFORD DOWNTOWN ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Saturday & Sunday, September 11 & 12

VETERAN'S PARK, ON ATLANTIC STREET ACROSS FROM OLD TOWN HALL.

Shop and browse the 80+ boutiques featuring jewelry, paintings, photography, clothing, accessories for the home and more!

#### INFLATION FOR THE ADVOCATE PARADE SPECTACULAR

Saturday, November 20

SUMMER & HOYT STREETS

JOIN US FOR THIS BACKSTAGE LOOK AT THE PARADE AND WATCH THE GIANT HELIUM BALLOONS COME TO LIFE.

#### THE ADVOCATE PARADE SPECTACULAR, PRESENTED BY STAMFORD TOWN CENTER

Sunday, November 21, 12 noon step-off SUMMER & HOYT STREETS

One of the largest helium balloon parades in the country, it features everyone's favorite giant balloon characters, award winning marching bands and fabulous floats. Fun for the whole family.

#### **HEIGHTS & LIGHTS**

#### Sunday, December 5

RECKON ASSOCIATES RAPPELLING SANTA AND FIRST COUNTY BANK'S COLOSSAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

From 22 stories high above Stamford Downtown, watch and cheer for Santa Claus as he makes his daredevil descent, twisting and flying from the top of Stamford's tallest building, Landmark Square. Then follow Santa up Bedford Street to Latham Park for an evening of holiday fun with live music and join in the countdown of the annual lighting of Stamford's Holiday Tree.

#### Agos Bar & Restauran



Bethany, a graduate of the The Culinary Institute of America, creates fresh homemade desserts daily.

In keeping with their acute attention to detail, Agos uses fresh ingredients, simple preparations, and greet their guests with an atmosphere of warmth and hospitality. Agos is the newest dining establishment to open its doors in Stamford Downtown. Owners Vito and Bethany Derario opened Agos Bar & Restaurant on November 6, 2003. Serving regional Italian cuisine, Vito has infused his Italian roots into every dish they prepare and every guest they greet.



Agos is located at 261 Main Street in Stamford Downtown. Telephone: 203-348-AGOS (2467). www.agosrestaurant.com

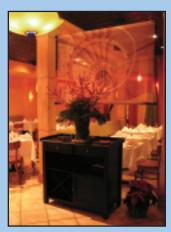
2:00 рм 0:00 рм

0:30 рм

:00 pm

#### HOURS AT AGOS BAR & RESTAURANT ARE:

м 11:45 ам - 2
SDAY 5:00 pm - 1
JRDAY 5:00 PM − 1
5:00 рм – 9







## Chef's Corner

### SCALOPPINA zio PIPINO

Veal Shallots Roasted peppers Gaeta black olives Scallions Basil Brandy Salt Pepper

Braise 3 pieces of veal in hot olive oil on both sides. Remove excess oil, add 1/4 teaspoon of shallots, roasted red peppers, olives, salt, black pepper, scallions and put back on the fire. Wet everything with a 1/4 cup of brandy, let the brandy evaporate and the zio Pipino is ready!

Recipe courtesy of Claudio Altiri, Agos Restaurant & Bar