

the Stamford DOWNTOWNER



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Happy New Year from Stamford Downtown

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN



**Transportation:
A Regional
Priority**

The issues of traffic congestion on I-95 and inadequate commuter rail service, rail-cars and parking have become major agenda items for the citizens and businesses in our community. State action to help alleviate the problem is the first step on a long journey toward taking effective corrective action. The matter has hit the radar screen of the Governor's office. According to the Advocate (January 20, 2005), Governor Rell "will make a substantial new commitment to alleviate congestion on our highways in her upcoming proposed budget". In addition, "she will appeal for an important seat on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's board of directors."

Inadequate mass transportation and conges-

tion on the I-95 corridor to and from Stamford are significant inhibitors of economic development in our city. That is why public debate and education addressing both problems are essential. An important step was taken toward the latter end by the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) in its report, *Transportation: A Strategic Investment, An Action Plan for Connecticut 2003-2023* which recommended to former Governor Roland and to the legislature that rail improvements be a high priority matter for the state. Oz Biebel, Chairman of the TSB, indicated that he believes major efforts are also needed in constructing operational lanes on I95. These lanes would extend from one on-ramp to the next, effectively reducing the massive bottleneck at strategic highway points. The report also enumerated possible revenue sources to address the cost of action; all of which must be analyzed and debated.

According to the report there is currently 1.5 million allocated for the designing and

planning of operational lanes on I95. At least another 10 million more is needed to lengthen the lanes between exits 10-15. The report states further that the replacement of the 30 year old Metro North cars at a cost of an estimated 1 billion should be made part of a long term state capital project package covered by 20 year bonds. One can see that the cost of corrective action is expensive, but the cost to the economy of doing nothing can be economically devastating.

Alliances among business groups, interested citizens, commuter advocates and the corporate community must be forged in order to get the attention and action of important state leaders. The latter groups must agree on a similar transportation agenda so that our state representatives can comfortably support a comprehensive plan of action and the monies to fund such a plan. The DSSD will begin its own internal Board education process regarding the issues, in order to actively promote a positive plan of action.

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Spectacular Advocate Parade Spectacular!



On Sunday, November 21, 2004 the Advocate Parade Spectacular presented by the Stamford Town Center regaled over 100,000 cheering patrons with its extraordinary balloons, bands and floats.



The Parade featured 24 giant helium balloons, 37 marching units, 6 floats, and over 2500 volunteers and participants proudly parading down the 1.5 mile route. Howard Finkel, World Wrestling Entertainment Ring Announcer was



Master of Ceremonies and introduced Parade Grand Marshall, Chris "Mad Dog" Russo, star of WFAN Sports Radio. "Mad Dog" led off the parade, riding in a vintage Mustang convertible provided by the Spaddiccini Family. New balloons this



year included six Dr. Seuss characters such as Cat in the Hat and The Grinch. The NYPD Emerald Society Pipes and Drums entertained parade spectators as did Billy Preston aboard the Stamford Town Center Float, the Hip Hop Kidz and Center Stage Dance Studio. And of course, the parade wouldn't have been complete without the frolics of 27 DSSD trained volunteer clowns.

Save the date for this year's Advocate Parade Spectacular, November 20, 2005!



Mrs. Claus to the Rescue



On December 5, 2004, Santa once again rappelled down the 22 stories of Stamford's tallest building, Landmark Tower. Santa's arrival was threatened by villain extraordinaire, Mr. Bah Humbug.

Wielding her ever-powerful rolling pin, Mrs. Claus came to the rescue to the delight of thousands of children. Mr. Bah Humbug and of course Santa were greeted by an enthusiastic



crowd of spectators. Mr. Bah Humbug was arrested by Stamford Police and Santa triumphed once



again. Many thanks to Reckson Associates for its continued sponsorship of this popular event.

From Landmark Tower, Santa rode in a gloriously decorated fire truck (thanks to Stamford Big Five Volunteer Fire Department) to Latham Park for a holiday concert with John Waite at First County Bank's Colossal Tree Lighting Ceremony, where our live tree, donated in 2003 by Bartlett Tree Company, was lit by six thousand sparkling, colorful lights.



Renovations at Crown Theatres Landmark

Crown Theatres has recently completed renovations at its Landmark Theatres with new high-back rocker seating with cup holders, increased leg room, new décor, carpeting, painting, etc. and an expanded concession menu.



Crown Theatre's Director of Marketing, Zvi Cole (far left) shows off the newly renovated seating at Crown Landmark.

Crown Theatres is dedicated to providing the best in customer service as well as the ultimate in film presentation. "We are thrilled to bring improved seating, comfort, decor and menu selection to the Crown Landmark 9 location which will enhance the movie-going experience," said

Director of Marketing, Zvi Cole.

Crown also has instituted community programming which includes its free summer film fest for kids, featuring G and PG films each week at the Majestic location. The Crown E-mail Club is a great way to stay informed of special offers, events, and weekly showtimes. When you sign up you are sent a coupon for free popcorn. Sign up at www.crowntheatres.com.

Be sure to stop by the newly improved Crown Landmark!



Crown Theatres new sign at Landmark Square

Stamford Downtown Special Services District 2005 Calendar of Events

Sculpture Exhibit in Stamford Downtown
June-August, 2005
ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

French Market (new!)
April through November, 2005
Tuesdays and Saturdays
Columbus Park

COME CELEBRATE OUR NEW MARKET WITH EXCITING NEW VENDORS OFFERING THE FRESHEST FRUITS, VEGETABLES, FLOWERS, BAKED GOODS AND MORE! STRAIGHT FROM THE FARM AND RIGHT TO YOUR HOME.

Alive @ 5 Outdoor Summer Concert Series
Thursday Evenings, June 23 through July 28, 2005
5:00 to 8:00 pm, Columbus Park

LIVE MUSIC FROM NATIONAL AND REGIONAL HEADLINERS, WHICH ATTRACTS AFTER-WORK CROWDS AND FAMILIES. THURSDAY NIGHTS IN COLUMBUS PARK HAVE BECOME A RITUAL IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN WITH GREAT MUSIC, GREAT DANCING AND GREAT TIMES!

Pops in the Park
TBA

AN EVENING OF POPS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STAMFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PLEASE VISIT WWW.STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM IN EARLY 2005 FOR INFORMATION.

Blues on Bedford Street Concerts (new!)
TBA

PLEASE VISIT WWW.STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM IN EARLY 2005 FOR INFORMATION.

Chef's Festival

Tuesdays, July-August, 2005

THE MOST POPULAR LUNCH HOUR IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN FEATURING TERRIFIC FOOD FROM LOCAL RESTAURANTS PREPARED AND SERVED BY YOUR FAVORITE CHEFS.

Stamford Tables' Restaurant Week
Summer, 2005

PLEASE VISIT WWW.STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM FOR DATES AND PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS. STAMFORD RESTAURANT WEEK IS A GREAT WAY TO CELEBRATE THE SUMMER OF 2005 WITH SPECIALLY PRICED MENUS.

A Grand Summer Night
Wednesday, August 10, 2005

ORGANIZED BY THE "FRIENDS OF STAMFORD DOWNTOWN," THIS ANNUAL FUND-RAISER SALUTES FINE DINING IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN. CALL 203-348-5285 FOR AN INVITATION.

Stamford Downtown Arts & Crafts Show
Saturday, September 24 & Sunday, September 25, 2005

SHOP AND BROWSE THE MANY BOUTIQUES FEATURING JEWELRY, PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHY, CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES FOR THE HOME AND MORE!

SAC Capital Advisors Giant Balloon Inflation Party

Saturday, November 19, 2005 3-6 pm

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 20, 2005

12 noon step-off

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

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005

4:30 PM, LANDMARK SQUARE

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.

Signs of the Times...Baby & Toy Superstore becomes Kids Home Furnishings



It is more than a name change...

Baby & Toy Superstore becoming Kids Home Furnishings reflects the Berger Family commitment to providing parents with the latest designs in furniture and accessories for infants through teenage years. Along with the new name, comes additional services such as a full time decorator on staff who will come to your home to assist with designs to complement your home.

For over 75 years the Berger family has been offering high quality goods at a discount. Their store provides fashionable, safe and secure environments for children. Their professional staff continues to search the world for innovative new products to suit every family's lifestyle. And you can be sure that since the Bergers have a 6 year old and a 10 year old at home, they will not bring anything into the store that they would not use in their own home.

Kids Home Furnishings, 11 Forest Street, Stamford, 203-327-1333.

Wolfe's Cleaners Celebrating 50 Years on Bedford Street



Wolfe's Circa 1955

Wolfe's Cleaners is proudly celebrating 50 years of service on Bedford Street. Charles Wolfe first opened his store as Wolfe's One Hour Martinizing in 1955. Eleven years later, his son, Robert, took over the business and in the years following, the business expanded to a full service dry cleaner. Now operated by Rick Wolfe, the grandson of Charles, the family will provide specials to commemorate its Golden Anniversary. Look also for raffles from John Zemo's Men's Store and the Avon Theatre as well as All Things Floral, Schokolad and Sabatiello's, bridging the old with the new!



Wolfe's 2005

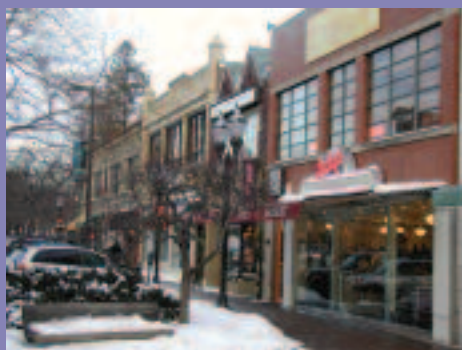
Wolfe's Cleaners, 288 Bedford Street, Stamford, 203-323-8960.

Changing Facades of Bedford Street

Treat yourself to a stroll down Bedford Street to see the new shops and eateries which have joined the Stamford Downtown family during the last year.



The scenery began to change just over a year ago with the opening of Schokolad Chocolate Factory where patrons can see fresh strawberries dipped into "rivers of chocolate" and feast on spectacular handmade chocolate candy. The aromas alone are cause for celebration. Next, go to U & I Deco, a unique shop where one can find English, French, Italian and Colonial styles to enhance any home décor. The latter new store openings were followed by the much anticipated renovation of the historic Avon Theatre in early 2004.



Since then, a number of other quality stores joined the Downtown such as FastFrame, a custom framing store, All Things Floral, an exquisite florist, Fashion Lounge which carries apparel and accessories for both women and children, Sugar Free Xpress for those who have chosen or need to be on a sugar free diet as well as Sabatiello's Italian Grille which overlooks Bedford Street and Lucky's Classic Hamburger and Malt Shop, an authentic 50's style burger and ice cream parlor.



Chef's Corner



8 ounce chicken breast, butterflied	flour
2 slices prosciutto di Parma	1 egg, scrambled
1/2 cup sautéed spinach	breadcrumbs
2 sliced provolone cheese	olive oil

Lay the chicken breast out flat and lightly pound with a meat tenderizer (hint: cover with plastic wrap so the chicken does not splatter). Once pounded, layer the prosciutto di Parma, then the spinach, then the provolone. Fold the bottom up 1/3 of the way and fold in the sides (similar to rolling a wrap or fajita). Cover the rolled chicken breast with flour, then dip in the egg and coat with breadcrumbs. Repeat this step two more times. Score the top of the chicken and drizzle with olive oil. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 minutes. Slice the chicken into medallions and serve with a mushroom marsala over fettuccini.

Recipe courtesy of Sabatiello's Italian Grille, 269 Bedford Street, Stamford, 203-353-3300