

the Stamford DOWNTOWNER

Stamford Downtown



SPECIAL SERVICES DISTRICT

VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 31 • FALL 2006

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN



Stamford Downtown has won accolades from many downtown patrons for its attractive and inviting streetscape. The kudos for our outdoor plantings and gardens goes to horticulturist, Marion Glowka, Director of the DSSD's streetscape program and her dedicated team of gardeners. On September 14, 2006, Stamford Downtown's streetscape program was showcased at the Garden Club of America's Regional Zone

Meeting. The visit, considered an honor by horticulturists, included a tour of the gardens, parks and planting nooks in the downtown, as well as a power point presentation highlighting the history and successes of the program.

Created in 1994, the streetscape program consisted then of

one seasonal planting, several planters and a budget of \$300. Fast forward to 2006! The budget today is \$94,400, servicing 15 gardens, 6 downtown parks, 10 sidewalk gardens, 30 street planters, 3 median dividers and 116 hanging baskets. Each year over 2,700 tulips and 9,000 annuals, perennials and shrubs are planted. The DSSD is responsible for maintaining our landscaped sites, including spring preparations, extensive watering, fertilizing, weeding, pruning and a rigorous fall clean-up. Thirty volunteers put in 450 hours per year to make much of this happen. The Garden Club women were impressed with the accomplishments.

It is very powerful to see the contrasts between what was and what is now. Following are before and after photos of key sites in the downtown:

Columbus Park



Before



After

Latbam Park



Before



After

Veterans Park



Before



After

Welcome Garden



Before



After

Burlington Garden



Before



After

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Letter From The President1

Summer/Fall Events in Stamford2

Welcome Cheryl.....3

SCA Welcomes Kenneth Wesler3

UBS – New Title Sponsor of Parade3

Calling All Clowns!3

Fall/Winter Events3

Retail Corner.....4

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

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
STAMFORD CT
PERMIT NO 734

Board of COMMISSIONERS

Chairman

Stephen J. Hoffman
Managing Partner, Hoffman Investment Partners, LLC

Vice Chairman

Marjan Murray
Vice President, Regional Manager, People's Bank

Treasurer

Kathryn Emmett, Esq.
Emmett & Glander

Secretary

Michael Marchetti
Columbus Park Trattoria

Immediate Past Chairman

Richard Taber
Chairman & CEO, First County Bank

Seth Berger

Director of Operations, Kids Home Furnishing, Inc.

Carl Bildner

President, Bildner Capital Corp.

Harold Cleveland

President & COO, Crown Theatres

John P. Condlin

President & CEO, Stamford Chamber of Commerce

John DiMenna

President, Seaboard Properties, Inc.

Michael M. Ego

Associate Vice Provost, University of Connecticut, Stamford

Michael Freimuth

Director, Office of Economic Development, City of Stamford

Nancy Greenberg

Vice President, New Development, Heyman Properties, LLC

Robert H. Kahn

President, United Realty of CT, Inc.

Robert Karp

President, Business Environments

Gregory Lodato

President, MarLo Associates, Inc.

David E. Long

Vice President of Human Resources, Purdue Pharma L.P.

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

Courtney A. Nelthrop

Owner, Str Speedy

Gerrie Post

Executive Director, Urban Redevelopment Commission

F.D. Rich III

Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer

Reckson Associates Realty Corp.

Mary Schaffer

Napa & Co.

Robin Stein

Land Use Bureau Chief, City of Stamford

Werner Valeur-Jensen

Owner, Valeur Realty Holding Co.

Rocco Veltri

Executive Director, UBS Investment Bank

Kathleen E. Walsh

President & CEO, Stamford Partnership, Inc.

Steven Wise

Steven Wise Associates

Sandy Goldstein

President

Lynne Colatrella

Director of Marketing & Signature Events

Annette Einhorn

Manager of Marketing & Signature Events

Marion Glowka

Streetscape Coordinator

Maryann Rockwood

Office Manager

John Ruotolo

Director of Operations

Heather L. Scott

Marketing & Signature Events Coordinator

Cheryl Vukelic

Operations Project Coordinator

Jackie Wetenhall

Director of Retail Development

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

Publisher: Sandy Goldstein **Editor:** Annette Einhorn

Asst. Editor: Heather L. Scott

SUMMER EVENTS IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

Alive @ Five Rocked Stamford

The summer season was off to a swinging start with the Alive @ Five summer concert series, which drew tens of thousands of spectators and featured a line-up that was simply unstoppable during an expanded seven week program. On June 22, *The Bacon Brothers* started the season with their crowd pleasing performance. But the music didn't stop there, *Alive @ Five* rocked Thursday evenings with awesome vocals from *Antigone Rising*, memorable appearances by *Average White Band* and *The Radiators*, Latin beat of *Tito Puente Jr. & his Orchestra* and the comical show of *The Nerds*. The series finished with a bang on August 3 with record crowds for *Hootie & The Blowfish*. The show went on despite the power outage in Stamford Downtown, thanks to the advance planning of Lynne Colatrella, who had generators on stand-by!



Kevin Bacon

We thank our many corporate sponsors whose contributions and in-kind donations helped to cover the costs of the event: Stamford Town Center, The Advocate/Greenwich Time, Budweiser, BevMax, Bacardi, Garden Catering Stage, Columbus Park Merchants, Dichello Distributors, Agora Spa at the Stamford Marriott, Woodloch Resort, Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker, Crown Theatres, planyourweddingday.com, Citibank, County TV and Appliance, Frank Mercede & Sons, Rich Cappelli Associates, LLC, 95.9 The Fox, 96.7 The Coast, Star 99.9, WSTC/WNLK, Simply Signs, Wahstudio Photography, Event Management Inc., Stamford Chamber of Commerce and The Fairfield County Weekly. Many thanks to all for their dedication in supporting this outstanding musical event in Stamford Downtown.

POPS IN THE PARK

Pops in the Park returned to Columbus Park for three Wednesdays this summer. Each week featured a different headliner with musicians from the Stamford Symphony Orchestra.



Andrew Marcovici

On June 28, Andrea Marcovici delighted the audience with Eckart Preu conducting the Stamford Symphony Orchestra. On July 12, due to inclement weather, the event was moved into the Palace Theatre. What a treat for those who attended to hear this unique Big Band tribute to Frank Sinatra by Joe Piscopo with members of the Stamford Symphony Orchestra. Joe sang, played guitar, piano, drums, saxophone and even performed a heartwarming duet with his son, Joe Piscopo Jr. Pops in the Park's final show on July 19 featured Lynn DiMenna performing "All that Jazz" with members of the Stamford Symphony Orchestra.

A GRAND SUMMER NIGHT

The Friends of Stamford Downtown know how to throw a party! On Wednesday, August 9, four hundred people attended the annual Grand Summer Night celebration, a fundraiser for the purchase of permanent outdoor art. The gala evening began on the stage of the Palace Theatre with a cocktail reception featuring an array of gourmet hors d'oeuvres provided by local restaurants. The evening concluded when the guests left the reception and strolled to a pre-chosen restaurant for dinner, dessert and more fun. The evening's festivities also included an expansive silent auction and a very enticing raffle which included a grand prize of two round-trip air tickets compliments of Robustelli World Travel and a DVD player compliments of County TV & Appliance of Stamford and ten DVD rentals from Blockbuster. Congratulations to the Friends of Stamford Downtown for another job well done! And many thanks to Betsy Levinson for the Silberstein Foundation for their sponsorship of this important event.

Arts, Crafts & Blues on Bedford

For the second year, Stamford Downtown presented Arts, Crafts & Blues on Bedford on September 16 & 17! The weather couldn't have been nicer and the crafters lined the streets of Bedford and Spring. The music started on Saturday at 1 pm with Amy Trail, John Mooney, Lil' Brian and the Zydeco Travelers, Walter Wolfman Washington. Dr. John headlined the show on Saturday evening. On Sunday, the music continued with Bonerama, Syreeta Neal and concluded with an amazing slide guitar performance by Sonny Landreth. An instrument drive booth sponsored by AT&T and Giuliano's Music Center was set up to collect instruments for Warren Easton High School in New Orleans. Please call the DSSD at 203-348-5285 for a wish list of instruments.



Dr. John

The DSSD Welcomes our Newest Addition:

Cheryl Vukelic has joined the DSSD team as Operations Project Coordinator. Since graduating from Baruch College in Manhattan, she has worked with the Stamford Board of Education's Alternative High School Program and has previously worked at the Jewish Community Center's Family Place. Cheryl is also a PLTI graduate, a parent leader and Stamford resident for the past ten years. She is a proud wife and parent of two school-age children with a love for what Stamford has to offer! Welcome Cheryl!



Ken Wesler Joins the SCA



Stamford Center for the Arts welcomes its new Commander in Chief, Ken Wesler. Mr. Wesler has wanted to be part of the theatre since he was a young boy. He tells a story of attending a performance of *Cyrano de Bergerac* in which a sword breaks during a fight scene. Without missing a beat, another actor tosses a new sword over the stage in a wide dramatic arc and the fight continues. Ken was so captured by the magic, that it set his life's professional course.

A graduate of Temple University, Mr. Wesler has worked his way up through the theatre in Philadelphia from stage hand to stage manager. In 1994, he was recruited by the Wilmington Grand Opera in Wilmington, DE to take over as CFO and eventually was named Executive Director. In his first year he raised membership from 500 subscribers to over 5,000 subscribers and increased shows from 35 to 105 performances.

The decision to come to Stamford was made easy for Ken because he saw the tremendous potential of the SCA and he loved the energy the city offered. His philosophy is to make Stamford Center for the Arts "all things to all people," and his vision is driven by what the Customer wants; note Ken always capitalizes the "C" in Customer. When asked what he would love to see come to the SCA, he laughed and said, "No one ever knows my taste because it is not about me."

Stamford Downtown Special Services District 2006 FALL/WINTER EVENTS

SAC Capital Advisors Giant Balloon Inflation Party Saturday, November 18

3-6 pm, Summer & Hoyt Streets

Join us for this backstage look at the parade and watch the giant helium balloons come to life.

The UBS Parade Spectacular presented by The Advocate & Stamford Town Center Sunday, November 19

12 noon step-off, Summer & Hoyt Streets

One of the largest helium balloon parades in the country, featuring 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 Tree Lighting Ceremony Sunday, December 3

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.

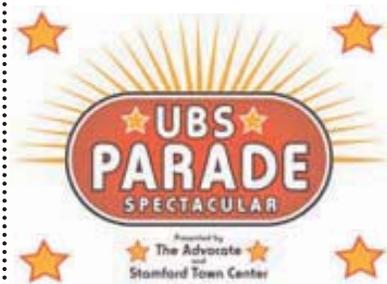
UBS is Title Sponsor of Parade Spectacular

Stamford Downtown is proud to announce a new partnership with UBS as title sponsor of UBS Parade Spectacular presented by The Advocate and Stamford Town Center.

UBS is one of the world's leading financial firms employing over 72,000 staff in 50 countries. The integrated organization of UBS creates added value for its clients by drawing on the combined resources and expertise of all its businesses: Global Asset Management, the Investment Bank and Wealth Management.

UBS has been active in the community since coming to Stamford in 1997, through the volunteer efforts of its 4,200 employees and with contributions of over \$10 million to educational, civic and social services. In the spirit of that tradition, we welcome UBS to the Parade Spectacular!

We also welcome back The Advocate and Stamford Town Center as they return for their 11th year of sponsorship as presenting sponsors.



Seeking Star Volunteers!

Clowns,
Helium Balloon Handlers
& Banner Carriers

No Prior Experience Necessary

Calling All Clowns!

And Balloon & Banner Handlers Too!

Stamford Downtown Special Services District is seeking fun, energetic people to be clowns at this year's UBS Parade Spectacular, presented by The Advocate and Stamford Town Center on Sunday, November 19, 2006. We are looking for outgoing and spirited performers to entertain our huge parade audience. No prior experience is necessary, just the desire and eagerness to participate.

All who are interested will receive a FREE training/education session covering clown characteristics, make-up application, mannerisms and comedic styles. We are also seeking individuals to carry banners and to handle the Giant Helium Balloons that will fly in the parade. Come be a part of a great crew! We will be conducting a training class on the UBS Lawn complete with colossal balloon, prior to the actual parade date.

All volunteers must be at least 16 years old.



To volunteer or for more information, please contact
Stamford Downtown
Special Services District
203-348-5285
events@stamford-downtown.com
www.stamford-downtown.com



RETAIL CORNER

NAPA & CO.:

Located at the base of the Marriott Courtyard on the corner of Broad and Summer Streets is a new wine bar/gourmet & wine shop called . . . napa & co. After taking a year off from the



hectic pace of the restaurant world, the creators of the highly acclaimed *Telluride Restaurant* in Stamford Downtown are returning with a marriage made for the kitchen! Mary & Charlie Morgan in partnership with two family members, Kevin

& Karen Schaffer, combined with the dynamic culinary talents of Chef Bill Taibe, will open their new establishment in late October. With several ratings of "Excellent" from *The New York Times* when he was chef at *Relish* in South Norwalk and *Zanghi* in Stamford, Chef Taibe is enthusiastic about bringing his passion for American cuisine to Stamford Downtown. The combination of these talents with wine & food will be sure to excite!

Why napa & co.? Mary Schaffer Morgan explains. . .

"The Napa Valley is the quintessential symbol of great food and wine. It is comfort without pretension. It is beauty with blue jeans. It is a town that shares a common thread; culinary pleasures through wine and food. This is what you can expect from your experience at Napa & Co. The aim of Napa & Co. is to marry the elements of food, wine and comfort, to be enjoyed in our eatery, The Kitchen @ Napa or to replicate that feeling wherever you wish through our offerings from The Wine Closet @ Napa and The Pantry @ Napa. Wine and that wine-country feel is a very important element to us. Hence, the name Napa & Co. Our vision is to offer an all-encompassing wine and food experience, with all of the fun and none of the fuss."

napa & co. has four unique concepts which Mary describes as follows...

the kitchen @ napa & co. is a casual eatery offering a selection of 50 wines by the glass and a small artisanal menu influenced by the flavors and ingredients of local farmers. The dining area is limited to 45 seats and there are no reservations due to the limited number of tables. The menu and wine list will change weekly to expose great finds of limited quantity. The focus is on fresh, provocative flavors in their purest form complemented by a global wine selection of lesser known producers offering a chance to find new favorites.

the pantry @ napa & co. is a New American gourmet market with fresh and seasonal ingredients, specialty grocery products, produce, flowers, artisanal cheeses, baked goods and gift baskets. All products are obtained from small, uniquely dedicated food artisans with an emphasis on supporting local purveyors and farmers. They are deemed the highest quality, least processed, most flavorful and naturally preserved foods.

the wine closet @ napa & co. is a retail wine store with an international selection of wines for every palette. Although the wine closet @ napa & co. is literally the size of a closet, the space will be more than ample to provide interesting wine finds for the novice, the sommelier-in-the-making and the wine collector. There will be daily wine tastings, wine gadgets, wine books for nighttime reading, gift baskets in addition to a selection of spirits and a handful of beer.

catering @ napa & co. can handle a large special event, intimate family gathering or day-to-day off-site catering needs. With over 15 years of catering experience from weddings to winemaker luncheons, Napa & co. offers a full waitstaff, china & linen rentals, floral arrangements, event spaces, or just the resources to provide the classic touch to make your event unforgettable.

The kitchen @ napa & co and the pantry @ napa & co. are located in the *Marriott Courtyard at 75 Broad Street* and will

be open for breakfast, brunch, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and late night bites. Hours are Monday through Friday 6:30 a.m. until 12:30 a.m., Saturdays 7:00 a.m. until 12:30 a.m. and Sundays 7:30 a.m. until 10:00 pm.. The wine closet @ napa & co. will be open from 10:00 until 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Please inquire for more details www.napaandcompany.com.

BLUE ROOSTER CAFÉ:

There's something new cooking at 80 Atlantic Street, home of the already popular *Blue Rooster Café*. Proprietor Vivian Risi's upbeat café is both sunny and relaxing. The décor includes pale yellow tablecloths decorated with roosters on both the indoor & outdoor tables. Brightly painted yellow walls, a blue ceiling and custom built wood encasements complete the French countryside look.



Frustrated by the lack of healthy lunchtime options, Vivian (whose formal New England training has been in the corporate restaurant business) decided to open a café with the emphasis on fresh ingredients and healthy, wholesome cooking. "The lunch crowd is excellent," reports Vivian whose best sellers currently are the Thanksgiving Day Sandwich (freshly roasted turkey, cranberry sauce, stuffing and gravy) and the Blue Rooster Classic (grilled steak with Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato and special Blue Rooster Classic dressing).

Enjoying her role as a new business owner in Stamford Downtown, Vivian describes her attraction to the area claiming, "downtown is dynamic with the energy of a city and the friendliness of a small town." Inspired by the name of the famous *Black Dog Bakery* on Martha's Vineyard, Vivian's daughter who often works at the café came up with the name for the new Stamford venture. Vivian quickly attributes her success to her staff of three who includes Sylvia, Cindy and Juan.

This fall, the Blue Rooster Café will be open until 6pm to offer special take out dinners. Corporate accounts are welcome. A new Customer Appreciation Program, which includes an \$8.00 credit on your 10th visit, will also be in effect this fall for everyone to enjoy.

DRAGONFLY LOUNGE:



Located at 488 Summer Street, Stamford Downtown's newest dining and gathering destination, *Dragonfly Lounge*, combines plush furnishing in a stately Gothic motif with innovative fare and creative cocktails. Entrepreneur Cyrus M. Tehrani has created a New York City-style lounge with a musical vibe and a New American menu featuring "small plates" served all night long.

The space which is divided into two dining rooms, boasts comfortable red velvet chairs and large oakwood furnishings with crafted fixtures. Dragonfly features a large convivial bar and lounge area, as well as a lower level event space to accommodate private parties. The menu includes wonderful palate teasers such as lobster nachos, Swedish meatballs, short ribs, eggplant frites and even spicy tuna sushi rolls!

YUOGOTNAILS:

There's a new shop at 108 Bedford Street called YUOGOTNAILS. This is the first Fairfield County location for owner Mr. Richard, who also operates locations in Wallingford and Orange, Connecticut. The beautifully designed light wood interior is refreshingly relaxing. All part of the owner's message which is above all: cleanliness. All utensils at YUOGOTNAILS are disposable, used only once then discarded. What is special about this salon is the long lasting manicures. There is a full range of salon services available to customers which are highlighted on the store's website www.YUOGOTNAILS.com.

