

the Stamford DOWNTOWNER



NUMBER 41 • SUMMER/FALL 2010

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, SANDY GOLDSTEIN

Meetings... We Have Meetings!!!!!!!



Much of what happens at the DSSD begins around the large rectangular table in the conference room where a diverse, articulate group of participants meet to create or refine programs and activities designed to enhance Stamford Downtown.

The pictures which are part of this article capture the intensity of the many groups which work to make the downtown a better place. If you see yourself in any of the photos, then you're part of an incredible team of Downtown "players."

Let's take a look at these committees which are catalysts for a strong Downtown:

1. Board of Commissioners — This 36 member board is led by Chairman, Steve Hoffman. The Board makes policy for the DSSD and is responsible for preserving the vision of the Downtown as the center of regional retail, housing, commerce, entertainment and dining.



2. Operations Team — Vice President of Events and Marketing, Lynne Colatrella, leads a 30 member group of city, DSSD, community and corporate members who work as a unit to ensure that our events are artistically superb as well as safe and well attended.

3. Economic Development Committee — John Ruotolo, Vice President of Operations organizes the work of this committee which reviews and opines on all major (and sometimes minor) developments in the Downtown and its environs.



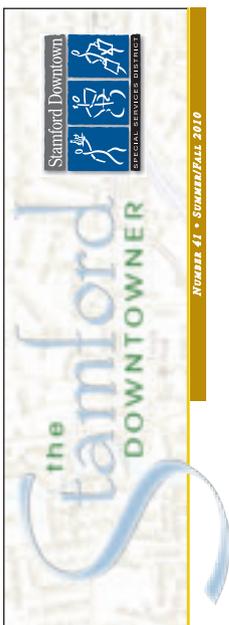
4. Master Plan and Zoning Analysis Committee — is comprised of a group of business and community leaders representing a joint effort of the DSSD and the URC to analyze and recommend changes to the Master Plan. These changes would alter the definition and boundaries of the downtown and recalibrate zoning rules and incentives to create clear and certain requirements to enhance the downtown and make it more livable.

5. Friends of the Downtown — The Friends, chaired by Joan Fields, have been part of the Downtown team since 1994 and raise money to purchase outdoor sculpture for the Downtown and help defray the costs of producing Stamford Downtown's highly successful summer outdoor sculpture exhibits.



(continued on page 2)

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Special Services District
Five Landmark Square
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7. Garden Groomers — Led by Marion Glowka, this dedicated group of gardeners is responsible for the beautiful, diverse and interesting plants, shrubs and baskets which grace the Downtown throughout the year.



6. Stamford Tables — This dedicated group of Restaurateurs, led by Michael Marchetti and Retail Director, Jackie Wetenhall is responsible for creating and implementing compelling dining-

related incentives to attract patrons to the Downtown.



Bedford Street areas.

9. Circus Gala Committee — Created this past year as a joint DSSD and Mill River effort, the Gala Committee produced the first Circus Gala with proceeds benefiting the Mill River Greenway and the Downtown streetscape and outdoor art sculpture programs. The Gala was a huge success, as was its mission and team effort.



8. Columbus Park and Bedford Street restaurateurs and retailers — The latter stakeholders participate in ensuring that successful and engaging events occur in the Columbus Park and

Summer Events Wrap Up

New Events in Stamford Downtown: Battle of the Bands and Bedford Street Promenade

Throughout the years, the DSSD has been bringing fabulous music groups from all over the country to entertain the downtown at Alive @ Five and Pops in the Park. This year, to kick off the summer, the spotlight was on local favorites when eleven bands competed at venues throughout the downtown for one of six spots at the brand new summer event.

There was a festive vibe on Bedford Street on June 12! Families walked around with strollers and Bedford Street residents and nearby downtowners walked their dogs. Lucky's, Capriccio's and Tigin's sidewalk patios were filled with busy tables at prime dinner time as folks watched the opening stage-acts, magicians, jugglers, chalk artists and musicians who warmed up the crowds and passersby throughout Bedford Street before the battles began.

Once they took the stage, the bands did not disappoint! People lingered at their dinner tables, which served as VIP areas at the series' debut. Pedestrians from adjacent streets were drawn in by the music and stayed until the end, casting their votes for their favorite bands. The Bedford Street stage was home to one-on-one battles between bands Cadillac 9 and Ten Feet Deep (winner June 24), Superband (winner June 19) and PANA!, and Dexter Scott and The Woulda Coulda Shouldas (winner June 26). The local winners each brought impressive fan bases, adding to the popularity of the brand new event. After such a successful run and so many curious new fans, the Bedford Street Promenade is sure to follow in the footsteps of Alive @ Five and keep growing year after year!

Alive @ Five is Bigger Than Ever

Each year, restaurants and bars in Columbus Park are buzzing a little bit louder, music fans are rushing to see their favorites a little bit earlier and by the end of the night, thousands of people have walked through the main gates and enjoyed the sounds of the biggest acts Stamford has ever hosted!



Uncle Kracker performs at Alive @ Five – July 29, 2010

This summer opened with a bang when Gin Blossoms and Soul Asylum, sponsored by Reckson, a division of SL Green, co-headlined on the Heineken Stage. Their most popular songs marked the night, and just like that, the crowds were hooked and devoted to coming back each Thursday.

Thursdays seem to have become the prime "weekend" night during the summer in Stamford! Downtowners bring guests visiting from out of town, co-workers walk to Columbus Park together straight from work, and whole groups of travelers from other cities (and even other states!) come down to listen to their favorite bands perform.

Along with record attendance, this summer's Alive @ Five series was blessed with amazing weather. Week after week, even when the weatherman reported that storms were brewing, we never saw a drop! The crowds continued flowing in each week, enjoying the transition from sunshine in the early evening to warm summer nights. Audiences didn't just stay near the stage, though! There was plenty of Stamford's best food offerings to be enjoyed in our Food Court: Sundance Café & Wine Bar, Remo's Brick Oven Pizza, Sandella's Flatbread Café, and Maryann's Mexican Restaurant fed the crowds while Maui Wowi's natural smoothies were an instant hit on those warm Thursdays! Those who were not grabbing snacks and meals in the Food Court enjoyed lovely sit-down dinners at the park's surrounding restaurants like Columbus Park Trattoria, Layla's Falafel, or the new Riviera Maya Mexican Restaurant.

The Beach Boys closed the series like no one had ever before! In a dramatic finale, the fire marshals closed the gates due to park capacity, ensuring the public's safety during such a packed evening. The Beach Boys put on a one-of-a-kind show, bringing the concert series to an unforgettable close for the summer.

The Big Apple Circus Comes to Mill River

During a summer peppered with new events, the Stamford Downtown Special Services District partnered with the Big Apple Circus and Mill River Collaborative for the Big Apple Circus' 2010 premiere performance in Fairfield County. After researching potential locations to set up its Big Top, the Big Apple Circus set its sights on the Mill River Park, connecting the circus to both Stamford Downtown and the Mill River. The Big Apple Circus generously donated the proceeds of the Premiere Performance on July 10 to benefit the Stamford Downtown and the Mill River Greenway.



Alive @ Five – August 5, 2010

Art in Public Places Exhibit Inspires Amateur Photographers!



Isabel Lane & "Catson Pollock"
by Nina Bentley

The "It's Reigning Cats and Dogs" sculpture exhibit elicited many responses from pedestrians in the downtown area. In fact, the exhibit even inspired two people, Denise Ryan and her eleven-year-old niece Isabel Lane, to produce their own photography project. For each photo, Lane dressed in an outfit complementary to the statue, such as her beatnik costume for the statue "The Cat's Meow" by Jen Cahill. The pair had an ultimate goal of completing ten photographs with different statues. "The sculptures are so great, they inspired us to do our own art," said Ryan.

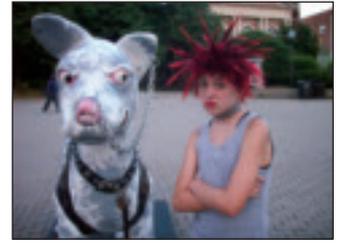
What started as a simple idea, however, turned into a very ambitious project. "We thought we could run around and have the project done in one day, but each sculpture takes a long time. We had to think of a concept, plan a costume, and take a lot of pictures," says Ryan. The first statue in the project was "Bad Dog" by Mark Greenbaum. "We had an immediate idea for that sculpture," said Ryan. There are many other statues Lane and Ryan would have liked to include in their

project, but found it challenging to think of a complementary theme and costume. Ryan notes that they both love the sculpture "InCATdescent Zeus" by Shelita and Richard Benash, which features the fiberglass cat form covered in a mosaic of little mirrors. Lane and Ryan have been brainstorming concepts to include that sculpture in their project.

Lane and Ryan ultimately displayed their efforts at the DSSD's Sculpture Auction event where the Cats & Dogs from the exhibit were auctioned off for charity. Ryan notes, "I grew up in Stamford. It's gotten much more exciting because of the culture Stamford Downtown brings into it. Stamford wasn't always like this!"



Isabel Lane & "The Cat's Meow"
by Jen Cahill



Isabel Lane & "Bad Dog"
by Mark Greenbaum

Cat & Dog Sculptures "Adopted" at Auction



Bobby Valentine & Laurie Guzda McEvoy
auction off "Yankee Doodle Doggie" by
Nicholas Dylewsky

Animal lovers and art lovers alike gathered on September 15, 2010 to support public art throughout the downtown as well as raise a few dollars for local pet charities. Representatives from Friends of Felines, OPIN (Outreach to Pets In Need) and the Stamford Dog Park were among the attendees at the auction, held in a vacant retail space owned by Reckson, a Division of SL Green. Originally, Reckson generously donated the space for use as the artist's studio prior to the sculpture exhibit's installation on the streets but the space was transformed for the auction to showcase the fabulous five-foot tall animals.

Guest auctioneers Bobby Valentine and Laurie Guzda McEvoy (both with personal ties to the exhibit, Bobby as the father of one of the artists and Laurie as one of the artists herself) moved throughout the room from sculpture to sculpture, keeping the bidding environment fresh and fun.

39 sculptures were auctioned off with many of the pieces selling for several thousand dollars each. Pieces such as "Top Dog" and "Ruff Rider" both by Jody Silver and "Shampooch" by James Scinto were the top selling statues of the evening, collectively "fetching" over \$12,000!



Sculpture Auction - September 15, 2010



"Top Dog" by Jody Silver

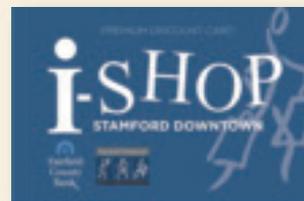
Spotlight on Restaurants & Retail Newcomers to Stamford Downtown

We've seen a plethora of new restaurants open during the last six months in Stamford Downtown. You can take in all these latest hot spots by taking a lunchtime or evening stroll beginning on Atlantic Street where you'll find . . .

Chavin (formerly Zody Café) at 23 Atlantic Street, a stylish Peruvian bistro complemented by its neighbor at 35 Atlantic Street, **Chinese Mirch** which successfully marries wok style Chinese cooking with Indian flavors. Just down the block, look for **Navaratna** (formerly Mona Lisa) at 133 Atlantic Street specializing in the cuisine of North & South Indian vegetarian dishes. Across the street is the brand new **Zayna's Metro Café** at 80 Atlantic Street offering soups, salads, wraps and panini sandwiches, opened by the owner of Jenna Marie's Deli (459 Summer Street) and the former chef of Zody Cafe. While you're in the Columbus Park area, look for the new upscale **Riviera Maya Mexican Restaurant** (20 Summer Street), featuring a large outdoor patio on the corner of Summer and West Main Streets. Just up the block at 227 Summer Street is **The Fez**, serving fine Moroccan food & atmosphere. Then onto Bedford Street across from the Avon Theatre where you can find **Quattro Pazzi** at 269 Bedford Street, which boasts in-house home made pasta made daily and fresh seafood & meats, served in generous portions.

While on your walking tour don't miss these two newly opened businesses:

Citizen's Bank which opened its second branch office in June at 1 Atlantic Street, complementing their existing branch office at its headquarters & parent company RBS at 600 Washington Boulevard. This month, we welcome the opening of a new 10,000 square foot, full service **CVS/Caremark** store at 11 Forest Street, which will be opened from 7am-10pm daily.



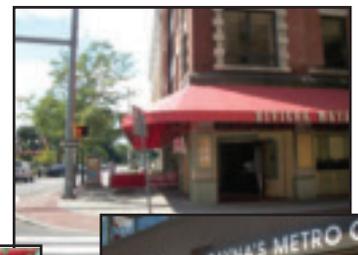
There's still time to pick up
your i-Shop Stamford
Downtown discount card!

Valid thru October 31, 2010

Special thanks to our sponsor
Fairfield County Bank

For more information visit

www.stamford-downtown.com or call (203) 348-5285



The DSSD congratulates Tacos Guadalajara,
a part of Stamford Downtown for 30 years!



Welcome to our new neighbors, Maui Wowi,
soon to be in the Stamford Town Center food court!

Visit Stamford Downtown's Blog and Facebook

<http://stamforddowntownevents.blogspot.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/stamford.downtown>

Stamford Downtown Stands Up With Latenight Laughs

Looking for laughs and comedy in Stamford Downtown? Then, patronize Sundance Café & Wine Bar (on Broad Street across from McDonald's) where owners Mikhael and Jackie have worked hard to create a casual bohemian atmosphere with photos from local artists on the walls and the occasional poetry slam on the small and inviting stage set in their front window. At least once a month, the stage is reserved for local funnymen looking to try out new material and deliver their punchlines just right. Amid the hummus bar, extensive tea selection and frappé-vino (wine smoothie) creations, the audience is generally friendly and willing to let a few bad jokes slip through the cracks. Check out their website for upcoming events at www.thesundancecafe.com.

Perhaps taking the comedy club business most seriously is BUTterfield 8 Restaurant & Lounge on Bedford Street. Having recently signed a contract with the Treehouse Comedy Club, a veteran producer of stand-up shows for various venues such as the Mohegan Sun Casino, BU8 will open one of their upstairs private rooms to regional and national stand-up acts in the hope of becoming Fairfield County's premiere comedy venue on Saturday nights. With early headliners such as RC Smith, Tim Homayoon & Tina Georgi, all regulars on the national comedy circuit, the Treehouse at BU8 will be an exciting addition to the late-night offerings in Stamford Downtown. The 115-seat venue is an ideal size for a comedy club and the restaurant's kitchen will remain open until 11pm to accommodate the club patrons. More info can be found at www.treehousecomedy.com and www.butterfield8stamford.com.

It's time to "Walk the Pink!" This month-long campaign, sponsored by Stamford Hospital and community partners, allows you to take part in a number of social and educational events—all designed to raise the importance of screening and early detection of breast cancer. Line up at the annual **MILE OF PINK**, lock up your hair at our **GIRLS NIGHT OUT**, and see what's in style at our **FASHION SHOW**, all while learning about the comprehensive breast care services available from community partners in this area, and gain a better future for women everywhere.

MILE OF PINK
Saturday, October 2nd at 10:30am
Stamford Park, Stamford

Stand side by side with Stamford Mayor Michael Paris and WABC-TV's 88 Ewens in our most visible display to promote breast cancer awareness. Support local breast cancer survivors as we line the streets and literally "Walk the Pink!"

GIRLS NIGHT OUT
Friday, October 13th at 6:00pm
Stamford Hotel

Cocktails, hair showers and all female entertainment make this a night you won't want to miss. With "Tats off" to charity, gather up all the wonderful women in your life and enjoy this fun-filled special event. The cost is \$20 per person and reservations are required.

FASHION SHOW
Wednesday, October 20th at 6:00pm
Stamford Hotel

Get an up-close look at the latest fall fashions, all modeled by breast cancer survivors and their physicians.

For more information, call 203.378.6743 or visit www.stamfordpink.org

STAMFORD HOSPITAL
STAMFORD DOWNTOWN PINK RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Stamford Downtown Nightlife Calendar

Mondays:

Bobby Valentine's – Monday Night Football
BUTterfield 8 – Monday Night Football (Free Wings & \$3 Beers)
SBC Downtown – Monday Night Football

Tuesdays:

Black Bear Saloon – Karaoke
The Fez – Bring Your Own Vinyl Night
Tigín Irish Pub – Trivia Night

Wednesdays:

Black Bear Saloon – Trivia Night
Bobby Valentine's – Karaoke
Hula Hanks – Gay & Lesbian Night
The Palms – Karaoke (Spanish)

Thursdays:

Aria Restaurant – Live Music
Bradford's Grill & Tavern – Karaoke
BUTterfield 8 – Date Night (\$50/couple includes shared appetizer, entree each, shared dessert & bottle of wine)
Tiernan's Bar – Live Music

Fridays:

BUTterfield 8 – Teacher's Happy Hour 3pm-8pm
Sundance Café & Wine Bar – Live Music
Tiernan's Bar – Live Music

Saturdays:

Bobby Valentine's – College Football
BUTterfield 8 – Stand-up Comedy 9pm-11pm
SBC Downtown – College Football
Sundance Café & Wine Bar – Live Music
Tiernan's Bar – Live Music

Sundays:

BUTterfield 8 – Sunday Night Football (Free Wings & \$3 Beers)
Hula Hanks – Latin Music

UBS Parade Spectacular

Presented by Stamford Town Center
and The Advocate

Seeking Star Volunteers!

- Clowns
- Helium Balloon Handlers
- Route Marshals

No Prior Experience Necessary • Free Training Session

Stamford Downtown Special Services District
is looking for enthusiastic individuals
for the 2010 UBS Parade Spectacular on

Sunday, November 21, 2010

Clowns & Balloon handlers must be at least 16 years of age
Route Marshals must be at least 21 years of age

Please sign up by Friday, November 5, 2010

Contact us at:
203.348.5285
events@stamford-downtown.com
www.stamford-downtown.com

The ADVOCATE Stamford Town Center

UBS

Stamford Downtown Fall Events Schedule

French Market (Farmers' Market)
June 5 – November 6, 2010, 9am-2pm
Bedford Street at Forest - Saturdays

SAC Capital Advisors, LP Balloon Inflation Party
Saturday, November 20, 2010, 3pm-6pm
Summer & Hoyt Streets

UBS Parade Spectacular
presented by Stamford Town Center & The Advocate
Sunday, November 21, 2010, 12 noon
Stamford Downtown

A Holiday Salute on Bedford Street
December, 2010
Stamford Downtown

Heights & Lights
presented by First County Bank and Reckson,
A Division of SL Green Realty Corp.
Sunday, December 5, 2010, 4:30pm
Landmark Square