

# STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



Images from Yi Fang's Grand Opening. Co-owners Ming Zheng and Ivy Chen at top left.

## YI FANG TAIWAN FRUIT TEA OPENS IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN

Authentic, organic, fresh. These are the words used to describe the refreshing assortment of hand-crafted teas made with freshly cut fruit. With a flagship store on Boston's famous Newbury Street, [Yi Fang Taiwan Fruit Tea](#) opened their first Connecticut store location at 215 Main Street in Columbus Park. The franchise has over 20 store locations in the United States. With a bright yellow interior honoring their pineapple themed origins, Yi Fang Taiwan Tea Stamford offers over 30 different teas. "Our teas are made with carefully selected seasonal fruits, which brings out the sweetness of the fruits themselves," according to co-owner Ming Zheng.

The story of how the franchise began is interesting...

The founder's grandmother was born in Taiwan during Japanese rule. Her husband, a young farmer, spent his days working in the pineapple fields where the sun beat down on him. Under the Taiwanese sun, the founder's grandmother recipes made the best use of the overripe pineapples and braised them into preserved natural fruit jam. Each morning, she rose to prepare a large jar of thirst-quenching and heat-clearing pineapple water every day, and this tasty yet healthy drink allowed for her husband to tolerate the heat.

Come sample the magic of these unique teas during our [2023 Summer Restaurant Weeks](#), which is happening now!

## MISSING PARTY CITY? CHECK OUT BALLOONS & BEYOND...



No need to miss Party City anymore, now that there's a new store Balloons & Beyond to help spice up your entertaining style. Located on the 5th level of the Stamford Town Center (former location of Papyrus), you can find all things necessary for gifts, party favors or decorations for whatever the occasion. Owner Priscilla Lima d'Almeida will share her love of entertaining with you by creating your perfect party venue for bridal showers, weddings, baby showers, birthdays or retirement parties.



Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Priscilla has been in the United States for six years and is an art teacher and History of Art professor who has put her passion of decorating into a retail store model. From balloon installations to personalized gift wrapping, Priscilla's creative touch is inspirational. Check out the unique selection of paper goods or ask about her personalized gifts for weddings and other occasions.

Balloons & Beyond wwner Priscilla Lima d'Almeida and her creations

## STAMFORD DOWNTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL MAINTENANCE & AMBASSADOR SERVICES JULY STATISTICS



**1,259**  
TRASH (LBS)  
REMOVED



**12x**  
GRAFFITI (PAINT  
OR STICKERS)  
WERE REMOVED



**98**  
PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENTS



**3**  
PAINTING  
HOURS



**523**  
CLEANING  
SIDEWALKS  
HOURS



**11**  
WEEDING  
HOURS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RECIPIENTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS COVID RELIEF GRANTS!



Mayor Caroline Simmons



Mayor Simmons and Nick Casinelli of CT Cigar Company



Mayor Simmons and Rick Wolfe, Wolfe Cleaners



Grant recipients and Mayor Simmons

Mayor Simmons held a press conference on August 10, 2023 to recognize the local Stamford businesses that were awarded grants of \$8,063 from the City's \$1.5 Million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Over 250 Stamford businesses applied citywide and 176 small businesses were awarded the grants from the child care, tourism, restaurant and beauty industries. Of the 176 businesses, 30 are in Stamford Downtown and 120 business are women owned or minority owned businesses.

Since last winter, the City of Stamford launched a major marketing campaign to ensure Stamford businesses knew about the grant and where to apply. During the press conference, Mayor Simmons emphasized the City's collaboration with the Board of Finance & the Board of Representatives, who together were committed to ensuring that the ARPA funds were brought back to the Stamford businesses which had struggled to survive the pandemic.

"When I came into office, we were in the midst of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and heard every day from businesses who were struggling," said Mayor Caroline Simmons. "In response, one of my first priorities was to direct remaining ARPA funding to this grant opportunity, with the goal of providing relief to supporting our small businesses. This grant provides extra support to small businesses who are still recovering financially from the impacts of the pandemic and allows them to thrive and continue serving our Stamford community."



# Summer Restaurant Weeks 2023

STAMFORD DOWNTOWN FOR MENUS OR DETAILS: [STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM/EVENTS](http://STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM/EVENTS)

**AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup>**



From L to R: Louisa Greene (Avon Theatre), Frank Duque & Andrea Metya (Noches de Colombia), Telmo Penalzoa (Columbus Park Trattoria), Adi Memeti (Blackstones), Juan Zuleta (Puerta Vallarta) and Liz Wimpfheimer (Fairgate Farm).

An exciting experience awaits, as 34 Stamford Downtown restaurants join together to participate in Stamford Downtown's two week 2023 *Summer Restaurant Weeks*, beginning Monday, August 14 through Sunday, August 27. Offerings include prix-fixe lunch and dinner menus at value-oriented prices from \$14-\$20 for lunch and \$29-\$55 for dinner. Many menu items will feature locally grown herbs and produce from Fairgate Farm in Stamford. Gather your friends, family and office mates and try a new venue or just enjoy an old favorite. The 2023 *Stamford Downtown Summer Restaurant Weeks* participating restaurants, menus and details can be found at [Stamford-Downtown.com](http://Stamford-Downtown.com). Reservations are recommended. See below for quotes from our wonderful restaurateurs and to learn more about our event and partners.

"We are thrilled to participate in this year's *Summer Restaurant Weeks* alongside Fairgate Farms and 33 other exceptional restaurants. We've chosen to be a part of this exciting event because it aligns perfectly with our values of supporting local communities and showcasing the finest flavors from our region. *Summer Restaurant Weeks* offers a wonderful opportunity for us to connect with our loyal patrons and welcome new guests, allowing us to share our passion for culinary excellence and Terra Gaucha's culture. We look forward to delighting our diners with an unforgettable experience, celebrating the diversity and quality of our food. Join us as we embark on this culinary journey, honoring the hard work of local farmers and savoring the creativity of our fellow restaurant partners," said Alceu Pressi, Executive Chef & Managing Member at Terra Gaucha Brazilian Restaurant.

The Avon Theatre Film Center is offering *Summer Restaurant Weeks* patrons an opportunity to receive one free medium popcorn with a purchase of a General Admission ticket, so do not forget to ask for an Avon voucher when dining. Our media partners include Hey Stamford, Star 99.9, 95.9 The Fox and WEBE 108. This year, we added a special promotions category for non-restaurant participants. Businesses such as Juice Kings located at on 36 Atlantic Street can now offer something special during *Summer Restaurant Weeks*. Owner of Juice Kings CT Jeff Osta, is happy to participate stating, "We find pride in being the best and healthiest juice bar in Stamford. Come see why that statement is true during this year's *Summer Restaurant Weeks*. We look forward to you getting healthier with us at Juice Kings!"

## URBAN FORESTRY IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN



Stamford Downtown and Eastern Land Management have implemented an urban forestry pilot project within tree beds near the corner of Washington Boulevard and Main Streets. This project resulted from a Downtown-wide inventory of trees and tree beds that was undertaken in August 2022. The scope of the project involved the expansion of two tree beds at Columbus Park, the merger of two tree beds at Rippowam Park, the repair of the damaged curb line and tree bed located at Washington Boulevard and Clark Street and the conversion of two tree beds, in front of The Lloyd, into planting beds. Expanding the tree beds to coincide with the requirements of the City of Stamford will improve the health of the trees planted at the site and reduce disruption to the adjoining sidewalk resulting from warped, or girdling, tree roots.

Stamford Downtown is now working with the Pollinator Pathway Stamford (PPS), Future5, Mill River Collaborative and the Bartlett Arboretum to create a volunteer, student-based tree maintenance team. The first step in this process took place on August 1, when PPS conducted a demonstration of the proper maintenance and watering of a newly planted trees for Mill River summer camp participants. PPS will soon conduct a training for Future5 students, as well. Stamford Downtown hopes the City of Stamford may replicate this model throughout the municipality.

**WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS?**  
**YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR A**

**\$10K**  
**GRANT!**

**APPLY**  
**BY 9/27**  
[ctwbdc.org](http://ctwbdc.org)

 Women's  
Business  
Development  
Council

**RECKSON** Presents  
**Duck, Duck, Goose!**

in Stamford Downtown • Art in Public Places • Summer 2023

**Auction for Duck, Duck Goose in Stamford Downtown**

This is your opportunity to bid on the Goose and Ducks that have been on display throughout Stamford Downtown this summer.  
A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Stamford Museum and Nature Center.



Auction will be held online beginning September 1.

For more information, please visit [stamford-downtown.com/events](https://stamford-downtown.com/events)

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[STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM](https://STAMFORD-DOWNTOWN.COM)

## STAMFORD DOWNTOWN'S ANNUAL MEETING & COCKTAIL RECEPTION



Stamford Downtown's Board of Commissioners and the property owners within the Stamford Downtown's district gathered on June 13, 2023 for a brief meeting followed by cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at The Hour, the stylish ground floor bar at 677 Washington Boulevard.

Special thanks to the evening host George Comfort & Sons, and sponsors Charter Communications and M&T Bank for allowing over 120 property owners to gather on a beautiful June evening and to vote on a new slate of candidates for our 2023/24 Board. These Board of Commissioners ensure that Stamford Downtown is staying true to its vision and mission statement, providing a vibrant city-center for living, working, shopping, dining, education, culture and entertainment.

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### STAMFORD DOWNTOWN'S PARTNERSHIP WITH DOMUS

Stamford Downtown is collaborating with Stamford-based, Domus on a street outreach program in Summer 2023. Through this collaboration Domus is implementing *Project New Hope in Downtown*. Through "Project New Hope" Domus staff members are Downtown every weekday afternoon and evening, working to prevent youth from engaging in negative behaviors.

As described by Domus, *Project New Hope* is a street outreach program created in January 2016 to serve young men and women aged 12 to 25 living in Stamford who are involved in – or at risk of becoming involved in – criminal behaviors. Domus seeks to prevent youth crime by building connections with these young people, working with them individually and providing them with group activities and opportunities. Domus also works to connect these youth to employment training opportunities and/or reconnect them to school and community resources, when appropriate.

Domus is targeting *Project New Hope* along the Bedford and Atlantic Street corridors. Domus staff walks this corridor each weekday between 3:00pm and 7:00pm. This schedule was selected because youth are least likely to enroll in educational or structured recreational program during this window of time. Domus staff engages with 25-30 youth each day and records statistics for interactions, mediations and incidents prevented.