FEBRUARY 2025 | ISSUE 58 **STAMFORD DOWNTOWN** MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

LIVEN UP THE WINTER DOLDRUMS WITH SOME SPICY SEASONAL OFFERINGS AVAILABLE AT STAMFORD DOWNTOWN'S 2025 WINTER RESTAURANT WEEKS



Stamford Downtown is pleased to announce the return of our widely anticipated <u>Winter Restaurant Weeks</u> (WRW), beginning Monday, February 17 through Sunday, March 2. This year, we have a robust group of 35 Stamford Downtown restaurants, who have joined together to create this 2-week, not to be missed event. So come out and enjoy seasonal prix fixe lunch and dinner and special promotions at value-oriented prices starting at \$15-\$55. For menus and details, (including exceptions), please visit our <u>website</u>.

This year's event includes a community partnership with Food Rescue US and Pacific House.

"Food Rescue US is proud to join forces with Stamford Downtown's Winter Restaurant Weeks restaurants to ensure that surplus food is redirected to Pacific House in Stamford, serving the needs of homeless men and young adults in Stamford. Our mission is to reduce food waste while combating hunger in Stamford and the surrounding communities," explains Karen Saggese, Food Rescue US - Fairfield County Co-Site Director.

As a kick-off event, several WRW participating restaurants prepared and served dinner at the Pacific House Stamford Men's Shelter in early February. We were pleased to be joined by representatives from both Food Rescue US and the Avon Theatre Film Center for this community-minded supportive effort. Special thanks to <u>Blackstones Steakhouse</u>, <u>Columbus Park Trattoria</u>, <u>Fish Restaurant</u>, <u>LoveMeat Korean BBQ</u>, <u>Masa Taco Bar</u>, <u>Noches de Colombia</u>, <u>bartaco</u>, and <u>Tutti Pazzi</u> for donating!

The <u>Avon Theatre Film Center</u>, is offering WRW patrons an opportunity to receive one free medium popcorn with a purchase of a General Admission ticket. So don't forget to ask for an Avon voucher when dining. Thanks to our media partners for helping to spread the word: <u>Hey Stamford!</u>, <u>Star 99.9</u>, <u>WICC</u>, and <u>WEBE108</u>. Also new this year...please leave us a review on our website's <u>landing page</u>!

~ Stamford Downtown 2025 ~ Winter Restaurant Weeks February 17 - March 2 for menus and details visit stamford-downtown.com





GREEN & TONIC OPENS IN STAMFORD DOWNTOWN AT 54 WEST PARK PLACE



Green & Tonic offerings (left and right) Center: Ribbon cutting for the new Stamford location

If eating healthier is part of your New Year's resolution, head down to <u>Green & Tonic's</u> new Stamford location in the base of <u>Vela on the Park</u>. This Stamford location opened in late January and marks the 7th location for Green & Tonic, which was established in 2012 in Darien, CT. Founded as a healthy option for those seeking balance and harmony via food, this regional eatery has grown to encompass 6 locations across Fairfield and Westchester counties including: Cos Cob, Darien, Westport, New Canaan, Rye Brook, and Chappaqua, NY. The brand will soon open two additional locations in Greenwich (Glenville and Old Greenwich).

"We are so excited to expand into Stamford and to continue to grow the G&T brand," said Stamford CEO Fausto Mieres. "This opening represents a full circle moment for me as I am a lifelong resident of Stamford. We think this will be a great hub for students and locals to grab a coffee or a bite and get their healthy fix."

Signature offerings include Super Brew Coffee (organic coffee drinks and lattes) and SWIRL (oat milk soft serve). The Green & Tonic brand continues to prioritize ingredients derived from plants, and has expanded its offerings to include organic chicken, wild-caught salmon and pasture-raised eggs to meet growing consumer demand.

Green & Tonic serves delicious, good-for-you food, drinks, and baked goods. Its menu is 100% gluten-free and highlights nutrient-dense items such as salads, toasts, grain bowls, cold-pressed juices, breakfast sandwiches, smoothies, and acai bowls. The new sun-filled <u>West Park Place</u> location, fronts on Columbus Park and provides both indoor and outdoor dining. Special features include a "make your own salad" station, free Wi-Fi, and a study corner with charging ports. Student discounts are available, as the location is just a 5-minute walk from the UConn Stamford campus.



Photo credit: Link Up Level Up omsmen of the Hoffman & Lyon's Wedding

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WEDDING BELLS IN YOUR FUTURE?

Duel boutique Stamford Downtown hotels, <u>The Courtyard & The Residence</u> <u>Inn</u>, invite you to celebrate your special moments in a place where chic design meets exceptional service. Whether you're planning a sophisticated wedding or an unforgettable social gathering, these sister properties offer modern venues, with the perfect setting for groups looking to create lasting memories. The Marriott team creates personalized experiences, while offering cutting-edge amenities in a vibrant downtown atmosphere.

FUTURE 5 RELOCATING TO NEW. EXPANDED STAMFORD DOWNTOWN HEADQUARTERS



Future 5 is a non-profit Stamford organization that helps connect motivated, under-resourced Stamford high school students with resources and people, so they can achieve their educational, career and life goals. Since its creation in 2009, Future 5 has supported 1,000 youths, with the help of 130+ volunteers and 60+ corporate and community partners. Through coaching, college prep and career counseling, along with a strong alumni network, Future 5's success required them to find larger offices to accommodate their expanding programs. Grateful to their long term landlord and board member, Jimmy Grunberger, who provided office space for years at 135 Atlantic Street, Future 5 cut the ribbon on February 11 with Mayor Simmons at their new office at 4 Landmark Square.

Reflecting upon the organization's growth, Executive Director & CEO, Amanda Dubois-Mwake comments on the relocation...

"Over the past 15 years, Future 5 has grown significantly, now serving approximately 400 high school, college students and alumni annually. Our move to a new home aligns with our strategic plan to support more motivated under-resourced students in Stamford and provide enhanced programming to help them to achieve their educational, career and life goals."

Amanda further describes what the new headquarters will accommodate:

- 50 percent more space for simultaneous programming
- A 13 percent annual increase in high school student members
- Pods for one-on-one tutoring and coaching
- Integrated staff offices to strengthen member support
- New: College and Workforce Development Center

For more information and volunteer opportunities go to futurefive.org or contact Amanda Dubois-Mwake.



WOLFE'S CLEANERS CELEBRATES ITS 70TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Established in Stamford Downtown in 1955, by their father and grandfather, <u>Wolfe's Cleaners</u> was passed down to brothers Rick and Kerry Wolfe in 1991. Today, the full service dry cleaner remains in its original location, proud to have been in business for 70 years at 288 Bedford Street.

Rick Wolfe elaborates, "Dad said Kerry and I had nothing to worry about because 'everyone knows you!'" laughs Rick, who has seen a lot of businesses come and go over the years on the street. Bedford Jewelers, The French Shop, Greensberg's, Millers, Grand Central Market, Gristedes to name a few, were all mainstays on Bedford Street back in the day. Rick cites with encouragement that Engel's Furs, Avon Theatre Film Center and Zemo Men's Store, are all still in business here on Bedford Street.

The brothers have seen the dry cleaning business change dramatically over the years, but today all cleaning and tailoring is still done on the premises. Additionally, they welcome blankets, comforters, small/medium rugs and household linens. In 1995, Wolfe's Cleaners expanded with an additional location in the Springdale Shopping Center. Customer service was expanded outside Stamford in 1996 to Wilton, Norwalk, New Canaan, Greenwich, and Darien.

Looking for an experienced owner-operated dry cleaner, with old fashion personalized service? Try Wolfe's Cleaners, recommends Kerry ... "it is a family tradition that's been mastered for seven decades."



CONGRATULATIONS HOP & VINE ON YOUR 1ST YEAR ANNIVERSARY!



Mayor Simmons and Chamber of Commerce to celebrate Hop & Vine's first year

A year prior, January 2024 marked the opening of <u>Hop &</u> <u>Vine Taproom</u> in Stamford, next to Bar Rosso at 30 Spring Street. In January 2017, partners Connor Rasmussen, Matthew Ventura, and Sakarin Seedasome decided they wanted to open a self-pour taproom, which was at that time illegal in Connecticut. Today, patrons of the popular selfpour taproom in Stamford Downtown are able to select from 69 CT based craft beers and global wines. The goal is for people to discover great local breweries on a regular basis. As an alternative, the taproom serves non-alcoholic beer on tap, mocktails, Kombucha, cider and cold-brew coffee, making it a popular co-working space.

The two story modern venue holds up to 280 people, not including the expansive outdoor terrace which features corn hole in the warm weather. The taproom is known for its seasonal menu of home-made healthy options, described as funky fare in a fast-casual atmosphere. The upstairs features board games and shuffleboard.

From office parties to corporate outings and team building, corporate happy hours and holiday parties, milestone birthday parties to anniversaries, rehearsal dinners and engagements to bachelor/bachelorette nightsthey have done it all, hails their website. For your next gathering, check out their <u>website</u>.



STAMFORD 2035 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Join the <u>Stamford 2035 Comprehensive Planning Team</u> for a Public Open House and Goal Validation Workshop on February 20, 2025, from 4:00-6:30 PM at Fish Church (1101 Bedford Street). They are bringing together residents, city staff, and community stakeholders to shape Stamford's future.

This isn't just another meeting—it's your chance to help design Stamford's roadmap for the next decade. Hundreds of Stamford residents have shared their insights through Open House #1, surveys and stakeholder meetings, enabling the team to validate the vision statement and draft initial goals. Now, they are coming back to you again for input to make sure the Plan is on the right track.

Come meet the planning team, connect with your neighbors, and make your voice heard. Together, we will validate and refine our vision and goals for Stamford in 2035.

Pre-registration is requested to ensure we're reaching a representative sample of Stamford residents, so save your spot and be part of creating Stamford's future! With your pre-registration, you will be able to easily check in once you arrive at the open house. Please let them know if you require any additional services or auxiliary aid to make your open house experience more effective within the <u>registration form</u> or by emailing <u>Stamford2035@stamfordct.gov</u>.



🔹 ~ Participating Restaurants ~ 🔣

Acuario Restaurant • The Americano • Bar Rosso • Barcelona Wine Bar Bari 167 • bartaco • Bedford Hall Craft Kitchen & Bar • Blackstones Steakhouse The Capital Grille • Capriccio Café • Chez Vous Bistro • Çka Ka Qëllu Columbus Park Trattoria • Divina Modern Italian • FISH Restaurant + Bar Flinders Lane Kitchen & Bar • Hudson Social • Kashi Sushi Lounge Kotobuki Japanese Restaurant • Kouzina Greek Taverna & Bar Kyushu Ramen & Sushi • Love Meat Korean BBQ • Maruichi Select Masa Taco Bar • Mecha Noodle Bar • Ninja Bubble Tea - Korean BBQ Restaruant Noches de Colombia • Penny Cha • Siena Ristorante Taj Indian Cuisine • Teff • Terra Gaucha Brazilian Steakhouse Towne Parlor Pizza & Pints • Tutti Pazzi • ZAZA Italian Gastrobar

For menus and details visit stamford-downtown.com



