



NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT
Michael A. Pavia, Mayor

For Immediate Release

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Mayor Pavia to Inaugurate Stamford Transportation Illumination as part of the *StamfordLights* Festival Weekend – Sept 20th-23rd 2012

Monday, September 17, 2012 – Stamford’s neighborhoods will unite this weekend to celebrate life in Stamford and to welcome a brand new state-funded art installation to the City’s landscape.

The City of Stamford was one of seven cities in the state to receive a City Canvas grant to produce the installation. The initiative, a project of Governor Dannel Malloy and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) of Connecticut, is designed to enhance public spaces through the commissioning of large-scale works of public art. The program’s purpose is to demonstrate the impact of art in building vibrant communities.

The Stamford Transportation Center (STC) was selected by the City as the focal point for the art project. On the evening of September 22 at 8:00pm, Mayor Michael Pavia will initiate the installation by “throwing the switch” and artistically illuminating the station.

The search committee (managed by the City of Stamford, the Stamford Cultural Development Corporation, and the CT Department of Transportation) selected a design submitted by a team of Connecticut based artists and lighting professionals led by Stamford resident and Artist, Sandy Garnett. The team, known as “Team Light Wrangler”, also includes Artist Joy Wolke of Joy Wolke Studios; Lighting Designer Jamie Burnett of Luminous Environments LLC; and Steve Hamelin, President of Supertech, a CT based company that produces theatrical and industrial lighting systems.

According to Kip Bergstrom, Deputy Commissioner of the DECD, “Studies have shown that outdoor art installations attract visitors, improve local business viability and public safety, and bring diverse people together. This project gives Stamford the ability to realize these goals and identifies the STC as a gateway to the creative community we are so proud of in Stamford, and in all of Connecticut.”

As Mayor Pavia stated, “The illumination display will provide an exciting and welcoming entrance to the STC. It will be visible from multiple points in the city and from Interstate 95, to serve as a beacon marking the center of Stamford.”

The Stamford community has rallied around the initiative, and from September 20th to September 23rd multiple neighborhood organizations have coordinated their celebrations to coincide with the official *StamfordLights* lighting ceremony, creating an incredible weekend of events. The *StamfordLights Festival Weekend* has been made possible in part through contributions from Stamford based sponsors Malkin Properties, Royal Bank of Scotland, Reckson/SL Green, and RFR Realty:

***StamfordLights* Festival Events**

Date	Event	Time
Thursday, September 20	<u>Palace Theater Concert</u> <i>Earth, Wind & Fire Guiding Lights Tour</i> Tickets available at www.SCALive.org	8:00pm
Friday, September 21	<u>The Ferguson Library</u> <i>Special showing of Charlie Chaplin's "City Lights"</i> Free Admission	7:00pm
Friday, September 21	<u>Avon Theatre</u> <i>Open reception hosted by Rizzuto's.</i> <i>Opening feature "The Master"</i>	6:30pm – 7:30pm
Saturday, September 22	<u>The Waterside Coalition presents</u> <i>Waterside Diversity Fest 2012</i> John Boccuzzi Park 166 Southfield Avenue	Noon – 6:00pm
Saturday, September 22	<u>Stamford's West Side</u> <i>Celebrate Life, VITA! Health Fair</i> Yerwood Center Organized by HACGS <i>Harvest Festival at Fairgate Farm</i> 133 Stillwater Avenue	9:00am - 2:00pm 10:00am - 3:00pm
Saturday, September 22	<u>Arts & Crafts on Bedford (Day 1)</u> Bedford Street (closed to traffic) Stamford Downtown	12:00pm – 8:30pm
Saturday, September 22	<u>Mill River Park presents</u> <i>It's My Park Day</i>	11:00am – 4:00pm
Saturday, September 22	<u>Harbor Point Presents</u> <i>Harbor Point Annual Block Party</i> At Yale & Towne Details: www.harborpt.com	4:00pm – 8:00pm
Saturday, September 22	<u>StamfordLights Lighting Ceremony</u> North Entrance Stamford Transportation Center	8:00pm
Sunday, September 23	<u>Thunder on the Sound</u> <i>Supporting Brian Bill Memorial Foundation</i> <i>Register: Merritt Parkway Commuter Stop (Exit 35) - Family BBQ, Ponus Yacht Club</i> For Information and Tickets: www.thunderonthesound.org	8:30am – 9:30am 11:00am
Sunday, September 23	<u>Arts & Crafts on Bedford (Day 2)</u>	11:00am – 5pm
Sunday September 23	<u>East Side International Food Festival</u> Domus at 83 Lockwood Avenue	12:00pm – 3:00pm