

**Office of the Mayor  
City of Middletown**

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# **Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
11/20/08**

## **MAYOR ANNOUNCES TREE LIGHTING GOAL REACHED**

**November 17, 2008**-----Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano announced today that the “Light The South Green Tree” committee had reached its goal to fund what the Mayor called a “face lift” for the City’s Holiday tree. The aging spruce tree, which stands 85 feet tall, had not been sufficiently pruned in years and its seasonal holiday lights had become unmanageable.

Mayor Giuliano said, “it shows what can be accomplished when the community comes together on a project. Getting the tree pruned and newly lighted is going to provide a focal point for to all their holiday season. The “Tree Lighting” has become a significant event; the highpoint when the lights go on has been anticlimactic.” Over the last 3 months the “Light The South Green Trees” Committee Co-Chairs Claudia DeFrance and Patricia Hutton led the Mayor’s effort to ask local business and community members for their support to raise funds.

The effort to date has netted just over \$7700 with contributions ranging from individual contributors to large organizations. “This Go Green project will not only enhance our downtown aesthetically but also functionally and environmentally,” said Giuliano. He said, “we were hoping to implement an environmentally friendly and energy efficient ornamental design with LED white lights, which is exactly what the committee delivered.”

Giuliano thanked DeFrance and Hutton as well as the entire community. “The generosity of the community and reaction to effort has been great. We’ve had people give \$5, 10, and \$100 along with other organizations like the DBD and Wesleyan give generously. Some families even gave in memory of passed loved ones which was their way to remember and honor someone during a special time of year. Every dollar is appreciated for the heartfelt offering it was,” said the Mayor.

Contributions, of any level, can still be made to “Light The South Green Trees” in care of Liberty Bank, to the following address:

Liberty Bank  
Light The South Green Trees  
Attn: Pamela Gronback  
315 Main Street  
Middletown, Connecticut 06457

The Mayor also extended an invitation to all of Middletown to join him for the Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 28 at 5:30 PM. The tree lighting kicks off the downtown holiday events for the 2008 season. During the ceremony the various sponsors will be recognized for their corporate and community support.