

# The Wilton Bulletin

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## ARTS & LEISURE

### Hope Lights Luminary Campaign Sunday

By JOAN LOWNDS

On Sunday afternoon, several parts of town will be transformed into “neighborhoods of light,” as approximately 2,000 luminaries come to life. The display is part of the “Hope Lights Lives” campaign, which benefits Center for Hope in Darien, a counseling center for terminally ill patients and their families.

The event was scheduled to take place last Sunday, but because of the inclement weather, has been re-scheduled for this Sunday at 5 p.m., according to Mike Hoffman of Hoffman Landscapes, one of the primary sponsors of the event.

Mr. Hoffman said the response in town has been “amazing,” with more than 120 neighborhood block captains organizing the event on their streets. “Middlebrook Farm Road is one place where there are a lot of participants,” he said.

After the luminaries are lit all at once, like the flip of a switch, “Everyone has block parties,” he said.

Hope Lights Lives luminary kits are \$25 and contain 12 tea light candles, 12 white paper bags and 12 plastic candle holders. The fund-raiser has been taking place in town for about a dozen years, Mr. Hoffman said.

Kits are available for purchase at the Village Market and at the Center for Hope.

Services at Center for Hope include bereavement support groups for children and adults, and educational programs related to illness and loss.

“Many people pay for the service, but for those that can’t, those are the ones we’re raising the money for,” said Mr. Hoffman.

“Like most nonprofits, we’re feeling the effects of the economic crisis, particularly when it comes to obtaining sponsors for our fundraising efforts,” said Family Centers Vice President, Jim Vivier. “While it’s never ideal to reschedule



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a community-wide event like the luminary lighting, we hope to use this extra week to urge people help us reach our goals by purchasing kits through area retailers and on our Web site.”

Mr. Vivier said nearly 6,000 luminary kits have been sold in Fairfield County so far. Other sponsors of “Hope Lights Lives” include Yankee Candle, Swimm Pools and RBS Sempra Commodities.

*Information:* Call Gloria Veeder at 869-4848 or email her at [gveeder@familycenters.org](mailto:gveeder@familycenters.org), or contact Corinne Chelednik at Hoffman Landscapes at 834-9656.