

Rappelling Cashman Topples Grinch, Sox

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by Felicia Hunter

Down, down, down they came. As expected, Santa and Mrs. Claus rappelled down Stamford's Landmark Square Building on Sunday for the city's Heights & Lights celebration. But a Grinch also descended. And when the dastardly creature shed his outer layer to reveal a Boston Red Sox persona underneath, it took a New York Yankee in elf's clothing to vanquish him.



That was the crowd-pleasing scenario as Yankees General Manager Brian Cashman – that Grinch-conquering hero – joined the roster of rappellers.

"Hopefully, the show was awesome for the city of Stamford and the tri-state area. This was definitely the place to be tonight," Cashman said at a news conference after the activities, which included fireworks, music and Christmas Tree lighting at Latham Park.

Cashman, a Darien resident, became interested in participating after seeing the event last year. He's the first Heights & Lights celebrity rappeller.

"I'm honored to be part of the Stamford rappel team. Not many people can say that," he said, adding that early-morning practices fit into his schedule. "I haven't missed a beat in my job."

Cashman's fellow rappellers were Brian Van Orsdel as Santa, Jason Teitelbaum as Mrs. Claus, Eric Ratowski as the Grinch and Ron Markey as Rudolph.

Festivities included holiday music performed by the King fourth-grade and middle school singers and the King children's orchestra at Landmark. Broadway star and Darien native Dan Micciche led a sing-along at Latham Park.

Stamford's Unitarian Universalist Society and the First Congregational Church of Stamford offered warmth and free refreshments to revelers.

The event was sponsored by the city of Stamford, the Stamford Downtown Special Services District and several private entities, including First County Bank; Reckson, a division of SL Green Realty Corp.; and Bartlett Tree Experts, among others.