

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



1ST QUARTER 2023
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

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DOWNTOWN AKRON, 1ST QUARTER 2023

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WORKING FOR DOWNTOWN

Downtown Small Businesses and Storefronts in the News

The Daily Pressed opens in downtown Akron offering coffee, cocktails and Italy-inspired menu, by Kerry Clawson, Akron Beacon Journal: Restaurateur Chris Sedlock is bringing a taste of Europe to downtown Akron with his new bistro and cocktail lounge, The Daily Pressed.

Owner Sedlock, 34, said the name The Daily Pressed has multiple meanings, starting with the fact that everything, including all of the juices, syrups and sours, are made in-house daily.

“The concept is you can get a French press coffee, you can get pressed juices, you can get a pressed sandwich and then at night, you can get a vodka press,” said Sedlock, the latter referring to a 1930s drink made with vodka, club soda and lemon-lime soda that he plans to add to the menu.

You can get a French press coffee, you can get pressed juices, you can get a pressed sandwich and then at night, you can get a vodka press.

Local chefs Christopher and Ernie Cornelius, who are brothers, helped launch The Daily Pressed, which has seating for 100. Sous chef Christopher Cornelius is running the kitchen while head chef Ernie, who helped Sedlock develop the menu, will come in once a week on Tuesdays to do a chef’s specialty. [READ MORE](#)

Akron’s new Green Dragon Inn offers a place for game board enthusiasts to chill, by Craig Webb, Akron Beacon Journal: There are some 725 games in the library at the new Green Dragon Inn on East Market Street in downtown Akron.

And this isn’t your typical tavern.



It’s a bit more medieval than contemporary than its predecessors—the Uptown and Sky lounges—that once occupied the second-floor space.

Building owner Jameson Reeves has completely renovated the bar right down to the bricks that were hidden behind drywall.

He’s left some of them exposed so guests can catch a glimpse of the long-hidden architectural features.

The bar that serves as a logical extension to Reeves’ other business venture, Full Grip Games, a floor below is bit like walking into a “Dungeons and Dragons” movie set meets Holiday Inn Express with a sniff of Chipotle. [READ MORE](#)

Akron Axe House offers a chance to throw an ax and have some fun at the same time, by Craig Webb, Akron Beacon Journal: There’s a relatively new business in downtown Akron that has an ax to grind.

Twelve axes to be exact.

Situated in the former Akron National Bank in downtown Akron, the Akron Axe House opened for business about a month ago.

The venture is the latest incarnation for the former bank—situated about a long toss away from Canal Park—that was most recently home to a series of bars and nightclubs including the Vault.

“You can spend a couple hours throwing axes at zombies at the Akron Axe House and literally walk across the street and throw paint at a canvas in Street Craftery’s Splatter Paint Alley,” said Dominic Caruso, communications director for the Downtown Akron Partnership. “You can enjoy a board game and cocktails with friends at The Green Dragon Inn, and walk across the street and see inspiring local art at Summit Artspace, or the Keith Haring exhibition at Akron Art Museum.” [READ MORE](#)

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Residential Development as of Q1 - 2023

88%

Residential
Occupancy

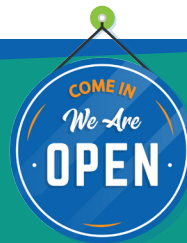
top left: [The Bowery](#), 156 S. Main St., 330-618-3469
above: [Canal Square Apartments & Lofts](#), 1 Canal Square Plaza,
330-819-0090

Business Development

Office Occupancy

	OCCUPANCY RATE	AVG ASKING RATE (PER SQ. FT.)
H2 - 2022	85.5%	\$18.32
H1 - 2022	85.7%	\$17.26
H2 - 2021	81.2%	\$16.77
H1 - 2021	80.2%	\$16.54

*Data from CBRE



Business Outreach

Q1 - 2023

CONTACTS
MADE*

RETAIL BUSINESS
CONTACTS

41

NON-RETAIL BUSINESS
CONTACTS

30

RETAIL AND BUSINESS
PROSPECTS**

49

* refers to the number of unique visits/contacts initiated by DAP per quarter

** refers to the number of requests for DAP's assistance in locating space for business

JANUARY – MARCH EVENTS



Downtown Akron Lunar New Year Celebration

January 28, 2023, story by Sonia Jurkowski, DAP communications specialist

To say this year's Downtown Akron Lunar New Year Celebration was spectacular would be an understatement. The event, which was only in its second iteration, was humbling, heartening, and absolutely extraordinary by every measure.

You may remember last year's event—the inaugural Lunar New Year celebration that took place in the Lock 3 Commons. It was warmly received by the thousand people in attendance and was an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with several neighborhood partners. The event featured traditional performances and fireworks over Lock 3.

This year, attendance doubled. The house filled to capacity with two thousand onlookers who were there to see the outstanding performances on the main stage of the Akron Civic Theatre. In fact, attendance was so much higher than expected that the Civic actually had to open the house doors half an hour earlier than planned to accommodate the people packing into the building, ready to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit with food and drink, a show, giveaways, and fireworks.

[Click here to READ MORE and view additional photos.](#)

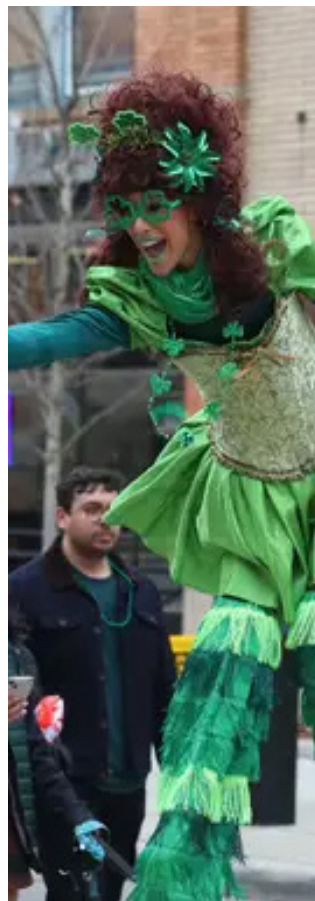


St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 11, 2023

As in years past, DAP marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade from Spaghetti Warehouse to Lock 3, hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Despite chilly temperatures, many people came downtown to watch the parade and enjoy St. Patrick's Day specials offered by local restaurants. We decorated a festive parade float for the occasion, and we were thrilled to learn that, for the second year in a row, we won 2nd place in the Commercial Float category of the parade contest.

[To view photos from the St. Patrick's Day Parade by Nicholas McLaughlin of the Akron Beacon Journal, click here.](#)



DOWNTOWN PROGRAMS



CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

DAP Ambassador Stats Jan. 1 - Mar. 30, 2023

7,376

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

745

BUS STOPS
CLEANED

259

SCOOTER
SUPPORT

791

BUSINESS CONTACTS
MADE

1,895

BUSINESS CHECKS

20

GRAFFITI
REMOVED

1453

SKYWALK
PATROL

133

PARKING
ASSISTANCE

3,623

SECURITY
CHECKS

55

SAFETY
ESCORTS

17

MOTORIST
ASSISTANCE

3,454

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE



Downtown Ambassadors maintain hours of operation seven days a week through support from Akron Civic Commons.

For ambassador services or to report a problem, call the on-duty ambassador during hours of operation at 330-706-7383.

Monday - Saturday: 7 a.m. - 11 p.m. | Sunday: 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

For non-emergency issues outside of ambassador operating hours, use the Akron Police Department's non-emergency numbers, 330-375-2181 or 330-375-2101. For any emergency at any time, call 911.

[Find out more about downtown Ambassadors.](#)

Val has been “roaming” the streets of Downtown Akron as a Downtown Akron Partnership Ambassador for 22 years keeping our Downtown clean and free of debris all that time. She’s the smiling face in Downtown that many have come to love and adore. The efforts of the Downtown Ambassador’s can never be understated. Doesn’t hurt that Val and many of the ambassadors are big Eddies fans...We ❤️ You Val.

—Ed Sutter, *Eddie’s Famous Cheesesteaks & Grille*

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

DAP shares news about downtown progress, businesses, institutions and organizations, downtown life and the downtown community in numerous ways. The most readily measurable outlets for promotion and advocacy are digital, through the DAP website, social media and email newsletter. Below are selected metrics related to these communications.



SOCIAL MEDIA	Q4 - 2022	Q1 - 2023
FACEBOOK	11,811	12,313
TWITTER	9,529	9,520
INSTAGRAM	7,129	7,430
LINKEDIN	2,076	2,241



WEBSITE TRAFFIC	Q4 - 2022	Q1 - 2023
USERS	86,203	72,109
SESSIONS	108,180	88,512
PAGE VIEWS	369,847	309,806

EMAIL NEWSLETTER	Q1 - 2023
NUMBER PUBLISHED	27
SENDS	193,984
OPENS	57,941
CLICKS	4,223
SUBSCRIBERS	18,463

Stay connected to the latest information on downtown Akron, subscribe to Do Downtown, our weekly email newsletter at downtownakron.com/news/subscribe, and follow us on social media @DowntownAkronPartnership.

NEW Downtown Guides & Stories

We'll do the planning, you make the memories. DAP's growing list of downtown Guides can help you make a day of it in downtown Akron. *(click each to read)*

Guides

- [9 Ideas for Your Spring Break Staycation](#)
- [13 Downtown Akron Must-Dos](#)
- [6 Date Night Ideas in Downtown Akron](#)
- [19 Things to Do in Downtown Akron's Northside District](#)
- [6 Fine Dining Restaurants in Downtown Akron](#)
- [What to do on Sundays in Downtown Akron](#)

Stories

- [Downtown Akron Welcomes the Year of the Rabbit at the Second Annual Lunar New Year Celebration](#)
- [A Look at Main Street Wayfinding](#)



Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron

Visit these Majestic Sights of downtown Akron (and eat them!): Burgers, pizza, the classic cheesesteak, sushi, Thai cuisine, Mexican cuisine, filet mignon, banana pudding, craft beer, big cookies, hearty scones, peanuts, ice cream, English tea, grilled cheese, and more!

Find out more about the [Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport](#) by clicking the graphic to the left.

WINNER OF THE WINTER ENJOY SCENIC DOWNTOWN AKRON PASSPORT PROGRAM

The Winner of the Winter Scenic Downtown Passport was Brian Csonka! Mr. Csonka received a downtown prize pack with \$300 worth of gift cards and experiences, and, perhaps best of all, NOMZ eatery in the Northside Marketplace named a sandwich in his honor: the [Honka Csonka Tuscan Bacon Chicken!](#)

There is still plenty of time to participate in the Spring Enjoy Scenic Downtown Akron Passport: it runs through June 8, 2023. There are now 2 ways to win: collect 5 stickers and enter to win a \$100 prize pack, or collect 10 stickers to enter to win a \$300 prize pack. Who knows, maybe we'll get a sandwich named after you, too!



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Akron History Center to Open Next Year

A dedicated space to tell the history of the City of Akron is expected to open next December [2023].

Construction of the Akron History Center at the Bowery is underway in Building D in the Bowery District, located at 172 S. Main St. near the intersection of South Main and Bowery streets. The Center will consist of three floors totaling approximately 3,000 square feet. —*Eric Poston, Akron.com, Jan. 5, 2023*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Akronite app gives million-dollar boost to local economy

The city of Akron is celebrating a milestone moment. It just generated nearly \$1.5 million in economic activity.

It's bringing joy to both residents and business owners in the Rubber City who have had a rough go over the last couple of years due to the pandemic.

City of Akron Deputy Mayor for Integrated Development Sean Vollman says the city introduced the Akronite App during the spring of 2020 when many small businesses were hurting due to the pandemic.

"We wanted to figure out a way we could try to help boost local small businesses, get them back, you know, as best we can," Vollman said..—*Mike Holden, News 5, Jan. 6, 2023*

[Click here to watch the full story.](#)

Summit County Recognized as a Dementia-Friendly Community

Summit County is now recognized by Dementia Friendly America® as a Dementia-Friendly Community! With a strong coalition of partners, Dementia-Friendly Summit County will begin working toward making our 31 communities more accessible, accepting, and livable for residents living with all forms of dementia.

In gaining this recognition, Summit County joins communities across the United States in embarking on the Dementia-Friendly process set forth by Dementia Friendly America (DFA). —*Press release from Akron-Summit County Public Library*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

2023 Continuation of the Start Downtown Program Launched

In February, DAP announced the continuation of the Start Downtown Program, which matches business owners and entrepreneurs with downtown property owners who have



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

space available to bring new businesses to downtown Akron. In alignment with Opportunity Akron and the Elevate Greater Akron Strategy, the program encourages new business growth with an emphasis on businesses owned by women and people of color. The program, which began in 2015 as the Pop-Up Retail Program, has brought 18 businesses to downtown over six grant cycles. The application process was open through March 3, and interviews of applicants have begun. The Start Downtown Program is made possible with support from Burton D. Morgan Foundation. —*Press release from Downtown Akron Partnership*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Burton D. Morgan Foundation approves \$1.7M in grants for entrepreneurs

The Burton D. Morgan Foundation has approved nearly \$1.7 million in grants for initiatives to support entrepreneurs and entrepreneur education in Northeast Ohio.

“We are excited to support Northeast Ohio’s entrepreneurial ecosystem with this package of grants for organizations representing youth, collegiate and adult entrepreneurship programming,” President and CEO Dan Hampu said in a prepared statement. “We look forward to learning of the impact of these grants on our community and its diverse and talented group of entrepreneurs.” —*Akron Beacon Journal, Feb. 15, 2023*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

7th Annual Summit Brew Path Launches

The 7th annual Summit Brew Path launched on February 11, 2023. Featuring 21 official stops, the Summit Brew Path is presented by the Akron/Summit Convention & Visitors Bureau (ASCVB) in partnership with the breweries.

The 2023 official stops, include downtown Akron’s: Akronym Brewing, Missing Falls Brewery, and R. Shea Brewing (Downtown Akron & Merriman Valley). —*Press release from ASCVB*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

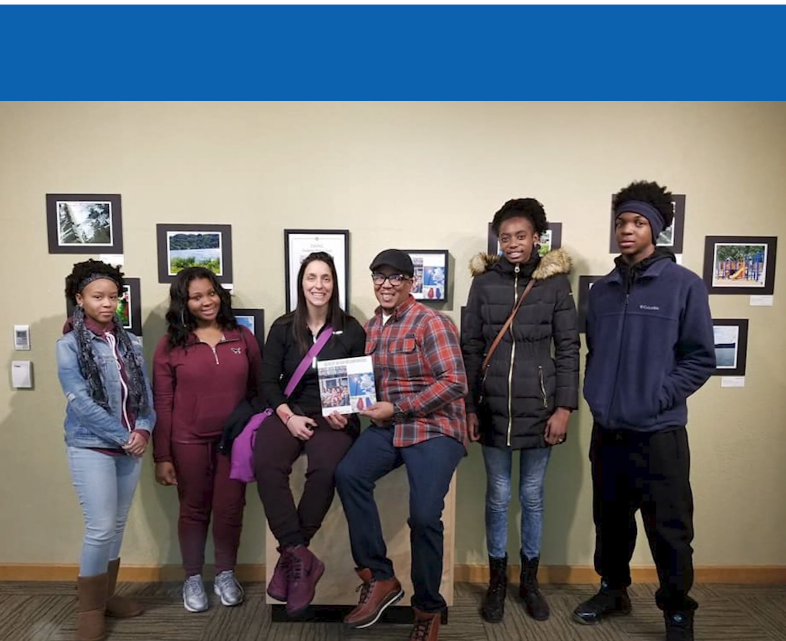
RubberDucks Release 2023 Promotion Schedule

The 2023 giveaways include seven t-shirt Tuesdays and 12 Saturday premium giveaways, including seven bobbleheads. Some of the bobbleheads include actress and author Karyn Parsons, RubberDucks manager Rouglas Odor, newly elected Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Thomas, RubberDucks mascot Rubberta and actor Kevin Sussman. —*Press release from the Akron RubberDucks, Feb. 22, 2023.*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Akron Community Foundation awards nearly \$4 million in quarterly grants

Akron Community Foundation's board recently announced quarterly grants totaling \$3.8 million and approved nearly \$700,000 in competitive education grants chosen by the foundation's Community Investment Committee.

In total, 41 organizations received funding during the education cycle, including \$12,500 for Students With A Goal (also known as SWAG), to help support after-school mentoring programs and activities for middle school and high school students in Akron. "As a nonprofit, we're addressing academics and mentoring and trying to end violence in our community, and Students With A Goal has one main objective—to engage, equip and empower youth," said Howard Harris, executive director of SWAG.

—*Press release from Akron Community Foundation website, Mar. 6, 2023.*

[*Click here to read the full story.*](#)

City of Akron Receives \$960,000 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant

[On April 30] the Biden administration announced a historic \$185 million in grant awards for 45 projects through the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program, a first-of-its-kind initiative to reconnect communities that are cut off from opportunity and burdened by past transportation infrastructure decisions. The City of Akron was awarded \$960,000 to create a community-based master plan to guide the transformation of a vacated mile-long section of Akron's Inner-belt. —*City of Akron Press Release, March 1, 2023*

[*Click here to read the full story.*](#)

GAR Foundation Approves \$880,000 in Capital Funds

The GAR Foundation has approved \$880,000 in capital funding to 28 community organizations in Greater Akron.

The foundation offers funding for "mission-critical capital projects" on a periodic basis, typically every other year.

This year, the foundation made several larger awards for special one-time cultural projects, including Sojourner Truth Plaza, the new Akron History Center, The Night-light cinema and the Akron Art Museum. —*Akron Beacon Journal, Mar. 27, 2023*

[*Click here to read the full story.*](#)

UA Jazz Festival Pays Homage to Past, Present in Akron

As jazz artists and educators Chris Coles and Theron Brown rejuvenate the University of Akron Jazz Program,



NEWS: VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

they've brought UA's Jazz Week back for the first time in four years.

University of Akron Jazz Week 2023 [featured] guest artists Sean Jones, a famed trumpeter and Warren native; and New York-based trombonist and composer Sam Blakeslee, who studied jazz at Youngstown State University and received a 2013 master's in classical performance at the University of Akron. —*Kerry Clawson, Akron Beacon Journal, Mar. 31, 2023*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

How Akron Is Honoring Sojourner Truth's Activism Through Preservation

Much of the work of historic preservation in America is just that—preserving the places and sites where significant cultural moments occurred to tell the full story of the role they played in American society. But what happens when these physical sites no longer exist?

But destruction of these places doesn't mean these key moments didn't happen and don't deserve to be remembered. Instead, preservationists are developing a new model for memorial placemaking to commemorate the past when the physical evidence is no longer there. —*Shayla Martin, Veranda.com, Feb. 2, 2023*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Akron's Bowery District lands Burgess & Niple

Dan Johnson, Akron manager for the Columbus-based, national engineering and architecture firm, said his firm wanted to maintain its presence in the city's core and to move to a center of activity and development as it competes for talent.

The Bowery satisfied both requirements. It's bustling, and it's only a few blocks down South Main Street from Burgess & Niple's current home at 50 S. Main in Akron Centre Plaza, more commonly known as the Chase Building. —*Dan Shingler, Crain's Cleveland Business, Mar. 22, 2023*

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

Heera Indian Cuisine Opens on E. Market St.

Heera Indian Cuisine at 117 E Market St. features great tasting, authentic Indian food. They showcase popular north Indian recipes, with highlights of some south Indian and Indochinese cooking as well.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS



DOWNTOWN AKRON COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE SITE SEARCH

Looking for office or storefront commercial space? Downtown Akron Partnership can help you search for available locations within our 42-block Special Improvement District and arrange for tours. This is a free and confidential Site Selection service provided by our organization. [Click here to try it!](#)

Visit downtownakron.com/do-business to view the ways in which DAP can help you relocate or start your business in downtown.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The DAP website highlights available job opportunities within the Special Improvement District. [Click here to visit the page.](#)

TO UPDATE YOUR COMPANY PROFILE, PROVIDE A PHOTO OR TO LIST A JOB OPENING, PLEASE EMAIL INFO@DOWNTOWNAKRON.COM.

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER OF AKRON PUBLIC SCHOOLS HONORED WITH ST. VINCENT-ST. MARY HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL JERSEY RETIREMENT

Chapman is the first woman to have her jersey retired by the school. Carla was a part of the Class of 1981, leading her team to victory in back-to-back OHSAA State Championships her sophomore and junior years, averaging 25 points per game, and 20 rebounds.

She continued her academic and professional careers at The Ohio State University ('82-85), where she and her team won four Big Ten Conference Championships. [Watch the jersey ceremony.](#)

CITY OF AKRON HOSTS PARADE FOR STATE CHAMPION BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS FROM BUCHTEL AND ARCHBISHOP HOBAN

Buchtel and Archbishop Hoban boys basketball players were more than just state champions Sunday afternoon in downtown Akron.

They were stars on floats.

They were teenagers bringing smiles to the thousands of faces that lined Main Street from Cedar Street to Bowery Street. [Find out more.](#)

STEVE ELLIOTT NAMED NEW CHIEF MAGISTRATE

Summit County Probate Court Judge Elinore Marsh Stormer announced the appointment of Steve Elliott as Chief Magistrate effective January 2023. Elliott came to probate via a nontraditional background, serving in the CIA prior to attending law school. He practiced probate law and civil litigation and worked in parole, assisting felons to return to society. In 2018, Elliott joined the Court as a part-time Magistrate/Court Investigator and then assumed the role of a full-time Magistrate. [Find out more.](#)

FIRSTENERGY ANNOUNCES NEW CEO, BRIAN TIERNEY

Tierney, 55, is currently a senior managing director and global head of infrastructure operations and asset management at asset management firm Blackstone, where he started working in 2021.

Blackstone became one of FirstEnergy's largest shareholders in late 2021, when the investment firm acquired \$1 billion worth of the utility company's stock. The deal also gave Blackstone a seat on the FirstEnergy board. [Find out more.](#)

GPD GROUP NAMED TOP RANKED ENGINEERING FIRM, #1 OF THE TOP 95 RETAIL ARCHITECTURE AND AE FIRMS - RESTAURANTS

GPD Group was recognized in the Building Design + Construction Giants 400 Survey in several categories,

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

including #1 on the Top 95 Retail Architecture and AE Firms - Restaurants.

The Building Design + Construction Giants 400 survey ranks the nation's largest architecture, engineering, and construction firms across 25 building sectors and specialty categories. GPD Group was also named the Top Ranked Engineering Firm and the Top Ranked Architectural Firm for 2023 by Crain's Cleveland Business. [Find out more.](#)

AKRON RESEARCHER NAMED 2023 SLOAN RESEARCH FELLOW

A University of Akron researcher has been named a 2023 Sloan Research Fellow in chemistry, one of just 125 in the U.S. and Canada and the only fellow in Northeast Ohio.

Junpeng Wang, assistant professor of polymer science, is the recipient of the award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The science-focused fellowship comes with a \$75,000 award that can be used on research in the next two years. Wang's primary research focuses on "understanding the interactions between molecular-level knowledge and macroscopic properties of polymeric materials to develop new functional materials that can address grand challenges," a news release stated. His lab has worked to develop sustainable polymers in recent years. [Find out more.](#)

UNIVERSITY OF AKRON STUDENTS WIN GOLD ADDY AWARD FOR DESIGN OF UNKNWN RETAIL SPACE

The Myers School of Art UNKNWN design team wins Gold in the professional category at the 2023 ADDY Awards. The team consisted of Trent Boatner, lead designer, Isabella Troutman, Kara Devol and Rachel Wilson. [Find out more.](#)

SPAGHETTI WAREHOUSE RECIEVES AN OPENTABLE DINERS' CHOICE AWARD

OpenTable Diners' Choice Awards are voted on by patrons. Previous downtown Akron winners include, The Tea Lady, and The 1: Food and Spirits.

MAYA NICHOLSON RECIEVES HONORABLE MENTION, BEST ACTRESS-MUSICAL FOR OHIO SHAKESPEARE PRODUCTION OF CINDERELLA

Each year, the Cleveland Critics Circle honors outstanding local productions as well as select performers, directors, designers, and playwrights. Eligible plays include those staged by Cleveland-area professional theaters during the 2022 calendar year.

After being formally trained at Kent State University, she became a company member to several local theatres in the NEOhio area including Magical Theatre Company, The Ohio Shakespeare Festival, and The Chameleon Village Project. [Find out more.](#)



TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

FEATURED PROPERTY

209 S. Main St.

209 S. Main is located in the heart of downtown Akron, across from Lock 3 Park, the Akron Civic Theatre and just a block from Canal Park Stadium. The recently remodeled professional office space features

- All LED lighting
- 10' ceilings
- Covered parking attached
- Rooftop patio accessible to all tenants
- Part of downtown Akron Skywalk System

For more information, contact Kimberly Beckett
330-374-7676
kbeckett@
downtownakron.com



FEATURED BUSINESS

Akron Energy Systems 222 Opportunity Pkwy.

As the City of Akron's community energy system operator, AES delivers a finished heating and cooling product to buildings in the city's downtown business district. The 2022 AES Community Impact report details 140K tons per year of reduced greenhouse gas emissions, 97% reduction in air pollutants, 46% improvement in energy efficiency, among other accomplishments. The Main Street improvement project included the installation of new underground steam, chilled water and underground condensate return piping, allowing AES to improve system efficiencies, prepare for future growth and recycle over 30M gallons of water annually by reusing steam condensate.

[Read the entire 2022 Impact Report.](#)



METRO RTA BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE REIMAGINED NETWORK, ALLOWING JUNE 4 ROLL-OUT OF SYSTEM REDESIGN

On Tuesday, March 28, the Reimagined Network was unanimously approved by METRO's Board of Trustees with implementation set for June 4, 2023. The Reimagined Network was designed to provide frequent and convenient service in high ridership corridors and markets where and for whom transit is essential.

The major changes will offer a more streamlined service with five new high frequency corridors, three new 30-min-



ute routes added to the already existing five, expanded weekend service, and offer regional connections to Kent, Brimfield, and Cuyahoga County.

"When METRO conducts a major service change, it is required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to conduct an evaluation to ensure that the planned changes will not disparately impact minority populations and/or disproportionately burden low-income populations," said Valerie Shea, Director of Planning and Strategic Development. "METRO has completed its analysis, available in full on yourmetrobus.org, and has found there will be great benefit to the community, with a 53% increase in job access for the median Summit County resident living near transit. This number increases to 104% for low-income residents and to 89% for People of Color." [Find Out More.](#)

METRO RTA'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES SWEAR IN CHRISTINE MARSHALL AS NEWEST SUMMIT COUNTY APPOINTEE

Christine Marshall was sworn in by METRO CEO Dawn Distler on January 30, 2023. Marshall was appointed to serve on behalf of Summit County by the office of County Executive Ilene Shapiro.

While serving on METRO's Board of Trustees, Marshall also serves on the United Way of Summit/Medina Counties Community Impact Task Force, the ConxusNEO Board, and as the Treasurer for the Ohio Workforce Association. Marshall is currently employed as Executive Director for the Summit & Medina Workforce Area Council of Governments. [Find Out More.](#)

PAID PARKING IN DOWNTOWN AKRON IS BACK

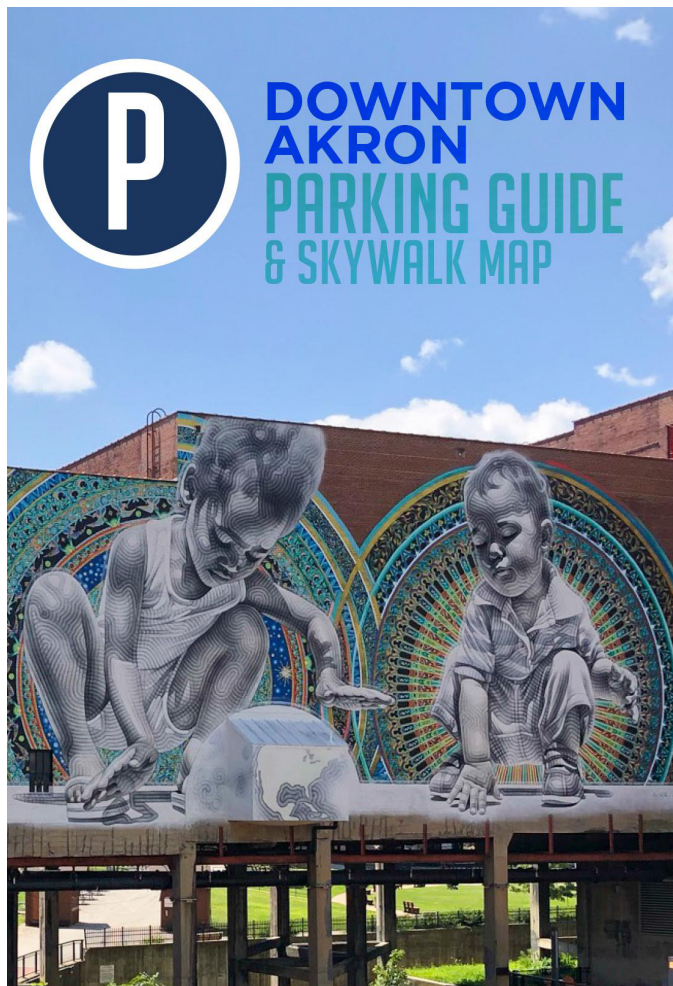
City of Akron Resumes Parking Enforcement with Flowbird App

When you park downtown, you'll notice new machines have been installed throughout.

Patrons are asked to download the Flowbird app from the app store or to visit <https://flowbirdapp.com/> to become familiar with the payment process prior to the enforcement date. The new parking meters accept credit card, coins, or payment through the application. Paper cash will not be accepted.

The parking enforcement will take place from Monday to Friday from 7 am to 6 pm. Weekends and holidays will continue to be free parking. Cost of parking will be \$1/per hour with a 2 hour limit at most meters. Once your two hours is up, you can renew your time with the Flowbird application.

If you prefer to park in one of our many City parking decks or lots, please refer to this helpful list provided by Downtown Akron Partnership: [Parking Decks & Lots.](#)





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www.downtownakron.com



#Downtownakron

