

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



photo by Shane Wynn



photo by John R. Aylward



4TH QUARTER 2018
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Several new or existing businesses made the move to downtown Akron over this past quarter ranging from arts, fitness, retail and more.

Downtown Akron Partnership is now in phase four of the pop-up retail program and DAP welcomed Sweet Modern and Seberg to the district. The Pop Up Retail program is not just for new retail storefront businesses anymore. As of Sept. 2018 Burton D. Morgan approved to extend their current grant to broaden the types of entrepreneurs accepted into this program. New businesses moving into downtown can locate in any available space in the Special Improvement District.



Sweet Modern



Seberg



ArtsNow



Northside Marketplace

Pop Up business

Sweet Modern

2 N. Summit St., 2nd floor | 330-923-9230 | www.sweetmodern.com

Sweet Modern is fine vintage mid-century furniture and decor store with pieces finished and ready for your home. Owners Ronald Higgins and Adam Krutko spent the last several years redecorating their Highland Square home with mid-century furnishings. A passion for vintage furniture soon became bigger than the home space, so Sweet Modern was born.

Seberg

Instagram @_Seberg | Facebook @SebergStyle

Seberg is an online retailer of unique vintage and secondhand designer fashion. The focus is on quality fabrics and wearable statement pieces. Seberg also offers shopping by appointment and styling services in their downtown space.

Welcome new businesses

Sky Fit Studios

356 S. Main St. | 330-904-7308

Sky Fit Studios has a goal to provide a safe space for anyone, from beginners to advanced students, to improve their mind, body and soul. All are welcome to step out of their comfort zone and try many forms of exercise, such as pole fitness classes, yoga and more.

ArtsNow (new location)

175 S. Main St. #100 | 330-752-2815 | www.artsnow.org

ArtsNow is an innovative non-profit that connects arts, culture, and community. An outcome of the GAR and Knight Foundation funded Arts and Culture Assessment, ArtsNow seeks to connect, collaborate and support the incredible creative sector in Summit County.

Northside Marketplace

21 Furnace St. | 234-542-6627 | www.northsidemarketplace.com

The Northside Marketplace is an urban market with a focus on social interaction, local businesses and grass roots artisans. It features an eclectic mix of the area's best startups. With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and local business leaders, the marketplace offers small local businesses the tools and support they need to grow their business and increase exposure of their brand and product offerings.

The Northside Marketplace welcomes 10 new vendors bringing the total number of shops and shopkeepers to 66. These include: **5 Blessings, 7th Floor Clothing, Corrina's Candles, Dirk's Woodworking, Distinct CLE Crate Co., Empty Bin Zero Waste, Garret Candles, Goods, Guarino Olive Oil and Hope Soap.**

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

Make it to Main video series feature downtown restaurants, shops and stores

In December, Downtown Akron Partnership launched the “Make it to Main” video series through support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.



These videos take viewers inside local businesses to meet the owners, learn about their business and encourage people to experience the diverse, local offerings downtown.

Details on construction, nearby parking and METRO RTA routes for

easy navigation is also included.

The first two installments feature Boiling House and Akron Tower News. Videos are produced David Stephenson and hosted by Grace Thanasiu, both students at the University of Akron.

Hi campaign encourages people to get out and explore downtown in winter

Downtown is the heart of Akron, where people are entertained, inspired and connected.

With support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, DAP worked with Pritt Entertainment Group to produce a winter video highlighting many activities going on in downtown. The goal is to encourage employees and visitors to get out and explore the neighborhood during the winter months.



Accompanying the video are customized gloves imprinted with “Hi” to further promote interacting with fellow downtowners.

CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING



38,703

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

444

GRAFFITI REMOVED

2,573

BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

1,312

SAFETY ESCORTS



492

MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

12,396

PARKING ASSISTANCE

615

WEED ABATEMENT (BLOCK FACES)

15,762

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

DAP Ambassador stats Jan.-Dec. 2018

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

ELIZABETH CORBIN MURPHY, FAIA APPOINTED REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO AIA COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

Perspectus Architecture principal Elizabeth Corbin Murphy, FAIA has been appointed as one of two Ohio Valley Regional Representatives to the AIA College of Fellows for 2019. As regional representative, Murphy will serve as a liaison between the AIA Fellows within the Ohio Valley region and the AIA College of Fellows. This esteemed role encompasses four objectives: generate awareness; encourage participation among existing Fellows; inspire professional growth among recently licensed architects through fellowship within the Institute; and influence AIA components.

OHIO SPORTS TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION NAMES CANAL PARK 2018 TURFACE OHIO FIELD OF THE YEAR

Akron RubberDucks' Akron RubberDucks' playing surface at Canal Park and head groundskeeper Chris Walsh were named the 2018 Turface Athletics Ohio Field of the Year by the Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association (OSTMA) at its annual meeting on Dec. 5. It is the first time Canal Park has been honored by the OSTMA. The award considers playing surfaces from all levels of Ohio sports, including high school, parks and recreational and collegiate. It recognizes an individual and organization for their persistence in maintaining safe and aesthetically pleasing playing surfaces. Board members nominate award candidates who are then voted on by the OSTMA members. Turface Athletics is the award's presenting sponsor.

OUTERBOX ANNOUNCES CANDIDATE CITIES FOR EXPANSION DUE TO DEMAND FOR ECOMMERCE SEO AND WEBSITE DESIGN SERVICES

OuterBox is currently in the process of touring and reviewing proposals from cities they have pegged as leading candidates for the opening of their second office. The decision to open office number two is based on high demand for their eCommerce SEO and website design services. A new location will give OuterBox the ability to attract additional top-level talent as well as break into a new local customer base. OuterBox has outlined several criteria for its second office, such as access to a major airport, the ability to attract top technical talent, a suburban or urban area with more than one million people and proximity to the current headquarters in downtown Akron.

COUNCIL OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AGENCIES RECOGNIZES DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY OF SUMMIT COUNTY AS A HIGH PERFORMING DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AGENCY

The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) has recognized **Development Finance Authority of Summit County** as one of "the fifteen highest performing Development Finance Agencies across the nation." CDFA is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation's leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. According to CDFA, those DFAs that are able to manage and implement a variety of community and economic development programs are considered "High Performing."



Elizabeth Corbin Murphy



Canal Park Stadium



OuterBox Solutions



BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY DOWNTOWN AKRON BUSINESS HAS THEIR OWN PAGE ON DOWNTOWNAKRON.COM?

WE ENCOURAGE ALL BUSINESSES TO LOOK UP THEIR PAGE AND LET US KNOW ANY UPDATES OR CORRECTIONS.

COMPANY PROFILE

Each business page consists of the following elements:

- Company name, address, phone, website and social media links.
- Up to three photos of interior, exterior and/or product, and a company logo.
- Company description.
- Location generated on a map.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DAP also has a page highlighting available job opportunities within the Special Improvement District. Whether it's an office job or service position, full or part time, we want this page to become a go-to source for those interested in working downtown.

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

QUARTERLY DISTRICT MTGS

Quarterly meetings for downtown stakeholders are held the second Thursday of the month. RSVP at www.downtownakron.com/district

Historic Arts:

Jan 10, April 11, July 11, Oct. 10
10-11 a.m. | Main Library

Canal District:

Feb. 14, May 9, Aug. 8, Nov. 14
2-3 p.m. | Barley House

Northside:

March 14, June 13, Sept. 12, Dec. 12
1-2 p.m. | Jilly's Music Room

DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS; RE-ORGANIZATION OF STAFF



The **Development Finance Authority of Summit County (DFA)** announced several recent personnel actions; Rachel Bridenstine to managing director, Development Fund of the Western Reserve (DFWR), Lori Sallaz to director, administration, Laurie Ann Stoddard to fiscal officer, Alyson Moritz to manager, economic development programs, and; Alexandra DeBarr to executive assistant.

DOWNTOWN AKRON PARTNERSHIP WELCOMES NEW AMBASSADORS



Downtown Akron Partnership is pleased to welcome several new faces to the Clean & Safe Ambassador team, Soni Burke, Jermaine Holley and Greg Smith. Thanks to support from **Akron Civic Commons**, ambassadors now work seven days a week to ensure a clean, safe and welcoming environment by providing safety escorts and other services to make downtown enjoyable for everyone. The ambassador program began in 2009 as a way to further DAP's mission.

NEW PROGRAM LAUNCHES AT AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT



Akron Municipal Court Judge Ron Cable started a new program entitled Restore Individual Self-Empowerment (RISE). RISE, which kicked off in October, is dedicated to adult female victims of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and prostitution. "I created the program because our state has a major human trafficking problem. I am passionate about helping identify these victims, learning about their past and guiding them as they improve their circumstances," said Judge Cable. "Ohio law provides for expungement of certain offenses committed by human trafficking victims and I am confident RISE will impact our community in a positive way."

RISE meets on Tuesdays and already has five women enrolled. Due to the nature of the program and the goal to create a safe space for participants to talk about their history, RISE sessions are closed to the public.

METRO LAUNCHED OFFICIAL-LY ONBOARD INITIATIVE AND WELCOMED SEVERAL LOCAL OFFICIALS TO RIDE BUSES WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAWN DISTLER ON DEC. 10



City of Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan, city of Cuyahoga Falls Mayor Don Walters, County Executive Ilene Shapiro, village of Lakemore Mayor Rick Justice and city of Green Mayor Gerard Neugebauer traveled on various routes throughout Summit County talking to passengers and **METRO** staff, and assessing the importance of public transportation in our communities.

"There's nothing better as a transit fanatic than getting to ride buses all day," said Distler. "Official-ly Onboard allowed us the opportunity to have great conversations with each other, with riders, and with METRO's team members. We talked about how we can all work together to better our service throughout the county. Public transportation is a team effort."

CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Akron apartment plan gets tax credits; 20 units planned for Everett Building

By Katie Byard, reprinted with permission from Akron Beacon Journal/Ohio.com

Another 20 apartments are planned for downtown Akron, not far from where some 200 are in the works.

On Wednesday [Dec. 12, 2018], state officials revealed that area developer Tony Troppe has landed \$470,500 in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits.



Troppe plans to use the credits to help finance a \$4.7 million rehabilitation of his Everett Building at the corner of Market and Main streets, converting the upper floors into 20 apartments.

Troppe said he plans to create five apartment units on each of the upper four floors and have them ready for occupancy sometime in the spring or early summer. They would range in size from a 750-square-foot efficiency to a 1,600-square-foot unit with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. An efficiency would rent for about \$900 a

month, while a 1,600-square-foot unit would rent for about \$2,400 a month.

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

Cleveland-based developer to lead a \$20 million dollar mixed-use renovation

The city of Akron announced a partnership with Weston on a mixed-use renovation of the historic CitiCenter Building in downtown Akron. The \$20 million dollar project includes plans for 60 units of new market-rate apartments, 20,000 square feet of office, and 3,000 square feet of amenity space.



Joining Weston on the development team are Sandvick Architects, a respected leader in historic preservation architecture, and Akron-based Thomarios.

The development team intends to build a diverse financing package incorporating conventional loans, state and federal historic tax credits, owner equity, and use of the city's 15-year Residential Tax Abatement program.

The city has also committed to leasing the office space in the basement and first floor of the building. Additionally, the Akron Municipal Employees Credit Union will remain a tenant in newly renovated space.

FEATURED PROPERTY

Malone Building

209 S. Main St. | 330-535-7174

The Malone Building was built in 1937 and has eight floors of single offices and two office suite ranging from 800-12,600 square feet. The building adjoins to the skywalk and county parking deck for convenient access. Naming rights to the building are available with all inclusive lease rates.



FEATURED BUSINESS

ARCADIS

222 S. Main St.. # 200 | arcadis.com

ARCADIS is the leading global natural and built asset design and consultancy firm working in partnership with clients to deliver exceptional and sustainable outcomes through the application of design, consultancy, engineering, project and management services.



PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



METRO RTA establishes DASH re-route and temporary stop in downtown Akron

METRO RTA announced a temporary DASH re-route went into effect on Dec. 10. The re-route will allow for additional access from Main Street to RKP Transit Center. The stop is located on Main Street in front of the Mayflower Manor building. The free DASH bus will pick up and drop off at this stop on its way to the Transit Center.

There will be two trips an hour serving this temporary bus stop and buses will pull to the curb to board and alight passengers. This is a DASH-only stop with weekday service only. All other routes can be picked up at the existing stops in the nearby area.

This temporary stop will remain in place until further notice during the Main Street construction period.



Phase 1A of TIGER-funded project now complete; traffic patterns change

The city of Akron had extra reason to celebrate this holiday season as the Main Street Corridor project reached a significant milestone in its progress with the "flip" from Phase 1A to Phase 1B on Dec. 21, 2018.

This changeover marks the completion of the first half of the roundabout at Main and Mill Streets. The completion of Phase 1A also means a change to the traffic pattern on both Main and Mill Streets. A description of the various sub-phases along with updated information about the project is regularly posted on www.driveakron.com.

"Today's milestone represents meaningful progress on this momentous renovation of our downtown corridor," Mayor Dan Horrigan said. "The first portion of the roundabout at Main and Mill Streets is now finished, and the roundabout is expected to be complete in May 2019."

On Friday, Dec. 21, 2018, the northbound traffic shifted from the east side of the street over onto the newly paved west side, in the same direction. Traffic heading north on S. Main St. from W. Bowery St., and traffic heading from the east and west on Mill St. to S. Main St., will enter into the new roundabout and travel clockwise around it to exit to the north up S. Main St. Eastbound traffic will be detoured to E. Market, S. High St. and E. Mill St. Westbound traffic will be detoured north up to MLK Jr. Blvd. and to W. Mill St. Southbound traffic will continue being detoured using S. High St.

The work on Main Street is a two-phase project and a direct result of two federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants and numerous local partnerships.

Throughout construction, the city will host stakeholder engagement activities in collaboration with DAP, to ensure sustained dialogue about the project and its impact on the downtown community.

To read the full news release click [here](#). For more information about the project, visit www.driveakron.com.



WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN

WINTER FEST

Through Feb. 18 | Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Lock 3 | 200 S. Main St.



Lock 3's most popular feature is the 10,000 sq. ft. ice rink. Skating is \$4 (w/ rental) or \$2 with your skates. Enjoy 9 holes of indoor putt-putt for \$3 for 9-holes. Ages 3 and under free. New this year are ice bumper cars. Cost is \$10 for 10 minutes. Hours for activities can be found at www.lock3live.com.

22ND ANNUAL RED & WHITE ON THURSDAY NIGHT

Thursday, Jan. 24 | 5:30-9 p.m.

Quaker Square at University of Akron | 135 S. Broadway St.



Red & White on Thursday Night is Akron's premier strolling food and wine event, now home of Akron Life magazine's 330 Flavor Awards celebrating the top food and beverage talent of the 330 area. The event will feature local and international wines, craft beers and food tastings from the area's best chefs. Proceeds benefit the Arthritis Foundation.

YOGA & PINTS

Saturdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16 | 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Akronym Brewing | 58 E. Market St.



Join Akron Yoga and Wellness or a fun yoga flow and a pint at Akronym Brewing in 2019. Tracie or Lindsay will lead a one-hour, all-levels yoga class in the space where Akronym brews their beer, then we'll chat with you over a pint when class ends. Cost is \$15 per event (yoga and one pint included per event).

LAWRENCE BROWNLEE & ERIC OWENS - TUESDAY MUSICAL ASSOCIATION

Tuesday, Feb. 12. | 7:30 p.m.

E.J. Thomas Hall | 198 Hill St.



Two international superstars and good friends are joining forces for a special duo concert ranging from opera to spirituals. The Chicago Tribune observed that their Lyric Opera performance in April "had the assembled opera aficionados and newbies all but dancing in the aisles..

AKRON ROUNDTABLE: BRANDON EDWIN CHROSTOWSKI

Thursday, Feb. 21 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Quaker Square at University of Akron | 135 S. Broadway St.



Brandon Edwin Chrostowski is on a mission to change the face of re-entry in the United States. In 2007, he founded EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute, with the belief that every human being regardless of their past has the right to a fair and equal future.

HARRY POTTER AND THE PRISONER OF AZKABAN™ IN CONCERT

Saturday, March 2 | 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

UA EJ Thomas Hall | 198 Hill St.



The Harry Potter™ Film Concert Series returns with Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban™ in Concert, the third film in the Harry Potter series. The Akron Symphony Orchestra will perform this magical score live while the film plays in high-definition on a 40-foot screen.

THE LION IN WINTER

Feb. 22-March 10 | Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.

Ohio Shakespeare Festival | 103 S. High St., 6th floor

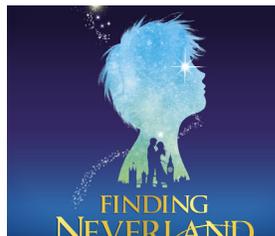


It's Christmas in 1183, during the reign of King Henry II. The royal family has gathered at Henry's palace in France. But this is no Hallmark family Christmas—Henry and Eleanor disagree on almost everything—especially on which of their three sons will succeed to the throne.

FINDING NEVERLAND

Tuesday/Wednesday, March 5-6, Dec. 14 | 7:30 p.m.

E.J. Thomas Hall | 198 Hill St.



FINDING NEVERLAND tells the incredible story behind one of the world's most beloved characters: Peter Pan. Playwright J.M. Barrie struggles to find inspiration until he meets four young brothers and their beautiful widowed mother. Spellbound by the boys' enchanting make-believe adventures, he sets out to write a play that will astound London theatergoers.



103 S. High St., 4th floor, Akron, OH 44308
Phone: 330-374-7676 | Ambassadors: 330-706-7383
Email: info@downtownakron.com
www.downtownakron.com



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Photo by Shane Wynn