



Downtown Ambassadors

DOWNTOWN
update



Downtown Akron Partnership
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Promoting and building a valuable
and vibrant downtown.

www.downtownakron.com

Message from the president

Investing in Downtown Akron Assists Everyone...

As downtown Akron continues to evolve and grow, it is important to keep in mind the myriad reasons a thriving downtown is important. The foundation of success for downtown is that it is clean and safe. Downtown Akron Partnership, in partnership with Metro Regional Transit Authority, is thrilled to announce its new safety and clean team. Nine ambassadors will be patrolling the downtown streets focusing on safety, litter collection, distributing information and more!

We are extremely fortunate to have the support and vision of private citizens and government entities working together to keep our downtown strong – and this program is just another example of that spirit of collaboration.

It is important to remember, with each improvement and change, that downtown revitalization will never be complete. It takes an on-going investment to create and maintain a vibrant and valuable downtown.

So, why is a vibrant and valuable downtown so important?

Downtown is the center of the community. It represents the heart and soul of the area. It is often described as the community living room – a place where all, regardless of income, race, age, gender, etc.

– can come together.

Downtown is a reflection of our community. It is a cross section of the areas best... including corporate headquarters and thriving small businesses. It showcases cultural amenities, ranging from the internationally acclaimed Akron Art Museum to the unlimited offerings of the Akron-Summit County Public Library. It is a recreational hub, featuring a state-of-the-art minor league ballpark, vibrant green spaces and the tow path trail.

Downtown is unique. There are no templates in downtown. It offers unique choices for dining and shopping. It offers renovated buildings with inspiring office spaces. It houses a variety of businesses and employees. It showcases, in a few blocks, the uniqueness of the entire region.

Downtown is the stage on which we celebrate our community. Downtowns offer residents a place to gather...an extension of each of their individual neighborhoods. It gives residents a "sense of place," something that each one of us can celebrate and be proud of.

I invite everyone in our community to utilize this stage. Come and see what downtown offers. Bring your friends and family and be sure to return often.

The Downtown Akron Partnership Ambassadors are committed to keeping downtown Akron a safe and clean place to work, live and play.

Safety Ambassadors are on the streets 6 days a week, providing public safety and helpful information. They work with street level businesses, provide information to visitors, workers and residents as well as report on potential and actual emergencies that require police, fire or EMS resources.

Cleaning Ambassadors provide supplemental cleaning services to downtown sidewalks, including removal of litter, graffiti, sidewalk pressure washing and special projects.



From left: **Darrell**, Clean Team; **Terry**, Safety Team; **Mark**, Clean Team; **Val**, Clean Team; **Wayne Weese**, Operations Manager; **Amy**, Clean Team; **Richard**, Safety Team; **Ben**, Safety Team; **Juaquene (J.D.)**, Safety Team.

Ambassador Hours of Operation

Clean Ambassadors:

M-F 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Safety Ambassadors:

M-Th 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

F 7 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Sat 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

To request a safety escort contact the on duty supervisor by cell phone 330-706-7383. Give the time and location you want a safety ambassador to meet you to escort you to your car or other downtown destination.

To report a cleaning issue or a non-emergency safety concern, e-mail safe@downtownakron.com or call 330-762-9012. To reach Operations Manager Wayne Weese, call 330-706-7374 or e-mail wweese@downtownakron.com.

The Ambassador program is funded through Downtown Akron Partnership, Metro Regional Transit Authority and Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.



Downtown Akron Partnership welcomes new businesses...

Damascus Road Coffee

FirstMerit Tower Lobby
106 S. Main St.
7:30 a.m.-4 p.m, Monday-Friday
Damascus Road offers a selection of coffee roasted locally in Cuyahoga Falls, tea and specialty drinks from

Fatz

271 S. Main St. (formerly Panini's)
330-761-2525 (Mon.-Sat. 4 p.m.-2:30 a.m.; Sun. 11 a.m.-1 a.m.)
A sports bar featuring burgers, chicken, salads, sandwiches, pizza and specialty items. Big-screen TVs carry Sunday's otherwise blacked-out games.

Hattie's Cafe'

Main Library - 60 S. High St.
330-762-0853 (Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. 12-5; Sun. 12-4 p.m.)
www.hattiescafe.org
Hattie's menu includes fresh

sandwiches, soups and salads, coffees and desserts and caters events in library. Hattie's benefits the Hattie Larlham Foundation.

Spinelli's

209 S Main St -across from Lock 3
330-258-9890 (7 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
spinellisrestaurant@yahoo.com
Family-style restaurant serves breakfast sandwiches, burgers, chicken, pizza, salads and daily specials. Free delivery downtown.

WE Gallery

20 N. High St.
330-252-0988
Tues. 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Weds. 11-6; Th, F, Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
wegallery@live.com
The We Gallery represents nationally recognized and local artisans in metal, glass, jewelry, wood, ceramics and photography.

CVS/Minute Clinic

106 S. Main (FirstMerit Tower)
1-866-398-2727
Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
www.minuteclinic.com
Provides health screenings and vaccinations and treats common illnesses. Patients are treated on a first-come-first-serve basis. Most major insurances accepted. A pharmacy also fills prescriptions.

Brown Mackie College

388 S. Main St. (AES campus)
330-869-2700
www.brownmackie.edu
Brown Mackie College offers associate's degrees and diploma programs on a one-course-a month schedule in various fields.

Noto Fashion Boutique

111 N. Main, 2nd floor
330-990-4724
http://www.zelionoto.com

Boutique features unique apparel and accessories for women, or order directly from the shop's website.

APG Office Furnishings

40 E. Buchtel Ave.
330-996-4947
www.apgof.com
Office furniture for small and large businesses. Services include custom-built furniture, reupholstering fabric panels and furniture, electrostatic painting, and upholstery cleaning
Office Space Coworking
453 S. High St.
800-644-0683
www.officespacecoworking.com
Rent work space in a cafe'-type business setting that includes high-speed internet, print/copy/fax services, access to conference rooms. Membership levels vary.

Downtown Akron Partnership gets vibrant new look

Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) has unveiled a new logo that is representative of the great vibrancy of Downtown Akron and embodies DAP's mission of promoting and building a vibrant and valuable downtown.

The vibrant new logo represents the growing Downtown Akron skyline, highlighting the progress Downtown Akron has made and the tradition that has been retained. The new logo emphasizes the street level buildings, using energetic colors to invite the community and those throughout the region to visit Downtown often. A silhouette of the Ohio & Erie Canal can be seen in yellow between the buildings and a tree represents Downtown Akron's unique place as an urban center directly attached to a national

park. The logo tells the story of Downtown Akron as it continues to unfold and develop before our eyes.

In addition to launching the new logo, DAP looks forward to introducing a new website in mid-May that reflects the new brand and has features increased functionality.



The \$17.4 million transportation center on South Broadway and East Bartges opened in January. The new facility accommodates all Metro Regional Transit bus transfers, providing better accommodations for bus riders and relief from the daily traffic congestion on South Main.

The approximate 2,500 people who travel to downtown or transfer buses in downtown every day have a new facility that provides amenities that include restrooms, a sundries shop, vending machines and meeting rooms.

In addition to Metro RTA, the transit center has a taxi stand and will eventually house the Greyhound bus facility currently on Grant Street.

The transportation center is close enough to rail lines that it could one day be home to a community passenger rail, as well as the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad.

The glass and steel facility also provide exhibition space for local artists.

Richland Communities \$25-\$30 million private student housing complex on the Main Street/High Street block between Exchange and Cedar streets is on schedule for August 2009 occupancy. The Main Street side is nearly complete.



Retail space will occupy the first floor of the four-story units along South Main. The complex wraps around Main, Cedar, High and Exchange, leaving only the office building at 12 E. Exchange intact. The Howe House was moved to a new site along the canal earlier this year.

The former Parrish McIntyre and Akron Board of Realtors properties purchased by the city adjacent to the units serve as rental offices and parking.

Car safety, panhandling brochures

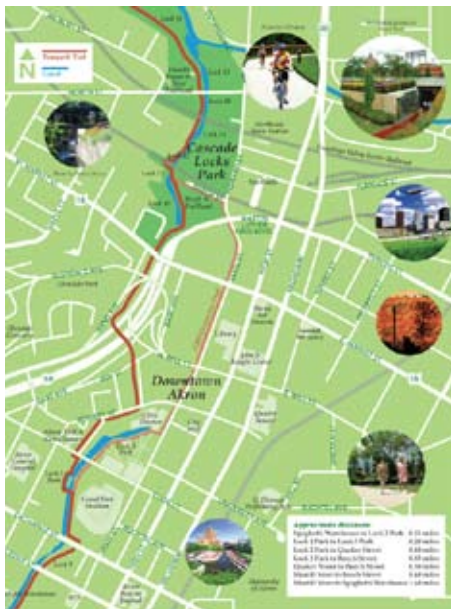


Common sense tips to keep your car safe from theft and break ins are now available. Call 330-762-9550 to order copies for your business.

Giving to panhandlers is not the best way to help. Panhandling brochures show better way to help those in need. Call 330-762-9550 for your copy.



Towpath Trail complete through downtown Akron



The \$1.4 million Towpath Trail bridge completed the Ohio & Erie Towpath Trail through downtown Akron. The Towpath Trail will eventually span 101 miles from Cleveland through Akron to New Philadelphia. Print the map online at www.downtow Akron.com

This connection gives downtown Akron direct access to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Downtown Akron statistics best of major Ohio cities

In an in-depth series in the Toledo Blade on the business climate in Ohio's seven major downtowns, Akron came out on top in each category cited: as the only downtown to experience a decrease in vacancy rates, an increase (6%) in new businesses, and an increase (4%) in private-sector jobs. And Moody, a Wall Street ratings service, found that Akron and Columbus are the only Ohio cities not shedding jobs.

BioInnovation Institute

Akron's three hospital systems, Children's, Akron General and Summa have joined forces with the University of Akron and NEOUCOM to launch the BioInnovation Institute, a major economic development initiative. It will focus on health, education and research by introducing an advanced level of medical research to benefit hospital patients. Akron was chosen because of strong commercial capability in the engineering and polymer fields, along with its workforce and knowledge base.

Downtown beat officers want to hear safety concerns

Cell phones are now carried by beat officers downtown to better communicate with stakeholders. Businesses and their employees are encouraged to call the cell numbers if they have a safety/security concern or information to share. Emergency calls should continue to be directed to 911. Call 330-762-9550 for more information.

Downtown Demographics

Demographic data was mailed to all downtown businesses. The website www.downtownakron.com/work/ development has a printable partial copy of the data, or call 330-762-9550 for more information.

Cigarette litter prevention

New ash receptacles have helped to reduce downtown cigarette litter. Business and property owners may call 330-762-9950 to request placement of an outdoor ash receptacle.

DAP launches cardboard recycling program

DAP's new cardboard recycling containers are now in place at six downtown locations. Check our website, www.downtownakron.com, for locations. All businesses and residents within the special improvement district may utilize the recycling containers. A program to educate businesses on recycling practices, including how recycling can lower their refuse costs, is underway.

Office Security Brochures, Asset Tags available to downtown businesses

DAP has produced a new office security brochure to remind employees of ways to enhance their personal and office security. This can serve as a tool for front-line staff and receptionists. Other security-related material, including office incident reports, are posted on www.downtownakron.com. In addition, DAP has purchased Asset Tracking Labels to distribute to downtown businesses to tag portable assets such as cell phones, laptops, etc. To request brochures and/or labels, call 330-762-9018.

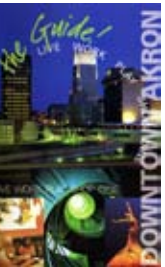


We'll keep you posted

Downtown Akron Partnership sends periodic e-newsletters to keep downtown stakeholders up-to-date on the latest downtown information. **Downtown Partners:** A monthly newsletter containing relevant information about downtown businesses and organizations, as well as updates on downtown developments and projects. **Do Downtown:** A bi-monthly newsletter filled with the most up-to-date downtown food and entertainment news, including a complete schedule of events, great promotions and discounts. **Downtown Safety and Traffic Updates:** Updates sent as needed regarding safety issues and downtown traffic disruptions. Visit www.downtownakron.com to sign up for one or all three.

The downtown Guide and Downtown Parking Map

The downtown Guide includes a directory of downtown businesses and all the greatest places to live, work, play, shop and dine. To make getting around downtown a little easier, the downtown Parking Map details all public surface lots and decks, along with a map of downtown skywalks.



Schipper Group's Carlton Building renovation complete

The Carlton Building's \$2 million renovation project is complete. Only the original 1901 walls and the roof remain from the original structure at 201 S. Main.

The remodeled building features a brick, glass and steel façade with an open floor plan. The Schipper Group purchased the building in April of 2007.

Interior renovations will be designed to meet the needs of its tenants, which could include adding a fourth floor to the building and providing access to downtown's skywalk.

