

# DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



**1ST QUARTER 2020**  
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT



# A NOTE ON THE PANDEMIC

## 1st Quarter Unavoidably Altered by COVID-19 Outbreak

The early portion of the first quarter of 2020 began with ambitious plans and projects, a number of which were underway when the gravity of the coronavirus pandemic began to significantly impact Akron. In response, the downtown Akron community made, and continues to make, a difficult pivot from our 2020 goals through various positions of triage and postponement—always with an eye on recovery.

Downtown Akron Partnership (DAP) experienced a similar pivot in direction, and we have been proud to support and advocate for businesses, institutions and the downtown community in their respective journeys. Each journey has been marked by hardship, but we continue to be inspired by many examples of our community's forethought, kindness, innovation and willingness to work together.

Some businesses and institutions made a reluctant but prudent decision to close. Others found new ways to conduct business by expanding their abilities to teleconference, work remotely, offer online experiences, or shifting to delivery and carry out service. Still others collaborated in new ways to redirect their manufacturing capabilities to

produce much-needed PPE for healthcare workers. DAP joined with the city of Akron, County of Summit, ArtsNOW, Greater Akron Chamber and other community partners who teamed up to create a nexus of resources for businesses, employees and community members.

We are also proud of our community. Our collective experience is shaped by the sum of brave decisions we make individually every day. We will never be the same, not in the least because we will carry new skills, resilience and meaningful partnerships into our future together. Onward.



## Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine announces partnership to increase PPE during coronavirus fight

*By Ben Axelrod, WKYC, Apr. 1, 2020*

With Ohio facing a shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE) during its fight with the coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Mike DeWine has announced the formation of a public-private partnership to help increase the state's supply.

The Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19 will be used to better coordinate efforts to provide health care workers and first responders with the necessary PPE. Major partners already included in the alliance include The

Ohio Manufacturers' Association, Ohio Hospital Association, Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Ohio MEP) and MAGNET and JobsOhio.

DeWine asked that any manufacturers who think they can aid in the production of products to visit Repurposing-Project.com to see what the state needs. Some items in demand include swabs, ventilators, goggles and gowns.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

## Akron RubberDucks Give Fans Taste of Baseball with Virtual Opening Day Experience

*By Camryn Justice, News 5 Cleveland, Apr. 17, 2020*

Although they were unable to take the field in real life with the baseball season frozen due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Akron RubberDucks didn't let that stop them from giving fans a ballpark experience.

Friday would have been the RubberDucks Opening Day at Canal Park, but the coronavirus pandemic caused the team, and all of Minor League Baseball, to postpone the season.

To bring a bit of baseball to fans, the RubberDucks virtually broadcasted a simulated 2020 Opening Day game on MLB The Show as part of the team's "Opening Day at Home."

You can't have an Opening Day without a ceremonial first pitch, so the RubberDucks covered all of their bases and had Gov. Mike DeWine do the honors from his home.

[Click here for the full story.](#)

# DOWNTOWN AKRON RESPONDS

## Meet The Billion-Dollar Family Company That Makes Purell

*By Will Yakowicz, Forbes, Mar. 10, 2020*

Panic buying is one of the most visible symptoms of coronavirus hysteria, with crazed shoppers emptying grocery store and pharmacy shelves of everything from pasta to thermometers. Perhaps the hardest item to find? Purell, America's most popular hand sanitizer.



What most don't know is that Purell is the cornerstone of a 74-year-old family-owned business in Ohio that makes all types of soaps, sanitizers and disinfectants. Called Gojo Industries, it has about 25% of the U.S. hand sanitizer market and generated more than \$370 million in revenue in 2018, according to IBISWorld. Forbes estimates the company is 100% owned by the Kanfer family and is worth at least \$1 billion.

While it might be hard for now to find Purell at a local pharmacy, there should be no Purell shortages, the company insists. (Gojo answered general questions through a spokesperson, but would not answer questions about the Kanfer family nor make any family member available for comment.) Gojo's factories, two in Ohio and one in France, are running at full capacity to ensure it can meet the "substantial increase in demand," says Gojo Industries spokesperson Samantha Williams. Gojo's "demand surge preparedness team," which has helped keep production levels humming during past viral outbreaks like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in 2003 and the H1N1 "swine flu" in 2009, has been working overtime to bring additional capacity online.

[\*Click here to read the full story on Forbes.com\*](#)

## GOJO Cares for Team Members, the Community, and the World During This Unprecedented Pandemic

### *Corporate Statement*

GOJO is a third-generation Family Enterprise in Ohio with 2,500 team members who are doing everything they can to support public health during this unprecedented pandemic – all while also trying to care for their own families and communities and participate in flattening the curve. Since early January, GOJO has been working around the clock, manufacturing and shipping millions and millions of PURELL® products – which enable billions of hand-washing, hand sanitizing, and surface disinfecting moments.

"All of us at GOJO are galvanized to help the world stay healthy during this global public health crisis," said Marcella Kanfer Rolnick, Executive Chair, GOJO. "And, while we respond, to keeping ourselves safe and healthy. Now more than ever in our 74-year history, the call of our GOJO Purpose – Saving Lives and Making Life Better Through Well-Being Solutions – is challenging us to make and deliver as many of our products as humanly possible

to those who need it most. I am proud of our deep collective sense of responsibility to care for our team members making it happen and to contribute to life-saving efforts in our local, national, and global communities."

"With every new challenge this pandemic brings, GOJO team members are doing what it takes – increasing production, developing new solutions, and working hand in hand with our distributor partners and end-user customers to ensure our PURELL® products get to the hospitals, first responders, and critical infrastructure providers who are on the front lines," said Carey Jaros, GOJO President, and CEO. "Our 2,500 GOJO team members are remarkable, and both Marcella and I are grateful for and humbled by their tireless effort to get these critical medical supplies to others."

[\*Click here to read the full story on Gojo.com\*](#)



# DOWNTOWN AKRON RESPONDS

## Downtown Akron Partnership and Greater Akron Chamber Work Together to Provide Resources for Greater Akron and Downtown Businesses

By DAP Staff, Apr. 2020

**COVID-19 RESOURCES**  
Looking for COVID-19 information?  
Here are some helpful links:

**Do you have questions about COVID-19?**  
scph.org  
coronavirus.ohio.gov

**Do you own a business?**  
GACovid19.org

**Have you lost your job or are you looking for work?**  
Ohiomeansjobs.com  
GACovid19.org/resources-for-employees

**Are you a nonprofit or an artist?**  
Artsnow.org/covid-19-resources  
BVUvolunteers.org Akroncf.org  
Candid.org

**Are you looking for help with life necessities?**  
Call 2-1-1 or Text "COVID19" to 211-211  
or visit 211summit.org

**Are you a childcare center or a person looking for childcare?**  
ECResourceCenter.org

**Do you want to help your community?**  
Donate to the Akron-Summit County  
COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund:  
UWsummit.org/covid-19  
Donate Blood: Redcross.org  
Donate to a nonprofit  
Support local businesses

During the pandemic, Downtown Akron Partnership and the Greater Akron Chamber have worked together, along with a multi-disciplinary team of leaders to provide a comprehensive resource for information regarding COVID-19. Our goal is to provide timely, accurate and helpful resources for both businesses and employees through a web page hosted by

the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce and designed to serve as a starting point for business and employees in the area. DAP also added pandemic-related web pages to its site, sharing the Chamber's page and supplementing resources tailored for downtown stakeholders.

In addition to web page resources, the partners created a print ad with a list of key COVID-19 resources which ran in the March 29 Akron Beacon Journal. A combined effort between DAP, GAR Foundation, Greater Akron Chamber, ArtsNow and Focal Point, the informational ad covered general questions about COVID-19, business relief resources, job search resources, nonprofit and artist resources, and provided information about 211 for those in need of basic necessities. A digital version of the ad ran on DAP's social media platforms, garnering 4,700 impressions online.

DAP, the Chamber and other partners continue to work together to bring the most useful, timely information and resources to our constituents.

## DAP Creates Digital and Physical Resources to Support Downtown Businesses

By DAP Staff, Apr. 2020

Three new web pages were added

to the DAP website to support downtown business and stakeholders:

1. Resources for businesses and employees, including links to DAP public partners, health and human services resources and others
2. Downtown retail businesses that offer online shopping, featuring listings for each business with products, special sales, links to online shops and phone numbers
3. Downtown restaurants and beverage makers that offered carry out and delivery services, featuring listings for each business with links to online ordering, phone number, special offers, hours of operation and whether the business offers carry out, delivery or both

In partnership with the City of Akron, DAP created highly-visible signs denoting on-street 15-minute free parking for carry out orders. 8 - 10 double-sided signs were placed in prominent locations near each business. DAP created additional window signs for Crave to replace their hand-drawn signs.



# DOWNTOWN AKRON RESPONDS

## Akron Community Foundation Creates \$100,000 Fund to Help Mitigate Impact of the Coronavirus Outbreak

*By Megan Becka, Cleveland.com, Mar. 16, 2020*

The Akron Community Foundation this week announced it has established a \$100,000 Community Response Fund to help address emergency needs in Summit and Medina counties due to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak.

The fund will distribute grants to nonprofit organization that provide food, medical assistance and shelter, in addition to offering emergency support to agencies that cover

education, arts and culture, civic, and health and human services programs.

"We understand this crisis is going to impact much more than just physical health," said John T. Petures Jr., president and CEO of Akron Community Foundation in a news release. "And we know that the nonprofits already helping those who will be most impacted are going to be stretched thin."

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



## Akron-area COVID-19 Support Fund Raises More Than \$400,000, Distributes First Round Funding to Community Organizations

*By Robin Goist, Cleveland.com, Mar. 27, 2020*

The Akron Summit County COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund on Friday

announced it is distributing its first round of funding—\$170,000—to support county residents impacted by or helping combat the coronavirus pandemic.

The fund—coordinated between the United Way of Summit County, the City of Akron, Summit County, Akron Public Schools, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Summit County Public Health and Job & Family Services—has raised more than \$400,000.

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

## Knight Foundation Donates \$500,000 to Coronavirus Relief

*By Sean McDonnell, Beacon Journal, Mar. 30, 2020*

A local fund started to provide relief from the coronavirus announced a large donation.

The Akron Summit County COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund will receive \$500,000 from the Knight Foundation. The fund was created by multiple organizations in Summit County to provide support for those impacted by or fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Knight Foundation is deeply committed to Akron, its home city, and stands by Akronites in this challenging time," said Kyle Kutuchief, Knight Foundation's Akron program director. "This fund represents a strong, unified response to the crisis by organizations that truly understand the needs of the community, and supporting it is the best way we can have an impact."

President and CEO Jim Mullen said the donation, announced Monday by the United Way of Summit County, comes at a crucial time.

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

## Summit County Creates Grant Program for Small Businesses Hurt by Coronavirus Pandemic

*By Emily Mills, Beacon Journal, Mar. 30, 2020*

Summit County and the Greater Akron Chamber of Commerce are partnering to offer emergency relief to small businesses as the coronavirus pandemic continues.

Summit County Council on Monday passed emergency legislation authorizing the county executive to create the Summit County COVID-19 Small Business Emergency Relief Grant Program.

The program will provide \$5,000 grants to eligible small businesses that have demonstrated a financial need and desire to continue operations by applying for a U.S. Small Business Administration's Economic Injury Disaster Loan for economic injury specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic or another SBA loan program established to support small businesses in response to the pandemic.

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



# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



## Huntington Investing Time, Expertise in Buchtel Students

*By Jennifer Pignolet, Beacon Journal, Jan. 17, 2020*

When Huntington National Bank leaders committed to a substantial investment in Akron Public Schools' College and Career Academies, they set their sights on one school: Buchtel Community Learning Center.

"It's in a neighborhood that's a big focus of ours," Akron Region President Nicholas Browning said.

That meant a lot to Buchtel's campus principal, Nicole Hughes.

"I think that having an organization like Huntington National Bank choose Buchtel CLC demonstrates their commitment to equity and access," Hughes said. Historically, she said, in low-income communities and communities of people of color, that investment is often not there.

The school district on Thursday announced Huntington Bank as a named academy partner in Buchtel's second College and Career Academy, joining Summa Health. It is the 10th such partner in APS.

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



## Children's Museum Has Growth Spurts

*By Doug Livingston, Beacon Journal, Jan. 20, 2020*

In its fourth year inspiring fun and learning in a renovated downtown parking deck, the Akron Children's Museum is growing.

Backers of the nonprofit museum have reached the half-way point in a \$500,000 campaign to add 3,000 square feet of exhibit space, including a learning lab for field trips, new bathroom facilities and a party room for group reservations.

Construction could begin late this year, Executive Director Traci Buckner said. The expansion would add 43% more room to the museum's existing 7,000 square feet in the bottom of a city-owned parking deck in the former O'Neil's Building beside Lock 3 in downtown Akron.

In addition, City Council is set Monday to move the museum from a year-to-year renewing lease agreement to a 10-year deal that lays a longer-term foundation for growth.

The new annual rent will be set at \$26,247.50 with an automatic 2.5% increase each year of the term.

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



# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Brennan Manna & Diamond Opens Stark Office

*By Canton Repository Staff, Feb. 18, 2020*

Summit County-based law firm Brennan Manna & Diamond has opened an office in Jackson Township.

The firm is located in offices at 4518 Fulton Road NW. Brennan Manna & Diamond has clients in Stark County and other related opportunities that led to the decision to open here.

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

## Mortar at Bounce Announces Inaugural Cohort

*By Crain's Cleveland Business Staff, Mar. 31, 2020*

While the program is on hold for the time being because of the COVID-19 crisis, Mortar at Bounce has unveiled the 15 participants in its inaugural cohort.

Akron's Bounce Innovation Hub and Mortar, a Cincinnati group that works with historically marginalized entrepreneurs, teamed up to bring the accelerator program to the Rubber City. Mortar at Bounce looks to support entrepreneurs in non-tech fields, with an emphasis on minorities and women.

It will offer two cohorts per year. The first was set to begin April 7, but has been delayed because of the pandemic and Ohio's stay-at-home order. Organizers said they were looking at future start dates and online options.

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

## The 250 Most Successful Companies in the Midwest (Akron's Drips ranked #14)

*By Inc.com Staff, Apr. 3, 2020*

The Midwest doesn't get much of the startup spotlight. But make no mistake: It's home to plenty of fascinating, fast-growing companies. We've ranked 250 of them in Inc.'s first annual list of America's top businesses in the Midwest. Here you'll find our reporting on everything you need to start and grow your company in the Midwest, along with the inspiring backstory of the No. 1 company in the region, which may sound like a Silicon Valley tech company but is very much a Midwestern fixture..

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

## Akron Dish: Stray Dog's New Cafe Downtown

*By Katie Byard, Beacon Journal, Feb. 25, 2020*

Stray Dog, which offers hot dogs, paninis, soups and more, is unleashing a second eatery in downtown Akron.

This week, Charly Murphy is debuting his latest café on the ground floor of the AES Building at 388 S. Main St., at Cedar and Main streets. (Last fall, the *Beacon Journal* moved to the seventh-floor of the building—part of the onetime B.F. Goodrich complex.)

He has dubbed the new place Cafe 388—a nod to the AES Building's address. It offers a menu similar to the downtown Stray Dog Cafe that Murphy opened in 2016 on the ground floor of the Akron-Summit County Public Library at 75 S. Main St.

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



# VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Residential Development

Q1 - 2020	UNITS RECENTLY OPENED	UNITS IN CONSTRUCTION	PLANNED UNITS
THE BOWERY	96	—	—
LAW BUILDING	—	112	—
ASCEND & CITICENTER	—	—	200



## New Businesses

### The 1: Food and Spirits

**1 S. Main St. | [Blu-tique.com](http://Blu-tique.com)**

**At The 1: Food & Spirits**, you can enjoy small plates and expertly crafted meals that are perfect to share with a group or to enjoy solo.

### Hopson Coaching and Communications

**195 S. Main St. | 330-952-0480**

**Hopson Communications and Coaching, LLC** is a business coaching, consulting, and public speaking firm offering small business management training programs focused on the development of entrepreneurs, business owners, and professionals.

### Café 388

**388 S. Main St. | 330-594-5392**

**Cafe 388** by Stray Dog offers breakfast and lunch options including a cereal bar and baked potato and salad bar.

## Business Outreach

Q1 - 2020	CONTACTS MADE*	CONTACT GOAL
RETAIL OUTREACH	92	90
BUSINESS OUTREACH	44	32
RETAIL AND BUSINESS PROSPECTS**	33	25

\* 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



# MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

DAP promotes 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	Q1 - 2019	Q1 - 2020	WEBSITE TRAFFIC	Q1 - 2020	EMAIL NEWSLETTER	Q1 - 2019	Q1 - 2020
FACEBOOK	6,595	7,459	USERS	43,701	NUMBER PUBLISHED	15	14
TWITTER	—	9,069	SESSIONS	53,338	SENDS	44,537	65,812
INSTAGRAM	—	4,338	PAGE VIEWS	111,106	OPENS	9,168	13,604
LINKEDIN	—	1,236			CLICKS	1,246	1,680
					SUBSCRIBERS	—	15,565

Stay connected to the latest information on downtown Akron, subscribe to Do Downtown, our biweekly email newsletter at [downtownakron.com/news/subscribe](http://downtownakron.com/news/subscribe), and follow us on social media @DowntownAkronPartnership

## CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING

DAP Ambassador Stats Jan. - Mar. 31, 2020

**11,141**  
TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

**42**  
MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

**159**  
GRAFFITI REMOVED

**294**  
PARKING ASSISTANCE

**836**  
BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

**973**  
BUS STOPS CLEANED

**494**  
SAFETY ESCORTS

**4,280**  
HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

# 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

The DAP website also highlights 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](mailto:INFO@DOWNTOWNAKRON.COM).

## QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETINGS

Quarterly meetings for downtown stakeholders are held the second Thursday of the month. RSVP at [www.downtownakron.com/district](http://www.downtownakron.com/district)

**Canal District:** May. 14  
2 p.m. | This meeting will be digital. Contact DAP for meeting information.

**Northside District:** Jun. 11  
1 p.m. | TBD

**Historic Arts District:** Jul. 11  
10 a.m. | TBD

## FIFTH THIRD'S AKRON PRESIDENT, TED WALTER, TO RETIRE, SUCCEEDED BY NICK BUZZELLI



*By Beacon Journal Staff, Jan. 27, 2020*

Ted Walter on March 31 will retire as Akron City President for Fifth Third Bank Northeast Ohio after a 38-year career in banking, the bank announced on Monday.

He will be succeeded by Nick Buzzelli, senior vice president and commercial middle market team lead.... [Read the full story on Ohio.com](https://www.ohio.com/story/news/business/2020/01/27/fifth-third-bank-akron-president-retire-nick-buzzelli/5111111002)

## AKRON CHILDREN'S RECOGNIZED AS TOP NORTHEAST OHIO EMPLOYER

### Akron Children's Corporate Statement

Akron Children's Hospital has once again been recognized as more than just an excellent provider of patient care—it is also an excellent place to work.

For the sixth time, the Employers Resource Council (ERC) has named Akron Children's Hospital as one of the best places to work in north-east Ohio. [Read the full story on inside.akronchildrens.org](https://www.inside.akronchildrens.org/news/2020/02/12/akron-childrens-hospital-named-one-of-the-best-places-to-work-in-northeast-ohio)

## TWO NE OHIO BREWERIES WIN AWARDS AT U.S. BEER TASTING CHAMPIONSHIP

*By Marc Bona, Cleveland.com, Feb. 12, 2020*

Two Northeast Ohio breweries have earned awards at the U.S. Beer Tasting Championship.

The competition—which uses blind-judging, multiple rounds and several sites—honored beers from Akronym Brewing and Sibling Revelry Brewery. [Read the full story on Cleveland.com](https://www.cleveland.com/beer/2020/02/two-ne-ohio-breweries-win-awards-at-u-s-beer-tasting-championship/)

## DR. FRIEBERT RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN PALLIATIVE CARE MEDICINE



*By Kathy Johnson, Inside Akron Children's, Feb. 17, 2020*

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Friebert, director of the Haslinger Family Pediatric Palliative Care Division, for receiving the Project on Death in America Palliative Medicine Community Leadership Award from the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM). [Read the full story on inside.akronchildrens.org](https://www.inside.akronchildrens.org/news/2020/02/17/dr-sarah-friebert-receives-national-award-for-leadership-in-palliative-care-medicine)

## PRITT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP TAKES HOME 15 ADDYS AT THE AMERICAN ADVERTISING AWARDS

*Pritt Entertainment Group Statement, Feb. 24, 2020*

Downtown Akron-based creative agency Pritt Entertainment Group (PEG) took home 15 ADDY Awards from the American Advertising Federation at the 2020 Akron-Canton American Advertising Awards, held on February 21, at the historic Akron Civic Theatre. The 15 awards are both an agency record for PEG and the most awarded to any Akron-area agency at this year's show. [Read the full story on prittentertainmentgroup.com](https://www.prittentertainmentgroup.com/news/2020/02/24/2020-akron-canton-american-advertising-awards)



# BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

## AKRON JUICE MAKER IS SOLD AND GETS A FAMILIAR FACE AS CEO

*By Katie Byard, Beacon Journal, Jan. 23, 2020*

Old is new again at longtime Akron juice maker Country Pure Foods.

Ray Lee, who retired as CEO of Country Pure in 2017, has teamed up with a Cleveland private equity firm to buy the company that makes more than 300 juice products. Lee has returned to the company as CEO. [Read the full story on Ohio.com](#)

## FIRSTENERGY, GOODYEAR GET HIGH MARKS FOR EQUALITY

FirstEnergy Corp. and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. received high marks from an index that rates companies' policies and practices concerning lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer workers.

Goodyear matched its 2019 score of 90 out of 100 possible points in the 18th Corporate Equality Index, released Tuesday by the educational arm of the Human Rights Campaign. The report is meant to measure the inclusiveness of companies' rules and benefits. FirstEnergy's score climbed from 20 last year, based on unofficial information, to 80 in the 2020 rankings. [Read the full story on Ohio.com](#)

## AKRON'S BROUSE MCDOWELL CELEBRATES THE START OF A 2ND CENTURY OF EXCELLENCE

*By Madeline Critzer, Akron's AES Spotlight Series, Feb. 2, 2020*

As we said farewell to the decade this January, the esteemed law firm Brouse McDowell celebrated the beginning of their 101st year serving the city of Akron.

As they step into this second century as a law firm, Brouse McDowell will do so with a new Managing Partner. After eight years of expansive leadership, Marc B. Merklin announced he will be returning to his full-time practice and passing the baton of leadership to long-time partner and executive committee member, Daniel K. Glessner. [Read the full story on Ohio.com](#)

## A PEDIATRIC SURGEON BECOMES AN ARTIST AFTER SURGERY, DRAWING ON BANDAGES TO LIFT THE SPIRITS OF YOUNG PATIENTS

*By Cathy Free, Washington Post, Feb. 5, 2020*

One of the most traumatic days of Susan McFrederick's life was watching her son, Witt, get wheeled away for surgery to fix a ruptured intestine hours after he was born in 2011.

But after the operation at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio, McFrederick, a mother of six, and her husband, Rodd McFrederick, burst into tears for a different reason: Across the incision on their newborn son's belly was a sweet winter scene, hand-drawn on his bandages. [Read the full story on WashingtonPost.com](#)





# TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT

## FEATURED PROPERTY

### Akron Centre Plaza 50 S. Main Street

Up to 14,303 square feet available

12-story Class A facility

- Limited time \$11 per square foot leasing option
- Located in the heart of downtown Akron adjacent to new mixed use and residential projects
- Close proximity to Cleveland and Akron airports

On-site Amenities include

- 1,300-space attached parking garage
- 24/7 security
- Chase Bank Branch
- Quizno's, Wafa's, Angel Falls Coffee Company

For more information, visit [akroncentreplaza.com](http://akroncentreplaza.com)



## FEATURED BUSINESS

### Woody's Bar 376 S Main St

Woody's Bar, in downtown Akron caters to Buckeyes and other sports fans. The 16 taps and the cooler feature a mix domestic beers along with regional favorites and mainstream craft brews, such as Great Lakes and Sierra. Good, fresh food served daily as well from burgers, to gyros and wings.

- Carry out
- Curbside pickup
- Carry out beer orders
- Delivery through popular app services
- Food sealed and protected in tamper proof containers and bags



### METRO RTA KEEPS ROLLING

By Sean McDonnell, *Beacon Journal*, Apr. 21, 2020

Bus operator Wayne Cole said only a Category 5 storm would stop Metro RTA from serving the community with transportation.

These days, he said, Metro RTA is operating while the community is surviving a completely different kind of disaster.

"We didn't expect to honor that service during a pandemic, but here we are," he said.

Cole is one of many employees at Metro RTA who repair, clean and drive buses to provide essential transportation amid the coronavirus. [Read the full story on Ohio.com](#)

### I AM ESSENTIAL PROJECT

METRO RTA, Apr. 1, 2020

METRO launched #IAmEssential on its social media channels to highlight staff members who continue to work during the pandemic to serve the needs of transit patrons. [View the project's photos online.](#)

### STRATEGIC PLANNING OUTREACH

METRO RTA News Release, Mar. 3, 2020

METRO is developing a Strategic Plan to define its future bus network throughout Summit County, and the process isn't complete without ideas and input from the public.

### OHIO EDISON INSTALLING LED STREETLIGHTS NEAR UNIVERSITY OF AKRON TO IMPROVE VISIBILITY, SECURITY

By Robin Goist, *Cleveland.com*, Feb. 3, 2020

As part of a project led by the University of Akron and City of Akron, FirstEnergy crews have begun installing 252 LED streetlights in the city's South Exchange Street Corridor neighborhood, an area popular for off-campus living.

Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan, UA President Gary Miller and Ohio Edison President Edward Shuttleworth announced the project Monday at a news conference at UA's Block by Block safety patrol office. The LED streetlights, which will all be installed by the end of May, are expected to improve visibility for people walking and driving in the area.

"Updated lighting to the neighborhood south of Exchange Street will significantly improve the quality of living there for all residents," Miller said. "We have many university students who live in this area... There are also many older residents and rental citizens who live in this area. We think this kind of partnership is very important to everybody."

[Read the full story on Cleveland.com](#)



# PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

## Main Street Project is in Home Stretch

*By Doug Livingston, Beacon Journal, Feb. 10, 2020*

City construction crews shifted lanes last week on Main Street as the complete road and sidewalk reconstruction project is now six months from scheduled completion. Akron broke ground on the \$31 million road project, mostly



funded with federal grants, in the fall of 2018. Businesses have struggled as southbound traffic has been cut off during what's turned the heart of downtown into one big construction site between Cedar and Mill streets.

Mayor Dan Horrigan announced last week that work on the east side of the street, which included time consuming underground utility line replacements and upgrades, was now complete. The "major milestone" in the ongoing project shifted northbound traffic from the west side to the east side of the street.

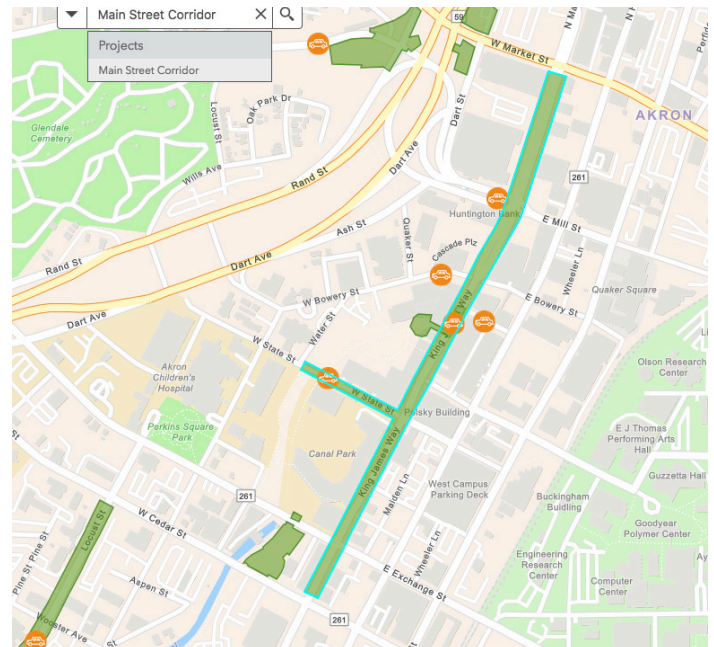
Drivers should take caution, though. The northbound path still jogs onto the east (or left) side of the street in front of Canal Park Stadium, Lock 3 and the Akron Civic. [Read the full story on Ohio.com](#)

## The Main Street Corridor Project

*By DriveAkron.com, Apr. 1, 2020*

**The Main Street Corridor Project is designed to:**

- Provide "Ladders of Opportunity" by increasing access to education, jobs and opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship
- Construct a welcoming gateway to those who live, work, play in Downtown Akron
- Transform the corridor with a context-sensitive design that enhances accessibility among all modes of transportation while increasing safety, productivity and public health
- Serve as a fulcrum that leverages private reinvestment to adjacent vacant and blighted structures and promotes the high-density, mixed-use development of underutilized parcels
- Steward ecological resources by increasing energy efficiency and incorporating green infrastructure
- Promote infill storefront redevelopment for local independent niche/boutique retailers by activating the streetscape and generating additional foot traffic in Downtown Akron



- Boost the efficiency of existing transportation investments by building on momentum resulting from recent adjacent infrastructure investments
- Produce a model for regional collaboration and strategic investment through synergistic public-private partnerships

*Keep up-to-date with Main Street Corridor progress:*  
[DriveAkron.com](#)

# WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN

*Note: Due to the pandemic, most programming has been moved online, as virtual events*

## CUMMINGS CENTER PSYCHOLOGY FILM CLUB

**Thursday, Apr. 30, 6 - 7 p.m.**  
**Facebook Live**



We'll be hosting a free online discussion of Michael Almereyda's 2015 film *Experimenter: The Stanley Milgram Story*, starring Peter Sarsgaard and Winona Ryder. We'll be discussing the film, its portrayal of Milgram's experiments, and the lasting impact of Milgram's work.

## AKRON ARTWALK ONLINE

**Saturday, May 2, 2020, 5:30 - 7 p.m.**



We'll be bringing you the Saturday, May 2 Artwalk online from 5:30 to 7 p.m. via Summit Artspace social media on Facebook and Instagram.

## THE BOOK SELLERS, EXTRAORDINARY, BACURAU

**Now Playing**

**Nightlight Cinema's Virtual Screening Room**



By buying a virtual "ticket" to watch these films from the Nightlight, you'll be directly supporting your local art-house cinema. All revenue is being shared between distributor and exhibitor just as if you bought your ticket at our theater box office.

## TELEPORTATION STATION: A FLOW STATE OF MIND ART OF THE PROCESS

**Saturday, May 2 2020, 5 - 9 p.m.**



Join us virtually for an event curated by GrandTheft Rabbit at Curated Storefront's latest project Outside the Box. The event features live fire spinners, dancers, and artists practicing their craft in an open-air installation at TrueNorth Akron in the Northside District. To prioritize the health of our guests, artists, and staff, GrandTheft Rabbit will offer online participation.

## AKRON ZOO LUNCH AND LEARNS

**Weekdays, 12 p.m.**



The zoo's Facebook videos feature animals and staff at the Akron Zoo. They are live several days a week for people to engage with the zoo and ask questions during their live broadcast.

## AKRON SOUL TRAIN PRESENTS SOULFUL SUNDAYS

**May 3, 10, 17, 24 2020**



Akron Soul Train will be featuring regional poets every Sunday reading some of their work on the Akron Soul Train Facebook page..

## VIRTUAL TOWN HALL WITH MAYOR DAN HARRIGAN

**Monday, Apr 27, 2020, 12 - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Facebook Live**



Stay informed about your city by participating in a virtual town hall with Akron Mayor Horrigan.

The City accepts questions from residents by email to Mayor@akronohio.gov or via social media to the City's Facebook page at City of Akron, Ohio - Mayor's Office.

## #MUSEUMGAMES #MUSEUMCROSSWORD

**May 7, 14, 21, 28 2020**



#MuseumGames is a global initiative where we work with museums around the world to play. Every Thursday the puzzle shows up on the Akron Art Museum's blog. The clues are available on social media on Sundays at museum sites around the world. Play with us every week.





#Downtownakron

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