

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



Akron Home & Flower Show photo
by In The Moments Photography



1ST QUARTER 2017

DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Akron juice maker Country Pure moving corporate staff downtown

Reprinted with permission of the Akron Beacon Journal and Ohio.com, by Katie Byard (March 10, 2017)

A Downtown Akron office building is getting an infusion of new energy from a fruit juice company.

That's because Country Pure Foods — the Akron maker of more than 300 juice products — is moving all of its headquarters staff from its plant and office building on Waterloo Road in south Akron to downtown.



Ray Lee, co-CEO of Country Pure Foods enjoys the view from his new office window. (Karen Schiely/Akron Beacon Journal)

The move to the six-story former O'Neil's department store building on Main Street, overlooking Lock 3 Park, will take place later this month.

"We looked at expanding on site on Waterloo Road, but

that was a very expensive proposition" to build anew, Ray Lee, the company's co-CEO said, as he toured the new space this week.

Ray said corporate staff members "have been on top of each

others for years" on Waterloo Road.

The company sells nationwide to institutions such as schools, hospitals and prisons, under the Ardmore Farms and Juice4U brands. Its products are not available in grocery stores to the general market. Country Pure also manufactures and packages private-label juices and packages national brands.

The downtown space — on the fourth floor of the building — previously was used by longtime Akron law firm Roetzel & Andress.

The law firm — which occupied three floors in the building — consolidated its operations onto the fifth and sixth floors roughly a year ago, freeing up the space. About 130 Roetzel employees work in the building — about the same number that were there before the consolidation.

A research and development lab will be part of Country Pure's operations in the building

"This was Roetzel's exercise room," Lee said, while standing in the R&D lab taking shape.

Nearby is the law firm's former law library. It is being converted into Country Pure's board room and two conference rooms.

Read the full story on Ohio.com, www.ohio.com/business/akron-juice-maker-country-pure-moving-corporate-staff-downtown-1.752789

Filling up downtown Akron's storefronts

'Pop-up' program aiding small businesses

By Beth Thomas Hertz, reprinted with permission from Crain's Cleveland Business (April 9, 2017)

As Akron pushes to create more walkable neighborhoods to help lure more residents downtown, one aspect of the plan, filling vacant storefronts, is seeing success.

A program that began in 2015 to fill vacant storefronts in downtown Akron by helping local entrepreneurs get on their feet has launched three businesses in recent weeks, bringing the program's total to 13 — and all but one are still operational.

Downtown Akron Partnership's "pop-up" program helps businesses find good locations on the first floor of vacant downtown buildings and then subsidizes their rent for six months. Phase One of the program was funded by a \$26,500 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation that wrapped up in August. From July 2015 to August 2016, this phase helped position downtown properties to gain \$221,250 in lease revenue over the terms of the leases signed, and it brought 28 employees into the district."

Trey Johnson, program officer for the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, said the foundation is happy with how the program is coming along so far. It made the investment because it wanted to foster the growth of viable storefronts in downtown Akron, which he said the foundation views as crucial to creating walkable neighborhoods.



Photo by Shane Wynn

Read the full story at <http://www.craainscleveland.com/article/20170409/NEWS/170409851/filling-up-downtown-akrons-storefronts>

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Phase 2 of the Downtown Akron's Pop Up retail program is supported by the Burton D. Morgan Foundation. At the close of the first quarter 2017, we continued to welcome new business to Downtown Akron. Through a feature on WKYC-3 and an article in Crain's Cleveland Business, we continue to receive inquiries from local entrepreneurs as to the remaining funding for the program.

We are also pleased to welcome several new businesses to the district ranging from architecture, banking, law firm and entertainment.

Pop Up Retail

Do Good Yoga

106. N. Main St. | 330-212-2576 | www.DoGoodAkron.com

Do Good Yoga is a boutique, start-up studio built on blood, sweat and tears of absolute joy of bringing straight-up, good yoga to downtown Akron. On top of classes and workshops, they host local yoga events that incorporate sweating and socializing to build up connections in the community.

Welcome new businesses

Craig Thompson Architecture

1 Cascade Plz, Ste. 1025 | www.craigthompson.us

Craig Thompson Architecture is a local firm with world-class international experience....aiding clients' needs with creativity and unique solutions to enhance how to live, work and play.

Judge Law Firm, LLC

323 S. Main St., ste. 200 | 330-236-3331

Judge Law Firm, LLC is a Civil Litigation and Family Law Firm located in the Historic Kaiser Building in the Canal District. The firm provides personal attention, practical solutions and proven results.

Peoples Bank

354 S. Main St., | 330-252-4504 | www.peoplesbancorp.com

Peoples Bancorp Inc. is a diversified financial services holding company with \$3.4 billion in total assets, 76 sales offices including 67 full-service bank branches and 75 ATMs in Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Woody's Bar

376 S. Main St. | 330-940-9043 | Facebook @WoodysBar

Woody's Bar is a brand new bar to Downtown Akron that caters to Buckeyes and other sports fans. The 10 taps and the cooler feature a mix domestic beers along with regional favorites and mainstream craft brews, such as Great Lakes and Sierra. In the coming weeks, Woody's will offer bar food favorites, including sandwiches and appetizers.

Gabriel Performance Chemical

388 S. Main St., Ste. 320 | www.gabrielchem.com

Gabriel Performance Products is a leading chemical supplier, offering both an extensive line of specialty proprietary products and custom manufactured chemicals formulated to exact specifications. Gabriel offers the strength of a history several decades long teamed with a forward-looking vision of continually improving our products, processes and services to provide the highest quality products and comprehensive chemical solutions.



Do Good Yoga



Craig Thompson Architecture



Peoples Bank



Woody's Bar

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

New outdoor audio system serenades Downtown Akron visitors

New visual and audio features have been installed in seven unused phone booths with the purpose of bringing art and streamed music to the sidewalks of Downtown Akron.



West Akron residents Allyson Boyd and Kat Pestian received a \$4,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation through the Torchbearers' S.P.A.R.C. ("Small Projects Achieving Real Change") project to retrofit unused (and esthetically unpleasing) phone booths with speakers to stream music to the

sidewalks of Downtown Akron. The project was dubbed "Sidewalks with Soul."

Close community ties have helped the young professionals

connect with other local agencies to achieve the musical and visual endeavor. The Sidewalk with Soul committee included: Chris Ludle the city of Akron, Christopher Pepe from Clear Gold Audio, Kimberly Beckett and Kelli Fetter from Downtown Akron Partnership, Knight Foundation, Power Media, Ryan Pritt, and Sarah D'Alessandro from Pritt Entertainment Group, Torchbearers, and Tommy Bruno and Andrew James from 91.3 The Summit.

In partnership with 91.3 The Summit, the booths are on timers and have begun streaming an array of music from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The seven phone booths are all located at various locations along Main St. in Downtown Akron.

"This project confirmed what we all already knew—Akron. Is. Special.," Allyson Boyd said. "Coming together with an idea and working to create vibrancy in a city we adore is magic."

An inside source reports that we can expect a flash mob sometime in the spring to celebrate "Sidewalks with Soul" songs.

CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING



11,145

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)

64

GRAFFITI REMOVED

320

BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

116

SAFETY ESCORTS



113

MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

399

PARKING ASSISTANCE

1,355

BUS STOPS CLEANED

1,084

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

DAP Ambassador stats Jan-March 2017

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

METRO RTA IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE DEAN HARRIS RECEIVED AWARD OF FINANCIAL REPORTING ACHIEVEMENT

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement has been awarded to **METRO's** Director of Finance Dean Harris, who is primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning comprehensive annual financial report.

The award of Financial Reporting Achievement is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association to the individual(s) designated as instrumental in their government unit achieving a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

This is Harris' fifteenth year as a recipient of the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement.

PRITT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP TAKES HOME FOUR ADDYS AT THE 2107 AKRON-CANTON ADDY AWARDS

Downtown Akron-based creative agency **Pritt Entertainment Group** (PEG) took home four ADDY Awards from the American Advertising Federation, including two Gold ADDYs at the 2017 Akron-Canton ADDYs held on Feb. 24 at the Akron Civic Theatre.

PEG received a Gold ADDY in Cinematography for their work on the Tipoff Video that they created for the Cleveland Cavaliers. They also were the recipient of a Gold ADDY for Video Editing with their work on the 2016 Akron Zips Football Intro Video. PEG's 2016 Opening Night Behind The Scenes Documentary created for the Cleveland Cavaliers took home two Silver ADDYs in Cinematography and Branded Content & Entertainment For Online Film, Video & Sound..

WHITESPACE WINS NINE AKRON ADDY® AWARDS, INCLUDING A JUDGE'S CHOICE HONOR

WhiteSpace earned a prestigious Judge's Choice honor plus four Gold and four Silver ADDY® awards at the 2017 American Advertising Federation (AAF) recognition ceremony on Feb. 24, at the Akron Civic Theatre. The ADDY awards annually recognize and reward the creative spirit of excellence in the art of advertising nationwide.

WhiteSpace staff and clients were honored for their work on the following:

Judge's Choice Award Winner

- Civic Solutions Lab Mailer for Leadership Akron

Gold Award Winners

- Civic Solutions Lab 3D Poster for Leadership Akron
- Civic Solutions Lab Mailer for Leadership Akron
- 2015 Digital Annual Report for Lorain Public Library System

Silver Award Winners

- Candy Made Simple DeBeer Ad for Valspar
- Downtown Akron Partnership Website for DAP**
- “2,240 Suction Cups” Outdoor Board for Akron Zoo
- “Discover Your Direction” Video Series for Holland



METRO Transit Center



Pritt Entertainment Group



WhiteSpace



New DAP website

Enjoy Downtown

Downtown events, culture and entertainment provide a wide range of things to do and see. Whether you're looking for a day of family fun or to catch a performance by your favorite band, Downtown Akron offers a plenty of options.

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

DOWNTOWN IS ONE OF THE SAFEST NEIGHBORHOODS IN AKRON. HELP US KEEP IT THAT WAY.

OFFICE SECURITY TIPS DO YOUR PART...

- Use your security/alarm systems. Don't buzz individuals into your building without knowing who they are or what they want.
- Question individuals walking through your office by asking if they need assistance.
- Never leave your reception area unattended or entrance doors propped open.
- Always keep valuables out of sight.
- Keep current inventory records of equipment with their serial numbers.
- Lock your office if you step away from your desk, even for a few minutes.

BE PREPARED...

- Many crimes are ones of opportunity. Always be alert and aware of things around you.
- Be aware of locations/situations which would make you vulnerable to crime, such as alleys and dark parking lots.
- Get to know your business neighbors.

REPORT CRIME AND SUSPECTED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY PROMPTLY BY CALLING 911

QUARTERLY DISTRICT MTGS

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

Northside:

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

Historic Arts:

July 13, Oct. 12
10-11 a.m. | ASCPL main library

Canal District:

Aug. 10, Nov. 9
2-3 p.m. | location TBD

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON CONSIDINE PROFESSIONAL BUILDING EXPANSION

Akron Children's Hospital broke ground on a 230,000-square-foot addition to the Considine Professional Building on March 9.

"As an independent, freestanding children's hospital we are 100% focused on children and families," said Bill Considine, president and chief executive officer. "We view every project we do through the eyes of a child and the Considine expansion is no exception."



The expansion, which is due to be complete in 2018, will bring together most of the hospital's outpatient and subspecialty services under one roof – addressing the growing demand for these services.

Grace Wakulchik, vice president of operations and chief operating officer, said in addition to supporting care delivery and consolidating services, the expansion will also

create a positive environment and workspace that will cater to employees of all generations.

The estimated cost of construction is \$84 million.

ACCELERATOR EXPANDS SERVICES FOR ENTREPRENEURS WITH NEW PARTNERSHIP

The **Akron Global Business Accelerator** announces new partnerships with the Economic and Community Development Institute (ECDI) and The Women's Business Centers of Northern Ohio (WBC) to house their Akron offices in the Accelerator, increasing access to services for local entrepreneurs, startups and small businesses.

Currently, the Accelerator partners with the following organizations to provide access to support services for Akron startups and small businesses.

DRONE MAKER EVENT 38 SPREADING ITS WINGS

By Richard Weiner, reprinted with permission from Crain's Cleveland Business

While the skies become increasingly populated with drones and the industry continues to grow, Akron drone maker **Event 38** has seen its sales increase and is expanding into new services.

Jeff Taylor, founder and CEO of Event 38, said that the company has been "growing, expanding from just selling the hardware to providing software analysis services, data post-processes, driving data into a map, creating 3-D models, and providing other analytic services."

Military drones, commercial drones, delivery drones, hobby drones — they're all filling the sky.

Event 38 sells most of its drones to people who need data from large tracts of land — people such as farmers who want to track their crops' spread and density to surveyors creating municipal planning maps.

Visit <http://www.crainscleveland.com/article/20170326/NEWS/170329841/drone-maker-event-38-spreading-its-wings> for the full story

PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

Akron Main St to be Revitalized Thanks to Federal Grant

Reprinted with permission of ideastream, by Mark Urycki (April 27, 2017)

Downtown Akron is going through a traffic revolution. Some long-time plans and brand new ideas are all coming to fruition at the same time.

The 6 lane freeway that runs through the downtown is quiet now. The Innerbelt was closed this year after just 30 years in operation. It's being replaced with slower boulevards.

Meanwhile important downtown routes -Exchange and Cedar - now one-way streets are in the process of being converted back into 2-way avenues again.

And there's Main Street. City officials held an open house last night to display their plans to revitalize that half-mile long back-bone of Akron.

Mike Teodecki of the city's Bureau of Engineering says it's all about making the city a place where people want to live, work, and play."

"We've met with people up and down the street. We've met with businesses. We continue to try to gain public involvement to help reshape downtown. This isn't my project; this is those up and down the street. To listen to them and build the Main Street they want is very important to us."

The first phase would replace one large, slow traffic light intersection with a roundabout to keep vehicles moving.

A second phase would add bike lanes south of the Canal Park baseball stadium, an area with clubs, restaurants and student housing.

Plans call for reducing traffic lanes but adding a dedicated bike lane higher than street level, protected by a curb. Sidewalks will get more space for outdoor seating. The street will get pull-off lanes for parking, deliveries, and buses.

Those downtown stakeholders range from law firms to restaurants to universities. Teodecki says the city tried to satisfy each for their own needs

Read the full story at <http://www.ideastream.org/news/akron-main-st-to-be-revitalized-thanks-to-federal-grant>.

Cedar and Exchange Street Complete Streets Project will now include partial conversion to two-way traffic

The city's Complete Streets Project on Exchange and Cedar Streets (between Broadway Street and Portage Path) is being modified to open several blocks of Exchange Street and a small section of Cedar Street to two-way traffic.

In order to provide better access to the downtown hospitals, Exchange Street will become two-way between Broadway and Rand Avenue and remain one-way between Rand and Rhodes Avenues. Cedar Street will become two-way between Broadway and Water Street, and remain one-way between Water and Rhodes Avenue.

A map of the updated plan can be found at www.akronohio.gov/cms/resource_library/files/54b119da01238817/cedar_exchange_two_way_map.pdf.

FEATURED PROPERTY

Akron Centre Plaza

50 S. Main St. | 330-384-9306

Akron Centre is a 195,000 sf 12-story class A office building in Downtown Akron. Approximate floor size: 14,300 rentable sf. Features four high-speed elevators, several restaurants and service oriented retailers. Convenient, adjacent parking for 1,300 vehicles in an attached six-level, above ground recently renovated parking structure.



FEATURED BUSINESS

Scanlon & Elliott

57 S. Broadway St., 3rd floor

330-376-1440 | www.scanlonco.com

Scanlon & Elliott is a personal injury firm with experienced and knowledgeable attorneys. Attorneys practice mainly in the area of plaintiff personal injury with a focus on medical malpractice, products liability, serious or catastrophic accidents, nursing home abuse, negligence and neglect, employment litigation and investor or securities malpractice. Scanlon & Elliott, an Akron fixture for more than 30 years, has relocated to the newly remodeled, historic Akron Bar Assn. Building.



PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



Update on city construction at intersection of Howard/Main and MLK/Perkins/SR59

The intersection of Main, Howard, and Perkins Streets and Martin Luther King Boulevard is now closed and will remain closed through the end of June, as the city undertakes two construction projects—the Oak Park Renewal Project and the Old Main Sewer Separation (CSO Rack 21) Project.

“This intersection is currently one of the most dangerous intersections in Summit County, and this closure will not only allow the city to complete a sewer separation project, it will greatly improve the safety of this intersection, and allow the city to reclaim a section of the Innerbelt as green space for future downtown development,” John Moore, Director of Public Service said.

“While we understand and share the frustration of motorists, this single closure allows us to strategically combine and complete two major projects and helps us achieve progress in several key areas—sewer infrastructure, traffic safety, neighborhood connection and downtown development,” Mayor Horrigan said.

For more information, please visit www.DriveAkron.com or call the Mayor’s Action Center at (330) 375-2311 or 3-1-1.

Mayor Horrigan Introduces Residential Property Tax Abatement Legislation

Mayor Dan Horrigan introduced legislation to Akron City Council to implement a residential property tax abatement program in the city of Akron. This legislation is the result of more than a year of study and data analysis and was a key recommendation of the City’s Planning to Grow Akron housing strategy report and the Greater Ohio Policy Center’s (GOPC) “Build in Akron” report. The program builds on data from the Reinvestment Fund’s Market Value Analysis of all 200 micro-neighborhoods in Akron, released last month.

Mayor Horrigan’s proposed property tax abatement program will exempt 100% of the added property value on any new home construction in Akron, as well as most home renovation (valued at \$5,000 or more), for a period of 15 years—allowing Akron homeowners to enjoy the benefits of new home investment without immediately paying the higher tax bill.

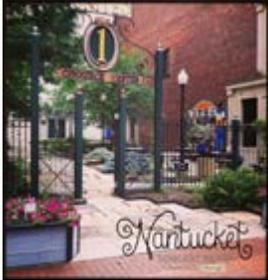
Once the residential property tax abatement legislation is passed by Akron City Council, the program must be submitted to the State of Ohio for approval. Once the program is finalized, the city of Akron will make a formal announcement, including instructions for how to apply.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN

NANTUCKET CONCERT SERIES PRESENTED BY HUNTINGTON BANK

Every Wednesday through Aug 30 | 1-2 p.m.

Commerce Park | www.downtownakron.com/nantucket



Grab your lunch and enjoy live music every Wednesday May-August in Commerce Park. Commerce Park is located between The United Building, 1 S. Main and The Nantucket Building, 17 S. Main St.

Concerts are also presented in partnership with Niekamp, Weisensell,

Mutersbaugh & Mastrantonio LLP, Metisentry, Albrecht Inc., FirstEnergy, Brennan Manna Diamond, JacksonKelly PLLC, Roderick Linton Belfance.

CURIOUS CREATURES GRAND OPENING

Saturday, June 3 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Akron Zoo | www.akronzoo.org



Meet some of the world's strangest animals when **Curious Creatures** opens!

Curious Creatures replaces Journey to the Reef. The exhibit will include animals that are uniquely different or have odd adaptations, such as naked mole-rats, leaf-cutter ants, electric eel,

red-eyed tree frogs, walking batfish and more.

FATHER FRIENDLY COMMUNITY EVENT

Saturday, June 10 | 1-4 p.m.

Lock 3 | www.summitkids.org



Father Friendly is a free and exciting event featuring family activities, food, exhibitors, inflatables, musical entertainment, prizes and much more.

The purpose is to celebrate responsible fathers and to connect promote healthy fathering and co-parenting practices.

AWR! CONSTRUCTION SITE TROLLEY TOURS

May 26, June 9, 23, July 14, 28, Aug. 11, 25 | 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

www.akronwaterwaysrenewed.com

The **Akron Waterways Renewed!** program offers tours of the completed and active sewer construction projects around the city. Tours start at the Mustill store, where attendees will learn

about its significance and history of the canal, as well as the Ohio Canal Interceptor Tunnel (OCIT) work. Tour includes all six sites.

BREW AT THE ZOO

June 17 & July 15 | 6:30-10:30 p.m.

Akron Zoo | www.akronzoo.org



Come enjoy a beer or glass of wine while exploring the zoo after hours. Tickets include a 4 oz souvenir tasting glass, 8 sample tastings, admission to the zoo and a giveaway.

Full size beers and wine will be available for purchase.

THIRD THURSDAY

June 15, July 20, Aug. 17 | 5-9 p.m.

Downtown venues | www.downtownakron.com

Third Thursday is a new monthly event highlighting the arts and culture amenities available in downtown. As an evolution of the Downtown Akron Artwalk, this event will introduce visitors to independent destinations, events and activities that establish Downtown Akron as an arts and culture destination.

AKRON ROUNDTABLE

June 15: Brian Mosteller; July 20: Deborah L. Wince-Smith

Aug. 17: Chief Calvin D. Williams

UA's Quaker Station | 12 p.m. | www.akronroundtable.org



Akron Roundtable brings speakers to Akron who inform, educate and stimulate listeners on topics of importance to the region, the country and the world.

Akron Roundtable was established in 1976 as a community forum to encourage and bring bold, creative and new ideas to the region.

RASCAL FLATS IN CONCERT

Saturday, August 5 | 6 p.m.

Canal Park | www.akronrubberducks.com



Award-winning, multi-platinum album country music group **RASCAL FLATTS** will be headlining the 6th Annual Rockin' FORE the Kids!, as part of the band's Rhythm & Roots 2017 Tour.

Tickets are now on sale and start at \$45.



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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