

DOWNTOWN AKRON QUARTERLY UPDATE



photo by Tim Fitzwater



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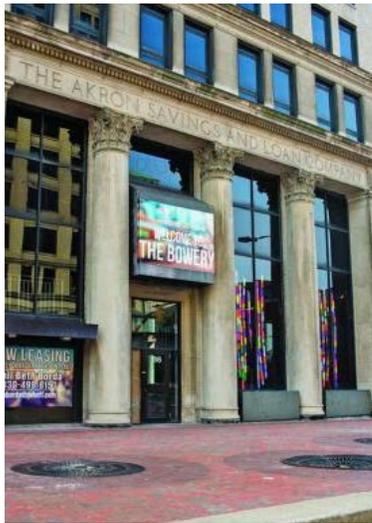
1ST QUARTER 2019
DOWNTOWN AKRON SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Akron plans for a new downtown development corporation

By Dan Shingler, *Crain's Cleveland Business*, reprinted with permission, photo by Dan Shingler

Downtown Akron's got some major new residential and retail developments underway, a major streetscaping and redesign of Main Street in progress and a strong cadre of advocates.



What it never has had is its own community development corporation (CDC) to both shepherd projects to fruition and invest in developments on its own (although, as many will tell you, one has long been proposed).

That looks like it's about to change.

"My goal is to have a draft business case put together by the end of April," said James Hardy, chief of staff to Mayor Dan Horrigan.

Hardy said the mayor has charged him with making a case for a CDC that, once approved by the administration, will be presented to local businesses, investors and other downtown stakeholders.

If all goes as planned, he said, the city will get a new economic development driver that also will be a lending arm able to fill financing gaps that downtown projects often face.

That's because the CDC, as envisioned, also would run its own loan fund and possibly grow to the point that it could invest in or own property directly, though that's not anticipated at first, Hardy said.

That means Hardy must show that the city not only can raise operational funds for the new entity, which likely would be a nonprofit, but also can raise money to back a loan fund.

"At the outset, the way we're contemplating it now, we need to identify a funding source for operations and develop a compelling case for why corporations, philanthropic organizations or private sources (of capital) should and could invest in a loan pool to support downtown," Hardy said.

[Click here to read the full story on Crain's](#)

Summit county executive launches economic development website and premieres promotional video

Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro introduced a new website, www.summit4success.com created by the county's department of community and economic development. The website is a one-stop information site for business owners looking to relocate or expand their operations in Summit County, site selectors helping clients choose a strategic location, or residents looking for more information about the communities and business environment of Summit County.



The website is designed to introduce Summit County to economic development stakeholders in and out of the county. It is organized into four primary sections: *About Us*, *The Summit County*

Advantage, *Business Resources* and *Site Selection*. The *About Us* section provides a general overview of Summit County, including a brief history of Summit County, state and county demographic data, community and major employer profiles, and snapshots of the major industries currently thriving in Summit County.

The *Summit County Advantage* section makes the case for Summit County as an exceptional place to live, work and play. It outlines the reasons why internationally-known corporations like Goodyear, Bridgestone and FedEx continue to do business in Summit County, such as access to a talented workforce and a strong business climate, affordable and high quality of life, and more.

The *Business Resources* section details the range of workforce programs, financing options, small business programs,

manufacturing assistance and other programs available to business owners from the county and its local and regional economic development partners.

Finally, the *Site Selection* section highlights the job hubs, available properties, and business and industrial parks in the county. This section of the website also features the county's development data hub, which aggregates and displays data such as utilities, zoning, demographic information, incentive zones and much more to aid site selectors who are considering Summit County.

Visit the website at www.summit4success.com

VIBRANCY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Several new or existing businesses made the move to downtown Akron or moved to a new location within the district over this past quarter ranging from technology service, fitness, organizations, non-profits and more.

Downtown Akron Partnership is now in phase four of the pop-up retail program and continues to meet with interested businesses. 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.



Main Place



Akron Yoga



AES Building



Heart to Heart

Welcome new or relocated businesses

ACU-Serve

121 S. Main St. | 330-923-5258 | www.acuservecorp.com

For over 20 years, **ACU-Serve** has earned a reputation as the most trusted HME/DME and Home Infusion billing and collection service in the industry. The company's offerings allow clients to streamline billing processes and comply with the ever-changing federal and insurance industry regulations, to collect more, faster.

Akron Yoga and Wellness (new location)

140 E. Market St. | 330-970-YOGA | www.bewellakronyoga.com

Akron Yoga and Wellness is all about empowerment, healing and growth. Classes, workshops, trainings and events are designed to create a space and a community where people can come together to learn about their physical body, their mental body and their emotional body; developing tools to help them daily as they move through the world and explore who they are and how they want to grow.

Heart to Heart Communications (new location)

37 N. High St., Ste. B | 330-434-3278 | www.h2hc.info

Heart to Heart Communications is a non-profit business development training organization. It cultivates employees' values-based leadership potential while teaching the necessary skills to form inner balance and harmony for a successful workplace.

IgnitionOne

388 S. Main St. #325 (AES) | 800-801-4194 | www.ignitionone.com

The **IgnitionOne** Customer Intelligence Platform seamlessly integrates with existing advertising and marketing stack to help find, value and engage customers in real-time. Marketers can leverage customer Intelligence to better understand customers and engage them with effective messaging that turns browsers into buyers and buyers into advocates.

Pin Oak Energy Partners (new location)

388 S. Main St. #401 (AES) | 330-485-3368 | www.pinoakep.com

Pin Oak Energy Partners LLC is an independent energy company, focused on the acquisition, exploration, development and production of crude oil and natural gas assets.

Rising Star Center for the Arts (new location)

105 E. Market St. | 330-690-1320 | www.risingstararts.com

Rising Star Center for the Arts is a multidisciplinary art center dedicated to positivity, and encouragement through the arts. Rising Star offers music lessons and classes, theatre classes, dance classes, yoga classes, and art classes for all ages. In addition to weekly classes Rising Star Center for the Arts also has paint & sip type of events, art galleries, drop in classes, and classes for adults that includes free childcare.

MARKETING & PROMOTIONS

Urban Corps is launched in downtown Akron

Downtown Akron Partnership announced the creation of **Urban Corps**, a new volunteer program providing year-long opportunities at events and projects in downtown Akron. The program was revealed at DAP's annual meeting on Feb. 26.



The Urban Corps replaces the long-running Green & Clean program that began as a one-day initiative in May and grew to a month long event that engaged volunteers with projects like mulching, flower planting and trash removal. This initiative is possible through support from the John S. and James L. Knight

Foundation and Akron Civic Commons. Interested volunteers are encouraged to visit downtownakron.com/urbancorps and click "join the team" to become involved.

New initiative promotes abundance of lunch options with a spin of the wheel

The question, "What's for lunch?" can now be answered with the **Downtown Akron-lunch-omatic**. Downtown Akron Partnership offers a unique approach to lunch opportunities with a new lunch spinner. This initiative is possible with support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Time-for-Lunch is fashioned as a game board spinner with 50 spaces on which to land. Thirty-eight spaces list dining locations open for lunch with 12 "bonus break" or "spin again" spaces highlighting stops for snacks and drinks (such as coffee shops) and "did you know" tips on the importance of taking breaks throughout the work day.



Contact the DAP office at 330-374-7676 to request spinners.

CLEAN, SAFE & WELCOMING



11,160

TRASH COLLECTED (LBS)



83

MOTORIST/VEHICLE ASSISTANCE

69

GRAFFITI REMOVED

400

PARKING ASSISTANCE

739

BUSINESS CONTACTS MADE

1,371

BUS STOPS CLEANED

112

SAFETY ESCORTS



2,340

HOSPITALITY ASSISTANCE

DAP Ambassador stats Jan-March 2019

BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENTS & NEWS

PORTAGE PATH EARNS MEDICAID APPROVAL TO PROVIDE DUAL DIAGNOSIS SERVICES

On Dec. 12 **Portage Path** received approval from the Ohio Department of Medicaid to provide Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services along with the current mental health services they have been providing for almost 50 years. This accomplishment allows Portage Path to now fully integrate their valuable dual diagnosis programs and treatments.

DUCKS TICKET EXECUTIVE THYRAN NOWDEN PULLS IN AWARD AT 12TH ANNUAL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRUM MAJORS AWARDS

Akron RubberDucks ticket sales executive Thyran Nowden was presented with the Community Service and Civic Engagement Award by Mothers On A Mission at the organization's 12th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drum Majors Awards on Jan. 5 at First Congregational Church of Akron. Nowden was honored for his work creating the Black Girls Rock - Akron's Family Day Event on July 12 at Canal Park. The successful fundraiser was created to help support African-American women and Akron's entire African-American community. He was presented the award by City of Birmingham (Ala.) Mayor Randall L. Woodfin.

SIGNET LLC CREATES SPECIALITY CHEMICAL DIVISION; NAMES KEVIN WILLIAMS PRESIDENT

Private investment firm **Signet LLC** announced that it has formed a Chemical Specialties Division, a platform that will include four of its chemical manufacturing & service companies. The platform will be overseen by Kevin Williams, who was recently hired as president of the new Chemical Specialties Division. Signet leadership expects each of the companies to continue their recent growth and looks forward to even more dramatic growth with the formation of this platform under Williams' oversight.

BROUSE MCDOWELL PARTNERS ELIZABETH YEARGIN AND TIMOTHY REARDON NAMED 2019 TOP RANKED LAWYERS

Libby Yeargin, co-chair of the Corporate & Securities Practice Group, and Tim Reardon, partner in the Business Restructuring, Bankruptcy & Commercial Law Practice Group, have both been named Top Ranked Lawyers® for 2019 by The American Lawyer magazine and Martindale-Hubbell®. This award is given to those attorneys who have achieved the AV® Preeminent® Peer Review Rating by Martindale-Hubbell® and is reserved for only the top ranked lawyers in the nation.

PRITT ENTERTAINMENT GROUP TAKES HOME EIGHT ADDYS AT THE 2019 AKRON-CANTON ADDY AWARDS

Downtown Akron-based creative agency **Pritt Entertainment Group** (PEG) took home eight ADDY Awards from the American Advertising Federation, including two Gold ADDYs, at the 2019 Akron-Canton ADDYs, held Feb. 22, at the historic Akron Civic Theatre. PEG received two Gold ADDY Awards, both in the category of Cinematography, for their work on the 2018 Vegas Golden Knights Intro Video and for eBay's Retail Revival commercials.



Portage Path Behavioral Health



Thyran Nowden



Signet LLC



Pritt Entertainment Group

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/district

Canal District:

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

Northside:

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

Historic Arts:

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

THREE UA ENGINEERING PROFESSORS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION CAREER AWARD



The University of Akron announced that three College of Engineering faculty were awarded prestigious CAREER awards. Dr. Chang Ye (pictured), Dr. Rajeev Gupta and Dr. Rouzbeh Amini received a federal award for research and education activities for five consecutive years in the amount of \$500,000.

ELIZABETH CORBIN, PERSPECTUS ARCHITECTURE NAMED NOTABLE WOMAN IN STEM



Elizabeth Corbin Murphy develops processes and technologies to evaluate structures and materials so they may be authentically restored and renovated. In addition to navigating the merger between her firm, one of the oldest women-led architectural practices in Ohio, with **Perspectus Architecture**, she is also a professor of practice at KSU College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

ROETZEL PROMOTES ASSOCIATE LAURA WALLERSTEIN



Roetzel & Andress LPA has promoted associated Laura Wallerstein, of the Akron and Columbus offices, to shareholder. Wallerstein is a member of the firm's real estate group and focuses her practice on commercial real estate transactions, franchisee representation, as well as condominium and homeowners' association matters.

AKRONYM BREWING RECEIVES AWARD



Cleveland's Best Brewery contest awarded **Akronym Brewing** second place. Readers nominated 75 local breweries for inclusion in the contest. Forty-six advanced to the poll, where readers voted nearly 27,000 times to determine 15 finalists. The judges were Andrew Mitchell of Willoughby, cleveland.com beer and critic Marc Bona and reporters Hayden Grove and Seth Richardson.

TED SIKORA FILM & COMICS WINS AWARD



Ted Sikora located at 43 Furnace St. won Critical Blast's Triple Crown — 2018 Best Comic Book, Comic Writer and Comic Artist with the comic book *Tap Dance Killer*. This is the first time all three awards have been given to an independent publisher for the same title. Sikora is an award-winning filmmaker who resides in the rust belt. His directorial debut, HERO TOMORROW played film festivals all over the world and was featured on the IFC Channel.

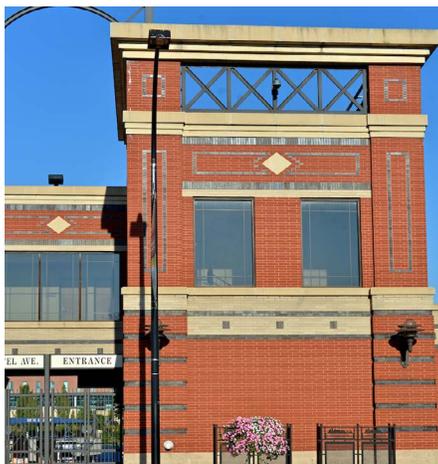
AKRON MUNICIPAL COURT LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE

Akron Municipal Court launched a new website, www.AkronMunicipalCourt.org. In addition to an improved visual impact, website enhancements include user-friendly navigation and the ability to instantly translate the website in more than 100 languages. New content has been added to showcase the court's news, social media posts, specialized dockets and programming opportunities.

CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT

Canal Park to shine like never before in 2019 with new LED sports lights

The 2019 **Akron RubberDucks** season will make Northeast Ohio's home of affordable family fun come alive under the newly-installed LED sports lights that will exceed Major League Baseball standards by 125 percent.



The 153 new LED fixtures were built by Musco Lighting and installed by Lake Erie Electric, Inc., located in Akron. The installation included the removal of the existing metal halide lighting fixtures with new LED sports lighting ones while using the existing poles and structures. New control panels, wiring harnesses, and power switches were also included.

The emergency-lights project was necessitated by the stadium's age and the availability of new, brighter LED technology. The new system not only

exceeds standards by 125 percent, but the LED lights will reduce electric costs.

Akron Civic Theatre kicked off public phase of capital campaign

The Akron Civic Theatre kicked off the public phase of its "Staging the Future" capital campaign at the theater's 90th anniversary on Saturday, April 13.

"Staging the Future" is the Civic's \$8.5 million project that honors the theater's history and while it prepares the organization to serve the community well into the future. The project will:

- complete restoration of the theater that began in 2002, specifically the Grand Lobby and Arcade;
- restore the Whitelaw building on the Civic's immediate north side to create a 200+ capacity performance space, which will increase programming and community engagement;
- replace areas lost when the Stage Left/Rite Aid building was demolished in 2016 by constructing a new administrative office, new box office and ADA-access elevator;
- integrate digital, audio and visual technologies and art to enhance the exterior of the building and the neighborhood with a large video wall facing Lock 3 and visually impactful murals on the south- and north-facing walls of the Grand Lobby;
- and create a maintenance and cash reserve to protect the investment and secure the future of the operation.

To date, \$7 million has been secured toward the \$8.5 million goal. In addition to a \$4 million grant from the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation and a \$1 million grant from GAR Foundation, the theater has also received generous contributions and grants from individuals, corporations, foundations and the state of Ohio.

FEATURED PROPERTY

24 N. High St.

24 N. High St. | 234-231-0235

This retail space is located just off State Route 59 on N. High St. This is a prime spot in the Historic Arts District next to Uncorked Wine Bar, High St. Hop House and Akron Coffee Roasters. There is 2,000 square feet available, on-site metered parking and nearby parking deck.



FEATURED BUSINESS

COFFEE AND CODE

17 S. Main St. | coffeandcode.com

Coffee and Code is an experienced software consulting company that helps new and established businesses grow and thrive. They build custom software from scratch in a variety of technologies, as well as train and supplement existing teams.



PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



Mayor Horrigan releases findings of recreation survey indicating enhanced focus on aquatics, community events and communication

Mayor Horrigan has released the findings of the Community Needs Survey which collected community sentiment and preferences related to the Akron Recreation Bureau. The survey was conducted between July 28 and Sept. 19, 2018 and reached 1,500 households representing more than 3,100 people. The survey will form the basis of strategic changes in the Recreation Bureau that will include an enhanced focus on aquatics, community events and effective communication.

A summary of the survey results is available [here](#). Key findings include:

- The more aware residents were of programming and services, the more likely they were to view the Akron Recreation Bureau as highly valuable.
- The bureau was generally perceived as affordable, fun and safe.
- Aquatics (pools and splash pads) are important neighborhood anchors.
- Different demographic groups and neighborhoods experience the Recreation Bureau differently.
- More effective communication – including increased use of social media – could improve the use of facilities and programs and increase satisfaction among users.

City of Akron passes 2019 capital budget detailing \$337 million investment in streets, parks, housing, safety facilities, water & sewer infrastructure

Mayor Dan Horrigan's plan for the 2019 Capital Investment & Community Development Program, commonly referred to as the "Capital Budget" was approved by Akron City Council in Feb. The 2019 Capital Budget provides a plan for investments in streets, sidewalks, parks, public facilities, police and fire services, economic development, housing, and water and sewer infrastructure in Akron in the coming year.

"The 2019 capital budget reflects \$337 million in new investment in our infrastructure, neighborhoods, and public facilities that will enhance safety, transportation, housing, and quality of life and set the stage for job creation and population growth," Mayor Horrigan said. "By efficiently leveraging state and federal funds, we will be able to make a significant impact in 2019, including our catalytic project to completely renovate Main Street downtown."

The budget includes \$187 million in state funding, \$43 million in federal monies and \$10 million in regional and private dollars. Local funds of \$97 million include \$15.4 million generated from Issue 4, the 1/4% income tax increase passed in 2017. Issue 4 funds will be used exclusively to invest in police, fire, and roadway improvements in the city.

Read the full release [here](#).

WHAT'S GOING ON IN DOWNTOWN

SPRING GALA 2019

Saturday, April 27 | 5:30-10:30 p.m.

UA's E.J. Thomas Hall | 198 Hill St.



Join us on the stage at E.J. Thomas Hall for the annual Spring Gala to benefit the Akron Symphony Orchestra. The evening will feature a cocktail reception with hors d'oeuvres, a delectable dinner, and live entertainment from Theron Brown and Friends.

MISSING FALLS BREWERY BEER DINNER

Monday, April 29 | 6 p.m.

Crave | 57 E. Market St.



Make plans to join Missing Falls Brewery at Crave for the April beer dinner featuring Missing Falls Brewery. The cost is \$50 per person plus tax and gratuity. The menu includes five pairings of beer with different delicious offerings ranging from appetizers to dessert.

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN AKRON: MAIN STREET WALKING TOUR

Thursdays, May 2, 16, June 6, 20 | 12 p.m.

Lock 3 | 200 S. Main St.

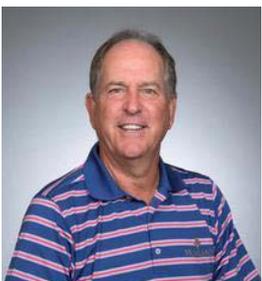


During this free walking tour, rediscover Main Street and hear the vision for downtown Akron. The route includes businesses, public spaces, downtown institutions, updates on development projects and the chance to meet local business owners.

AKRON ROUNDTABLE: JAY HAAS, MILLER BRADY

Monday, May 13 | 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

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



PGA TOUR Champions president Miller Brady and PGA TOUR Champions player Jay Haas will deliver an overview of the upcoming Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. They will touch on a range of topics including the strong momentum of PGA TOUR Champions, World Golf Hall of Fame members and golf legends currently playing on Tour and the the upcoming rookie classes.

LOCK NEXT OPENING NIGHT

Thursday, May 16 | 4-10 p.m.

Lock Next | 200 S. Main St.



Lock Next is officially open for the summer starting May 16. Stop by between 4-10 p.m. for food and drink specials, a DJ dance party, one hour happy hour yoga with Akron Yoga & Wellness and more.

"WONE'S ROCK THE LOCK" FEATURING CRUSH: A TRIBUTE TO BON JOVI W/ VICTORY HIGHWAY

Friday, May 24 | 6 p.m.

Lock 3 | 200 S. Main St.



Lock 3 opens the 2019 summer season with the first Rock the Lock concert, presented by WONE, Friday, May 24 on the Cleveland Clinic Akron General Stage, featuring Crush, A Tribute to Bon Jovi with Victory Hwy. The 2019 schedule features several brand new events including Akron

Kids Fest and Akron Pizza Fest.

AKRON ARTWALK

Saturday, June 1 | 5-9 p.m.

Summit Artspace & Northside | 140 E. Market St.



Artwalk is always the first Saturday of the month from 5-9 pm at Summit Artspace, Northside and other area locations. You will find artists working in their studios, many which double as shops to browse artwork for sale. There are often special events with music. Galleries are open and

admission is free.

FATHER FRIENDLY COMMUNITY EVENT

Saturday, June 8 | 1-4 p.m.

Lock 3 | 200 S. Main St.



The 4th Annual Father Friendly Community Event is coordinated by a community collaborative of non-profit and government agencies for the purpose of celebrating responsible fathers, promoting positive father-child interactions and encouraging

healthy fathering and co-parenting to future generations. The first 1,000 attendees will be treated to a free lunch. Free admission and free parking is provided to all.

ERNST & YOUNG

CHASE



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



#DOWNTOWNAKRON

Photo by Shane Wynn