



the Downtown News

A Monthly Update from the Kent Downtown Partnership

24th Annual Kent Winterfest: A Holly Jolly Day in Kent

It's that time of year again...time for holiday cheer and festivities in downtown Kent. Join us on **Sat., Dec. 5** for a full day of fun, entertainment and activities, starting with an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast at Maggie's on Meeker at 8 am, sponsored by Kent AM Kiwanis.

The day continues with holiday shopping and dining, holiday bazaar, entertainment, Morford Family Carousel, Holly Jolly One Mile Kids & Kritters Walk with Mayor Suzette Cooke and Kent4Health, Kent Lions' holiday parade, Christmas-tree lighting, holiday stocking giveaway and more! Share your Holly Jolly holiday spirit by bringing a nonperishable food item for the Kent Food Bank to Winterfest.

For a complete schedule, visit our Winterfest blog at <http://kentwinterfest.blogspot.com>.



A special thank you to our volunteers and sponsors. This year's sponsors include Kent Chamber, Evergreen Bank, MultiCare Clinic Kent, Bruce Anderson, Kent Station, Kent Reporter, Monsoon Studios, Lemon Drop Skincare & Massage, Maggie's on Meeker, Kent AM Kiwanis, Kent Lions Club, SeaTac Sweeping Service, Washington Business Bank, McMonigle Veterinary Hospital and Multi-Service Center.

Facebook & Twitter & Biznik...oh my!

If you aren't friending, fanning or following online, then you are missing FREE marketing opportunities. Here's a brief look at two of the top social media tools and how you might use each to promote your business. Business-to-business (B2B), business-to-consumer (B2C) and consumer-to-consumer (C2C):

Facebook.com (B2B, B2C and C2C): Think of Facebook as a snapshot of your life. Friends, family, work, favorite music, movies and more. Create a personal page to connect with friends and family, and a FREE business page to promote your company by acquiring fans, posting news and developing interactive

online relationships with your target audience.

Twitter.com (B2B, B2C, C2C): If Facebook is a snapshot of your life, then Twitter is a snapshot in time. What's on your mind right now? What do you want to know? What news do you want to share? These are just a few ways Twitter fans are using the social media giant. Some use it to vent their frustrations while others are announcing specials, discounts or business news. Even media organizations and government agencies have jumped on the Twitter bandwagon to provide information in "real time." Shouldn't you? *Next month: LinkedIn and Biznik.*

Volume 12, Issue 12
December 2009

December dates to remember:

- 12/4 - 12/5: Holiday Bazaar
- 12/5: Kent Winterfest
- 12/12: Christmas Rush Fun Run; Kent Historical Museum Open House
- 12/25: Christmas
- 12/31: New Year's Eve

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Business expertise is just a phone call away with SBAC

If you are a business owner or manager, you've probably had questions about business plans, goal setting, marketing, growth, or exit strategies. If so, you can turn to your paid team of advisors or you can go to the Small Business Assistance Center (SBAC) at Green River Community College for free assistance with your current business or a new venture.

With a branch office of GRCC at Kent Station, you have access to business experts like Kirk Davis, a KDP board member who is a particularly valuable resource. Call Kirk with your business related-questions or to set-up a consultation. His services include:

- Assessment
- Referral services
- Business counseling
- Business and marketing planning
- ...and so much more!

If you'd like help planning for 2010 or want to strategize ways to survive and thrive in this economy, call Kirk or the SBAC in Kent today at 253-520-6260 to schedule an appointment.

REMINDER: Holiday Cheer Giveaway

Ask your customers to fill out an entry form at your store or business to enter to win a six-foot Christmas stocking filled with goodies at the Dec. 5 Winterfest tree lighting ceremony. See our KDP blog for details:

Mark your calendars: Our Find It In Kent "Amazing Place" competition begins January 18 and goes through March 15, 2010. See last month's newsletter or visit our KDP Find It In Kent blog for more information.

Welcome to our Newest Member

Brian Raynes, CEO & Owner
Make A Difference

416 Railroad Ave. South
Kent, WA 98031
253-332-8010
btpayitforward@aol.com

Please join me in welcoming our newest addition to the KDP family, **Brian Raynes, CEO and owner of Make A Difference**. Through his company, Brian collects metal for recycling and a portion of the proceeds go directly to feeding the homeless on Thursday nights. In business for the last three years, Brian collects metal from businesses and residents. He can use virtually any type of metal for recycling including old stoves, hot water heaters and other appliances.

Look for Brian's Make A Difference in Kent page on Facebook!



7 Ways to Shop Local this Holiday Season

Support local businesses by shopping in Kent this holiday season.

1. Visit the KDP membership directory online to learn more about area businesses. Which locally-owned services, shops or restaurants could you utilize? Which could you refer friends and family to? Where could you buy holiday gifts or services?
2. Consider gift cards, gift certificates, event tickets or "stay-cation" getaway weekends from local businesses.
3. Have a favorite boutique, diner or hair stylist? Share your favorites on the Find It In Kent Facebook page or our blog.
4. Attend Winterfest on Sat., Dec. 5 with your family and friends to support the community and encourage visits to downtown Kent.
5. Include a blurb about downtown Kent in your holiday newsletter or email to clients. Ask them to support local businesses with their spending.
6. Support other businesses by attending holiday sales events and open houses and by sharing those events with others.
7. Before heading to the mall, consider shopping downtown or at Kent Station instead. \$8.50 of every \$1,000 spent goes directly to our city!



26th Annual Kent Parks Holiday Bazaar

In conjunction with Winterfest, the City of Kent Parks Department is hosting its 26th annual holiday bazaar at the Kent Commons, 525 Fourth Ave. N., Kent.

Friday, December 4—10 am to 7 pm

Saturday, December 5—9 am to 5 pm

- Raffle drawings every hour
- Lunch and lattes
- Entertainment by Panduo and the Silverbells Carolers, school groups and more
- Arts, crafts and other uniquely made gifts by local artists

Admission is \$1 (ages 13 and up). Please bring a nonperishable food item for the Kent Food Bank.

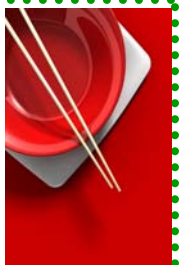
Go Green for an Eco-friendly Christmas!

While many of us recycle throughout the year to reduce waste, we should continue and expand these activities through the holiday season, when more waste is produced than at any other time during the year. Here are some ways you can Reduce, Reuse and Recycle this holiday season. Want more tips? Contact your local waste disposal company!

- Consider sending e-cards or e-vites instead of holiday cards this year. If you must send cards, purchase them from a nonprofit that will benefit from the proceeds and recycle or reuse (think kids' crafts!) the cards you receive.
- Wrap gifts with recycled or recyclable paper, or get creative by wrapping it with reusable items like fabric, dish towels, or stretchy book covers.
- Decorate a living Christmas tree that can be replanted in your yard after the holiday, or if you use a pre-cut tree, recycle it after the season by using it for mulch or use it in your backyard as a home for birds.
- Give "experience gifts" that won't produce waste like movie or event tickets, gift cards or tennis lessons or exchange consumable gifts like homemade baked goods.



Did you know that downtown Kent has more than 30 restaurants, cafés and coffee shops? Pick up a copy of our Downtown Kent Dining Guide the next time you're downtown for listings and a map in a handy brochure!



B&O Tax Incentive Program

Curran Law Firm
Greg Haffner
555 W. Smith Street, Kent
253-852-2345, ghaffner@curranfirm.com

Roland & Company, CPA
420 W. Harrison St, Ste 203, Kent
253-859-4488, rickr@rolandcpa.com

Management Valuation Systems
Kent, WA
253-520-8054, lstrege@mrktusa.com

Puget Sound Steel
906 3rd Avenue, So., Kent
253-854-3600, pugetsoundsteel@aol.com

Member Renewal— Thank you for supporting KDP!

Pat & Pete Curran, Friends of KDP

Carla Loux, Friends of KDP

Fred Satterstrom, Friends of KDP

Mark Burns, Waddell & Reed
6702 S. 234th St., 3rd Floor, Kent
206-459-0870, mburns@wradvisors.com

Optic Gallery
504 Ramsay Way, Ste 101, Kent Station
253-867-1616, opticgallery@comcast.net

Pat's Bar & Grill
114 Railroad Avenue, Kent
253-852-7287, patrickensign@hotmail.com

Bittersweet Restaurant
211 First Avenue, Kent
253-854-0707, lady.bug@comcast.net

Maggie's on Meeker
307 W. Meeker, Kent
253-852-4116, lady.bug@comcast.net

Dana Neuts, Virtually Yourz
P. O. Box 6231, Kent
360-920-1737, dana@virtuallyyourz.com

Mary Garner Estate, Friends of KDP

Stafford Suites
112 Kennebeck Avenue, North, Kent
253-850-0333, dfoltz@ostromcare.com

Washington Business Bank
202 W. Gowe St, Kent
253-854-4035,
jsacco@washingtonbusinessbank.com

Minuteman Press
841 Central Avenue, Kent
2523-852-6020,
kens@fineprintcompany.com

Banner Bank
1140 W. Meeker St, Kent
253-478-5200,
mmathews@bannerbank.com



Downtown Spotlight

As a new feature in our KDP newsletter, we will highlight a different section of downtown Kent. We'll offer a bit of history, some sights to see and suggestions for businesses to try.

In this month's spotlight is **Titusville Station**, home of KDP and a handful of other businesses. Located in the historic district of downtown Kent, this cozy spot sits at the corner of West Gowe and First Avenue South behind the downtown post office. The building houses retail and service businesses as well as residential living space above the ground floor and storage below.

KDP's neighbors in Titusville Station include:

- **Lemon Drop Skincare & Massage.** This charming boutique-style spa offers massages, facials, beauty treatments, waxing and more. Open seven days a week. <http://lemondropskincare.com>
- **Perk Up Place.** This coffee shop/deli is a welcoming spot for your morning coffee and bagel, a fresh salad, hot cup of soup or a tasty sandwich. Open Monday - Friday.
- **Washington Business Bank.** Tucked away inside Titusville Station, this business bank provides personalized banking services to local businesses including loans, cash management solutions, business deposit accounts and more. <http://www.wabizbank.com>
- **Sushi Kuine Japanese Restaurant.** If you have a craving for fresh sushi or California rolls, you've come to the right place. This locally-owned restaurant has a good selection to choose from.
- **Alleluia! Catholic Store.** This family-owned business—a source for religious items, gifts, books, bibles and more—has two locations, one in Bothell and one in Titusville Station. <http://alleluiacatholic.com>
- **Goju Karate.** A branch of Goju Karate in Carlsbad, California, Goju Karate offers classes to children (over age 4) and adults from beginners up to advanced students. <http://www.gojukent.com>
- **Titusville Trading Station.** A new antique store will fill the vacancy left by Cypriana on First Avenue South. You'll start seeing a flurry of activity around mid-December. Welcome to downtown Kent, TTS!

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- Barbara Smith.....Executive Director
- Greg Haffner, Curran Law Firm.....Legal Counsel
- Libby Seidel.....Volunteer
- Roger Gouin.....Staff
- Lucretia Whitehead.....Admin. Asst.
- Jasmine Dosanjh.....Intern
- NgocDzung Nguyen Smith, Monsoon Studios.....Website
- Dana Neuts, Virtually Yourz.....Marketing

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- Mike Hanis, Hanis Irvine Prothero PLLC..... President-Elect
- Nancy Skorupa, Renaissance Yarns.....Secretary
- Rick Roland, Roland & Company, CPA, PS.....Treasurer
- Doug Scharnhorst, Olsen Law Firm.....Past President

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- Sue Froyd, Bittersweet Restaurant
- Judy Woods, Friend of KDP
- John Hinds, Kent Station
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- Mike Miller, Valley Bank
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- Andrea Keikkala, Exec. Dir., Kent Chamber of Commerce
- Tim Higgins & Beth Sylves, ShoWare Event Center



*To Develop
and
Promote a
Vibrant
Downtown*

Kent Downtown Partnership

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