



the Downtown News

A Monthly Update from the Kent Downtown Partnership

Help KDP Save the Main Street Program

Submitted to the Kent Reporter:

If small businesses are leading the recovery, they are certainly leading the revitalization of many communities in our state.

Recently, over 90 communities throughout the State of Washington came together to participate in a campaign to raise awareness about the Washington State Main Street program and save it from being eliminated from this year's state budget. So why does the Kent Downtown Partnership care? Why do any of the other 90 communities care?

The Washington State Main Street Program teaches communities like Kent the "four point approach" to revitalization. The program has developed and promoted a commercial revitalization philosophy that draws on a community's unique heritage and character. Kent has both of these, not to mention great local leaders. Nurturing these leaders and resources, the State Program leads community leaders to develop and implement their own plans to revitalize the heart of their own community—the downtown.

Ellensburg Downtown Association became a Main Street town in 2007 and credits its success to the support of the state program. "We've had 20 new businesses open in our downtown in 2009 despite the economy," according to Mary Young-Ness, Association President of Ellensburg. Ness states, "We understand the need to balance the state budget against mounting deficits, but eliminating an economic development program that's demonstrated this level of success just doesn't make sense when we're talking about the need to grow our economy."

Downtown associations and community leaders from around the state are rallying to save the program and a Facebook fan page titled "Supporting Main Street in Washington State" has garnered more than 500 supporters in the last week. Please be sure to go to the Facebook fan page and show your support.

Efforts to save the program appear to be generating bipartisan support among legislators. Rep. Dean Takko introduced House Bill 2704, co-sponsored by Rep. Bill Hinkle on opening day of the legislative session. Senator Derek Kilmer is expected to introduce a Senate companion Bill by the end of the week. The bill simply asked that the Main Street Program be moved from the redesigned Department of Commerce to the Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation and along with that it is to include what was left from the 2009 severe budget cut, the \$120,000 (previous budget was \$375,000).

If this program goes away what happens to Kent's Downtown Partnership?

Barb Smith, Executive Director of KDP says, "It probably means that we will have to reinvent ourselves. What would we look like? It would be hard to say without a lot of thought and planning. The KDP Board members are hard workers and have accomplished a lot over the past several years. I doubt they will roll over and play dead."

We at the Kent Downtown Partnership urge all of you to contact your local legislatures and encourage them to support this bill. Please stress that it is equally important to keep the Main Street Program as it is to keep its \$120,000 budget.

Do you know anywhere, especially in our economy today, where you can get that kind of "return on investment"? Smith stated, "All these programs are mostly volunteer driven so the funding doesn't go to high administrative overhead; it is going back into the communities where our small businesses are making a difference and we want to be there to help them."

~ Barbara Smith, KDP Executive Director

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February 2010

February dates to remember:

(see inside for more)

Feb. 15—President's Day; city offices closed

Feb. 19—Downtown Breakfast Hour

Mar. 6—Kent Kids' Arts Day at Kent Commons

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Welcome to KDP's newest members!

Jayme's Sweet Addiction

Owner: Jayme Epperly
111 Central Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032
6PM-5PM, Mon-Fri
7:30 AM-3:30 PM Sat
jaymessweetaddiction@yahoo.com

Fully clothed mother, daughter team @ the corner of Central & Gowe. We have lots of fun with our customers. Weekly free coffee drawing, coffee cards, email & birthday club (free coffee), Facebook and deliveries (\$10 minimum) for downtown Kent. Best coffee, best price.

Do-Rite Muffler & Brake, Auto & Truck Repair

Leon Thomas
208 S. Central
Kent, WA 98032
253-854-1185

In business for 20 years, we are a complete vehicle repair facility with our specialty being exhaust and brake repair. However, we perform complete vehicle maintenance services. Drivability problems diagnosed with the latest computer scanners. Timing belts, water pumps, starters and alternators, CV shaft, shocks, strut, etc. We have the latest in transmission and fuel service equipment with an induction fuel system cleaner that is guaranteed to increase your fuel economy.

My son, Guy, and I have been at the same location for over 20 years. If you are looking for an honest shop, you need not look any further. Our motto is "why pay for the ranch when all you needed were a few chickens?"

Titusville Trading Company/Antiques in Old Town Kent

Owners: Larry & Tricia Lehnerz
205 First Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032
253-347-1670
Titusville@comcast.net

We are dedicated to offering a unique selection of antiques from the 19th century through the 1960's. Our goal is to offer a variety of interesting merchandise that will surprise, delight and inspire shopper's interests in incorporating the beauty and elegance of the past into modern living. Larry is a life-long resident of South King County.

Kent Community Foundation

Kent Chamber Foundation
Jim McGinnis, President
P O Box 128
Kent, WA 98035
206-715-9143
www.kentcf.com

The mission of the Kent Community Foundation is to generate and channel support for education and the cultural arts in the greater Kent and Covington communities.

We achieve our mission by (1) educating our community regarding opportunities to support promising grants and scholarships; (2) awarding grants for innovative education and community based programs; (3) administering student scholarships; (4) Quality education is fundamental community strength; (5) Arts enrich life (inclusive of all arts: music, visual, and performance); and (6) enhancing education and the arts provides a good return on the community's investment.

Thanks to our B&O contributors

The following local businesses have signed up at one time with the Main Street Tax Credit program and designated KDP as the recipient of their contributions:

AAA Pest Control; A&H Drugs; Albertson Law; Around the Clock; Balanced Athlete; Banner Bank; Centre Pointe; Children's Bookshop; Columbia Bank; Curran Law; Ditco, Inc.; Doorman Services; Frontier Bank; GoJu Karate; Hanis, Irvine, Prothero; Management Valuation; Meadowsweet Farms; Olsen Law Firm; Pacific Metallurgical; Pugerude's; Puget Sound Steel; Renaissance Yarns; Roland & Company; ServPro; State Farm/Doug Jones; Tarragon Development; Valley Bank; and Virtually Yourz.

Thank to local businesses currently enrolled in the Main Street Tax Credit program. If you are not enrolled, but want to learn more, visit the KDP website or call Barb at KDP. [Note: Enrollment is permitted on a first come, first served basis (per Washington DOR).]

<http://www.kentdowntown.org/PublicWeb/about/sponsors.html>



Design Matters

In a recent issue of *Retail Traffic Magazine*, Downtown Works founder Midge McCauley reminds of us of the importance of our storefronts:

"Design Matters! And, it matters a lot. The design of a storefront, the signage package and window display are what draw customers into a store. The merchandise, inventory organization and display, and the look and feel of the store's interior keep the visitor inside. The longer a shopper stays in the store, the greater the likelihood of making a sale."

If you are interested in learning how you can make your store or business more attractive, contact KDP's Design Committee Chair Suzanne Cameron at 253-852-3000, ext 106. For more on Retail Traffic for retail stores, developers and investments, visit <http://retailtrafficmag.com>.

Downtown Breakfast Hour - Feb. 19

Mark your calendars for KDP's Downtown Breakfast Hour to be held on **Fri., Feb. 19** at Bittersweet Restaurant (211 First Ave. South, Kent). Our theme for this event is Action Creates Results. In addition to news, networking and noshing, we'll have these items on the agenda.

- Thought for the Day: Mayor Suzette Cooke
- "Find It In Kent" review
- Upcoming events
- Flood update
- City update
- Community Starz awards
- Special guest speakers: Kirk Davis, GRCC Business Development and Mark Albertson, Esq. and KDP president
- Door prizes and giveaways

Networking begins at 7:15 am and the meeting will begin promptly at 7:45 am.

RSVP by Tues., Feb. 16: 253-813-6976 or kdp@kentdowntown.org.

Event sponsors: Mark Handman; McElheran, LLC; Meeker Street Law Building; C/I Properties; Multi Service Center; and Beacar, LLC

Important Dates to Remember:

May 7: Wine, Women, WOW

June 5: KDP Downtown Clean-up Day

June 26: Annual KDP Dinner Auction

July 8-11: Kent Cornucopia



Member Renewals — Thank you for supporting KDP!

Tri-Tec Communications

Umpqua Bank
(formerly Evergreen Bank)

Express Services

Fast Trax Media

Archa Thai Bistro

Jack and Barb Cosby
Friends of KDP

Save the date:
Wine, Women, WOW
May 7 (6 to 10 pm)



FIND IT IN KENT

We encourage you to support and promote **Find It In Kent** as part of a community campaign to remind consumers about the benefits of spending locally. Spending locally invests in our future, supports our schools, maintains our parks, fixes our roads, and sustains and creates local jobs.

Have a business or a treasure that you just love? Post it on Facebook.com/FindItInKent to help spread the word!



Downtown Spotlight

East Meeker between Central and Railroad Avenues

This block of downtown Kent may be a bit on the quiet side with a handful of vacancies, but its business owners are passionate about what they do. Please check them out.

Edward Jones Investments, Kelsey E. Keener
205 E. Meeker*

As an investment advisor, Kelsey can help you review your financial goals and match you with products and services to meet your needs.

Blanc 'n Schwarz Salon, 207 E. Meeker

This new salon on Meeker offers haircuts, color, perms, waxing and more. Open Monday through Saturday, and by appointment only on Sunday.

Shabra Gallery, 215 E. Meeker*

With a black-and-white checkered storefront, Shabra offers custom framing, art, gifts and greeting cards.

Archa Thai Bistro, 214 E. Meeker*

Across the street from Shabra is Archa Thai Bistro, a cozy, affordably-priced Thai restaurant. You will dine like royalty in this elegantly-decorated bistro.

***Businesses shown in bold and marked with an asterisk (*) are KDP members.**

Looking for a new storefront or know someone who might want to move their business to downtown Kent? Check out the vacancies in the block at 201, 203, 209 and 217 E. Meeker St.

Administrative Office:

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

Officers:

- Mark Albertson, Albertson Law Group.....President
- 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

Board of Directors:

- Lee Anderson, Umpqua Bank
- Jim Bell, Windermere Real Estate
- Suzanne Cameron, Around the Clock, Inc. CRMC
- Dawn Colston, Express Employment Professionals
- Eric Sach, The Balanced Athlete
- Kirk Davis, GRCC, Small Business Assistance Center
- Sue Froyd, Bittersweet Restaurant
- Judy Woods, Friend of KDP
- John Hinds, Kent Station
- Mike Mathews, Banner Bank
- Mike Miller, Valley Bank
- June McElheran – McElheran Partnerships
- Dee Moschel, Lifetime Honorary Director
- Garry Stewart, The Doorman Services, Inc.
- Ben Wolters and Kurt Hanson, City of Kent
- 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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