



the Downtown News

A Monthly Update from the Kent Downtown Partnership

“Amazing Place” scavenger hunt begins January 18

From January 18 through March 15, the “Amazing Place” will create a buzz in Kent. This eight-week promotion is an *interactive scavenger hunt* that encourages area residents to shop locally and learn more about local businesses and the benefits of local tax dollars to the community.

Each week the “Amazing Place” will use Facebook.com/FindItInKent (Mondays) and the Kent Reporter (Wednesdays) to post riddles. Participants will solve the riddles by visiting the businesses described in each and picking up Golden Tickets.

Participants who collect Golden Tickets from all eight participating businesses will be eligible to enter to win prizes. Golden Tickets should be dropped off, along with the participant’s contact info. at KDP (202 W. Gowe), Kent Chamber (524 W. Meeker), BECU (East Hill) or Kent Station’s management office (417 Ramsay Way).

Facebook & Twitter & Biznik...oh my, part 2

Last month, we covered the value of using Facebook and Twitter as marketing tools. This month we’ll do the same for Biznik and LinkedIn. How and when should you use each?

Biznik.com (B2B): For the most part, Biznik caters to the business community online and off. While not as well known as Facebook and Twitter, Biznik offers more than the average social media site. For example, Biznik not only focuses on providing you with a geographically-designated online community but it also seeks to connect business people face-to-face. Biznik members can create

Participating businesses include Paolo’s Italian Restaurant, Murray’s Collision, Castle Bridge Winery, Seattle Thunderbirds, The Balanced Athlete, Maggie’s on Meeker, Bella home & garden and Green River Community College, Kent campus.

This event is generously sponsored by BECU.

Follow KDP online

Want to know what KDP is up to? Follow us online:

Twitter: @KentDowntown
Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/KentDowntownPartnership>
Website: <http://kentdowntown.org>
Blog: <http://kentdowntown.blogspot.com>

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January dates to remember:

- 1/1: New Year’s Day
- 1/6: Kent Chamber Leadership Luncheon
- 1/21: KDP Networking at Hawthorn Suites, 5 to 7 pm

(see inside for a calendar of meeting dates, T-Bird games and more)

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casual, user-friendly profiles; join discussion groups; host or attend local meet-ups; trade services; ask advice and more. The basic level is free, but two paid membership levels offer additional perks.

LinkedIn.com (B2B): This site is for business users who want to connect with each other in a more formal way, often when looking for work or seeking new hires. As LinkedIn continues to evolve, it is a great tool for posting your résumé, professional profile or work history and experience. It is a more formal environment than Facebook, Twitter and Biznik.



Welcome to KDP's newest members!

Dr. Timothy Flynn, Flynn Chiropractic Clinic

1042 W. James St., #101, Kent, WA 98032, 253-852-3770
flynnchiropractic@msn.com, <http://flynnchiro.com>

Flynn Chiropractic Clinic focuses on treating the whole body while taking the time to listen and teach its clients about health and wellness. Treatment is very gentle, concentrating on healing and education. Dr. Flynn also offers onsite massages. "The choices we make every day either add to our health or rob us of it."

James Granacker, Project Manager, Kent Predators

625 W. James St., Kent, WA, 98032, 253-239-3254
info@kentpredators.com, <http://kentpredators.com>

Kent is home to the Predators, a 2010 expansion professional football team. The new franchise will begin playing a 14-game schedule at ShoWare Center in March. The schedule includes seven home games including the first home game on March 8. The Predators are a member of the 26-team indoor football league (IFL).

Lisa Voso, Attorney at Law & The Voso Impact

6703 S. 234th St., Ste. 300, Kent, WA 98032, 253-893-2023
lisa@vosolaw.com, <http://vosolaw.com>, <http://vosoiimpact.com>

Lisa Voso is a personal injury attorney and a seasoned litigator. She also specializes in writing personalized marketing messages and training businesses to deliver their messages successfully.

Larry Lehnerz, Titusville Trading Company

205 First Ave. South, Kent, WA 98032, 253-347-1670
Titusville@comcast.net

New to First Avenue South is Titusville Trading Company, an antique store that fills the vacancy left by Cypriana. The store contains a variety of antiques including furniture, home décor and more. Titusville Trading Company buys and sells antiques.

Nicole Adams, Intimate Pilates

212 First Ave. South, Kent, WA 98032, 253-709-1446
intimatepilates@yahoo.com, <http://intimatepilates.com>

Looking for a different fitness option? Try Intimate Pilates for private sessions or classes.

Why KDP? Value of membership

In today's economy, business owners must make some difficult choices about how to spend their money. This often includes choosing which local organizations to belong to. As you make those decisions year after year, please consider the value of your KDP membership. Here are some of the benefits you receive:

1. Building relationships with business members who are interested in developing a vibrant downtown
2. Participating in group promotions (e.g., RJC kiosk, cable TV commercials, dining guide, etc.)
3. Attending monthly networking events
4. Affordable advertising in KDP flyers
5. Expanding your web presence with inclusion in the KDP member directory and occasional inclusion in KDP's social media efforts
6. Participating in KDP-sponsored events like Winterfest, annual dinner auction and Wine, Women, Wow
7. Keeping storefronts occupied, therefore, maintaining a safer downtown
8. Contributing to your local community and having a voice in the Kent economy

As always, thank you for your continued support of KDP and its mission. We couldn't do this without you!



Featured Volunteer/Staff: Roger Gouin



One of the reasons KDP has such a strong presence in Kent is because of its strong volunteer base and the dedicated KDP staff and board of directors. Roger Gouin serves as both a volunteer *and* staff member, so he's a natural to feature this month.

As a part of KDP for the last four-plus years, Roger is our *go to* guy, helping with everything from event set-up and tear down, fix-it projects, the Farmer's Market, monthly networking, graffiti clean-up, light stringing, poster delivery and more. This year he went above and beyond the call of duty to be an elf for Winterfest.

Roger is always willing to lend a hand and he always does so with a smile. We at KDP are grateful to have him on our team. Thanks, Roger, for all you do!

Thank you to our B&O contributors!

Did you know that you can receive B&O tax credits by making contributions directly to KDP? When you do, KDP benefits from your donation and your business benefits too:

- Your contribution counts as your membership dues for the year.
- 100% of your contribution may be eligible as a charitable donation for the year in which it is made.
- 75% of your contribution serves as a tax credit toward the following year's B&O tax obligation.

We'd like to extend a special thank you to these KDP members who have or are participating in the B&O tax credit program.

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; and Valley Bank.

In 2009, these businesses will collectively contribute over \$55,000, invaluable contributions to KDP. Thank you all! For more information, including how to sign-up online, contact KDP at 253-813-6976.

Stop by KDP to pick up a supply of our new **Dining Guide** — your customers will love them!



We are excited that volunteer **Libby Seidel** will be returning to work some time in January. Welcome back, Libby! We've missed you!

Member Renewals — Thank you for supporting KDP!

Plaza Bank

207 W. Kent Station St., #101
Kent, WA 98032
253-981-6340
www.plazabankwa.com

Joseph S. Simmons Simmons Construction

3223 NE 125th St.
P. O. Box 27089
Seattle, WA 98165
206-362-7227
www.joesimmons.com

Sound Pest Management

324 First Ave. S., #102
Kent, WA 98032
206-510-0464
www.spmwa.com

Wild Wheat Bakery & Café

202 First Ave. S.
Kent, WA 98032
253-856-8819

Save the date:
Wine, Women, Wow!
Fri., May 7

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

In this month's spotlight is the west side of First Avenue South, between Titusville Station and W. Titus St.. This stretch of businesses is part of Kent's historic district and includes new businesses as well as old favorites. Businesses along First Avenue South include:

- **Bittersweet Restaurant.** A downtown favorite, Bittersweet Restaurant is a cozy American bistro, serving breakfast and lunch seven days a week.
- **The Balanced Athlete.** A runner's dream, The Balanced Athlete features athletic gear, shoes, classes and more.
- **Spiro's Greek Island.** Spiro's offers a delicious variety of Greek favorites including gyros, falafels, salads and more for lunch and dinner. The restaurant also offers weekend entertainment.
- **Heartbeat Healing Arts.** This downtown studio offers yoga classes, workshops, massage therapy and more.
- **Discovery Shop.** This resale shop features a variety of clothing, home décor and miscellaneous items. Proceeds from this shop go to the American Cancer Society.
- **Distinct Image.** Distinct Image is a barber shop and full service salon catering to a variety of styles and age groups.
- **Petrik Photography.** This new Kent business offers a full-service photography studio, including personal, commercial and passport photography. It is owned by husband and wife team Toly and Marina Petrik who take great pride in their artistry.
- **Evergreen Paralegal Services.** This local firm offers a variety of paralegal services.
- **Earthworks Gem Design Studio.** Owned by Steve and Donna St. Louis, this charming jewelry store features unique pieces and designs you won't find anywhere else.

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

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 June McElheran – McElheran Partnerships
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 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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