



the Downtown News

A Monthly Update from the Kent Downtown Partnership

Community comes out to support KDP

Though Kent is a community of nearly 90,000, sometimes it feels like the town is much smaller. Why? Not because everyone knows everyone else—though that may be true—but because virtually everyone cares about Kent and is working toward its success.



Last month's **Downtown Breakfast Hour** was a great example of that. We had more than 80 people attend the event on Feb. 19, easily filling up Bittersweet Restaurant. We heard from Mayor Cooke, received an economic development update from Kurt Hanson, got marketing advice from Kirk Davis, a pep talk from KDP president Mark Albertson, passed out Community Starz awards to four volunteers, and much more.

The meeting was productive, insightful and a great way to meet as a business community and to support each other. Thanks so much to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to our event sponsors Mark Handman; McElheran, LLC; Meeker Street Law Building; C/I Properties; MultiService Center; and Beacar, LLC. *Photo by DonDinsmore.com.*

Spring into Art: March 12 (5 to 9 pm)

With KDP's own Roger Gouin and Cheryl Wright of Cheryl's Unique Boutique at the helm, **Spring Into Art** is shaping up to be another fun event. This year's event will be from 4 to 9 pm on Friday, March 12 and will feature a variety of art-related activities for school-age children and teens. Among the activities planned are a scavenger hunt, window painting, passport program, performance by South Side Dance Force, the Student Art Walk and Arts Reception at the Centennial Building, and more. For the latest info. on Spring Into Art, visit our blog at <http://springintoartkent.com> or call Roger (253-813-6976) or Cheryl (253-854-0155). Hope to see you there!

Volume 13, Issue 3

March 2010

March dates to remember:

(see inside for more)

Mar. 12—Spring Into Art 2010

Mar. 12—Student Art Walk

Mar. 12—Kent Predators' first home game

Mar. 18—KDP Networking at Titusville Trading Co.

Inside this issue:

Welcome to KDP, new members! 2

Top 5 Economic Development Goals 2

Volunteer Spotlight: Lee Anderson 3

Renewing KDP Members 3

Predators Kick Off Mar. 12 3

Important Dates 3

Downtown Spotlight 4



Welcome to KDP's newest

NEW KDP MEMBERS:

Boeing Employee Credit Union

26015 104th Ave. SE, Kent, WA 98031
206-439-5700
Monica Wuth, monica.wuth@becu.org
<http://becu.org>

Custom Signs

220 Railroad Ave., Kent, WA 98032
253-335-0227
Clifford Mayor, CEO

NEW FRIENDS OF KDP:

Communities in Schools of Kent

604 W. Meeker, #202, Kent, WA 98032
253-867-5637
Janet Stebbins, Treasurer, jstebbins@masinonline.com
<http://www.kent.ciswa.org/>

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 <http://Facebook.com/FindItInKent> to help spread the word!

Update: Main Street Program

Thanks to everyone who has supported the continuance of the Main Street Program in Washington State. Vital to our existence, KDP and its member businesses have been making ourselves heard across the state. Here's an update:

The Main Street Bill, SHB 2704, has passed the Senate Rules committee and the next stop is a vote on the Senate floor.



Visit our blog for news, events, photos & more:
<http://kentdowntown.blogspot.com>

KDP Member Rob Jones has a new office:

T & R Life Management, Inc.
d/b/a The Jones Way
38579 SE River St., Ste. 13
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
425-888-8856

KDP 2010: Top 5 Economic Development Goals

As we try to recruit and retain KDP members, we are often asked "why KDP?" That's one of the reasons our board has created a list of aggressive goals, broken down by category including organization, design, economic development and membership. To give you an idea of what our board is working on for 2010, here are our top 5 goals for economic development this year:

1. Promote social media communication/marketing to our businesses (*in progress*)
2. Host a real estate broker's open house (*scheduled for 3/4/10*)
3. Host a property owner's open house (*scheduled for 3/4/10*)
4. Research placing art displays in empty storefronts in downtown (*in progress*)
5. Continue with the shop local program "Find It in Kent" (*Amazing Place*)



Volunteer Spotlight: Lee Anderson



Lee Anderson, Vice President and Business Relations Manager for Umpqua Bank, is this month's featured volunteer. Not only is Lee a valuable member of our board, but he also serves as our Promotions Committee chair and was instrumental in planning the first Kent International Festival last summer as well as Winterfest 2008 & 2009. In addition, he recently lead a marketing and events brainstorming session at Bittersweet. With his high energy and enthusiasm for the Kent community, he was able to host a positive meeting and get feedback and suggestions on how KDP can use its events to draw people downtown.

Perhaps what's even more impressive is that Lee does all of this while working a very demanding, ever-changing job at Umpqua Bank, which recently acquired Evergreen and Rainier Pacific Banks. Throughout Umpqua's transition and growth, Lee has continued to be actively involved in the Kent community and KDP, in particular. Thanks, Lee, for all you do!

"He does a lot for the entire community," KDP's Barb Smith said. "He is so excited because Umpqua really believes in extending a hand to the community."

Kent Predators kick off March 12

In case you missed the memo, the City of Kent has its own IFL team now—the **Kent Predators**. The news has been shared over recent months via press conference and social media, but the most exciting part of having our own team is that the Predators will play at our very own ShoWare Center. The team's first home game is scheduled for Friday, March 12. If you are interested in attending the game, contact the KDP office to reserve your seats at \$17.50. You can also buy season tickets or tickets to individual games on the Predators' website: <http://kentpredators.com>.

NOTE: The first game is the same evening as Spring Into Art, so come downtown for the art (event starts at 4 pm) and stay for the game! *Photo by DonDinsmore.com.*



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!

FRIENDS OF KDP:

Doug & Elizabeth Scharnhorst
Bill & Lois Stewart
Suzette Cooke, Mayor

KDP MEMBERS:

Curran Law Firm, B&O sponsor
Ditco, Inc., B&O sponsor
Valley Bank, B&O sponsor
Bell-Anderson Insurance
Catalyst Travel
(upgraded from Friends)
Christian Science Reading Room
Total Living Concepts

KDP Networking—Mar 18 (5-7)
Titusville Trading Co.
205 First Avenue So., Kent



Annual Dinner & Action —WE NEED YOU!

Do you enjoy a fun evening out on the town? Do you like planning events and parties? Or maybe you have a flair for decorating or fundraising?

If so, please join our **outrageously fun, creative planning committee** for KDP's annual dinner and auction scheduled for Saturday, June 26. We need fun people like YOU to join in to make this the best auction EVER!



Downtown Spotlight

The downtown block bordered by Meeker, First, Second and Gowe.

Wells Fargo

204 W. Meeker, Kent
Full-service personal and business banking

Treasures*

214 W. Meeker St., Kent
Antiques, collectibles and more.

Kutting Korners*

222 W. Meeker St., Kent
Hair salon offering color, foils, waxing, perms and more

Doug Jones State Farm*

224 W. Meeker St., Kent
Property & casualty insurance agency and financial services

Pottery-Fic Studios*

110 Second Ave. S., Kent
Pottery painting, parties and more.

Frontier Bank

221 W. Gowe St., Kent
Full-service personal and business banking

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

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

202 West Gowe
Suite A
Kent, WA 98032
253.813.6976

kdp@kentdowntown.org
www.kentdowntown.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KENT, WA
PERMIT NO. 291