



# the Downtown News

A Monthly Update from the Kent Downtown Partnership

## Annual KDP Dinner Auction: June 26 Do you have your tickets yet?

Every year, KDP and its dedicated volunteers work tirelessly to bring you an annual awards dinner and auction that you will look forward to attending. This year, however, we are particularly excited to present a fun theme which everyone can be a part of and have fun with—I Love Kent, Sportstown USA!

the Mariners; and Allied Waste has the Kent Predators.

Who will be next? Seattle Seahawks? Sounders? Mist? Reserve your table now by calling KDP at **253-813-6976**. Tables and teams are offered on a first come, first serve basis.

Volume 13, Issue 5

May 2010

### May dates to remember:

(see inside for more)

*Wine, Women, Wow—May 7*

*Kent Regional Library Luncheon—May 13*

*KDP Networking at Intimate Pilates—May 20*

*Battle of the Chefs—May 23*

### We need YOUR Help!

With so much competition for nonprofit dollars, KDP needs your help to make this year's fundraiser a success. We need:

- Volunteers to sell tickets
- Sponsors to help fund the event
- Donors for the auction
- People to buy tables

**Remember this event is our largest annual fundraiser. To support downtown businesses throughout the year, we need this event to be a success. Please make time to help KDP make a difference!**

### Inside this issue:

*Welcome New Members* 2

*Wine, Women, WOW* 2

*Weekly KDP Email Blasts* 2

*It Takes A Village* 2

*Volunteer Spotlight: Mark Albertson* 3

*Farmer's Market Expanding* 3

*Featured Businesses* 4



Each table of 8 can be purchased for \$480 and the "owner" chooses the theme or team for that table and can decorate the table with appropriate colors, sports memorabilia, etc. KDP president Mark Albertson took the honors of purchasing the first one and naming it the Seattle Thunderbirds table. Hanis Irvine Prothero have purchased two tables, the Sharks and the Rat City Rollers; Sally Goodgion took

## Annual Spring Clean-up Day—June 5

Save the date! Saturday, June 5 will be **KDP's Annual Spring Cleanup Day**. The festivities will begin at 8:00 a.m. at Kherson Park, located on the corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Gowe Street in historic downtown Kent. Lunch will be served at noon when we will celebrate our accomplishments of the day. Volunteers must register by June 1, and can do so by e-mailing John Hinds at [jhinds@kentstation.com](mailto:jhinds@kentstation.com).



## Welcome New Members

KDP is proud to welcome the following new members to the KDP Family. Please join us in thanking them for their support of downtown Kent.

**Los Agaves Mexican Restaurant & Catering**  
**Oscar Mendez and Carlos Cortez**  
24020 104th Ave. SE  
Kent, WA 98030  
253-520-3373

Los Agaves offers gourmet Mexican food from one of Seattle's top chefs. Located in a simple restaurant on the East Hill with humble prices, Los Agaves is proud to offer a variety of Mexican cuisine as well as catering services.

\*\*\*

**Welcome also to Chad Gleason, Retail Realty Services, who replaced Eric Sach on the KDP board. Chad, we're thrilled to have you!**

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



## It Takes A Village...

The saying goes, "it takes a village to raise a child." The same can be said of keeping a city's downtown alive, particularly in a tough economy. That's why KDP is beefing up its promotional efforts (*see next page*) and really listening to what businesses and merchants need to support their downtown businesses.

But KDP can't do it alone. We need your help. This includes your ideas, your volunteer hours and your willingness to help promote other businesses. Together we can survive this economy and make downtown Kent a destination. Here are a few ways you can help NOW:

## Wine, Women, WOW 2010

By the time this newsletter hits your mailbox, the fifth annual Wine, Women, WOW will be over. KDP wants to thank volunteer **Libby Seidel** for the countless hours she put into the event, along with her committee of dedicated volunteers, our generous sponsors and vendors and, of course, **KDP member ShoWare Center** for hosting us. A good time was had by all!



*{We'll feature a more detailed thank you in our June issue.}*

## Weekly KDP Email Blasts

As another way to serve our members, we are doing weekly email blasts each Monday. If you have an event, promotion or news to share, **send the details to us [kdp@kentdowntown.org](mailto:kdp@kentdowntown.org) by 12 pm each Friday**. This replaces our previous system of forwarding emails and news as it arrives, making it easier for us to share timely info. with you AND helping you manage your inbox. *A big thank you to Kent Station's Sommer Ueda Maser for setting this up for us!*

- A positive attitude can do wonders for your business and those around you. Yes, things are grim now but a good attitude and positive actions make a difference.
- Brainstorm with other business owners on ways you can work together to promote each other.
- Use free social media tools like Facebook and Twitter to spread the word about downtown Kent, its events and offerings.
- "Ditch the diss." Think twice before passing on negative comments. They are not only discouraging but damaging as well.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Mark Albertson



If you've lived in Kent for any length of time, you've met Mark Albertson. You know him—the tall lanky guy who always has a kind word to say and a friendly smile on his face? Yep, that's Mark. He's hard to miss in a crowd, and a pleasure to know. In addition to all of his community volunteer work, serving on various boards, Mark has proudly served as KDP president since last summer.

During this time of transition for KDP, Mark has made himself available to executive director Barbara Smith for support and advice and to talk about KDP's goals, issues and concerns. He leads by example, is always willing to lend a hand and is not afraid to ask other board members to step up when needed. Mark is a great inspirational speaker, always leaving us with uplifting messages at the downtown breakfast hour.

**"No one tells the KDP story better than Mark Albertson," Barb Smith says.**

Mark is a strong leader who is both easy and fun to work with, all of this on the heels of challenging health issues that could have easily cost Mark his life. Every day we are grateful that Mark is a part of KDP and, more importantly, an inspirational community leader. Thank you, Mark, for all you give and all that you are.

## Farmer's Market Expanding

Thanks to a revived partnership with the Kent Lions' Club, we've made an agreement to extend the reach of the Kent Farmers Market beyond its usual parameters.

Beginning June 5, the market will extend along Second Avenue, starting at Smith Street and continuing to Gowe, adding a full block of vendor space for local farmers, hand crafters and local businesses to display their wares! Second Avenue will remain closed to traffic, but Meeker Street will stay open.



### Important Dates to Remember:

**May 20:** KDP Networking at Intimate Pilates

**June 4:** KDP Downtown Breakfast Hour

**June 5:** KDP Downtown Clean-up Day and Farmers Market 2010 begins

**June 26:** Kent International Festival (10-6) & Annual KDP Dinner Auction (6-10)

**July 8-11:** Kent Cornucopia Days

**Aug. 3:** KDP Membership Picnic

## Member Renewals — Thank you for supporting KDP!

### KDP MEMBERS

- Matt Arnold, Edward Jones
- Boeing (corporate membership)
- Cheryl's Unique Boutique
- Custom Signs
- Kelsey Keener, Edward Jones
- Life Style Choices
- Pediatric Interim Care Center
- Vitality Chiropractic

### RENEWED B&O

- Rick Roland
- Tarragon Development

**Kent International Festival, June 26—10 am to 6 pm—is looking for arts & crafts vendors, performers, info booths, fashion show participants and event sponsors. Call Harpreet Gill for more info. at 253-859-3236.**



### KDP Promotions Committee

Headed by board member Lee Anderson of Umpqua Bank, our the KDP Promotions Committee is meeting on the third Wednesday of every month to discuss our events and promotions. Following a brainstorming meeting last week, we are working on ideas for drawing people to downtown Kent. Want to help? We'd love to hear your ideas! **Call KDP at 253-813-6976 for more info or to join the committee!**





*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

*Published monthly by Kent Downtown Partnership*

**Featured Businesses  
May 2010**

As a new feature in the KDP newsletter, we will focus on four businesses each month. Each will be a KDP member who could benefit from a little extra support. Please visit these stores, talk to the owners, do a little shopping, or buy a latte or a cup of coffee. They will appreciate your time and attention and will be happy to return the favor when YOUR business is featured. Together we can revitalize downtown!

**American Cancer Society Discovery Shop**

225 First Ave. South, Kent, 253-852-9696

This fun thrift store has great bargains and some awesome finds. Stop in to find gently used clothing, home décor and more. Profits benefit the American Cancer Society.

**Cheryl's Unique Boutique**

406 W. Meeker St., Kent, 253-854-0155

www.cherylsuniqueboutiquellc.com

In this unique boutique, owner Cheryl Wright features a wide variety of new and gently used items including men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, jewelry, accessories, home décor, books, and more. Everything is priced at \$30 or less!

**Kona Kai Coffee Company**

124 Fourth Ave. S., #180, Kent

www.konakaicoffee.net

Located across the street from City Hall, Kona Kai is a local coffee shop that offers a community feel to its tropical atmosphere. Stop in for a delicious cup of coffee, mocha or latte and stay for the camaraderie and conversation. Featuring weekend entertainment, Kona Kai is also available for breakfast, lunch and for meetings and events.

**Humanity Salon**

109 2nd Ave. S., Kent, 253-981-4182

www.humanitysalons.org

An upscale hair salon with a twist—the salon donates 20% of its profits to charity. So the next time you need a haircut, color, wax or skin or body treatment, visit Humanity Salon and feel good about giving back.

**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
- 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