

# **Economic Activity**

## **June 14, 2024 to October 18, 2024**

### **New Business Activity**

- **Klaben is preparing for two major projects, which include an expansion of the existing Klaben Ford Service Center at 1085 West Main Street, and the construction of a new, free standing Lincoln Dealership on a vacant parcel on West Main Street. The combined total investment of the two projects is \$15,375,000, and numerous jobs will be created and retained as a result.**
- **The owners of the Kent Stage will be opening a new business called Main Street Memorabilia at 163 East Main Street. The ecommerce store is live, with plans to open the brick-and-mortar location in November. Items currently for sale included autographed music, cinema, and sports memorabilia.**
- **Beware of the Leopard, a new bar, has entered into a lease agreement with Acorn At Kent, LLC, for the basement space at 176 East Main Street.**
- **A father and son duo have leased the former Michel's Lounge at 1157 West Main Street and converted it into a slot car raceway. Patrons will be able to race slot cars competitively or for fun on multiple tracks. They plan to be open sometime in the Fall.**
- **Kent Apparel Co., an affiliate of Kent Sportswear, leased the former Troppus space at 141 South Water Street. Kent Apparel offers Kent themed apparel from youth to adult sizes.**
- **The owners of North Water Brewing at 101 Crain Avenue have partnered with the owner of Good Day Pizza to open a pizza kitchen inside of the brewery. Upon completion, all three Kent breweries will also have permanent, on-site dining options.**
- **Bibibop Asian Grill, the Columbus based fast casual chain, has signed a lease for 429 East Main Street. With a focus on serving "healthy, affordable Asian food", menu offerings include customizable and chef curated bowls, with ingredients ranging from sweet potato noodles, rice, and supergreens to Korean BBQ beef and tofu.**



# Updates on Existing Projects

- Alley Mac in Acorn Alley is open for business. The menu features creative takes on traditional mac and cheese, while also offering sandwiches, salads, and ice cream.
- In August, the owners of the Domino's Pizza at 1413 South Water Street finalized the purchase of 715 East Main Street. Necessary variances have been granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals, although plans for the buildout have not been submitted to the Building Department. Once completed, the owners will discontinue operations at the 1413 South Water Street location.
- The Blind Squirrel Pub at 802 North Mantua Street opened for business in July. Menu offerings range from appetizers and wings to sandwiches and hotdogs.
- Plans submitted to the Building Department for the buildout of Maddelenas at 252 North Water Street are under review. Demolition work is scheduled to begin in late October.
- The 2nd Floor of Bar Lucci at 257 North Water Street is now open. In addition to the extra space, the 2nd floor serves as a venue with a stage for live music performances, as well as a pizza shop.
- After a brief closure, the Moonbase Bar at 166 Currie Hall Parkway reopened in September as an 18 and over bar focused on serving the LGBTQ+ community.
- The Battleground Taproom and Mexican Kitchen was sold to a group of local Kent investors. The prior owners will retain ownership of the building and continue to occupy the offices on the second floor. The new owners don't plan on making changes to the restaurant, have retained all staff, and created one new management position.
- State Champs Coffee at 427 Franklin Avenue recently sold. The new owner plans to rebrand the business as Gameday Coffee. In addition to assuming the leasing and purchasing the equipment, the new owner also retained all staff and is honoring existing commitments made between MSK and State Champs for Rainbow Weekend.
- After changes in ownership, Mockingbird Bakery at 154 Cherry Street in University Plaza briefly closed for minor updates and reopened as The Rolling Scones Bakery & Café.