



What's Up Downtown

A Newsletter of the Downtown Development Authority

Volume 2, Issue 1

Winter 2013

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SPOTLIGHT ON DOWNTOWN BUSINESS: COTTONTAIL QUILTS

If you thought that quilting was a lost art practiced and appreciated only by your grandmother's generation, then you haven't spent much time at Cottontail Quilts. Opened in March of 2012, Cottontails has become a destination for local quilters as well as crafters who've discovered them through internet searches and then traveled across the metro, from around the state, and from other states as they were passing through the area. They've even had a customer from as far away as New Zealand!

Robin Jones, owner of Cottontail Quilts, spent years working in the corporate world before opening this business that she's very passionate about. When she first saw the location, a charming 112 year old home located in the heart of downtown Kennesaw at 2259 Lewis Street, she knew it was the perfect place for



her shop. The quaint 3,000 sq ft. home now houses over 2,000 bolts of fabric and is abuzz with quilters looking to buy 100% cotton fabric, notions, patterns, attend classes or to take advantage of some of the in-house finishing services that are offered. Karyn Lovelace, an expert custom quilter on staff whose services are sought by many, provides beautiful quilting that puts an amazing finish to your quilts.



Classes offered at Cottontail Quilts range from beginning to advanced quilting techniques, special piecing and sewing projects, and many other skills. Two of the unique workshops that have been very popular among customers have been purse making where each participant completes a "Mondo Bag" and a class where participants learn how to make a basket out of cloth. In the summer, Cottontail Quilts will also offer classes for kids so they, too, can be introduced to this beautiful art form.

Cottontail Quilts is open from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday – Saturday. If you haven't had a chance to go in yet, stop by and say hello to Robin and the gang. You'll be pleasantly surprised at what you'll see!

THE BENEFITS OF SHOPPING LOCALLY

As a consumer living in a major metropolitan area, your options for shopping, dining, and doing business are practically limitless, even overwhelming at times. But while the alternatives are plentiful, if all attributes are equal or near equal, it's smart to keep your purchases local and here's why:

- It's convenient
- It ensures a variety of retail and business options remain close to home
- It helps create jobs close to home
- Should you need parts, service or technical help you won't have far to go to get it
- When the local economy is stimulated, it filters back into the community
- Local businesses are motivated to give good service because they rely on your referrals



Community Events



February Events:

February 9, Valentine's Dance, 6 pm to 9 pm, Community Center

February 21, Town Hall Meeting, 6 pm to 7:30 pm, Community Center

February 26, Blood Drive, 2 pm to 7 pm, Community Center

March Events:

***March 15,** St. Patrick's Day Event, 6 pm to 9 pm, Smith-Gilbert Gardens (members only)

March 16, Touch-a-Truck, 10 am to 2 pm, Depot

March 19, Home School Day, 10 am to noon, Southern Museum

March 23, Bunny Breakfast, 8 am & 9:30 am, Community Center

March 23, Easter Egg Scramble, 10 am to noon, Adams Park (Scramble at 11 am)

March 23, Museum Night, evening, Southern Museum

***March 30th,** Easter Event (TBD), Smith-Gilbert Gardens

**Check City of Kennesaw website for more details*



RETURNING THIS SPRING TO DOWNTOWN KENNESAW

Dinner At The Depot

by David Lyons

"Where do you want to eat tonight? I feel like having something different." How many times have we all asked or been asked that question?

For the 3rd year, the KDDA will answer that very question with a fun and creative solution to the dinner dilemma by hosting "Dinner at The Depot" every Monday night from May through October.

Though the food truck rally has long been a mainstay of the office complex lunch hour, it's something that is often seen only in very progressive urban centers as a stand-alone nighttime event with Kennesaw leading the way in the burbs. Here's how it works:

In the Depot parking lot (across from the museum), food trucks rally from 5 pm to 8 pm. Some trucks come every week and some rotate weeks so you can enjoy your favorites week after week, or try something new. With choices ranging from BBQ to Cajun to Philippine cuisine to New York style meatballs, there's something for every taste bud and for every member of the family. A crowd favorite and a regular at the Depot, Happy Belly, even ranked among the top 10 food trucks in the country for quality, variety and taste. Typically there are also a couple of dessert trucks in attendance as well to offer an option that's sure to satisfy your sweet tooth or a great way to top off your evening if you've already had dinner at home but just want to come out and spend some time having a relaxing outdoor evening with your neighbors in downtown Kennesaw.

This year's events will kick off on May 6th and will continue every Monday night through October 28th (weather permitting, of course). Some nights we'll have entertainment, you just never know what you might miss by not coming!

To see news about which trucks will be present, weather cancellations and announcements about entertainment, become a fan of the Dinner at the Depot Facebook page!



The Kennesaw Farmers Market Returns in 2013!

The Kennesaw Farmers Market experienced another year of growth last year with more vendors and more shoppers than ever before! We are organizing and making plans now to have an even bigger and better Farmers Market in 2013!



Like in years past, the Farmers Market will take place in the parking lot adjacent to the Ben Robertson Community Center, rain or shine, on Tuesdays from 7 am to 1 pm. The season will kick off on Tuesday May 7th and continue through October 29th! The Kennesaw Farmers market offers a great option for families to eat healthy through purchasing farm to table produce and organically produced goods sold by local growers and producers. We hope to see you there this season!

KENNESAW IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE & DO BUSINESS!
RIBBON CUTTINGS, OPENINGS & GROUND BREAKINGS DECEMBER 2012 / JANUARY 2013



Kennesaw Thai Cuisine



Front Porch Southern Dining



Savory Corner Southern Dining



Prestige Salon



Speedy Wiz



Pisano's



Traders 22



Groundbreaking for the Skate Park
 at Swift-Cantrell Park

Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority



The KDDA meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 am in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The Authority's seven members are appointed by Mayor and Council and serve 4 year terms.

Qualifications:

- City resident
- Owner/Operator of business in Downtown Development Area and resident of Cobb County
- Owner/Operator of a business in the downtown development area and a resident of the state of Georgia (one member only).
- Eight hours of training in downtown development and redevelopment programs required within 12 months.



Santa visiting the downtown Kennesaw Christmas Parade!

The mission of the KDDA is to create a vibrant downtown with the assistance of the downtown community, in order to unite and establish viable businesses while maintaining our sense of community and historic heritage.

KDDA Members

**David Lyons
Brett Olzeski
Shannan Smith
Robin Jones**

**Tracey Viars
Robert Kozora
Rick Young**

The KDDA maintains a website, www.kennesawdda.org and a newsletter to provide a single location where residents and visitors can go to learn more about the activities and businesses located downtown. Please visit the site soon and give your feedback to Robert Kozora at rkozora@kennesaw-ga.gov. Send newsletter comments to Julia McPherson jmcpherson@kennesaw-ga.gov.

Kennesaw Mayor and Council

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| Mark Mathews Mayor 404-392-8554 | Cris Welsh Council Post 1 678-266-0885 | Tim Killingsworth Council Post 2 678-873-7146 | Bruce Jenkins Council Post 3 678-251-6381 | Bill Thrash Council Post 4 404-392-3105 | Jeff Duckett Council Post 5 678-480-1340 |
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Contacts:

Economic Development Director: Robert Fox
770-794-7075
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Downtown Development Coordinator: Julia McPherson
770-794-7075
jmcpherson@kennesaw-ga.gov

Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority:
David Lyons, Chairman
dlyons@kennesaw-ga.gov

The KDDA has exciting programs available to assist downtown development and to encourage business owners and business tenants to improve the visual image of their property. Please contact the Economic Development Department at 770-794-7075 for additional information.

Tell Us Your Story

We're here to promote the growth of business in downtown Kennesaw. If your company has a success story, event, promotion or activity that you'd like to share with the community, please let us know!

If you'd like for your story to be included on the KDDA website send details to Robert Kozora at rkozora@kennesaw-ga.gov. For inclusion in the newsletter send information to Julia McPherson at jmcpherson@kennesaw-ga.gov.

