

DOWNTOWN DIGEST

Warren, Ohio

February 2015

The Business of Love

It's nearly time for Valentine's Day, a day to give the gift of love. There is no better place to do your shopping than downtown Warren. Jolies Femmes sells sexy lingerie, Shirley's Sweet Spot has vintage-inspired candy, Gene's Jewelers and Thom Duma Fine Jewelers will cover all of your sparkly needs.

Both Thom Duma's (TDFJ) and Gene's have been staples of the downtown area for decades. Although both offer dazzling engagement rings and other fine jewelry, their stores are distinctly different. Gene's has an eclectic mix of fashion and estate jewelry as well as other unique gifts—hand-painted wine glasses, modern cuckoo clocks, purses and more. (We'll be featuring Gene's in an upcoming issue—but be sure to check out the details of their Valentine's Day Celebration on the next page). TDFJ's primarily offers luxury brands, although jewelry starts with price-points as low as \$30. They specialize in bridal and fashion jewelry, as well as watches for men and women.

Thom Duma's is a household name in the Valley, due to the sought-after luxury brands at the store and their successful ongoing advertising efforts. Owner Tom Duma, Jr. attributes his business acumen to his father. Thom, Sr., who bought the business in 1957, which was then named Klivans. The first year Thom, Sr. operated the business he insisted on costly renovations and a heavy advertising campaign, although already in debt from



USA MADE SHINOLA WATCHES AND "RHYTHM OF LOVE" JEWELRY MAKE A PERFECT GIFT



the purchase of the store. In a year's time, store revenue increased by \$60k (which was quite a lot of money in the late 50s). The business has been a success ever since. Tom, Jr. learned the business from the ground up, and when he took the reins from his father he remodeled the store once more. He also changed the name of the store: Thom Duma's Fine Jewelers, in honor of his dad.

Duma's first rule in business is to break all the rules. The company offers a free bridal warranty on rings, one of the only companies in the marketplace to do so.

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Upcoming Events

David Hume Kennerly: Pulitzer Prize Winning Photographer

Trumbull Art Gallery, 158 N. Park Ave.

January 10- February 14

Kennerly's achievements include being one of the youngest people to win the Pulitzer Prize, being appointed as President Ford's personal White House photographer, and named "One of the Most 100 Most Important People in Photography" by American Photo Magazine. Proceeds from the sale of Kennerly's photographs support the David Hume Kennerly Scholarship in Art. The scholarship is geared toward Photography students at YSU. Framed prints are \$500; unframed \$350.

Larry Beckstein: Well-known Wildlife Painter

Trumbull Art Gallery, 158 N. Park Ave.

January 14- February 14

Larry Beckstein's exhibition at the Trumbull Art Gallery is his first one-man exhibition. The exhibit provides an opportunity to view Beckstein's original paintings that serve as the basis for his limited edition prints, which sell nationwide. He has been a contributing artist to Whitetails Unlimited, The Rocky Mountain Foundation, The National Wild Turkey Association, and many other conservation organizations.

Guitar Stylings by Mark Soini

The Lime Tree, 187 W. Market St.

Friday, February 6, 7-11 pm

Come out for a night of blues, soul, food, and fun! You know the place. Come join in on the fun that's been, "Live At The Tree"!

Baxter Burgundy

The Lime Tree, 187 W. Market St.

Saturday, February 7, 7-10 pm

Baxter Burgundy will be performing live. Come relax, have some great food, and listen to some great music.

New Location Celebration

5 Grands Fashions, 164 High Street

Thursday, February 12, 2-6 pm

5 Grands Fashions has just relocated to an expanded storefront on High. They specialize in church suits

and hats, shoes, purses, special occasion clothes and much more! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, punch, dessert and give-aways while shopping during the new location celebration.

The Art of You

DNA Studios, LLC., 137 S. Park Ave.

Saturday, February 14, 7-10 pm

A Solo Exhibition of the work of Brian Starkey, a native Warren artist.



Valentine's Day Celebration

Gene's Jewelers, 112 N. Park Ave.

Saturday, February 14, 10-4 pm

Be the first to see what's new with Gene's four most popular jewelry lines: Heart and Company ORBIS, Dancing Diamonds, Mariana and Phillip Gavriel. Also showcasing a new line of hand-made Sterling Silver/gemstone jewelry Loribonn by Lori Bonn, and local artisan Denise Hall will be on hand to create your very own piece of hand-made copper accessories. There will be plenty of hors d'oeuvres and sweets for your sweetie! Special pricing all day.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Saratoga, 129 E. Market St.

Saturday, February 14, 4-9 pm

Order from a special menu including Surf and Turf and Chicken Capriccio Sautéed Chicken Breast with Banana, Banana Liquor and Slivered Almonds. Enjoy live music by Take II. Reservations required. (330) 393-6646.

Black History in the City of Warren

Kinsman House, 303 Mahoning Ave.

Monday & Tuesday, Feb 16-17, 6-8 pm

Mayor Doug Franklin, Council Women Helen Rucker, and Historian Wendell Lauth will give presentations outlining the history and contributions of African-Americans in the Trumbull County region from the earliest years of the Western Reserve to the present. Warren Heritage Center President/Founder James Valesky will be your evening's MC. Attendees will also have an opportunity to get a sneak peak at the Kinsman House renovations during the events!

Poetry Night: Rust Belt Poets and Writers

The Lime Tree, 187 W. Market St.

Wednesday, February 18, 7 pm

Poetry Reading put on by Ron Book and S.A.L.T. contributors! Writers of prose and poetry are invited to the monthly "open mic night" to share their works with the public.

Dancing with the Cars

Packard Car Museum, 1899 Mahoning Ave. NW

Saturday, February 21, 7-10 pm

Dancing and entertainment provided by Take II.

There will be light appetizers and cash bar. Admission is \$10 and will support the museum.

The Pickups

The Lime Tree, 187 W. Market St.

Saturday, February 21, 7-10 pm

The Pickups will be playing on The Lime Tree's Stage. Come relax, eat some great food, try some new beer and listen some great music!

THINK- Not Another ART Show: An Exploration of DaDa

Artisan Café, 410 South Main

Saturday, February 21, 7-10 pm

Fifteen established local artists will create a fusion of multimedia, video, print, readings, collaborative performance, and interactive pieces that explore the Dadaism philosophy/movement from the early 20th century. Artists will showcase projects outside the idea of what is considered safe, or even sellable art. The focus will be on presenting thought provoking, spontaneous, and non-conformist works.

TO INCLUDE YOUR EVENT IN THE UPCOMING DIGEST, CONTACT INFO@WARRENBUSINESSEXCHANGE.COM

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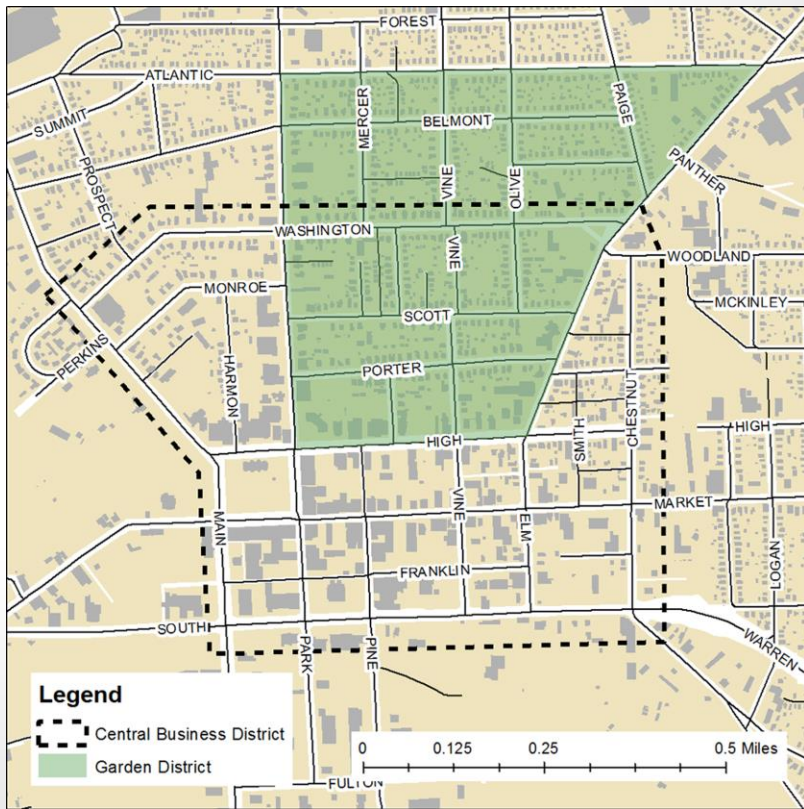
DUMA, FROM PAGE 1

Customers can get their rings serviced while they wait, which is very convenient to all of the clients travelling throughout the Valley to the downtown location. TDFJ competes with Saks and Nordstrom's, a convenient location in between Cleveland and Pittsburgh to purchase such brands as Tacori and David Yurman. Better than big-box retailers, TDFJ's staff provides on-site service to repair pieces, whereas department stores outsource this talent. Customers know that not only is TDFJ the place to go for valuables, it is the place to go to be valued as a customer. For V-day, TDFJ is featuring "Rhythm of Love" jewelry, with pieces beginning at \$199. The diamond pendant necklaces have a unique feature of moving with your heartbeat, creating a little extra sparkle. Owner Tom says the little circle in the middle reminds him of throwing a snowball, a playful kind of love. It's a beautiful thing, this business of love.

Visit tdfj.com for more information or follow on Facebook. Business hours are Monday 9:30-8 pm, Tuesday-Friday 9:30-5 pm and Saturdays 9:30-4 pm.

Q&A

What is the Garden District?



The Garden District is a collaborative effort to revitalize Warren's oldest neighborhood. Trumbull Neighborhood Partnership (TNP), gregg's gardens, Trumbull 100 and others have partnered with residents to redevelop this 22 block area that overlaps with the downtown Central Business District, through strategic demolition, creative land use and place-making, public art and community events, and housing renovations. The project is supported by the Trumbull County Land Bank and has been successful in leveraging both public and private support.

This summer, TNP will partner with The Robins Project, and students from The New School in NYC and Kent State University to create design interventions in the overlapping districts, to create a more vibrant place to live in Warren.

Warren Business Exchange, a resource for local entrepreneurs

Warren Business Exchange, a program of Warren Redevelopment and Planning Corporation, recognizes that small businesses are the economic driver within the city and offers free business-support services to local entrepreneurs. Although established as an in-house business incubator, recently we have expanded our advising and evaluation services to include existing businesses in the Warren area. If you are an area business owner or employee and need assistance with finances, marketing, needs assessment or just have a general question, call (330)841-2566 or email info@thewarrenbusinessexchange.com.

Additionally, we would appreciate any feedback you may have to improve information sharing within our new monthly Downtown Digest series.

The Downtown Digest is written and produced by WBE staff member Melissa Holmes, edited by Tony Iannucci and Dr. John Robertson.

