

AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

Renters *corner*



Living downtown

By Melissa Dubravetz, advertising writer

Akron, Ohio. Home to Akron Aeros, Soap Box Derby World Championships, LeBron James and Firestone Country Club. A thrice-named "All-America City" by the National Civic League, Akron is a city of collaboration, inclusiveness and innovation.

Up with downtown!

One of the biggest components helping Akron grow is the downtown area. Since people often gauge the success of a city based on the nature of its central area, much work and attention has been dedicated to downtown Akron. University Park, the revitalization of a 50-block area immediately surrounding the University of Akron, is a perfect example. A work in progress, University Park will someday showcase downtown residential living at its finest.

Other recent building, renovating, rehabbing and expansion projects are creating new venues for residents to enjoy all over downtown. From sporting venues and festivals to arts and entertainment, the downtown area is becoming a destination for relaxation, entertainment and play. Through a lot of hard work and vision, downtown Akron is growing to meet the needs of today's singles and families, making it an attractive place to work, live and have fun.

There's no place like home

As a young, 20-something professional, I sometimes hear my peers talk about moving away, leaving Akron and starting new somewhere else. I don't quite understand why. While I can appreciate the dreams of warmer weather, oceanfront property, mountain views or big city life, I wonder if my peers don't see what I see in Akron.

Do they not see the opportunity and potential the city offers to singles and families alike? Do they not realize how affordable it is to live here? Do they not recognize the development and revitalization the city will experience in the coming years? Akron is a vibrant and growing city, and it's a great place for renters.

Options galore for renters

Apartment seekers will find a unique and diverse selection of rentals available in downtown Akron. From townhomes and duplexes to lofts, studios and high-rise units, renters have their pick of styles, price range and amenities.

In **Cascade Village**, new units feature private entry; one, two or three bedrooms; and include amenities such as mini-blinds, in-suite washer and dryers, and private patios. **Canal Square Apartments** offers one- or two-bedroom units ranging from \$675-\$1100 month, with community features that include a pool and fitness facilities, private and controlled entrances, covered parking and a 24-hour maintenance crew. Some apartments have balconies, providing great views of Canal Park.

Other affordable and safe living options in downtown Akron include the **Landings at Canal Park**, the **Townhomes at Canal Park** and **Channelwood Village**. All offer convenient expressway access, nearby transportation and are close to Akron's top employers and hospitals.

Upscale living downtown

If an upscale urban lifestyle is more your style, check out the rooftop gardens, private patios and attractive urban architecture, including garages, of the **Spicer Village** condominiums in the heart of University Park.

At **Northside Lofts**, luxury lofts are available as rentals on a monthly or yearly basis, as corporate rentals and even on a rent-to-own basis, with monthly rent starting from \$1,619 a month.

Nearby, artful living can be yours with the **Maiden Lane Lofts**. Featuring one and two bedrooms and studio apartments, Maiden Lane Lofts units boast high ceilings, hardwood floors, large windows and much more.

These are just some of the great housing options available in downtown Akron. Many neighborhoods around the downtown area offer affordable rental options for singles and families, each featuring its own charming style and attractive amenities. For more information about living downtown, visit www.downtownakron.com and www.upakron.com

Let me know what you think. Do you live downtown Akron? I welcome your suggestions on making a decision, tales from your personal experiences or anything else you want to talk about. Send an e-mail with your name and phone number to renters@thebeaconjournal.com. For additional real estate information, visit homes.ohio.com, the key to hassle-free home hunting.