

= Kent , Ohio =

Kent is a city in the U.S. state of Ohio and the largest city in Portage County . It is located along the Cuyahoga River in Northeast Ohio on the western edge of the county . The population was 28 @, @ 904 in the 2010 Census and 29 @, @ 810 in the 2015 estimate . The city is counted as part of the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area and the larger Cleveland ? Akron ? Canton Combined Statistical Area .

Part of the Connecticut Western Reserve , Kent was settled in 1805 and was known for many years as Franklin Mills . Settlers were attracted to the area due to its location along the Cuyahoga River as a place for water @-@ powered mills . Later development came in the 1830s and 1840s as a result of the settlement 's position along the route of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal . Leading up to the American Civil War , Franklin Mills was noted for its activity in the " Underground Railroad " . With the decline of the canal and the emergence of the railroad , the town became the home of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad maintenance shops through the influence of Marvin Kent . In 1864 the town was renamed Kent in honor of and in gratitude for Marvin Kent 's efforts . It was incorporated as a village in 1867 and became a city after the 1920 Census . Today Kent is a college town best known as the home of the main campus of Kent State University , founded in 1910 , and as the site of the 1970 Kent State shootings .

Historically a manufacturing center , education is the city 's largest economic sector with Kent State University the city 's , and one of the region 's , largest employers . The Kent City School District and the Kent Free Library provide additional education opportunities and resources . Many of Kent 's demographic elements are influenced by the presence of the university , particularly the median age , median income , and those living below the poverty level . The city is governed by a council @-@ manager system with a city manager , a nine @-@ member city council , and a mayor . Kent has nearly 20 parks and preserves and hosts a number of annual festivals including ones related to Earth Day , folk music , and the U.S. Independence Day . In addition to the Kent State athletic teams , the city also hosts a number of amateur and local sporting events at various times during the year . Kent is part of the Cleveland @-@ Akron media market and is the city of license for three local radio stations and three television stations and includes the regional affiliates for National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) . Although most residents commute to work in private vehicles , alternate transportation includes a public bus service and hike @-@ and @-@ bike trails . As the home of the Davey Tree Expert Company , Kent is known as " The Tree City " while residents are referred to as " Kentites " . The city has produced a number of notable individuals , particularly in politics , athletics , and the entertainment industry .

= = History = =

The region was originally inhabited by various tribes of American Indians , including the early Mound Builders . Around 1780 , Captain Samuel Brady achieved notoriety for his activities in the area , including his famous leap of 21 feet (6 m) over the Cuyahoga River to avoid capture by an unknown band of American Indians . The site , known as Brady 's Leap , is now a city park . Settlement by Europeans began in the late 1790s and early 19th century . As part of the Connecticut Western Reserve , the area was divided into survey townships in 1798 and almost all of what is now Kent was originally part of Town 3 Range 9 , which would eventually be known as Franklin Township . Aaron Olmsted , a wealthy Connecticut merchant , had purchased the 16 @, @ 000 @-@ acre (6 @, @ 500 ha) township and named it for his son Aaron Franklin Olmsted .

Franklin Township was surveyed in 1803 and settled in November 1805 when John Haymaker and his family moved west from Warren to the banks of the Cuyahoga River . They were joined by John 's brother George and their father Jacob Haymaker and their families early the next year , and built a gristmill in 1807 . Initial growth in the area was slow , but eventually two small villages would develop due to the potential for power generated by the Cuyahoga River that could be used in gristmills and manufacturing . The first village , known as Franklin Mills , or locally as the " Lower Village " , developed mostly around the original Haymaker property . In 1818 , Joshua Woodard

arrived in the area and began constructing buildings just north of the village forming the " Upper Village " that would come to be known briefly as Carthage .

In the 1820s , Franklin Mills was included in the route of the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal (P & O Canal) . When construction began on the canal in the mid @-@ 1830s , land speculation was rampant in many areas of northeast Ohio along the canal , including Franklin Mills . As a result , an industrial and business region was established along the east side of the river in what is now downtown Kent . Factories and mills were either planned or constructed along the Cuyahoga River , some of which either were never built or ultimately failed , due mostly to effects of the Panic of 1837 . A lock and attached arch dam , however , was completed in 1836 . The canal officially opened in 1840 , but would only operate into the 1860s . By the 1870s the canal was completely shut down .

In the era leading up to the American Civil War , Franklin Mills was an active stop on the Underground Railroad , giving fugitive slaves shelter on their escape to Canada . There were three notable stops in Franklin Mills , one of which still stands as of 2010 . During this period , from 1835 to 1839 , noted American abolitionist John Brown moved to the village , operating a tannery along the Cuyahoga River with Zenas Kent .

In 1863 the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad was constructed through Franklin Mills , due largely to the efforts of local businessman Marvin Kent , son of Zenas Kent . Marvin Kent had started his own railroad company , the Franklin and Warren Railroad , in 1851 after Franklin Mills , already home to several Kent family ventures and properties , was bypassed by the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad that same year . Kent was also successful in getting the village named as the location of the railroad 's maintenance yards and shops in 1864 . The geographic location along the railroad and being home to the shops reinvented and revitalized the village as an important stop on the east @-@ west line between St. Louis and New York City . The shops would open in 1865 and the railroad would play an important part of Kent 's industry and development through the early 20th century before the shops were completely shut down in 1930 . To honor Marvin Kent , the village was renamed Kent in 1864 , although this change was not official until the village was incorporated on May 6 , 1867 .

John Davey came to Kent in 1881 as head grounds keeper at Standing Rock Cemetery , and planted several trees , landscaped the cemetery , and performed experiments on trees . In 1901 , he published his theories on tree surgery with his book The Tree Doctor , and later established the Davey Tree Expert Company in 1909 . The efforts of Davey and the presence of Davey Tree led to the establishment of " The Tree City " as a nickname for Kent , which is reflected in the city 's seal . The company continues to be headquartered in Kent and serves as the city 's largest private employer .

After a fire destroyed the Seneca Chain Company in 1909 , one of the city 's main industries at the time , city leaders created the Kent Board of Trade in 1910 , a forerunner to the Chamber of Commerce . The new Board was successful later that year in having Kent selected out of twenty northeastern Ohio cities as the site of a new teacher training college , which became known as the " Kent State Normal School " . The site for the school was on 53 acres (21 ha) of land donated by William S. Kent , son of Marvin Kent , on what was then the eastern edge of town . By 1929 the school was renamed Kent State College after the establishment of a college of liberal arts and degrees in the arts and sciences and in 1935 was renamed Kent State University after it was given authorization to grant advanced graduate degrees . The bill giving Kent State university status was signed into law by Ohio governor and Kent native Martin L. Davey , son of tree surgeon John Davey . During the 1950s and 1960s the growth of Kent State University combined with the effects of suburbanization resulted in significant population growth for the city , rising from just over 12 @,@ 000 residents at the 1950 census to over 28 @,@ 000 by 1970 . Black squirrels were brought to the campus from Canada in 1961 by Kent State University head groundskeeper Larry Woodell . The squirrels have become an icon for both KSU and the city and are often used as unofficial mascots and symbols .

In early May 1970 , protests began on the campus of Kent State University over the United States ' invasion of Cambodia in the Vietnam War . These protests and demonstrations , which included rioting in downtown Kent on May 2 , culminated in the Kent State shootings on May 4 , 1970 , where

four students were killed and nine were wounded by the Ohio Army National Guard . Several memorials have been placed at the site over the years and commemorations have been held annually since 1971 . In 2010 the entire site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places . Also during the late 1960s and into the 1970s , construction of Haymaker Parkway , completed in 1975 , brought changes to the city 's layout while eliminating ongoing problems with traffic congestion and blocked rail crossings .

In 1995 , Kent received national attention when the city 's water was named " Best Tasting Municipality Water " at the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting . The water and mayor Kathleen Chandler were featured on the March 3 episode of The Tonight Show with Jay Leno . Since then , Kent has placed in the top five a total of six times with the most recent being a fifth @-@ place finish in 2011 . In 2003 , the 1836 arch dam was bypassed to meet water quality standards set by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency . To preserve the historic dam , a small park was built behind the dam and the river was rerouted through the old canal lock . During warm @-@ weather months , water is pumped over the dam . The park , known as Heritage Park , was formally dedicated in May 2005 .

= = = Redevelopment = = =

Beginning in 2008 , several redevelopment projects in the downtown area , some of which had been discussed for decades , were put into motion and resulted in nearly \$ 110 million in total investment from public and private sources . The first of these was the Phoenix Project , a development privately financed by Kent resident Ron Burbick that renovated and expanded a section of commercial space along East Main Street . Included in the project was construction of a pedestrian alleyway lined with small shops , eventually known as Acorn Alley , which opened in 2009 . A second phase of Acorn Alley opened the next year . Other aspects of the redevelopment , which include a 360 @-@ space parking deck and bus transfer station , a hotel and conference center , and three separate mixed @-@ use buildings , began to take shape in 2010 following the demolition of several buildings in a four block area . New offices for Ametek and the Davey Tree Expert Company opened in late 2012 along with several new small businesses on the first floors of each building . The hotel , operated by Kent State University , opened in June 2013 and the new parking garage , operated by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority (PARTA) opened April 30 , 2013 , as the Kent Central Gateway . In addition to parking , the facility functions as PARTA 's main bus transfer station and has storefronts on the ground level facing East Erie Street . Included in the redevelopment was the purchase and renovation of the old Kent hotel , which first opened in 1920 . After being mostly vacant since 1979 and completely vacant since 2000 , it re @-@ opened on April 1 , 2013 , as the new home to the Kent location of Buffalo Wild Wings and also houses offices , a wine and jazz bar , and apartments . A five @-@ story mixed @-@ use building called The Landmark was completed in 2014 and construction started in November 2015 on an additional five @-@ story mixed @-@ use building featuring microapartments , scheduled to be completed in 2016 . The developments attracted the attention of The Plain Dealer and The New York Times and earned the city and university the 2013 Larry Abernathy Award from the International Town ? Gown Association in recognition of the positive town ? gown cooperation and collaboration .

Additional development has been ongoing on the campus of Kent State University and the largely residential neighborhood located between downtown Kent and the western edge of campus . The university began buying properties in that neighborhood in 2007 and by December 2012 had acquired 43 . Construction of the University Esplanade extension , designed to link campus with downtown , started in August 2012 after several of the buildings in the area , most of which had been rental homes , were demolished or moved . The Esplanade extension continued a segment of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail that extends to Dix Stadium and was completed in October 2013 . Kent State is constructing a new \$ 48 million , 107 @,@ 000 square feet (9 @,@ 900 m2) facility for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design along the Esplanade extension and also relocated the former home of May Prentice , the first female faculty member at Kent State , to the

extension as the home for the Wick Poetry Center . Construction on the architecture building started in October 2014 and is scheduled to be completed in 2016 . In total , there are plans totaling approximately \$ 150 million for several other facilities and upgrades across campus , including a new building for the College of Applied Engineering , Sustainability and Technology and a renovation and reorganization of the facilities for the School of Art . The city and county have also seen developments in the same area . A new county municipal courthouse on East Main Street was completed in April 2014 , and in 2015 , Kent City Council approved the sale of the city hall complex to a private developer for construction of a five @-@ story apartment building on the site , scheduled to open in August 2016 .

== Geography ==

Kent is located in west @-@ central Portage County in Northeast Ohio approximately 10 miles (20 km) northeast of Akron and 30 miles (50 km) southeast of Cleveland . It is bordered by Franklin Township on the north and east , Brimfield Township on the south , and Stow on the west . Other nearby communities include Brady Lake and Ravenna to the east and Sugar Bush Knolls and Streetsboro to the north . It is included in the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area and the larger Cleveland ? Akron ? Canton Combined Statistical Area .

Located on the western end of the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau , the topography of Kent includes rolling hills and varied terrain . The Cuyahoga River passes through the city , cutting a gorge with a drop of nearly 40 feet (10 m) adjacent to the downtown area . The United States Geological Survey lists the city 's elevation at 1 @, @ 056 feet (322 m) above sea level at a point near Kent 's geographic center . Elevations vary slightly within the city limits with several buildings on the Kent State University campus at altitudes in excess of 1 @, @ 160 feet (350 m) and points as high as 1 @, @ 200 feet (370 m) . According to the United States Census Bureau , as of 2010 the city has a total area of 9 @. @ 28 square miles (24 @. @ 04 km²) , of which 9 @. @ 17 square miles (23 @. @ 75 km²) is land and 0 @. @ 11 square miles (0 @. @ 28 km²) is water .

== Climate ==

Kent 's climate is classified as a humid continental climate in the Dfa Köppen climate classification meaning it typically has very warm , humid summers and cold , snowy winters with moderate and variable spring and autumn seasons . The record high temperature is 103 ° F (39 ° C) , set on July 7 , 1988 , with the record low of ? 22 ° F (? 30 ° C) recorded January 17 , 1982 . During the spring and summer months , thunderstorms are fairly common and the area is susceptible to tornadoes , though the last recorded tornado in Kent occurred in 1973 . Effects from tropical systems can also be felt , usually taking the form of increased humidity , rain , and wind , such as with the remnants of Hurricane Ike in September 2008 . During the winter months , snowfall is common and can occur in large quantities with considerable cloud cover . Kent is not considered part of the Lake Erie snowbelt , though lake @-@ effect snow does occur at times . The city is in what is referred to as the " secondary snowbelt " , meaning it will receive heavier snowfall totals from lake @-@ effect snow when certain wind directions are more prevalent , but typically sees far less snowfall than areas to the north closer to Lake Erie . While temperatures below the freezing point are typical in the winter months , thaw periods where temperatures exceed 50 ° F (10 ° C) and even 60 ° F (16 ° C) are not uncommon in January and February .

== Demographics ==

As a college town , Kent 's demographic and population statistics are greatly affected by the presence and growth of Kent State University . As a result , several statistics are noticeably higher or lower than state and national averages including median age and the percentage of residents in the 18 ? 24 age bracket , individuals below the poverty line , and percentage of residents with a college degree .

Initial population growth in Kent was influenced by the location on the Cuyahoga River which led to the development of industrial and manufacturing jobs . Early settlers mainly came from the northeastern United States and were largely of German descent . After the arrival of the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad in 1863 , growth was steady into the early 20th century with the village battling Ravenna for the position of Portage County 's largest city . By the 1930 Census , Kent had passed Ravenna as the county 's most populous city with even larger population growth in the 1950s and 1960s rising from 12 ,@ 148 in 1950 to 28 ,@ 183 by 1970 . As of 2010 , Kent remains the county 's largest city . Most recent population measurements of the city have shown the effect of changes in the city 's overall population coinciding with changes in the number of students living on campus as well as a reduction in the number of persons per housing unit .

As of the 2010 Census , there were 28 ,@ 904 people residing in the city for a population density of 3 ,@ 150 @. @ 5 people per square mile (1 ,@ 216 @. @ 4 / km ²) . There were 11 ,@ 174 housing units at an average density of 1 ,@ 218 @. @ 0 per square mile (470 @. @ 3 / km ²) . The racial makeup of the city was 83 @. @ 1 % White , 9 @. @ 6 % African American , 3 @. @ 7 % Asian , 0 @. @ 2 % Native American , 0 @. @ 1 % Pacific Islander , 0 @. @ 5 % from other races , and 2 @. @ 9 % from two or more races . 2 @. @ 2 % of the population is Hispanic or Latino of any race . Though slightly below the national averages for diversity , Kent is very close to the averages for Ohio and above the averages for the surrounding area . Between the 2000 and 2010 censuses , the city saw slight increases in the number of minority residents . The 2015 estimate placed the population at 29 ,@ 810 .

There were 10 ,@ 288 households in 2010 out of which 20 @. @ 9 % had children under the age of 18 living with them , 27 @. @ 5 % were married couples living together , 12 @. @ 5 % had a female householder with no husband present , and 56 @. @ 3 % were non @-@ families . 33 @. @ 4 % of all households were made up of individuals and 8 @. @ 0 % had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older . The average household size in Kent was 2 @. @ 2 and the average family size was 2 @. @ 86 , which compares with the national average of 2 @. @ 58 for a household and 3 @. @ 14 for a family and the state average household size of 2 @. @ 44 and average family size of 3 @. @ 01 .

In the city the population was spread out with 29 @. @ 4 % ages 19 years and under , 44 @. @ 1 % from 20 to 39 , 15 @. @ 9 % from 40 to 59 , 8 @. @ 0 % from 60 to 79 , and 2 @. @ 5 % who were 80 years of age or older . The median age was 22 @. @ 7 years , which was well below both the median age for Ohio (38 @. @ 8) and the United States (35 @. @ 3) . The city 's population was 46 @. @ 3 % male and 53 @. @ 7 % female . The rate differs slightly from the national average of 49 @. @ 2 % male and 50 @. @ 8 % female and the state average of 48 @. @ 8 % male and 51 @. @ 2 % female . It contrasts with neighboring Franklin Township , which has a population that is 51 @. @ 3 % male and 48 @. @ 7 % female .

The mean income for a household in the city was \$ 46 ,@ 848 , well below the mean household incomes for Ohio (\$ 61 ,@ 397) and the United States (\$ 70 ,@ 116) in the 2010 Census . The median household income in Kent was \$ 28 ,@ 958 , compared to \$ 46 ,@ 563 for Ohio and \$ 51 ,@ 222 for the U.S. For families , the mean income in Kent was \$ 71 ,@ 817 with a median income of \$ 59 ,@ 936 , both of which were closer to the state (\$ 73 ,@ 084 mean , \$ 58 ,@ 566 median) and national (\$ 81 ,@ 568 mean , \$ 62 ,@ 112 median) averages . Males had a median income of \$ 35 ,@ 316 versus \$ 35 ,@ 255 for females . The per capita income for workers in the city was \$ 18 ,@ 339 . 10 @. @ 4 % of families and 29 @. @ 3 % of the population were below the poverty line , including 21 @. @ 1 % of those under age 18 and 6 @. @ 6 % of those age 65 or over . While the number of individuals below the poverty line is significantly higher than both the state and national averages , with 14 @. @ 8 % of individuals in Ohio and 14 @. @ 4 % in the United States being below the poverty line , the percentage of families below the poverty line is slightly below the state (10 @. @ 5 %) and national (10 @. @ 8 %) averages . Measures of high poverty rates in similar college towns , however , is not uncommon across the U.S.

Educationally , Kent is above the national , state , and local averages for residents who have attained a bachelor 's , master 's , or above a master 's degree . At the 2010 Census , 41 @. @ 9 %

of Kent 's population above the age of 25 had obtained a college degree compared to 24 @. @ 9 % of the same population in Portage County , 24 @. @ 1 % statewide , and 27 @. @ 9 % nationally .

= = Economy = =

Kent 's location along the Cuyahoga River and later the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal and multiple railroad lines made it attractive initially for the establishment of small gristmills for the production of flour and various factories . Progressively larger factories later developed due to increased power available from the river and eventually due to the ease and lower cost of transportation of goods to other markets . During the latter half of the 19th century and into the early 20th century , the city 's largest employers were all industrially based , including the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad and its successors , which operated its main maintenance shops in the village ; the Seneca Chain Company ; and bus manufacturer Twin Coach among others . A disastrous fire at the Seneca Chain Company in 1909 led to the creation of the Kent Board of Trade ? an early Chamber of Commerce ? which was successful in getting Kent selected in 1910 as the site of what would become Kent State University .

Changes in the structure of the railroad and declines in the manufacturing sector during the mid @- @ 20th century combined with the rapid growth of Kent State University following World War II led to the university becoming the city 's largest employer and influenced the development of other areas of the city 's economy . Beginning in the late first decade of the 21st century , the university , along with the city and private investors , began to play a more active role in the redevelopment of downtown Kent and has aided in the development of local high tech companies . Kent State operates Centennial Research Park , along Ohio State Route 59 in Kent 's Joint Economic Development District with Franklin Township , which houses two high tech start @- @ up companies in the liquid crystal industry . Kent has an additional Joint Economic Development District with Brimfield Township . Through the Kent Regional Business Alliance , the city also supports two business incubators .

As of 2010 , the educational , health , and social services fields were the city 's largest sector , and employed over 33 @. @ 5 % of well as Robinson Memorial Hospital , which operates an outpatient surgery center and general medical facility . 16 @. @ 3 % of the workforce is employed in arts , entertainment , and food service , with 12 @. @ 2 % employed in retail . Manufacturing accounts for 7 @. @ 1 % of the workforce with a Land O ' Lakes plant being the largest employer in the sector . Smithers @- @ Oasis , a floristry developer and manufacturer , was founded in Kent in 1954 and operates a plant in the city , with plans to return corporate offices to Kent by September 2013 . Kent is also home to the corporate headquarters of the Davey Tree Expert Company , which serves as the city 's largest private employer . In 2010 Davey Tree announced plans to relocate staff from its Davey Resource Group , who were previously in neighboring Stow , to Kent as part of a planned downtown development and has stated long @- @ term goals include having all corporate offices in Kent . The office , which included some office staff already in Kent at the main corporate headquarters , opened in August 2012 .

75 @. @ 1 % of those employed commuted alone to work by way of a car , truck , or van with another 7 @. @ 1 % carpooling . 10 @. @ 6 % of workers walked to work with 1 @. @ 9 % using public transportation . The average commute time was 22 minutes . 13 @. @ 0 % of the workforce was unemployed in 2010 , above the 9 @. @ 8 % for the state and 9 @. @ 0 % nationally. the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated the unemployment rate in Kent at 7 @. @ 9 % in 2010 and 6 @. @ 6 % in October 2011 .

= = Culture = =

Cultural elements in Kent include various arts , environmental , and entertainment events during the year , as well as the Kent State University Museum . The Kent Heritage Festival is held every July in the downtown area , coinciding with the U.S. Independence Day . The festival includes crafts , booths , entertainment , train rides , 5K and 10K races , and fireworks , drawing approximately 25

@, @ 000 people each year . In October , Kent hosts the homecoming festivities for Kent State University , including a parade down East Main Street as well as other events and activities both on campus and around the city . Also in October , the downtown area hosts an annual , yet unofficial , Halloween celebration , which usually takes place the last Saturday of October . The event typically draws thousands , largely Kent State students , and includes many who dress in costume . In 2007 Main Street Kent , a local organization that promotes downtown Kent , created a family @-@ oriented Halloween event downtown that precedes the unofficial celebration . Since 2007 , Kent has hosted an annual environmental festival known as " Who 's Your Mama ? " which takes place in conjunction with Earth Day . The festival has events at various locations in the city , such as a vegan chef competition , concerts , a film festival , guest speakers , and booths on environment @-@ based topics . Through Main Street Kent , additional events downtown include an ice cream social event in August , an outdoor concert series and " sidewalk cinema " between May and September , an art and wine festival in June , a cider festival in November , and the Festival of Lights Christmas celebration in early December .

From May to October , the Haymaker Farmers ' Market operates every Saturday morning in the downtown area adjacent to and under the Greer Bridge of Haymaker Parkway . The location is marked by a commissioned mural completed in October 2012 on the two bridge supports that line each side of the market 's area . The market was established in 1992 and includes over 40 vendors , making it one of the oldest and largest farmers ' markets in Northeast Ohio . An indoor Winter Market , established in 2008 , is held Saturday mornings from November through April .

The Kent Stage , located downtown , is a performance venue for a variety of arts performances in music and theater . It hosts around 90 concerts , four theatrical performances , and four film festivals or movie premiers per year , including local , national , and international performers . Since opening in 2002 , it has been visited by approximately 120 @, @ 000 patrons from all over Ohio , 38 U.S. states , and 3 countries . In April , it hosts events related to the " Who 's Your Mama ? " Earth Day festival and in June , it is one of the host venues for the Kent Folk Festival , an annual event in folk music since the late 1960s . The festival includes multiple folk music acts at venues throughout the city over a period of several days . The Kent Stage also hosts the Kent Blues Festival and a local artist music festival known as the Up From The River Music Festival .

Kent is also home to the Kent State University Museum , located in Rockwell Hall on the KSU campus . The museum focuses on the history of fashion design and decorative arts in the United States and around the world from the 18th century to the present . Each year in early May , the university hosts an annual commemoration of the Kent State shootings , which typically features several speakers , forums , artwork , and other related events . On campus , Kent State operates the May 4 Visitors ' Center , which covers the shootings and the events surrounding them . It is housed in Taylor Hall on the site added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010 and includes three galleries covering art and media from the era of the 1960s leading up to the shootings , images from the actual event , and the local and national impact after the shootings . The center opened to the public October 20 , 2012 , during the Kent State Homecoming weekend .

In addition to the Kent State Shootings Site near the center of campus , there are also a number of additional sites and districts in Kent on the National Register of Historic Places , some of which are open to the public . The Kent Industrial District is a historical district along the Cuyahoga River adjacent to downtown that includes an area and structures that were important in Kent 's early history . On the northwestern part of the Kent State University campus is the Ohio State Normal College At Kent district , which includes the school 's five original classic revival buildings dating to 1913 . There is also the West Main Street District just west of downtown that includes 20 private homes of architectural and historical significance from the post @-@ Civil War and early 20th century periods . The district includes the Kent Masonic Center , which was originally built in the early 1880s as the home of Marvin Kent and his family , and the former residence of Martin L. Davey , who served as Governor of Ohio . Buildings in Kent listed on the register include three private homes noted for their architecture styles : the John Davey House for the Second Empire style , and both the Aaron Ferrey and Charles Kent Houses as examples of Gothic Revival . Other buildings include the 1869 Kent Jail , now used by the Parks and Recreation Department , and the 1837

Franklin Township Hall , the site of eventual U.S. President James A. Garfield 's first nomination for public office in 1859 . As part of its renovation and redevelopment , the former Franklin Hotel , first opened in 1920 , was added to the NRHP in 2013 for its local historical significance and its connections to notable people .

= = Sports = =

As the home of Kent State University , Kent is also the home of the university 's athletic teams , the Golden Flashes , who compete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at the Division I level as a member of the Mid @-@ American Conference East Division . Several of Kent State 's teams have enjoyed league and national success , the most notable being the men 's basketball team 's run to the Elite Eight in the 2002 NCAA Tournament and the baseball team 's appearance in the 2012 College World Series . The 6 @,@ 327 @-@ seat Memorial Athletic and Convocation Center , commonly referred to as the MAC Center , is the site of a number of athletic events in multiple sports , including wrestling , women 's gymnastics , and women 's volleyball in addition to men 's and women 's basketball . It is also a regular site for the Mid @-@ American Conference 's wrestling and women 's gymnastics championships .

In addition to hosting the KSU football team , Kent State 's 25 @,@ 319 @-@ seat Dix Stadium has been a venue for high school football games both in the regular @-@ season and the state playoffs . The adjacent Murphy @-@ Mellis Field is a location for Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) field hockey tournament games and the Diamond at Dix is a regular venue for OHSAA regional softball tournament games . From 1975 to 1981 the Cleveland Browns held their training camp in Kent at Kent State University .

The Kent State University Ice Arena serves as host to several local ice hockey programs including youth leagues , high school and professional teams , and as a site for OHSAA high school tournament games and ice skating competitions in addition to being home of KSU 's club team , which competes in the American Collegiate Hockey Association . The ice arena is also the home of the Kent Twisters , a member of the Pennsylvania @-@ Ohio Women 's Hockey Association , an adult amateur women 's ice hockey league . Kent also plays host to the Portage County Open tennis tournament , held annually at the tennis courts of Theodore Roosevelt High School .

= = Parks and recreation = =

The city operates nearly 20 parks and preserves , the largest of which is the 56 @-@ acre (23 ha) Fred Fuller park along the Cuyahoga River , named after a former Kent Parks chairman . The park includes the Kramer Fields baseball and softball complex , which contains four fields , two of which are lighted . Several of the parks along the Cuyahoga River are on or near areas of historical significance . Franklin Mills Riveredge Park , which follows the Cuyahoga River through downtown Kent , passes through a large portion of the Kent Industrial District along with Heritage Park and includes sites related to the Pennsylvania and Ohio Canal . Adjacent on the south is the John Brown Tannery Park , on the site of the former tannery John Brown helped fund with Zenas Kent in the 1830s , while Brady 's Leap park , adjacent to the north , is at the location of the famed leap over the Cuyahoga River by Captain Samuel Brady circa 1780 . The parks and recreation department , in addition to operating and maintaining the city 's parks and preserves , also operates a recreation center on the city 's south side and offers several sports , arts , and education programs at various locations in Kent . The department also sponsors events throughout the year including Art in the Park , an ice @-@ skating party , hayrides , and Santa 's Arrival . The Kent City School District operates an indoor pool at Theodore Roosevelt High School that is available for public recreational and instructional use outside of its use by the school for athletics and physical education . The pool hosts swimming lessons and serves as a home venue for the Hudson @-@ based Hudson Explorers Aquatic Team , a competitive swimming program for ages five and above .

Within the city is are segments of the Portage Hike and Bike Trail , which is jointly managed with Kent State University , the Portage Park District , and the city of Ravenna . The main portion of the

trail follows the Cuyahoga River in Kent with most of the trail paved with asphalt . In August 2012 , as part of several redevelopment projects in the downtown area , Kent State University began construction of the Esplanade Extension , which was completed in August 2013 and connects the university 's portion of trail extending to Dix Stadium , known as the University Esplanade , to downtown Kent . The trail connects with the hike and bike trails in neighboring Summit County and links Kent with nearby communities in Portage County . The city is also home to the Tom S. Cooperrider @-@ Kent Bog State Nature Preserve , located in the southern edge of Kent . It is one of the most intact bogs in Ohio , with the southernmost and largest stand of tamarack trees in the continental United States .

Through partnerships with Kent State University Recreational Services and other local agencies , additional recreational opportunities are available to city residents . A livery known as Crooked River Adventures is available at Tannery Park . The livery generally operates from May to October depending on weather and water levels . Canoe , kayak , tubing , and bicycle rentals are available to residents and students with kayak and canoe service as far as Brust Park in Munroe Falls and Water Works Park in Cuyahoga Falls . Kent also has a bicycle @-@ sharing system known as Flashfleet in partnership with the university and PARTA . The program offers yearly memberships or hourly rentals with locations on campus and in the downtown area .

= = Government = =

Kent is governed by a charter form of government with a council ? manager system of nine council members and a mayor . The city is divided into six wards and voters select a mayor , a council member representing their ward , and three at @-@ large council members in staggered four @-@ year terms . The city charter , adopted in 1963 , is reviewed by a charter commission every 10 years who then make recommendations for changes , the last review being in 2015 . The city council hires a city manager who oversees the day @-@ to @-@ day operations in the various city departments and enforces policies set by council . The mayor serves a largely ceremonial role as president of the council and votes only in the event of a tie . Kent voters approved the change from a mayor @-@ council system to council @-@ manager in 1975 and it went into effect in 1977 . Jerry Fiala began his term as mayor January 1 , 2010 , and Dave Ruller began serving as city manager June 15 , 2005 .

As part of the city government , Kent also has departments of community development , health , human services , law , parks and recreation , public safety , and public service . The Public Service Department oversees a variety of construction and maintenance works as well as the city 's water treatment and water reclamation systems while the Public Safety Department includes both the police and fire departments . The Kent Police Department is housed in the city 's Safety Administration Building and includes 911 dispatch for Kent and Franklin Township . Kent State University also operates its own police department , which mainly patrols the KSU campus and KSU property in and out of the Kent city limits . The two departments frequently communicate and for several years were headed by identical twin brothers : James Peach in the city and John Peach at the university . The fire department operates two stations , the main station adjacent to the Safety Administration Building and the West Side Fire Station along North Mantua Street on the western side of the Cuyahoga River . Kent Fire also provides fire and emergency medical service coverage for Franklin Township and the village of Sugar Bush Knolls .

The city 's main sources of tax revenue come from income tax , set at 2 @. @ 25 % , and property tax . Voters approved an increase in the income tax rate from 2 @. @ 0 % in November 2013 to fund a new police station and the new rate took effect January 1 , 2014 . The rate increase includes a sunset provision that requires the tax rate to return to 2 @. @ 0 % once debt is paid off on the new facility . In 2014 , the city operated on a budget of approximately \$ 40 million . The largest percentage of the budget , 31 % or \$ 11 @. @ 9 million , was spent on public safety services followed by 22 % or \$ 8 @. @ 5 million on basic utilities . Debt service accounted for \$ 6 @. @ 0 million or 17 % of the budget while transportation projects accounted for 9 % or \$ 3 @. @ 37 million of the budget , 8 % or \$ 3 @. @ 33 million towards general government expenses , and \$ 2 @. @ 35

million allocated for construction of a new police station .

At the state level , Kent is in the 68th district of the Ohio House of Representatives , represented since 2011 by Democrat Kathleen Clyde , a Kent resident . In the State Senate , Kent is part of the 18th district , represented since 2011 by Republican John Eklund of Geauga County . At the Federal level , Kent is included in Ohio 's 13th congressional district , represented since 2003 by Democrat Tim Ryan of Niles .

= = Education = =

Preschool , elementary , and secondary education is mainly provided by the Kent City School District with the small portion of the city south of State Route 261 a part of the neighboring Field Local School District . The Kent district was created around 1860 and later merged with the Franklin Township and Brady Lake school districts in 1959 . It serves most of Kent and Franklin Township , the villages of Brady Lake and Sugar Bush Knolls and a small part of southern Streetsboro . Kent has four neighborhood elementary schools that serve students in grades K ? 5 , Stanton Middle School for grades 6 ? 8 , and Theodore Roosevelt High School for grades 9 ? 12 . The district also operates a preschool program housed at Davey Elementary School , and is a member of the Six District Educational Compact with five surrounding districts to facilitate vocational education , with many of these programs housed at Roosevelt High School . In 1985 , Roosevelt High School was given the United States Department of Education Excellence in Education award and the school has consistently been rated " Excellent " by the Ohio Department of Education since 2004 . For 2010 and 2015 , it was named in US News & World Report as one of the best high schools in the United States , earning the publication 's Bronze Medal designation . The Kent City School District has been consistently rated as " Excellent " or " Effective " by the Ohio Department of Education and in 2007 Walls Elementary School was named a " School of Promise " by the Ohio Department of Education , while Longcoy Elementary earned the U.S. Department of Education 's prestigious Blue Ribbon School award . Kent also has one private school , St. Patrick School , which serves around 300 students in grades K ? 8 from Kent and several surrounding communities . It is part of Kent 's St. Patrick parish and is affiliated with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Youngstown .

The Kent Free Library is the main public library . It was established in 1892 after Kent became the first village in Ohio to use an 1892 state law which allowed municipalities under a population of 5 @, @ 000 to tax residents for the upkeep of a library . Andrew Carnegie donated \$ 10 @, @ 000 in 1901 for construction of a permanent home for the library , which opened in 1903 . The 2006 expansion to the library brought available space to 55 @, @ 000 square feet (5 @, @ 100 m2) with a book collection of 147 @, @ 390 items as of 2010 . It is a school district library associated with the Kent City School District and is also part of the Portage Library Consortium , connecting it with Reed Memorial Library in Ravenna and the Portage County District Library , which maintains six branch libraries across the county and a bookmobile .

The main campus of Kent State University is located in the southeastern part of the city . The campus itself occupies approximately 866 acres (350 ha) and the university owns thousands of additional acres adjacent to the campus . Additional facilities include a research park and golf course just east of the city limits in Franklin Township and the Kent State University Airport , just west of Kent in Stow . Founded in 1910 as a teacher training institution , the university has become a world leader in the development of liquid crystals through the Liquid Crystal Institute and was the site of the first patent for the modern liquid crystal in the 1970s . Kent State also has a nationally recognized fashion design program and nationally ranked programs in library science and business . As of 2010 , the College of Nursing is the 5th @-@ largest nursing school in the United States and largest in Ohio . In 2009 the university inaugurated the College of Public Health , the second public health program in Ohio and 33rd in the U.S. The Kent State library system , which includes the 12 @-@ story main library and houses over 2 @. @ 6 million volumes , includes six additional department libraries on the main campus and a branch at each of the seven regional campuses . The library system is a member of the Association of Research Libraries , one of 3 in Ohio and 124 in North America . The university offers over 300 programs of study combined in the undergraduate

and graduate levels and serves over 41 @, @ 000 students in eight campuses across Northeast Ohio with over 30 @, @ 000 at the campus in Kent .

= = Media = =

Kent is part of the Cleveland @-@ Akron Television Market Area as defined by the Federal Communications Commission , which includes a 17 @-@ county region of Northeast Ohio . As of 2015 it ranks as the 18th @-@ largest media market in the United States according to Nielsen Media Research . While most stations are located in Cleveland and Akron , Kent is home to the offices and main studio of Western Reserve Public Media , the PBS affiliate for Akron and Youngstown . The studios for WAOH and W35AX , local affiliates for the Retro Television Network , are located just east of the city limits in Franklin Township . TV @-@ 2 , a Kent State University student @-@ run production , is available on campus , on local cable , and online . Kent is also in range of the television stations that broadcast out of Youngstown .

For radio , Kent is part of the Akron Radio Market , though it is within range of major stations in the Cleveland Radio Market as well as many in the Youngstown @-@ Warren and Canton markets . Three stations , two FM and one AM , are licensed to Kent . WKSU , at 89 @. @ 7 FM , broadcasts from the campus of Kent State University and is the main affiliate for National Public Radio in Northeast Ohio for the Akron , Canton , and Cleveland radio markets via repeaters around the region . WNIR , at 100 @. @ 1 FM , is broadcast from studios shared with sister station WJMP and television stations WAOH and W35AX in Franklin Township . WNIR is centered on talk radio and news and is a local affiliate of ABC Radio and Westwood One . WJMP , which broadcasts at 1520 AM , is a daytime @-@ only news / talk station . Black Squirrel Radio is a student @-@ run online station from Kent State available online and on local cable .

The Record @-@ Courier , a daily newspaper which mainly covers Portage County , is the main source of printed news media for Kent . The Record @-@ Courier was formed by the merger of the Ravenna Evening Record and the Kent Courier @-@ Tribune and is published by the Record Publishing Company . The Record @-@ Courier maintained an office in Kent until 2008 before all offices were moved to Kent from Ravenna in 2012 . In addition to the Record @-@ Courier , the Kent offices house the various departments of Record Publishing and its other weekly newspapers that serve several Summit and Portage County communities . The building also includes some of the corporate offices of parent company Dix Communications , a regional media company in printed and radio media that also has offices in Wooster , Ohio . Kent Patch , a local division of Patch Media , mainly serves as an online bulletin board for local events . It was established in 2010 and functioned as a news source specific to Kent before Patch Media downsized hundreds of local Patch sites across the United States in October 2013 . The city is also served by Kent State University 's Daily Kent Stater , which is available in print at select locations on and off campus and online via KentWired.com , a collaborative site with TV @-@ 2 and Black Squirrel Radio . The Akron Beacon Journal and The Plain Dealer also serve Kent through regional coverage and delivery . Magazines published at Kent State include Fusion , a magazine devoted to sexual minority issues ; Kent State Magazine , an official publication of the university ; and The Burr , a student @-@ run magazine about events going on in and around Kent .

= = Infrastructure = =

The city operates its own water system , drawing groundwater from wells with an adjacent water treatment plant located just outside the city limits in Franklin Township as well as using a water reclamation facility along the Cuyahoga River in the southwestern part of the city . Waste collection for the entire city is handled through a local private contractor and Portage County handles the city 's recycling collection . Kent 's original recycling program was developed in 1970 by the Kent Environmental Council and was Ohio 's first comprehensive and self @-@ supporting program . Local phone utilities are provided through AT & T Ohio through the 330 and 234 area codes , electricity is supplied and lines are maintained by FirstEnergy in the former coverage area of Ohio

Edison , and natural gas is supplied and lines are maintained by Dominion Resources East Ohio Energy . While residents are free to choose their own natural gas and electric suppliers , the city is part of the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council , or NOPEC , the largest government aggregation in the United States .

= = = Transportation = = =

State Route 59 is the main east ? west highway , following East and West Main Streets and Haymaker Parkway . Summit Street is another major east @-@ west road mainly on Kent 's eastern side , passing through and linking much of the Kent State campus . Fairchild Avenue is an important east @-@ west road on the city 's west side connecting with Stow and Cuyahoga Falls . State Route 43 is the main north ? south highway , mainly following North Mantua and South Water Streets . SR 43 connects Kent with Interstate 76 , approximately 3 miles (5 km) to the south via exit 33 in Brimfield and to the Ohio Turnpike / Interstate 80 and the eastern terminus of Interstate 480 , approximately 7 miles (11 km) to the north via Turnpike exit 187 in Streetsboro . Both SR 43 and SR 59 are four to five @-@ lane roads within the city limits . State Route 261 passes through the southern and eastern edges of the city and is a four @-@ lane divided highway for a short distance with the remainder a two @-@ lane highway . It serves as a bypass between SR 43 , SR 59 , and Summit Street on Kent 's south and eastern sides and to Tallmadge on the southwest .

Public transportation is provided by the Portage Area Regional Transportation Authority , known as PARTA , which is headquartered just outside the city limits in Franklin Township . PARTA serves Kent through a dial @-@ a @-@ ride service , the Suburban and Kent Circulator routes completely within the city limits , the seasonal Black Squirrel route along SR 59 during Kent State University 's Fall and Spring semesters , and the Interurban connecting with Stow and Ravenna . There are also two express routes , one to Akron connecting with METRO Regional Transit Authority via Brimfield , and a Cleveland Express route connecting with the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority via Streetsboro , Twinsburg , and Maple Heights . PARTA also includes Campus Bus Service , which provides three fixed routes on the campus of Kent State University . An intermodal transit facility , known as the Kent Central Gateway , opened in 2013 in the downtown area to provide better integration of the existing bus system , hike @-@ and @-@ bike trails , and parking . The building was financed mainly from a \$ 20 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant received in February 2010 and construction began in April 2011 .

= = = Healthcare = = =

Hospital care is provided mainly through University Hospitals Portage Medical Center , affiliated with University Hospitals of Cleveland , which operates the UH Kent Health Center in the southern part of the city . The UH Kent Health Center includes an outpatient surgery center as well as a medical arts building housing a medical imaging center and family medicine doctors . The 150 @-@ bed main hospital is located in Ravenna and the system operates additional facilities throughout Portage County . Free clinics include the AxessPointe Community Health Center , located just east of the city limits in the Joint Economic Development District with Franklin Township , and a clinic in the downtown area operated by social agency Townhall II .

= = Religion = =

The earliest organized religious services in Kent were held in 1815 when a Methodist group was formed , followed by a Congregational church in 1819 . The first religious meetinghouse in Kent , which also served as the first schoolhouse , was built in 1817 and was used by several different denominations . Later , the Methodists built another building in 1828 that was also used by multiple denominations . The oldest church building in Kent still used as a place of worship is the Unitarian Universalist Church on Gougler Avenue , which was dedicated in 1868 . The former home of the Congregational Church was dedicated in 1858 and still stands along Gougler Avenue very near the

Unitarian Universalist Church . It served as the home of the First Congregational Church ? which became the Kent United Church of Christ in 1964 ? until 1955 . It was later purchased by a local business and used as their corporate headquarters .

As of 2010 , within the city are two Roman Catholic parishes affiliated with the Diocese of Youngstown , one a family parish and one a Newman Center , as well as congregations of the United Methodist Church , African Methodist Episcopal Church , Free Methodist Church , United Church of Christ , Lutheran Church ? Missouri Synod , Evangelical Lutheran Church in America , Church of the Brethren , the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) , Presbyterian Church , Church of Christ , Episcopal Church , and Jehovah 's Witnesses . There are also Unitarian Universalist , non @-@ denominational Christian , and Bahá 'í Faith congregations . Although there are no Jewish synagogues or temples , there is a Hillel Jewish student center on the campus of Kent State University which serves students at both Kent State and the University of Akron . Just outside the city limits in Franklin Township are the Kent congregations of the Church of the Nazarene , Assemblies of God , as well as Baptist and Free Will Baptist churches . The Islamic Society of Akron and Kent operates a masjid and school on its main campus in Cuyahoga Falls , west of Kent . It was founded in Kent in 1979 and maintains an additional masjid in the city . Kent is also part of a ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter @-@ day Saints in Rootstown that was first organized in Kent and includes most of southern Portage County .

= = Notable people = =

Kent has produced and been home to a number of notable individuals in varying fields . Its natives and residents are referred to as " Kentites " . John Davey , a pioneer in tree surgery and founder of the Davey Tree Expert Company moved to Kent in the 1880s . His son , Martin L. Davey , would later serve as Governor of Ohio and a U.S. Representative . Other political figures to come from Kent include Wisconsin governor Lucius Fairchild , former U.S. Representative Robert E. Cook , and noted abolitionist John Brown , who lived in what was then Franklin Mills from 1835 ? 1839 . Noted athletes to have come from Kent include former National Football League players Mike Adamle , Tom DeLeone , and Stan White and former Major League Baseball player , manager , and executive Gene Michael . Three members of the band Devo , which debuted in Kent in 1973 and was founded by Kent State University students , are natives of Kent : Gerald Casale , Peter Gregg , and Rod Reisman . Other performing artists to come from Kent include singer Julianne Baird , playwright Vincent J. Cardinal , and voice actor Joshua Seth . Lucien Price , an author and writer for The Boston Evening Transcript and The Atlantic Monthly grew up in Kent and used the pseudonym " Woolwick " for Kent in some of his stories . Kent was also the home of inventor Lucien B. Smith , regarded as the inventor of barbed wire . Additionally , people who have lived in Kent while attending Kent State University include comedians Drew Carey and Arsenio Hall , actor Michael Keaton , musicians Joe Walsh and Chrissie Hynde , and additional members of the band Devo . Athletes include football players Antonio Gates , Joshua Cribbs , and Jack Lambert ; Major League Baseball players Thurman Munson , Rich Rollins , and Andy Sonnanstine ; college football coaches Nick Saban and Lou Holtz ; and golfer Ben Curtis , who resides in Franklin Township just north of the Kent city limits and lists Kent as his residence .

= = Sister cities = =

Kent has one sister city , Dudince , a small spa town of about 1 @, @ 500 people in southern Slovakia . The relationship was established in 2003 through Sister Cities International and resulted in the formation of the Kent @-@ Dudince Sister City Association to promote learning and understanding of the Slovakian culture . The group meets regularly and organizes cultural exchanges and programs that feature Slovakian dance and music . Cultural exchanges have included a performance of a choir from Kent 's Theodore Roosevelt High School in Dudince in 2004 and tour groups from Kent visiting in 2006 and 2008 .

= ' Round Springfield =

" ' Round Springfield " is the 22nd episode of the sixth season of The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 30 , 1995 . In the episode , Bart is rushed to the hospital after eating a jagged metal Krusty @-@ O and decides to sue Krusty the Clown . Whilst visiting Bart , Lisa meets her old mentor , jazz musician Bleeding Gums Murphy (last seen in Moaning Lisa) . She is saddened when she later learns that Murphy has died , and resolves to honor his memory . Steve Allen (as himself) and Ron Taylor (as Bleeding Gums Murphy) guest star , each in their second appearance on the show . Dan Higgins also returns as the writer and performer of all of Lisa and Bleeding Gums ' saxophone solos .

It was written by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia based on a story idea by Al Jean and Mike Reiss and was the first episode directed by Steven Dean Moore . Jean and Reiss , who were previously the series ' showrunners , returned to produce this episode (as well as " A Star Is Burns ") in order to lessen the workload of the show 's regular staff . They worked on it alongside the staff of The Critic , the series they had left The Simpsons to create . The episode marks the first time in which a recurring character was killed off in the show , something the staff had considered for a while . The episode features numerous cultural references , including Carole King 's song " Jazzman " , the actor James Earl Jones and the Kimba the White Lion / The Lion King controversy .

The episode also features the phrase " cheese @-@ eating surrender monkeys " , used by Groundskeeper Willie to describe the French , which has since entered the public lexicon . It has been used and referenced frequently by journalists and academics and has been included in two Oxford quotation dictionaries .

= = Plot = =

On the day of a history test at school , Bart gets a stomachache after accidentally eating a jagged metal Krusty @-@ O with his breakfast cereal . Lisa is the only one who believes him , however , and Homer and Marge send him to school anyway . Bart struggles through the test , and after finally convincing Mrs. Krabappel that he is actually ill , she lets him go and see the nurse . Bart collapses on the medical room floor , and is taken to Springfield General Hospital where he undergoes surgery from Dr. Hibbert and Dr. Nick , as it emerges he has appendicitis . While visiting Bart in the hospital , Lisa meets her hero , jazzman Bleeding Gums Murphy , in a bed in another ward .

Later , Bleeding Gums lends Lisa his saxophone for her school recital . It starts off terribly (owing to most of the orchestra having their appendixes removed so they could miss school) , but Lisa gets up and performs a solo routine , becoming the star of the show . Returning to the hospital the next day , Lisa is saddened to learn that Bleeding Gums has died . Lisa is the only person who attends Bleeding Gums 's funeral , and she vows to make sure that everyone in Springfield knows the name Bleeding Gums Murphy . Bart , meanwhile , sues Krusty the Clown and is given a \$ 100 @,@ 000 settlement . However , after Bart 's attorney Lionel Hutz takes his " legal fees " , Bart is left with only \$ 500 , but does not realize the con and is thrilled with the amount .

Still stricken with grief , Lisa decides that the best way to honor Bleeding Gums ' memory is by having his album played at the local jazz station . Lisa spots it in the Android 's Dungeon store for \$ 250 , but after hearing that Bleeding Gums is dead , Comic Book Guy doubles the price to \$ 500 . Bart then walks in with his \$ 500 to buy the ultimate pog with Steve Allen 's face . However , after remembering that Lisa was the only one who believed him about his stomachache , Bart decides to buy the album with his money . Lisa thanks him for it , but is worried he may never get the pog he wanted . Bart reassures her that he 's ok with it and reveals he got a better deal . He shows Lisa the new Krusty O 's cereal with flesh @-@ eating bacteria prizes in every box . When the station plays one of Bleeding Gums 's songs , Lisa is disappointed because the station 's tiny range still prevents anyone from hearing it . Lightning then strikes the antenna , giving it extra power and projecting it into every radio in Springfield . Lisa is finally satisfied . After proclaiming " that was for you Bleeding Gums , " she turns to leave , but not before Bleeding Gums appears from the heavens to tell Lisa

that she had made " an old jazz man happy " . After saying a final goodbye , Lisa and Bleeding Gums jam to " Jazzman " one last time .

= = Production = =

" ' Round Springfield " was written by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia , based on a story idea by Al Jean and Mike Reiss . It was the first episode directed by Steven Dean Moore . Due to Fox 's demand for 24 or 25 episodes per season , which the production staff found impossible to meet , two episodes of each season were written and produced by former showrunners , to relieve the stress on The Simpsons ' writing staff . Jean and Reiss , who were showrunners for the show 's third and fourth seasons returned to produce this episode , as well as " A Star Is Burns " , instead of the season 's main showrunner David Mirkin . On both episodes , they were aided by the staff of The Critic , the show the two left The Simpsons to create . Sternin and Ventimilia were writers on The Critic and were big fans of The Simpsons , so were thrilled to be able to write an episode .

This episode marked the first time a recurring character has been killed off on the show . The writers and production team felt that it would be a good , emotional storyline , which , through Lisa , could focus on the theme of grief . They decided that it could not be one of the main characters ; Jean joked that " we wouldn 't want it to be someone like Mr. Burns , that we 'd obviously want to see in the show again " . Eventually Jean decided on Bleeding Gums Murphy , a character introduced in the season one episode " Moaning Lisa " ; a flashback to " Moaning Lisa " is featured in the episode . Murphy was a fairly minor character , only appearing in a couple of episodes , but he appeared in the show 's opening sequence and remained there after this episode , until the opening was re @-@ designed in season 20 . Moore 's first ever job on the show was in the animation department for " Moaning Lisa " so he " appreciated " being able to direct this episode . Reiss stated " I had been polling for years to kill Marge 's mom but this was a better idea " . Actor Ron Taylor returned to guest star as Murphy in the episode . Comedian Steve Allen also made his second guest appearance on the show , having previously appeared in the episode " Separate Vocations " . This episode , alongside " Lisa 's Wedding " , served as the seed of a wave of character changes and developments , beginning with " Lisa the Vegetarian " , and continuing on for the rest of the series , finally laying to rest the creative team 's original mantra of maintaining a timelessness between episodes .

The main story of the episode 's first act sees Bart get appendicitis from eating a jagged metal Krusty @-@ O. Mike Reiss 's father , being a doctor , " sort of " acted as the medical consultant on this episode . He stated that " you can 't get " appendicitis from eating a piece of metal , but the writers decided to do it anyway . In his flashback , Murphy is shown as having a " \$ 1 @,@ 500 a day Fabergé egg habit " ; Jean " didn 't realize just how expensive " Fabergé eggs actually were , so the joke does not make much sense .

= = Cultural references = =

The episode contains numerous references to popular culture . The title is a play on both the jazz standard ' Round Midnight by Thelonious Monk and the similarly named film also about an unappreciated jazz musician . When a deceased Bleeding Gums Murphy appears to Lisa in a cloud near the end he is joined by Darth Vader , Mufasa , and James Earl Jones saying " This is CNN " . Although all three roles were portrayed by Jones , the characters in this scene were impersonated by cast member Harry Shearer ; Jones himself guest starred twice previously . Additionally , Mufasa accidentally mentions " Kimba " and corrects himself by saying " Simba " . This is a reference to the debate regarding The Lion King 's resemblance to the anime Kimba the White Lion . Lisa and Bleeding Gums play Carole King 's song " Jazzman " in this scene and in the hospital earlier in the episode . Bleeding Gums has to leave at the end of the scene because he has a date with the jazz singer Billie Holiday .

Additionally , Homer has a Starland Vocal Band tattoo on his arm , Bart considers buying a Steve Allen " ultimate pog " , while the music just before Bart 's operation is a parody of the theme music of

ER . Bleeding Gums appears on an episode of The Cosby Show , a reference to Bill Cosby often getting jazz musicians he liked to appear on the show ; in the episode , Cosby is voiced by The Simpsons regular Dan Castellaneta . Also , Cosby is heard to say that jazz was like Jello Pudding Pops , Kodak Film or New Coke , products which Cosby has advertised on television . Lionel Hutz 's " crack team of lawyers " Robert Shapiro and Albert Dershman are parodies of Robert Shapiro and Alan Dershowitz , two of the defense attorneys at the O. J. Simpson murder case . The three drive away in a white pickup truck , similar to the Ford Bronco that Al Cowlings and O.J. Simpson drove in their televised low @-@ speed pursuit before Simpson 's arrest .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " ' Round Springfield " finished 60th in the ratings for the week of April 24 to April 30 , 1995 , with a Nielsen rating of 8 @. @ 2 . The episode was the fourth highest rated show on the Fox network that week . Mike Reiss and Al Jean thought that the episode would " get a ton of awards " , and joked that this was why they opted to receive a story credit , which they usually would not . Ultimately it did not win any awards . Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide found that it was " a real tear @-@ jerker " and praised Grampa believing everything he saw was death . In a DVD review of the sixth season , Ryan Keefer of DVD Verdict rated the episode a " B " . Adam Finley of TV Squad praised the episode , noting its many " great moments " including " Steve Allen pimping his books on TV : How to Make Love to Steve Allen ; Happiness is a Naked Steve Allen ; Journey to the Center of Steve Allen ; The Joy of Cooking Steve Allen " and " Moe running a " detox " clinic right next to a detox clinic " . On the other hand , Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide called the episode " dull " stating that " some of the moments connected to Bart 's illness are funny , " but that he " really hate [s] that " Jazzman " song " and dislikes " the Bleeding Gums parts . "

= = = Cheese @-@ eating surrender monkeys = = =

In the episode , budget cuts at Springfield Elementary School force the janitor Groundskeeper Willie to be used as a French teacher . Expressing his disdain for the French , he exclaims to his class : " Bonjour , you cheese @-@ eatin ' surrender monkeys . " The quote , particularly the phrase " cheese @-@ eating surrender monkeys " , has since entered wider use . It was used particularly in the run @-@ up to the war in Iraq , having been popularized by the conservative National Review journalist Jonah Goldberg , to describe European and especially French opposition to military action . A piece in The Guardian noted that the phrase was " made acceptable in official diplomatic channels around the globe " . Ben Macintyre has written that the phrase is " perhaps the most famous " of the show 's coinages and since Goldberg 's usage it " has gone on to become a journalistic cliché . "

It has subsequently been used by the New York Post (as " Surrender Monkeys ") as the headline for its December 7 , 2006 , front page , referring to the Iraq Study Group and its recommendation that U.S. soldiers be withdrawn from Iraq by early 2008 . The Daily Mail has used the phrase in reference the French 's " attitude problem " , and the editor of Metro used it describe the " muted " European reaction to the death of Osama bin Laden , while The Daily Telegraph has cited it in relation to Anglo @-@ French military cooperation . The term has been used in books by commentator Laura Ingraham , and academics Stuart Croft , Stephen Chan , and Paul L. Moorcraft and Philip M. Taylor . Ned Sherrin included the quote in the Oxford Dictionary of Humorous Quotations ; it was introduced in the third edition in 2005 . It is also included in the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations . Douglas Coupland 's 2009 novel Generation A refers to Groundskeeper Willie 's use of the phrase .

The line was " probably " written by Ken Keeler during one of the episode 's re @-@ write sessions , although none of those present on the episode 's DVD audio commentary could remember for sure . The writers were surprised it became as widely used as it did and never meant it as a political statement , merely as an " obnoxious " joke for Willie . The French dub of the show uses the line "

singes mangeurs de fromage " , omitting the word " surrender " .