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PortlandMainStreet.org  
We're Looking Grand!

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## Committees

Design: Kathy Parsons  
Economic Revitalization: Diane Smith  
Organization & Finance: Julie Clement  
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Board Chair, Joel VanSlambrouck  
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# "On the Street"

## Calendar of Events

- Aug 6, Thursdays on the Grand (TOG), 6:30-8 pm, **Blue Jello**
- Aug 13, TOG, 6:30-8pm, **Jeff Speas**
- Aug 14-15, Portland Relay for Life, Portland High School
- Aug 15, "Stupidfest" at Duke's
- Aug 18, 6-8pm, City Hall - "How to Finance Your Business" - free SBTDC seminar\*
- Aug 20, TOG, 6:30-8pm, **The Royal Ramblers**
- Aug 21, Third Fridays Art Walk, 6-8pm, downtown Portland
- Aug 27, Main Street accreditation celebration at the Band Shell, 6:00 p.m.
- Aug 27, TOG, 6:30-8pm, **Bailey's Comet**
- Aug 31, last day to collect receipts for **Portland Pay Day**
- Sept 4, 5pm, last day to redeem Portland **Pay Day** receipts for prize drawing
- Sept 9, 7pm, **Portland Pay Day** drawing and celebration, Two Rivers park (band shell) (rain location: Portland High School)
- Sept 15-16, **Michigan Downtown Conference**, Lansing
- Sept 22, 6-8pm, City Hall - "Writing a Business Plan" - free SBTDC seminar\*
- Oct 16-17, Main Street **Oktoberfest**
- Nov. 19-21, **HolidayFest on the Grand**

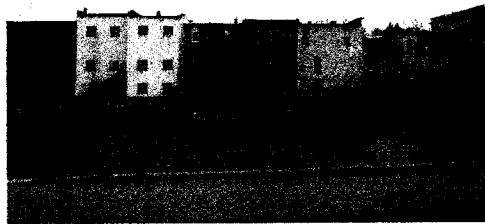
\* Requires preregistration. Contact the Main Street office, 517.647.5027, for details

## CELEBRATE WITH US!

Last month in "On the Street," we announced our good news: Portland is now an accredited Main Street community at the Master Level! Even though many of you are not on Main Street committees, you've supported the Main Street program by supporting downtown Portland. You've attended events downtown, used the boardwalk, attended Thursday concerts, etc. Most importantly, we are grateful to those of you who make a conscious effort to support your friends and neighbors who operate businesses in downtown Portland. Thank you.

To celebrate our hard work, we're holding a get-together on Thursday, August 27, during the last "Thursdays on the Grand" concert of the season. Tentative plans include hot dogs, soda, chips, cake, and fun. Join us at 6:00 p.m., then stay to listen to Bailey's Comet from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

## BEFORE



*Do you have a vision for Portland?  
Turn to page 2 for some inspiration!*

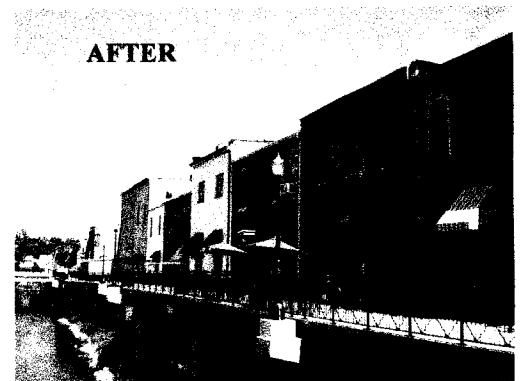
## COMING UP SOON...

*Downtown Events & Activities: every Thursday through August, every third Friday, Aug 15 (Duke's), Aug 27 (Band Shell), Sept 9 (Band Shell)*

*Portland's Relay for Life event will be held at the Portland High School track August 14-15. Please support the important efforts to find a cure for cancer... something that has touched every one of us.*

Welcome, **Lisa Zunk!** Lisa is our newest volunteer on the Main Street **Organization & Finance Committee**. Lisa will be handling our **Facebook** group and fan pages. Have you joined the **Portland Michigan Main Street Facebook** group yet?

## What a little VISION can accomplish



### Third Fridays

The first "Third Friday" event was a success, with art and music throughout the downtown attracting residents and visitors for a fun evening. Join Main Street and the Portland Community Arts Council for the next "Third Friday" on August 21, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m.

For more information on displaying your art work or having art displayed in your business, contact PCAC Director Rush Clement at 517.647.6545. More information can be found at [www.portlandcommunityarts.com](http://www.portlandcommunityarts.com).

### Future of "On the Street"

You may notice a slightly different format to "On the Street." We're exploring an expanded version, to keep you even more informed about what's happening in your downtown. Let us know what you'd like to see in this monthly downtown newsletter.

In conjunction with the new format, we'll be offering advertising space for businesses in our Main Street district. These inexpensive ad opportunities will replace the former "Business Highlights" section of this newsletter. Email us at [ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org](mailto:ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org) for more information on how you can reach your closest target market.. Space is limited.

## Pay Day Participating Businesses

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| - Around the Block Quilt Shop                     | - Maria's Tacos                           |
| - Cheeky Monkeys                                  | - McDonalds of Portland                   |
| - Chocolate Moose                                 | - New to You Consignment Shop             |
| - Distinctive Occasions                           | - Pawsh Dog Bakery                        |
| - Electric Sunshine                               | - Portland Clinical & Therapeutic Massage |
| - G&B Pool Supplies                               | - Raffaeles' Marketplace                  |
| - Grand Barber Lounge                             | - Randall J. Riemer, OD, PLC              |
| - HealthSource Physical Therapy & Wellness Center | - Rivertown Bookstore                     |
| - Hoort Law, PLLC                                 |   |
| - Looking Grand Cafe                              |   |

Save & Submit Your Downtown Receipts for a Chance to Win BIG!

# "On the Street"

## WHAT'S YOUR VISION FOR PORTLAND?

What are your ideas for making Portland a better place to live? Do you want Portland to have more industry, so there would be more jobs and a more diverse tax base? Would you like to see a sports pavilion with facilities for tennis, basketball, and roller hockey in warm weather and skating and ice hockey in cold weather? I've heard from Portland residents who would like an aquatic center or water park. What would you think of the opera house being made into a movie theater or a dinner theater? Should we try to make more aesthetic or recreational use of the rivers we are so fortunate to have flowing through Portland?

How about a facility for higher education such as a junior college, an art school, or agricultural research center? What are the chances of recapturing the strong antique market Portland was once known for? Would it be possible for Portland to become a craft center where people could come to buy and sell and learn about quilting, knitting, woodworking, pottery, and stained glass?

There's really no limit to the ideas people can come up with when they let their imagination do the building. That's what makes communities move forward. And as so many of us have learned, if you are not moving forward . . . you're going backward. There is no

"staying the same" when it comes to planning the future. How many of us when asked where we would like to be five years from now spiritually, physically, financially, or in our relationships with friends and family would say: "I'd like things to be just the way they are right now"? While there's nothing wrong with being happy and wanting to stay that way, life moves on, and if we don't make an effort to grow, the only change we'll experience is to have grown older along with everyone and everything around us. Sadly, we don't even realize it's happening until it's too late.

So don't expect things to stay the same. Anticipate the change and try to make it positive. The only way we can do that is to have an idea of how we want things to turn out and envision what it will look like. The great thing about being in a community like Portland is that you can make a difference. Come up with an idea that you think will make Portland a better place to live, envision how it would look, and become involved in making your vision become reality. That's what the Portland Main Street program is all about: local volunteers working to make Portland a better place to live. Please call 647.5027 or email [ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org](mailto:ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org) and get involved.

- Jim Barnes, Portland Organization & Finance Committee

**Contact us: [ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org](mailto:ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org) ~ [www.portlandmainstreet.org](http://www.portlandmainstreet.org) ~ 517.647.5027**

Thank you for reading *On the Street*, and thank you for helping us revitalize our downtown. Please let us know if there's a topic you would like to see covered in "On the Street." And please **shop downtown Portland**; the community you support is your own!