



November 13, 2009

Holidayfest to take place on Nov. 19-21

PORTLAND - Portland will come alive with great activities and sales during the 2009 HolidayFest, to be held on Nov. 19-21 in downtown Portland.

Horse-drawn carriage rides, an international jewelry show, a window-decorating contest, great sales and in-store demonstrations, the "Third Friday Artwalk," and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus highlight this year's event.

"We have 25 businesses taking part this year, with each offering great sales, in-store demonstrations, or a holiday open house that welcomes the public," said Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. "We have many fun, family-friendly activities happening downtown throughout HolidayFest, and we feel that it is going to be a fantastic time."

On Thursday, Nov. 19, some of the highlights include the Portland Community Arts Council's international jewelry show, live music downtown, the "Ladies Wish List Reception," the beginning of the window-decorating contest, and various in-store demonstrations by downtown retailers.

On Friday, Nov. 20, scheduled events include the "Third Friday Artwalk," horse-drawn carriage rides, live music, a kids' ornament workshop, a piñata workshop, and Luminary Lane on Kent Street and Bridge Street, among many other activities.

The horse-drawn carriage rides, brought back after a one-year absence, will be offered downtown on Friday, Nov. 20, from 6 to 9 p.m., and are sponsored by Duff, Chadwick, and Associates and Distinctive Occasions, both located in downtown Portland. Carriage rides throughout the downtown will cost \$3 for adults and \$2 for children, with children 5 and under allowed to ride free.

On Saturday, Nov. 21, activities include a kids' coloring contest, the Portland Garden Club's annual bird-feeder wreath-making workshop, a kids' candy cane hunt, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus at 4 p.m., and the lighting of the city Christmas tree at 6 p.m. at Scout Park

Portland Main Street has posted a complete schedule of events on its Web site, www.portlandmainstreet.org.

"This is really a very exciting, fun-filled weekend downtown, with lots of great activities for the entire family. We currently have posters and flyers in the participating businesses, but if anyone would like a downloadable schedule of events, we encourage people to go to our Web site, or to give the office a call at (517) 647-5027 for more information," said Reagan.

The 2009 HolidayFest is presented by Portland Main Street and the Portland Community Arts Council, and is sponsored by Divine Auto Body.

The goal of the Portland Main Street program is to actively revitalize Portland's vibrant, charming, and unique downtown into a gathering place-one that uses broad-based community support to (1) provide opportunities to entrepreneurs; (2) sustain a strong economic foundation for the region; and (3) safeguard history, tradition, and a sense of community for residents and visitors.

For more information on how you can be part of this mission, visit the Portland Main Street Web site at www.portlandmainstreet.org or call the Portland Main Street offices at (517) 647-5027.