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PortlandMainStreet.org

We're Looking Grand!

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Committees

Design: Kathy Parsons
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Board Chair, Joel VanSlambrouck

"On the Street"

HAPPY NEW YEAR, PORTLAND!

Announcing . . . What's up in Portland?

A new venture downtown

"KloseKnit llc."

Deb Rowe and Denise Barnes providing

BASIC/INSTRUCTIONAL KNITTING class

SATURDAY – January 16, 2010 ~ 3 hrs, 9am to noon

at CHEEKY MONKEYS, 176 Kent St., Portland, MI 48875

\$25 (cash/check) includes:

- * Demonstration and instructions
- * Project yarn/pattern
- * Handouts

CALL 517-647-4461 OR 517-819-3727 TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

This fun class covers casting on, knit and purl stitch instructions, handouts, yarn guide, history of knitting and more!

Ages – adults and children 10yrs and older

Bring your own needles any size 6 through 9

"KloseKnit" is planning more classes and community projects too!

Calling all knitters, crocheters, and tatters – and all wann-a-bees -

Plan your Saturday mornings at Cheeky Monkeys!!!!

Novices - start a tradition with your child and make a memory

Experts – show your work and share a memory!

C'mon . . . make your Grandma proud!!!!

As the winter settles in, don't just hibernate in the warmth of your home. (Okay . . . we know it's tempting.) Portland has much to offer. Have you thought about cross-country skiing down the trails? They look snow-covered today!

The Annual Winter Run takes place on January 16, and the Portland Community Arts Council will hold its annual Portland Plunge on the same day. If you can't take a dip, how about pledging a donation? Contact **Raffaels' Marketplace** to do either: 517.647.6710. Whatever you do, don't forget to stop and think about the significance of the Martin Luther King holiday; it's not just a day off work.

Now is an excellent time to take inventory of your insurance and investments. Call one of our many local agents today; start the year--and the new decade--on the right financial foot.

Did you notice the knitting session on Sat., Jan. 16? (Look to the left!) **KloseKnit** is just starting in downtown Portland. Now's a great time to learn something new. And speaking of new skills, what about quilting--it's a great way to pass the winter--INDOORS! Call **Around the Block Quilt Shop** for a class schedule.

Local eateries will, no doubt, be serving up some yummy soup for these bitter days. And Cheeky Monkeys will begin its annual "Biggest Loser" competition in January. See you there?

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer a little, or volunteer a lot. The Main Street Organization & Finance Committee needs 'techie' help. Are you a Facebook fanatic? Are you a video genius? We need volunteers to turn our online presence into the talk of the town. We also need volunteers to help with two video projects this year. We welcome adults, teens, or even responsible younger volunteers. Contact Main Street Manager/DDA Director Patrick Reagan to find out more.

www.portlandmainstreet.org / 517.647.5027

"On the Street" What's in Downtown Portland?

We're taking a break from our usual list for two reasons.

First, we're still waiting for a few businesses to submit the details! Second, we want to take this time to say, "YES! There are things to do in downtown Portland!" Think downtown is lacking? Think again! You just didn't realize what's here.

119 Bridge Street Dental Care	Jerry's Restaurant & Pub	Portland Pedal Paddle
Around the Block Quilt Shop	Julie Beard Travis, Attorney at Law	Portland Playhouse
Cheeky Monkeys	Keusch's Super Service	Raffaeles' Marketplace
Chocolate Moose	Kiebler Insurance Agency	Riemer Eye Care
Clippers Hair Design	Lites Plus	Rivertown Bookstore
Country Cupboard Floral & Gifts	Looking Grand Café	Rush Hour Studios
DaVinci Custom Framing	Maria's Tacos	Sandborn Realty
Distinctive Occasions	Marion's Kitchen	Schrauben-Lehman Funeral Home
Donna Marie's Studio of Dance	Midwest Business Equipment	Simon Insurance
Duane Hein Allstate Insurance	New To You Consignment Clothing	Smith Music
Duff, Chadwick & Associates	PCMI West	Styles on the Grand
Duke's Cajun Grill	Peppermint Twist/Frosty Boy	Sweet Cake Company
Electric Sunshine	Perennial Financial	Tate's Playhouse
Expert Tax Solutions	Perfect Balance	Ted's Barber Shop
Family Groom Room	Periculum Services Group	The Beach House Teas
Fluke Hearing Instruments	Perpetual Moments Photography	The Cutting Edge
Gail A. Benda, Attorney at Law	Portland Blackbelt Academy	The Pizza Shop
Glass Box Guy	Portland Area District Library	Tom & Jerry's Antiques & Collectibles
Grand Barber Lounge	Portland Area Service Group	Town & Country Title
Granny's Gift Corner	Portland City Hall	Triple S Sports
Grider-Portland Agency	Portland Civic Players	Twin Rivers Tax & Accounting Services
Half-Baked Paint Your Own Pottery	Portland Clinical & Therapeutic Massage	Two Rivers Counseling Services
Home Town Sports	Portland Downtown Development	Walt's On Inn
Hoort Law	Authority	Ward's Garage
Jack Griffin Farm Bureau Insurance	Portland Parks & Recreation	

Why Should You Care About the Downtown?

We hear a lot these days about revitalizing downtowns. But we all know it's sometimes easier to run to a big-box store, isn't it? And, after all, your life will be the same whether downtown Portland is strong or not, right? Wrong.

A community's downtown is a symbol of its historic development, economic health, quality of life, and community pride—it's an important place where all members of the community can meet and interact. It's where monuments are located, speeches are made, and parades are held. Recall your own childhood. If you're like most people, those memories include your downtown.

But downtown is more than a place to hang out. A strong downtown tells industrial and commercial developers that we have a strong local business climate and a strong public/private partnership in the community. This makes them more likely to open businesses—and bring jobs—here. Speaking of jobs, downtown is a major employer! At last count, Portland had 74 businesses downtown. A conservative estimate of one owner and two employees per business results in *over 200 jobs!*

What's in it for you? Healthy businesses in buildings assessed at full value help reduce the tax burden on homeowners. A strong downtown also increases the property values of surrounding residential neighborhoods.

Do you support local organizations? Downtown businesses support local schools, charities, and community projects; they reinvest their profits locally. The more our local residents support downtown businesses, the more those businesses can (1) help the organizations that are important to you, (2) create more local jobs, (3) shoulder the local tax burden, (4) help increase your property value, and (5) increase the number of goods and services they can offer for your convenience. Try this resolution: "I resolve to support *my* downtown this year!" It really does take a village.

Contact us: ddainstreet@portland-michigan.org ~ 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!