

In this Issue

- Committees, 1
- Downtown Happenings, 1
- What's New, 1
- Meet Your Neighbor, 2-3
- Shout-Out, 3
- A Message from the Chair, 3
- 2011 Tag Sale, 4
- You're Invited, 4

Contact Us

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517.647.5027

Committees

- **Design:** Kathy Parsons
- **Economic Revitalization:** Diane Smith
- **Organization & Finance:** Julie Clement
- **Promotions & Marketing:** Nikki Sunstrum
- **Board Chair,** Joel VanSlambrouck

On the Street

Have you seen any robins yet? They're a sure sign that spring is around the corner (and not soon enough for us). Here are some other downtown happenings for your calendar:

- ▷ April 4, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ April 11, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ April 18, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ April 15-16, Tag Sale, City Hall
- ▷ April 24, Easter Sunday April 25, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ April 29-30, City-Wide Clean-Up
- ▷ May 2, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ May 9, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, 4-week intermediate

The **Frosty Boy/Peppermint Twist** is now open for the season. Can summer be far behind?

Mark your calendars for the annual **Block Party**. This year's Block Party will be held on May 21--a great time will be had by all!

The **Downtown Tag Sale** is amost here. There are several ways to participate:

- * Have your own booth -- get on our website to find out how. You pay us 10% of your earnings. That's all. We do the advertising!
- * Donate your unwanted goods to Portland Main Street to sell for its fundraiser. Contact Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan (phone # below) for more information.
- * Hold your own sale, and piggyback on our marketing. Call Patrick Reagan to find out how you can partner with us -- more sales in town means more people coming to Portland to shop!
- * Shop, shop, shop. Don't have anything to sell? Come buy other people's stuff! The sale is April 15 & 16 at City Hall, 2nd floor.

Why are we doing this? Because we love a clean city, and we hate filling landfills. As you get ready for the City-Wide Cleanup on April 29-30, think about what you might sell (and raise

some cash) or donate (and help someone else raise some cash), rather than taking it to a landfill.

Check out all the details at our website (address is below) and on our ad on page 4.

Downtown Happenings

- painting class begins (any media), Raffaeles' Marketplace
- ▷ May 21, Annual Block Party
- ▷ June through August, Thursdays on the Grand
- ▷ June 18, Cruise-A-Thong
- ▷ August 19-21, Riverfest
- ▷ October 15, Oktoberfest
- ▷ November 18-19, HolidayFest on the Grand

What's New?

**The Frosty Boy/
Peppermint Twist
now is OPEN!**

Granny's Gifts located in
Raffaeles' Marketplace
143 Kent Street, Portland, MI 48875
Pipka Santas are the most collected
Santas in the world

Meet Your Neighbor: Tutt Gorman



located near the Santa Catalina Mountains in the Sonoran Desert north of Tucson, Arizona.

Tutt came to Michigan in 2000 to attend Cooley Law School. He not only received his law degree, he met his wife, Erin Schrauben, daughter of Charles and Kathy Schrauben of Portland.

After earning his J.D. from Cooley, Tutt and Erin moved to Kentucky, where Tutt was admitted to the Kentucky Bar in 2004 and worked for Kentucky's Administrative Office of the Courts in the Office of General Counsel. In

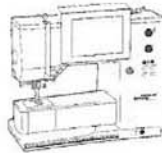
2007, he was appointed legal counsel for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services by Kentucky Governor Ernie Fletcher.

In December 2008, Tutt and Erin had their first child, Grace Louise. It didn't take long for them to make the decision to return to Michigan to be near family. Tutt believes that although this was not an easy decision on a professional level, it was clearly in his daughter's best interest to be raised around family and her grandparents. Unfortunately, Tutt lost both of his parents a few years ago to ongoing health issues.

In October 2009, Tutt was admitted to the Michigan Bar and joined the law firm of Duff, Chadwick & Associates, P.C. Although Tutt's primary areas of expertise are



Around the Block Quilt Shop LLC
120 Maple Street
Portland, MI 48875
517/647-5430



EMAIL: Aroundblockquilt@aol.com
Website: www.aroundtheblockquiltshop.com

We are taking sign ups for the one-day
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LookingGrand Café
& Bakery

Ed & Linda Trenn
517-647-4990
lookinggrandcafe@att.net
117 E Grand River Ave
Portland, MI 48875

Meet Your Neighbor (cont.)

employment and healthcare law, he has expanded his practice to include estate planning, business law, family law, and mediation. Tutt also serves as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Iona. Tutt and Erin are members of the Portland United Methodist Church and are involved in other activities. Tutt serves on the Main Street Organization and Finance Committee and was recently appointed by the Portland City Council to serve on the City of Portland Planning Commission.



Tutt recalls being impressed with Portland when he and Erin were dating. At the time, he had no idea that he would eventually settle here to raise his future family. Tutt and Erin have one daughter, Grace, and are expecting a new addition to the family in the fall! Welcome to Portland, Tutt and Grace. And welcome back, Erin.

Submitted by Jim Barnes, Organization & Finance Committee



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Tue – Fri 11am - 6pm
Sat 11am – 3pm
Closed Sun - Mon

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Shout Out

On April 15, when you're not thinking about taxes, stop in Raffaeles' Marketplace and say (or sing) Happy Birthday to Rush--you'll make his day!

A message from the Main Street Chair

On behalf of the Portland Main Street Board, I would like to recognize the Economic Restructuring Committee Chairperson, Diane Smith, who recently met with a local focus group to help influence the future of Downtown Portland. This group included a healthy mix of citizens who want to be actively involved in the economic development of our downtown and the rest of our city.

Michigan State University students lead a group discussion asking the participants to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) for Portland's Main Street district. Participants also shared their current level of satisfaction with their

downtown experiences, as well as what changes they would suggest to improve the experience. This information will be extremely useful for the Main Street program as it moves forward. More discussion and interaction is likely in the near future. We need to know what our customers think!

I invite everyone back to continue this study, and if you missed the first group discussion and would like to participate in the next scheduled event, please contact DDA Director/Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. His phone number is 517 647 5027.

Joel VanSlambrouck
Portland Main Street Chairman



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160 Kent Street, Downtown Portland

Portland Main Street - Neighborhood Rummage Sale

Who: Any Portland area resident

What: An opportunity to sell your cast-offs before the City-Wide Clean-Up weekend or donate them to a worthy cause

Where: Portland City Hall, 2d floor

When: Friday, April 15, 4-8pm; Saturday, April 16, 9am-4pm

Why: To encourage Portland to do its spring cleaning. To help you try to sell (or donate) what you no longer need before you throw it away. To help you (and us) raise some cash. To help nonprofits find what they're looking for. To bring people to downtown Portland for a fun time and great bargains.

How: Pay a \$25 deposit to reserve a space; then show up to sell. Leave your items after the sale if you'd like to donate them, or if you'd like us to dispose of them for you. Contact Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan or find all you need to know on our award-winning website: www.portlandmainstreet.org.

Cost: \$25 deposit; 10% of all sales



May 11 - Business Guide to Increasing Sales During Festivals and Events – 6:30-8pm, Portland City Hall

In this session, retailers will learn strategies to attract sales

during special events, and how to get customers to return when the events are over. Strategies will include forming teams, planning, store presentation, knowing the customer, incentives, retail event ideas, and marketing tips. In Main Street communities, the Promotion & Marketing Committee focuses on bringing customers downtown with many communities focusing on big, splashy festivals and events. Downtown retailers--in Main Street Communities, especially--leave this workshop with strategies in hand to manage these festivals and events for their benefit. The seminar will be given by Mary Lee Stotler, Promotion Specialist, Michigan Main Street Program, Downtown & Community Services Division, MSHDA. Call Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan to register.

Brought to you by the Main Street Economic Revitalization Committee

We're hosting a variety of fun events this spring

- ◆ Middle & High-school fiction book club (Mon afternoon)
- ◆ Little Readers' story & craft time (Tue a.m.)
- ◆ After-school groups for elementary students: book club (Wed), pottery groups (Wed), and more (check our website)
- ◆ Middle & High-school fiction & sci-fi book clubs
- ◆ Seniors' pottery and glass sessions (Wed a.m.)



- ◆ Middle & High-school pottery & glass (Thu evening)
- ◆ Landscape painting class begins April 20 (6 weeks)

Kids & Teens: Call us today to help start these groups--earn free books & pottery studio fees!

Ladies' Night is back at Half-Baked!

Fridays at 7pm, starting April 15, come in to paint pottery (1/2 off studio fee) or create beautiful glass pieces -- this is an evening just for you! No reservation necessary.

RAFFAELES' HAS GIFTS FOR EASTER BASKETS

143 Kent Street ~ Portland ~ 517 647 6710 ~ www.raffaelesmarketplace.com ~ Raffaeles' Marketplace on Facebook