



## Portland recognized as a nationally accredited Main Street program

By **Jon Szerlag**  
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PORTLAND, Mich. — The City of Portland’s Main Street program has obtained its master accreditation.

On Thursday, the executive director of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority announced that Portland was one of 10 communities to be recognized as Nationally Accredited Main Street communities through the National Trust Main Street Center and the Michigan Main Street Center.

Portland is one of six communities in Michigan that is considered a master level Main Street community.

“Accredited means they recognize us as a Main Street community, and that is a trade-mark brand, so not every community can say they are a Main Street community,” said Portland’s Downtown Development Authority Director and Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. “We had to earn that.”

Portland’s Main Street program is an accredited master Main Street, which means they get to mentor other communities with what they have learned going through the program.

“A master level is earned after five years of being a successful Main Street community,” said Reagan. “We have proven we have a good program and volunteers working hard.”

To become a master-level and keep it, the Main Street program is evaluated on a yearly basis by the Michigan Main Street Center to encourage community revitalization and economic development through several areas.

The areas that the Michigan Main Street Center looks at are organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring.

“It makes sure all the programs and committees are up and running and doing good work; basically it’s a continuation of the Main Street program,” said Reagan.

Being a master-level Main Street community, Portland hosts meetings where they train other communities across the state every one to two years.

Some of the successful events that the Portland Main Street program has recently hosted include the Pay Day event, Oktoberfest and the Block Party.

“We are continually building to get good volunteers and have a firm and strong volunteer base — those are things we do really well,” said Reagan. “Our committees meet and do projects year round, so there is always a chance for people to volunteer.”

To learn more about the Portland Main Street program call 517-647-5027 or visit [www.portlandmainstreet.org](http://www.portlandmainstreet.org). For more information on Michigan Main Street Center, visit [www.michiganmainstreetcenter.com](http://www.michiganmainstreetcenter.com).

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