

Portland Main Street program to host second block party

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PORTLAND - The Portland Main Street program has announced that it will hold its second annual "Downtown Portland Block Party" on Saturday, May 21. A classic car "cruise in" by the Portland Cruisers, local food vendors, live entertainment, and a softball tournament will highlight this year's event.

"The Promotions and Marketing Committee is very excited to bring this event back for 2011," said Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. "It brought a lot of people downtown last year, and we are hoping that even more people will come to downtown Portland on May 21st."

The Block Party will once again feature a car "cruise-in" by the Portland Cruisers Car Club. "Last year, we had over 200 classic cars come out for the Block Party, so we're pretty excited to have the Portland Cruisers taking part in this event once again," said Reagan.

Great food will also highlight this event, as local food vendors will be selling their best dishes throughout the day.

"We have some great restaurants taking part in this event," Reagan said. "We're hoping that a lot of people will be

introduced - or reintroduced - to some of the best food in the area during the Block Party."

Food vendors for the 2011 Block Part include the Looking Grand Café, Cheeky Monkeys, Maria's Tacos and the "Rebels with a Cause" Relay for Life team.

The Downtown Block Party will once again feature a men's softball tournament to be held at Powers Park and Bogue Flats on May 21. The cost for a team in this year's tournament is \$125. The deadline to sign a team up is May 4.

Groups interested in participating in the softball tournament should contact recreation programmer Neil Brown at (517) 647-3207. Registration forms can also be downloaded at www.portlandmainstreet.org.

"More than anything, the Promotions and Marketing Committee is very impressed with the support that this event has received from our sponsors in the first

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year," said Reagan. "Portland Federal Credit Union, Tri-County Electric, and TRW are just some of the great sponsors that we already have this year."

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 the program, visit the Portland Main Street website at www.portlandmainstreet.org or call the Portland Main Street offices at (517) 647-5027.

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