

Portland Main Street to honor volunteers

By Staff reports

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PORTLAND, Mich. — Volunteers have spent more than 1,500 hours supporting the Portland Main Street program and to show appreciation the organizations are hosting the annual Volunteer Recognition Event.

The event will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, at Two Rivers Park. The event will be held in conjunction with Portland Community Arts Council's Thursdays on the Grand with live music performed by El Kabaong.

"It's a great little ceremony," said Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. "All Main Street programs are volunteer led initiative. Everything we do relies heavily on community volunteers."

Awards are given to volunteers who give their time in the four Main Street committees including design, economic revitalization, organization and finance, and promotions and marketing.

There will also be the Horizon Award, which goes to a new volunteer who has impacted the program the greatest over the last year, and a Manager's Award, where Reagan selects a volunteer that has helped him and the overall program succeed over the year.

"The people that have received these awards in the past have really worked hard to make downtown Portland better," said Reagan. "All of our volunteers do great work, and we are very proud of everything that they do. We invite everyone to come down and help us recognize the fine work being done by community residents."

Committee chairs select the volunteers who worked the hardest, helped the downtown area and committee throughout the year.

"Everything we do, the Oktober Fest, Block Party, Holiday Fest and all promotions are volunteer initiatives and volunteer led programs," said Reagan. "It is always important to get new volunteers and thank the new ones and current ones."

The goal of the Portland Main Street program is to actively revitalize the downtown and make it a gathering place for community members. The program also provides opportunities to entrepreneurs, sustain a strong economic foundation for the region and protect the history, tradition and a sense of community for residents and visitors.

To learn more about Portland Main Street, visit www.portlandmainstreet.org.

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