



## Portland gets ready for Oktoberfest, looks for crafters and participants

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 GateHouse News Service  
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IONIA, Mich. — Getting ready for Oktoberfest, Portland Main Street organization is looking for crafters and participants to help make this year bigger and better.

“In 2010, our crafters were a big hit for festival attendees,” said Portland Main Street Manager Patrick Reagan. “We had about a dozen crafters last year, and we are looking for 20 this year. We believed they added a lot to the event, and are looking forward to having them back again. It’s going to be a lot of fun.”

Booth space is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis. Currently, there are roughly 10 vendors scheduled. Booth fee is \$25.

Portland Main Street organization members are also looking for participants to join in the annual Big Beer 5K Run.

During last year’s run, there were more than 150 runners, and the Portland Main Street Organization and Finance Committee is hoping to grow that number.

The beer run is part of the Oktoberfest, and registration for the run begins at 10:30 a.m. on Oct. 29. The race will begin at noon at the Veterans Memorial Bridge and will proceed to Bogue Flats Park and loop back to Toan Park for the finish line.

Runners can pre-register for the Big Beer 5K Run, which is sponsored by Vollman Ford, by completing a registration form from [www.portlandmainstreet.org](http://www.portlandmainstreet.org).

Crafter information for Oktoberfest, sponsored by AT&T, can also be found on the Portland Main Street Website. Interested crafters can also contact Reagan at 517-647-5027.

Oktoberfest will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 29 at the Portland City Hall parking lot.

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