

Downtown Happenings

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Committees

- **Design:** Kathy Parsons
- **Economic Revitalization:** Diane Smith
- **Organization & Finance:** Julie Clement
- **Promotions & Marketing:** Nikki Sunstrum

- **Board Chair,** Joel VanSlambrouck

Portland Pay Day
Now through August
-- don't miss your
chance to win!

- ▷ August 4, 6:30-8:00pm, Thursdays on the Grand (TOG), Bailey's Comet
- ▷ August 6, 8am-1pm, Farmers' Market, Red Mill
- ▷ August 8, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ August 11, 6:30-8:00pm, TOG, Jeff Speas
- ▷ August 13, 8am-1pm, Farmers' Market, Red Mill
- ▷ August 15, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ August 18, 6:30-8:00pm, TOG, Rush & Julie Clement
- ▷ August 19-21, Riverfest
- ▷ August 20, 8am-1pm, Farmers' Market, Red Mill
- ▷ August 22, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ August 25, 6:30-8:00pm, TOG, All-Star Jam
- ▷ August 27, 8am-1pm, Farmers' Market, Red Mill
- ▷ August 29, 4-6pm: Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ Sept 5, 4-6pm, Community Dinner, Congregational Church
- ▷ October 15, Oktoberfest
- ▷ November 18-19, HolidayFest on the Grand

What's New?

Portland Pay Day: This isn't new, but it's worth a reminder -- shop local; shop often. Each time you spend \$10 or more at a participating Portland business, you can enter your name in our Portland Pay Day drawing.

Just check the list on page 4 of this newsletter, then go shopping! Take receipts to Raffaeles' Marketplace or Distinctive Occasions to enter the drawing.

Back to Basics: Good-for-you food products at Back to Basics downtown.

Adirondack Chairs: The Portland Community Arts Council's Adirondack Chair project--"Sit a Spell"--takes place from now through August. Vote on favorite chairs and bid on one (or more) you'd like to take home!

Rush Hour Studios: Watch for big changes this fall--check out the Rush Hour Studios ad on page 4 for more info.

Perfect Balance



647-6153
Downtown Portland

BACK TO SCHOOL SPECIALS W/
AMY DANIELS
FOR ALL STUDENTS
\$3.00 OFF HAIR CUTS; \$5.00 OFF
COLOR SERVICE
1/2 OFF HIGHLIGHTS W/ HAIR CUT
\$25 FULL SETS W/FREE FRENCH
MANICURE
Good through 31 Aug 2011
Cannot combine specials



Riverfest 2011

Portland Michigan



Riverfest 2011

Portland Michigan

Friday Events:

- **Tug of War** - Teen and Adult Teams Competing for a Traveling Trophy @ 7:00pm
- **Movie Outdoors** - on "giant" 25 ft screen (Pixar's UP); popcorn & refreshments available. Downtown on Bridge St. Between Maria's Taco and Tate's Playhouse. Please Bring your own Chair. Starts @ Dusk.

Saturday Events:

- **Canoe/Kayak Races** - Starts @ Kruger Memorial canoe landing 2:00 (ages 11 & under), 2:30 (ages 12 to 16), 3:00 (Open Class)
- **Arts and Craft Booths** - Vendors Downtown Thru the Afternoon
- **Car Show** - @ the Red Mill Thru the Afternoon
- **Kids' Inflatables** - Downtown 10:00 - 7:00
- **Foot Races** - 5k & 10k @ William Toan Park 8:00am
- **Face Painting** - Saturday 10:00 - 2:00
- **Historical Society Booth** - @ Boy Scout Park 10:00 - 4:00
- **Horse Show** - Variety of events @ Bogue Flats 9:00 - 5:00
- **Water Parade** - 10:00am
- **Kayak Lessons** - Free @ Kruger Memorial canoe landing 9:00 - 2:00
- **Looking Glass River Information Booth** - Information about the Looking Glass River and the Friends of the Looking Glass Organization @ the Confluence of the Grand and Looking Glass
- **Macro invertebrate testing** - Macro invertebrates are the Larvae Stage of Insects and are a Good Indicator of Water Quality. We will be Netting the "Bugs" from the River and Identifying them and Assessing the Health of the River @ the Confluence of the Grand and Looking Glass 10:00, Noon, & 3:00
- **Nature Float** - Canoe or Kayak Down the Grand River w/Tour Guide: Event after Event, on Treat After Another @ Charlotte Hwy Bridge, 7:00am; & end of Erdman Rd, 9:00am
- **Softball Tournament** - Men's Slow Pitch Softball @ Bogue Flats and Powers Park All Day
- **Wine the Walk** - Craft beer & wine tasting; live music; all on the downtown Portland Boardwalk 4:00 - 10:00
- **Civic Players Information Table** - Near the Main Stage 10:00 - 4:00
- **Civic Players Entertainment** - Five 20 Minute Sets of Entertainment @ main stage 10:00 - 4:00

Saturday Events: (continued)

- **Theater Tours** - Information about Proposed Updates and History of the Civic Players, Table Near the Main Stage 10:00 - 3:00
- **Clothesline Art Show** - Art show along the Boardwalk Downtown 4:00 - 10:00
- **Kickball Tournament** - @ Powers Park & Flats All Day
- **Main Stage** - Variety of Music During the Event, Afternoon & Evening
- **Scavenger Hunt** - to discover items of historical significance Downtown 10:00 - 4:00
- **Square Dancing** - A Square of Dancers will Dance to Their Own Caller: They Hail from Holt; for a Low Cost, They will Offer Audience Participation @ the Main Stage 1:00 - 2:00

Sunday Events:

- **Dog Contest** - Variety of Dog Competitions: Most Stylish, Most Talented, The Face Only A Mother Could Love, Best Sniffer, Best Entertainer, & Cutest Puppy @ Thompson Field 1:00
- **Shall We Gather at the River** - Various Groups, Soloists, and Community Coming Together to Sing @ Thompson Field 2:00 - 4:00

Friday/Saturday Events:

- **All Things Portland** - Amateur Art Contest for All Art Depicting Portland (includes poetry & stories) @ City Hall, 2d floor
- **Juried Art Show** - Prizes for Best Art; Artist Reception @ City Hall, 2d floor until Sat. Afternoon
- **Lens of the Community** - Local photography show; Photos Offered for Sale; Prize for People's Choice @ City Hall, 2d floor

Fri./Sat./Sunday Events:

- **Boy Scouts & Paddlers Camping** - Camping @ Thompson Field/Kruger Memorial canoe landing
- **Walking Tours** - to Discover Portland's Unique and Historical Landmarks

FREE RETIREMENT PLAN REVIEWS.

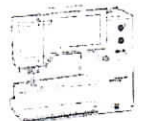
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Edward Jones
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Around the Block Quilt Shop LLC
120 Maple Street
Portland, MI 48875
517/647-5430



EMAIL - Aroundblockquilt@aol.com

Website: www.aroundtheblockquiltshop.com

Christmas in July - All new fabric & patterns!

We are taking registrations for Fall Retreat and Shop Hop.

Hours: M, W, Fri, Sat 10-5, Tues & Thurs 10-8



The Importance of the Downtown

Patrick Reagan, Main Street Manager

Each day, I am asked a multitude of questions from residents, business owners, and visitors to Portland. Usually, these questions are about a local construction project, a yearly event or promotion, or about a new business that has opened its doors. An unusual question that I am asked from time to time is one that stops me in my tracks: "Why is the downtown important?" It's a valid question and one that I enjoy answering: the downtown is important because it is a major employer, it is the main focal point of the city, and it gives entrepreneurs a great opportunity to start their dream business at a lower cost.

First, people often tend to forget about the power of the downtown as a driving economic force – the argument often used is that a small business normally employs only two-to-three people, and therefore is not as important as a larger corporation that employs fifty to one hundred people. I would argue otherwise.

When you take one downtown employer and analyze their employment, they are indeed small. However, if you judge the downtown as a single unified district, that statistic changes. For example, downtown Portland businesses together employ over three hundred people – individuals that are, in many cases, our friends, families, and neighbors. In 2008-2009, the Downtown Portland area saw a net gain of five full time jobs. Though this is not a gigantic gain, if you listen to the experts on Michigan employment statistics, we should actually see a net loss instead of any employment gains whatsoever. Furthermore, with the opening of five new businesses over the past year in downtown Portland, you can be assured that this number will go up during the next reporting cycle.

The second argument for the importance of the downtown is its sense of place within the community – it is something that all Portland residents can identify with. The downtown area is traditionally where many people choose to spend their free time. Many people can be seen walking or biking on the trails, strolling along the boardwalk, having lunch or dinner, or stopping in for a treat at one of the local ice cream shops. For parents and children, these are experiences that will last in their memories for a lifetime.

The downtown area is also a barometer, or a signal, to the overall condition of the community.

Downtowns that prosper and flourish signify that the City is one that is good to live in, raise a family in, or simply to visit. Conversely, downtowns that have empty storefronts or crumbling public amenities signal that the community is suffering. Visitors to a good downtown or a suffering downtown will sense the good or the bad and make their initial judgments of the entire city based on the current state

Thursdays on the Grand

Join the Portland Community Arts Council at the band shell at Two Rivers Park every Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

August 4 - Bailey's Comet

August 11 - Jeff Speas

August 18 - Rush & Julie Clement

August 25 - All-Star Jam*

*** Want to participate? Leave a message at 517 647 6545**



Now under new ownership

250 Kent Street Portland

647 6070

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Sat 11am – 3pm

Closed Sun-Mon

- Currently Accepting

Consignments

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Portland MI*

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Importance of Downtown, cont.

of the downtown, regardless of the size of the city. These judgments (either good or bad) will be passed on to the visitor's friends and family, and before long the reputation (again, either good or bad) will stick, regardless of the actual state of the city.

Finally, downtowns are important because they provide prime entrepreneurial opportunity. As mentioned earlier, downtown Portland has seen an increase this year in the number of new businesses that have opened their doors. Local entrepreneurs have taken advantage of lower lease rates and/ or building prices in the downtown to chase their dreams – the American dream – of selling products or services that they believe in, on a course set by them, with the possibility of growing a new business to unimagined heights of success. And while failure can happen, so can great success -- if you don't believe it then you probably have never heard of Nordstrom's department store or Starbucks coffeehouses – two businesses that started in small downtown storefronts and grew to be international corporate success stories.

One last note that needs to be addressed – a great downtown is a reflection of the people within the city itself. For example, Portland has dozens and dozens of active volunteers and business owners that work to make the downtown prosper –from our City Council to our business owners to our nonprofit organizations, volunteers add to the value and aesthetics of downtown Portland. In short, downtown Portland prospers because of their drive, imagination, and their desire to have a great downtown.

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 how you can be part of this mission, visit the Portland Main Street website at www.portlandmainstreet.org or call the Portland Main Street offices at (517) 647-5027.

Portland Pay Day Participating Businesses

- Around the Block Quilt Shop
- Back to Basics Country Market
- B&W Auto Supply
- Cheeky Monkeys Coffeehouse and Bakery
- Chocolate Moose
- Distinctive Occasions
- Electric Sunshine
- G&B Pool and Spa Supplies
- Grand Barber Lounge
- Hoort Law
- The Law Offices of Duff, Chadwick, and Associates
- Looking Grand Café
- New to You Consignment Shop
- Portland Clinical and Therapeutic Massage
- Raffaeles' Marketplace
- Riemer Eyecare.
- Suzanne Maystead, Optometrist
- Vollman Ford

For more information on Portland Pay Day or any Main Street events, activities, and programs, please call the Portland Main Street offices at (517) 647-5027, or visit our website at www.portlandmainstreet.org.

Exciting Changes Coming to Downtown: Art & Crafts Lesson

Starting September 1, Raffaeles' Marketplace will have a new look and a new name, "Rush Hour Studios." The new emphasis of the business will be hands-on classes and workshops in the arts. Rush Clement, the Owner of "Rush Hour Studios," will be offering guitar lessons and classes in oil painting and drawing. Other instructors will also offer classes for kids, paint -your-own-pottery classes, glass fusing, and more. New hours will be Mon- Fri 2:00pm - 8:00pm. Rush will still be offering custom picture framing. See (www.raffaelesmarketplace.com and www.rushhourstudios.com for schedules. Rush Hour Studios is at 143 Kent St Portland MI 517-647-6710