



YOUR DOWNTOWN CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2025



Saturday October 25, we invite YOU to JOIN the CELEBRATION!! 11am to 2pm

The Plaza's journey has had its challenges — from last fall's demolition delays to the tricky directional boring under the rivers for the water and sewer plant upgrades. But believe it or not, we're in the home stretch — and we can't wait to celebrate with our Portland friends and neighbors!

We're putting together an **outstanding celebration** — and there's *so much more to do* all around Downtown. Please join us for **Portland Downtown Day**, happening **all day from 7 AM to 9 PM**.

Don't forget the fun of Red Mill's **Haunted Mill & Haunted Market** — 6 to 9 PM

Here's just a taste of what's waiting for you: **Ribbon Cutting & Dedication Ceremony** * **Live Music by Sound Surfers Band** * **Carnival Eats** * **Free Bites & Beverages at Local Favorites** * **Local Crafters & Seasonal Sellers** * **Food, Beverage, Service, and Product Specials All Around Town** * **Scavenger Hunt** — Pick up a card at any open location, complete the list and turn in by 7 PM to be entered for a chance to win hundreds of dollars in prizes!

It's a celebration of progress, community, and everything we love about Portland — and you're invited to be part of it!

BRIDGE
WORK
AHEAD

The **Divine Highway Bridge** is underway to begin spring of 2026. It is expected to last the full construction season, through Nov. 2026. They will complete one half of the bridge at a time to enable N. bound traffic. The official detour route will be Divine to David to Keefer to Grand River. This route has been tested to take about 19 minutes if starting at Two Rivers Park. Many will find other routes based on their preferences.

Downtown Digest Summer 2025

MI Portland Downtown: Mid Michigans Favorite Small Town Escape
Mid Michigans beloved small-town hub— a place where families thrive, friends gather, and visitors make lasting memories.

Downtown Goals: Preserve historic assets while enhancing community vibrancy through thoughtful development and engaging public spaces. * Support locally owned commercial ventures by providing regular resources, promoting the community as a whole and offering opportunities for each business to achieve additional recognition and promotion. (Community Calendar, Social Media, Featured Business Articles) * Foster and fortify lasting, mutually rewarding partnerships and connections with all stakeholders to drive shared success.

State of Downtown: 35 Blocks / 168 Parcels / 457 Public Parking Spaces / 143 Commercial Storefronts / 109 Residential Units / 11 Restaurants / 14 Retail Stores / thousands of Visitors / 10 Commercial Vacancies, 7% Rate

In Demand Business: Food & Drink: FRESH, Farm to Table options, Vegan options, Grain Bowls / Soup / Deli, Upscaled Choices, Unique Versions of burgers, pizzas, sandwiches, salads on every menu (Fusion). Shopping & Retail: Bookstore, Arts-Crafts-Hobbies, Specialty Foods, General - Variety Store. Not expressing that each of these needs to be a new stand alone business, but that these things could be incorporated into current businesses and heavily promoted.

Our door is always open, and we invite everyone to reach out to us via phone, email, or by stopping in personally. We encourage you to ask questions and engage in discussions about any topic related to the DDA. To ensure availability, feel free to request an appointment with Tina if you would like uninterrupted time for your inquiries.

CONTACT US: 517-647-5027

TINACW@PORTLAND-MICHIGAN.ORG

MIPORTLAND.ORG/EVENTS

FOR DATES, TIMES,
LOCATIONS,
AND WHAT TO EXPECT



Montcalm/Ionia Small Business Resource Fair

Friday, October 17

from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
in room G129 on MCC's
Greenville Campus.

For more information contact Ryan Wilson
at wilson@rightplace.org or 616-690-3613.



**How will Your Business be
Showcased this Holiday Season?
Deadline, 10/17 for inclusion
in all Promotions.
Please Reference Your Email or
Copy / Paste the Links Below
to Complete Quick
Online Forms**

Please
Complete
the Form
eMailed to
You on
10/2 or
10/3 even
if you've
already
filled 1
out !

2025 FINALISTS

MI Pitch



Now in its 5th year, MI Pitch (Montcalm-Ionia Pitch) continues to make a powerful impact on small businesses across both counties. MiPortland has proudly supported this annual event since its inception, contributing resources that help fuel innovation and entrepreneurship. Seeing the real-time results of our sponsorship is truly inspiring — because

this event is all about *connection*, and those connections spark growth for both entrepreneurs and communities.

We are thrilled to share that **Portland's own Smith & Blossom** took home **First Prize** this year! ☑ Marlena O'Connell's small but mighty startup is now ready to expand by adding a sustainable greenhouse to the property — a project that promises to strengthen both the business and our community.

Smith & Blossom is already making waves: keeping money in our local economy, expanding Portland's tourism appeal, providing education, cultivating local pride, and fostering partnerships.

We couldn't be prouder — and we can't wait to see how Smith & Blossom continues to build on this momentum in the years ahead!

