



YOUR DOWNTOWN CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2023



If there is a SEASON FOR GRATITUDE, this is certainly it...

We have an exciting 2024 ahead of us, and planning is moving full speed ahead. Portland is fortunate to receive grant funding to put towards some costs in a transformation of our historic downtown for

Kent Street Project and Looking Glass River Plaza.

As a recap; * Angled parking will be retained, but at a reduced, safer angle. * The projects are expected to begin in April, and be completed in November of 2024, weather dependent * It will be messy, a challenge to navigate, and not fun. * Businesses will remain open, most have available entries from Maple Street and the Boardwalk * We are committed to ensuring available entry from Kent

St as much as possible, although that will likely be the least desirable for customers and staff. * The DDA will have strategic planning meetings with business and property owners ahead of the project, and while it is ongoing to work towards mitigating business interruption. * About a year from now, the results will be amazing.

- Inherent to all downtowns, there will never be ample parking or the same conveniences that exist when we patronize businesses that own their own parking lots. Downtown businesses are well worth the walk and in many cases, the distance is less than what it would be when shopping at Meijer or other big box stores.
- There are never any assurances that spaces will be readily available for any particular business at any particular time. This will always be the case.
- Our downtown is fortunate to have so many municipal lots, especially for a community our size.

There are things you can do ahead of time.

- Start utilizing different entrances to get comfortable with them.
- Businesses can start planning creative ways to engage their customers (pre-orders, pick-up, delivery, alternate entrances attractive and fun)

The City and F&V are working hard to navigate the current construction conditions and provide a quality end product that the residents and businesses can be proud of for many years to come.

As always, our doors are open, please never hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns



Think big

MiPortland.org

#AllSeasonLong

WELCOME Saturday BEFORE Thanksgiving

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY'S x2

national Saturday FOLLOWING Thanksgiving

SATURDAY(S) NOV 18 & 25 !!

There are more great gifts than you think, right here, close to home, not just Sm Biz Sat, but year round! Local businesses support our sports teams, area events, 4H, community churches & clubs, and more! Give them your support by shopping and dining. **Gift Certificates**—salons, barbers, local flavors with eateries, oil changes, photography. **For your fitness buff**—gym/fitness/dance memberships or classes. **Looking for something more personal**—try local retail shops. Think 'outside the BIG BOX' :)

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Business Spotlight— RIVERS EDGE GRILL, Award Winning Grinders & More

Story by Kurt Fedewa



The Riversedge Grill opened on Kent Street in September 2020 and it is owned and operated by Dennis Cunningham. It is a sports bar and restaurant serving American food, specializing in grinders. Formerly called the Red Tomato, it won the Mlive.com award for the best submarine sandwich in Mid-Michigan.

"What I've developed is a very affordable restaurant fit for the entire family and well-suited for gatherings of friends in a warm, comfortable atmosphere," said Dennis. "People may come here to watch their favorite sports team on TV and we have multiple televisions. We also offer beer, wine, and liquor for those customers who enjoy these things."

Grinders are a specialty of the restaurant.

"We make the sub buns from scratch," said Dennis. "When we assemble the sandwich, we provide the customer with twenty variations to choose from. All subs are then oven-baked and topped with the customer's favorite toppings."

The restaurant also sells other fare which has become a hit in Portland.

"We have incorporated into the menu a great hamburger that some people think is the best one in Portland," said Dennis.

"We also feature thin-crust pizza and a full-menu breakfast. Breakfast is served everyday but Monday."

Dennis has been working in the restaurant business for his entire working life.

"I have owned restaurants since 1992," he said. "I feel that I know what customers want in the way of food, with sensible pricing and with a friendly staff."

The Riversedge Grill now offers service on the patio overlooking the Grand River.

"The patio is a great option for those customers who enjoy outdoor dining with a beautiful view of the river," said Dennis.

Dennis grew up in Hubbardson and has been living in Portland since 1988.

"Portland is a great community," he said. "I love living here. I moved my restaurant to the downtown area because of the downtown's charm, including the river, and to bring a fun establishment to the city's downtown."

The Riversedge Grill is open seven days of the week. Dennis encourages everyone to stop in and to try the delicious menu while enjoying the welcoming atmosphere of downtown Portland.

160 Kent St. * 517-647-4139 * 8 am – 10 pm Everyday

The kitchen closes at 8 pm. Breakfast is served Tuesday through Sunday.

