



YOUR DOWNTOWN CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 2025



The Power of a Grateful Community

Gratitude helps us see what truly matters and strengthens our bonds as a community. Here in our town, recent projects and achievements reflect the appreciation shared among residents, businesses, and local partners. As construction wraps up and new improvements take shape, our resilience shines through. Together, with gratitude and collaboration, we're not just building spaces — we're nurturing the spirit that makes our community thrive.

Help us welcome three new businesses !

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Coming Soon! Monkey Llama Games LLC: Looking for a place to hang out, challenge your friends, and have fun with family? Our new store brings **board games, Dungeons & Dragons, and card games** under one roof. Inspired by our own family's love of game night, we've created a space where **everyone can test their luck and skills**. Enjoy a huge variety of games to play in-store, explore **models and LEGO sets to build**, and take home your favorites — we'll have plenty available for purchase! Monkey Llama will be located at 154 Kent St.



SATURDAY(S) NOV 22 & 29 !!

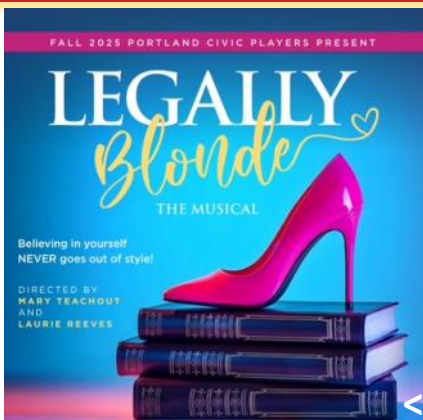
There are **more great gifts than you think — right here at home!** And it's not just for Small Business Saturday — local businesses offer amazing options **year-round**. Local businesses will have refreshments, give-aways, specials, discounts, Spin to Win, Door Busters, and BOGO's support our sports teams, area events, 4H, community churches, clubs, and more! Give them your support by shopping, dining and using their services. **Gift Certificates**—salons, barbers, retailers, local flavors with eateries, oil changes, photography. **Looking for something more personal**—try local retail shops.

Think 'outside the BIG BOX' :)



CONTACT US: 517-647-5027

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Business Spotlight— HOMETOWN SPORTS Story by Kurt Fedewa

Mike and Cindy Ward are the owners of Hometown Sports, a specialty printing company right here in Portland. Amanda Bruce and Ashley Reuther serve the business as managers. "We sell a lot of apparel with team logos," said Amanda. "We also sell bags, signs, decals and other items. We create articles for local schools and for local businesses, as well as for individuals."

The Wards started up the business twenty-five years ago in their basement and they moved it to its present location on Bridge Street about twenty years ago. "As a business we are heavily invested in the community," said Amanda. "We often participate in fund-raising efforts for local schools as well as for other aspects of the city. After the tornado of 2015, we produced 'Portland Strong' shirts. One hundred percent of the profit went to local churches that were impacted by the tornado."

Hometown Sports also partners with other area communities, such as Ionia, Westphalia, Pewamo, and Grand Ledge, as well as Lake Odessa among others. "We produce apparel and other articles for them that meet their needs," said Amanda.

Hometown Sports prints signs for local businesses for use in their storefronts. "I enjoy seeing these signs as I drive around Portland," said Amanda. "It produces a great sense of satisfaction for me to see our work being used throughout the community."

Hometown Sports has participated in many events that help Portland be its best. "We printed shirts last year on a moments notice for the 'You Matter' movement locally after a family lost their child," said Amanda. "We also printed shirts as a fund-raiser for local businesses and for local individuals after the Grand River flooded in 2019."

Looking toward the future, Hometown Sports would like to expand their business in order to offer more printing abilities and more variety of products. And, as always, Hometown Sports holds Portland in high regard.

"We're here in Portland because our entire family was raised in this community," said Amanda. "We have a deep love for Portland and we genuinely look forward to providing this much needed service to the city for many years to come."

200 W, Bridge Street (517) 647-7332 Mon-Fri 9 AM to 7 PM / Sat 9 AM to 2 PM

