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PORTLAND** MI  
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*on the street*

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YOUR DOWNTOWN CONNECTION

MIORTLAND.ORG

FEBRUARY 2023



## 2022 BY THE NUMBERS



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2022 LEADERSHIP

### EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Cory Griminick, Board Chair**

Portland District Library

**Leo Madarang, Vice-Chair**

Madarang Hoort & Assoc. Law Office

**James E. Barnes, Treasurer**

Mayor, City of Portland

**Margery Briggs, Secretary**

Two Rivers Counseling PC

### Tom Antaya

Tom's Food Center & Fuel

### Tutt Gorman

Portland City Manager

### Dr. Jason Williamson

Portland Family Chiropractic

### Becky Ward

Ward's Garage

### Mandy Johnston

Shirley Teachout

Michael Judd

Sheryl VanGoor

Katrina Freeman

Kerron Trowbridge

Denise Barnes

*Room for YOU !!*

*District Staff, Owner, Resident*

MAKING AN IMPACT

While primarily to provide information, we'll be happy to hear from you, and answer as many questions as possible.

This meeting is a semi-annual update of the DDA.

**7pm Monday  
Feb 27, 2023**

CONTACT US:

517-647-5027

TINACW@PORTLAND-MICHIGAN.ORG



## FEATURED BUSINESS iDRIVE ACADEMY

Submitted by  
**Kurt Fedewa**

Brian and Jessica DeShane operate the iDrive Academy — an automobile driving school for teens under eighteen years of age.

"Many people are surprised to learn that high schools no longer offer driving classes," said Jessica. "All driving schools are now privately owned or they are part of a franchise," she said.

Brian and Jessica have been at their business for just over one year.

"There is a shortage of driving schools and driving teachers in Michigan," said Jessica. "After having trouble finding a teacher for our son, we decided that there is an unmet need for this service and that it is something that we can help do," she said.

Jessica enjoys being a driving school owner.

"Driving is a big step in a teen's life and it is very fulfilling for us to be part of that," she said. "It's important to help other people. I believe that this is what makes a community strong."

Brian and Jessica began operation of their school by offering online classes and they are expanding their school's services into other features of driving education.

"We now have a space in downtown Portland and our next step is to add a virtual driving simulator to our academy in order to help people who have an initial fear of driving on the road. The simulator will help relieve their anxiety by giving them a taste of what driving a car is like," said Jessica.

Jessica feels good about doing business in Portland. "This community is so supportive to its people," she said. "It cares about everyone here. I am very grateful for what it has done for us. We would not be where we are today without the support of Portland."

**131 Kent Street Suite A \* 517-526-2174 \* M-F 10a-6p Sat & Sun 10a-1p**  
**iDrive517.com      hello@idrive517.com**

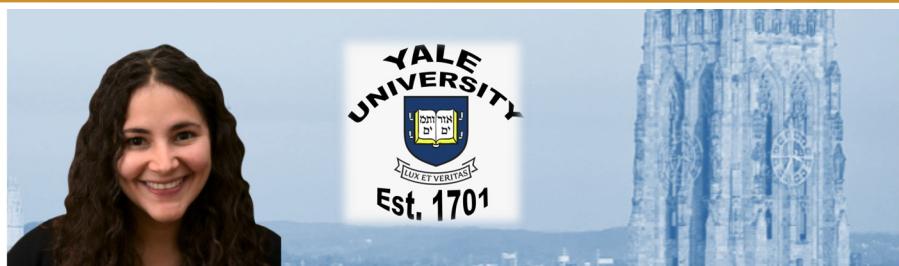
## The Science of Well-Being Free Happiness Course Online

Ever want to take a class at Yale University? Now's your chance! Yale wants to reach the world with its course that has improved students happiness and well being since 2018.

In this course you will engage in a series of challenges designed to increase your own happiness and build more productive habits. As preparation for these tasks, Professor Laurie Santos reveals misconceptions about happiness, annoying features of the mind that lead us to think the way we do, and the research that can help us change. You will ultimately be prepared to successfully incorporate a specific wellness activity into your life. "It's the real thing"!

<https://online.yale.edu/courses/science-well-being>

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2nd Tuesdays - 6:15pm 2023			
Jan 10	date change, THU 2/16	Mar 14	April 11
China Buffet	Hot Shots	Rivers Edge	The Port
May 9	June 13	July 11	Aug 8
Chocolate Moose	Pizza Shop	P Party Store	Fabiano's
Sept 12	Oct 10	Nov 14	Dec
2Rivers Nutrition	ConfluxCity	Olivera's	NO MEETING

Are you: a property or business owner, do you live or work in the DDA District? This is the schedule of our Team Work meetings to move projects and programs forward. You are always welcome to join us and be involved.

Complete details and more information are listed at [miportland.org/events](http://miportland.org/events) and selecting the 2nd Tuesday of the month on the Calendar 'DDA Work Team Meeting'