

MARCH 2026



Lets help our community move toward a shared goal: a unified city, proud of its downtown, with a level of vibrancy that's felt well beyond our core. If you've missed the earlier ones, that's no reason to miss this - our most fun, and likely most important presentation of the year!!

Please join us for this interactive workshop, hosted at City Hall in the Upstairs Community Room.

Team Rogers City comes to Positively Portland to share best practices that changed their fading downtown into a vibrant hub in every season. Mayor Scott will energetically lead the way!

- open communication with both community members and officials, an open group where meetings are well attended.
- How to get more people working together, and people appreciating the work that's being done.
- How to build a great resource for businesses who invest and attend

Creating access to community vibrancy and resilience!



You're Invited To
Cultivating a Stronger MiPortland
 Building Community Pride and Connection!
 April 15, 2026
 6pm - 7pm
 Upstairs, City Hall
 RSVP & More Information:
dda@portland-michigan.org
 517-647-5027

DIDO! Dedicated Investor Development Opportunity



DIDO!
2026
FACADE INCENTIVE
PITCH COMPETITION

\$ 12,000
 \$ 8,000
 \$ 5,000

KEY DATES:
 • Applications Open Now
 • W March 11 Preservation Forward Presentation
 • F April 17 Application Deadline
 • W April 29 Contestants Announced
 • TH May 28 Public Pitch Event - Location TBA


 DIDO! Let's build it beautifully, together.
www.miportland.org/facade-incentives/sign-guide

With \$25,000 in total funding available, up to five building owners will receive reimbursement awards — including one top award of up to \$12,000!

- The program is available to eligible properties within the Historic Downtown District (100–268 Kent Street) and select surrounding historic buildings on Bridge Street and Grand River Avenue. Deadline to apply is Friday April 17, 2026.
- This year's competition arrives at a powerful moment for downtown — as streetscape investments, the Looking Glass River Plaza, and the upcoming social district continue to build momentum.

Interested property owners are encouraged to review,

<https://www.miportland.org/facade-incentives>

- Downtown progress is built building by building, block by block — and 2026 is shaping up to be a transformational year. **DIDO! Let's build it beautifully, together.**

PORTLAND, A Service Driven Community!

We are all grateful to know and recognize the volunteers behind the Garden Club, Friends of the Red Mill, VFW & Auxiliary, Scouts, The Community Fund, Service Group, Food Pantry, the Civic Players, Orchestra, Churches, Fire Department, City Council, and more!

Serving MiPortland Downtown directly are our Board of Directors, Positively Portland Members, Event Volunteers for Fireworks, BeerFest, and HolidayFest ~ and those who pop in regularly just to lend a hand. Becky Ward, April Vogl, Shirley Teachout, Erica Sheehan, Sheryl VanGoor, Katrina Freeman, Gayle Lardie, Rene Davis, Cena & Roy Schneider, Marcia Roser, Tim Fuller, Jamie SaintAmour, Kiley & Jim Hilligan, Marlana & Cory O'Connell, Chanda Lefke, Dr. Jason & Vicki Williamson, Barb & Ray Hoskins, Dave & Marianne Kerch, and many more

Please give these and volunteers you know a shout out with a big thank you :-)

Thank you all, for being wonderfully giving, dedicated and community focused!



CELEBRATE NATIONAL VOLUNTEER
APRIL 19-25
 All over Michigan





Owner / Operators
James & Tiffany Barron

Where Strangers Become Teammates and Memories Are Made

Looking for something different to do in downtown Portland? Step inside Monkey Llama Games, and you'll quickly discover it's more than just a game shop—it's a place where laughter is loud, strangers become friends, and memories are made one roll of the dice at a time.

Owner James Barron has created a space built around connection. "Monkey Llama is a family-friendly place where people can come to play, have fun, and make memories," he said. "We offer a wide variety of in-store games, and if you find one you love, you can take it home with you."

But what truly sets Monkey Llama apart isn't just the games—it's the people around the table. Ever wanted to play a game but didn't have enough players? Here, that problem disappears.

"People can walk in and jump into a game or start one with others right here," James explained. "It takes the pressure off and makes it easy to connect."

In a world dominated by screens, Monkey Llama offers something refreshingly real: face-to-face interaction. "The friendships and fulfillment we build with others are what stay with us," James said. "That's what this place is about." And those moments happen every day—families spanning three generations gathered around a table, friends reconnecting, and newcomers finding a sense of belonging.

"For me, the best part is watching those moments unfold," he added. "It's hard to put into words how special that is." For James, the inspiration is personal. Some of his favorite memories come from playing Euchre with his grandmother and spending time with family—simple moments that left a lasting impact. Now, he's helping others create their own.

First-time visitors don't have to feel overwhelmed, either. James makes it easy to jump in. "If someone tells me what they enjoy, I'll help match them with the perfect game," he said. "You're never on your own here." And it's the people who keep the experience fresh.

"The most amazing individuals come through our doors," James said. "Everyone adds something unique. That's what builds the community."

At Monkey Llama Games, it's not just about winning or losing—it's about showing up, sitting down, and sharing an experience you'll remember long after the game ends.

154 Kent Street 517-743-4146 www.monkeyllamagames.com
HOURS: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 3pm-9pm / Friday 3pm - 11pm
Saturday 10am - 11pm / Sunday 10am - 9pm (closed on Wednesdays)

Event Details & Complete Calendar at miportland.org/events

 Thank you for your support!

ANNUAL GERANIUM SALE

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - Monday, April 27, 2026

Online Ordering Only
Please place your order in at www.portlandmigardenclub.org

PRICE: \$2.75 PER GERANIUM

Spring is here and that means it's time for the Portland MI Garden Club's Annual Geranium Sale! We are offering beautiful, healthy geraniums in a variety of vibrant colors from Revolution Farms by Peckham in Lansing.

2026 Colors: Light Pink, Salmon, Dark Pink, White, Red, Orange

All proceeds support the club's community projects including beautification of downtown Portland, educational speakers and workshops for the club, and donations to other Portland organizations.

Easter eggstravaganza

Join us for an **EGGcellent Time**

Bogue Flats 10am
Saturday April 4

Brought to you by  & Friends





24

Apr 24 at 8AM - Apr 26 at 9PM

Alice in Wonderland Weekend in Portland!
Wide Adventure | April 24-26

Portland VFW Post 4090

FISH FRY

EVERY OTHER FRIDAY DURING LENT

Fish FRY-day Fri-Yay!!

Join Us Every Friday Night 5-7 PM

Bonus: JAN. 16
FEB. 6, 20
MAR. 6, 20
APR. 3

PUBLIC WELCOME!



VFW POST 4090
1324 E Bridge St
Portland, MI
www.vfw4090.org



VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.