

DOWNTOWN
PORTLAND MI
Let's Connect!
on the street

YOUR DOWNTOWN CONNECTION

MIPORTLAND.ORG

APRIL 2022



Greetings from the **DDA Chair**

Hello! If you don't already know who I am, my name is **Cory Grimminck** and I am the chair of Portland's Downtown Development Authority (aka DDA aka MiPortland). I'm also the director of the Portland District Library, which explains how I came to join this group—the DDA used to do a tax capture of the library millage, and I wanted to be able to say that I had a voice in how that money was spent. The tax capture fell by the wayside years ago, but I was already hooked. Now I'm proud to be able to say that I contributed to the new splash pad and Toan Park improvements, façade grants, the database of downtown businesses, the hiring of a stellar DDA director, and a slew of fun events downtown. Looking forward, we're working toward improvements to the downtown infrastructure that will help our downtown businesses and everyone who visits the area. I would urge anyone who loves our town and wants to

see it continue to grow and shine to consider volunteering with MiPortland DDA. Now, I know that you're all busy and don't think that you have enough time to volunteer, so I'm going to let you in on a little secret. This piece was supposed to run in the January newsletter, but I repeatedly missed Tina's deadlines for getting it done. And it was fine!! Nobody made me feel guilty, and I was able to tailor my contribution to the amount of time I had. So no matter how much time and energy you have to give, you can still contribute to the exciting work that the DDA is doing in your community!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Noreen Logel Submitted by Amanda Johnston



Noreen Logel's name is synonymous with The Friends of the Red Mill. Tirelessly devoting the last 10 years to the vision of FOTRM, her journey began much earlier than that, with her service to Boy Scout Troop 58. When the Troop disbanded, the three committee members left wanted to give the remaining funds in their coffers back to the community – the place that Noreen has lived her entire life, graduating from St. Patrick's School. After much discussion and subsequent action, the concept of Friends of the Red Mill and pavilion came to fruition and became a landmark of Portland.

In addition to her devotion to Friends of the Red Mill, Noreen volunteers for funeral dinners, Portland Community Fund, Backpacks for Bellies, and anywhere else she can be of service. Noreen is quick to deflect any praise or recognition back on the many volunteers and community members that support the efforts of FOTRM and many other organizations in the Portland area.

When I asked Noreen what advice she'd like to share to potential volunteers, she responded, "For anyone who volunteers and enjoys it, they will agree that it is a very satisfying experience. The people I have met through Friends of the Red Mill are amazing. They give of their time freely and with smiles on their faces. I often tell the group, if you're not having fun, please don't come back - volunteering shouldn't be something you don't enjoy. So far, although some folks have had to leave due to various other reasons, I don't know of anyone who left because they weren't having fun. What we do we do not consider work - it's bonding time."

A message from Noreen: Anyone who wants to get involved with Friends of the Red Mill can contact me by text or phone at 517.743.1830. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month in the community room in the basement of the library at 6:00 p.m. If you are not a "meeting" person, that's fine too. Just let us know what you would like to do and we'll work it out.

Thank you, Noreen Logel, for being a wonderfully giving volunteer!

Spring Clean Up - Ready for Summer

It's time to take a fresh look at your property, especially the place your customers and clients enter and potential buyers walk by. Make plans to ensure a welcome, tidy presentation that reflects the best you have to offer! **Awning & Entryway—Restoration Partner Services** will clean a standard size awning and entryway for \$50. This might be a great alternative investment for you. They are also willing to bid window washing and any other maintenance project you've been putting off. You can contact them at: **517-647-7500** tim@restorationpartner.com

introducing...
the
All New
MiPortland.org



w/ Online Marketplace
(think Amazon but LOCAL)
~ Daily Updates & Improvements ~



FEATURED BUSINESS The Port

Submitted by Kurt Fedewa

Brian and Merry Hass are the proud owners of The Port, a wine-tasting, wine-selling shop—and so much more.

The Port sells wine by the glass as well as by the bottle. Customers may also enjoy a tasting of the wine before purchasing a bottle of it.

“People may enjoy a tasting and thus they may make an informed decision about the wine that they select,” said Merry. “We also sell wine slushies, which is a frozen drink.”

The Port sells wine that is made by the Modern Craft Winery of Au Greys, Michigan. Brian and Merry became acquainted with the winery while on vacation in the Thumb area of the state.

“We felt called by God to open our business in Portland,” said Merry. “The decision to do so was easy.”

But The Port does much more than simply sell wine. It also offers premier chocolate, made by the “How Sweet it is” chocolatiers of Holt, Michigan. “We sell fifteen flavors of chocolate,” said Merry. “My favorite is sea salt caramel. It’s fantastic.”

Brian and Merry appreciate their business and all that it has to offer their clients.

“What I like most about our business is the public contact,” said Merry. “My husband and I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. We enjoy conversing with them and in learning about them.”

But there’s still more to The Port. “We also sell top quality candles,” said Merry. Our candles are made of soy, which is a superior material to paraffin. The candles are available in eighty fragrances. They come in tins, in jars, and in melts. People may even come into the shop and make their own candles. It’s a wonderful experience.”

Finally, The Port handles private rentals of its facilities for events like bridal showers.

“We make wine and chocolate available to parties of up to fifty people,” said Merry. “We also provide charcuterie boards of meat and cheese. People may even bring their own food to the shop if they wish to do so.”

There’s something for everyone to enjoy at The Port.

143 Kent Street * (517) 515-5517 * theport143@gmail.com

Hours: Wed, Thurs, Fri 6 PM to 9 PM; Sat 2 PM to 6 PM.

ALL LINKS AVAILABLE AT: WWW.MIPORTLAND.ORG

The ‘Buzz’ about Beerfest on the Bridge Aug13, has begun!

Returning as the **3B... BEST BotB** ever!!

- **Beginning April 15 –**

40%-50% off ‘day of’ pricing available online only

while this limited release lasts at Eventbrite.com

Volunteers can sign up for their favorite times & jobs

at signupgenius.com—search BeerFest ot Bridge

or watch for an email from us, or email us for a direct link



2nd Saturday in Aug.

BEERONBRIDGE.COM



PORTLAND GARDEN CLUB ANNUAL GERANIUM SALE

Beautiful and hardy @ \$2.50 per plant.

This year’s colors:

Red, White, Light Pink, Dark Pink, Salmon.

We are only selling by Pre-orders.

Order early to ensure color/quantity you want.

We do not anticipate any extra plants available on date of pickup.

All orders must be in by **Tuesday April 22**

To Order:

New online ordering:

<https://portlandmiegardenclub.org/geranium-sale/>

Call in: 616-299-8752. bettynumb1@gmail.com

Pick-up Date: Thursday, May 6th, 12-6 pm.

Portland Red Mill Pavilion: 350 N Water St, Portland, MI 48875

Curbside pickup (delivered to your car):

Stay in your vehicle and pay with exact cash or check
Sales help the Garden Club beautify downtown Portland.



The GREAT Portland EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday April 16 @ 10am Bouge Flats

Sponsored & Organized By **The Chocolate Moose**