



Your MiPortland Connection

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# July 2026



## More Events !??

Many of these topics have been discussed before, but they're worth revisiting.

First, Downtown Development Authorities are established under Michigan law to strengthen and revitalize downtowns by encouraging investment, improving infrastructure, enhancing public spaces, providing businesses resources, and increasing economic vitality. While a DDA may choose to host events, they are not a primary or required purpose.

When evaluating events, the DDA considers whether they support our downtown mission, attendance, impact on local businesses, volunteer capacity, sponsorships, costs, and responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. These factors are reviewed each year as community needs and resources change.

Events don't disappear because they're unpopular. More often, they're affected by declining attendance, rising costs, volunteer burnout, or no longer providing enough benefit to justify the investment—challenges many communities across Michigan are experiencing.

Six years ago, the DDA stepped in to preserve both the community fireworks and Sounds of Summer when they were at risk of ending. Without that commitment, our community likely would not have enjoyed either tradition over the past several years.

We're fortunate to have organizations, businesses, and volunteers who create wonderful community experiences. If you'd like to see additional events, we sincerely welcome new ideas and new volunteers. That's how great community traditions continue. Please share your ideas with the community at Positively Portland meetings!

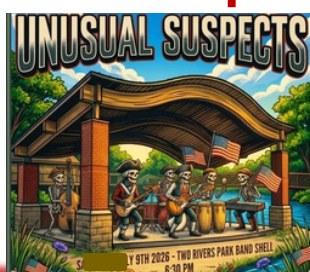
Do you have community pride, have you experienced how possibilities grow when we work together -are you looking for stronger connections? This is the regular group gathering for YOU! Bring a friend or two!

6pm Tu 7/14

Thompson Field Pavilion, Canal St.



## www.miportland.org/events



## Featured Business **The POINT** Story By Kurt Fedewa Family-Owned Restaurant Brings Fresh Energy to Portland

The Point has entered an exciting new chapter under the ownership of Mike Taylor, who, together with his family, is dedicated to serving Portland and surrounding communities with great food and warm hospitality.

Before becoming a restaurant owner, Mike spent many years in restaurant operations within multiple global companies. While his experience in the restaurant industry is extensive, The Point represents his first venture as an owner.

"I have a passion for restaurant operations and enjoy owning my own location," said Mike. "I appreciate the opportunity to serve high-quality food with great service to the community. Customer service is a high priority of mine."

Mike and his family purchased Fabiano's River House Grill in May 2025 and changed the name to The Point. As a family-owned business, Mike is supported by his wife Kellie and by his two daughters, Emma and Brileigh. Since they purchased the restaurant, they have already made several improvements designed to enhance the dining experience. A few of those changes include improving food ingredients and offering more choices within the menu.

Mike says owning a business has long been one of his dreams. "I looked at multiple restaurants before purchasing The Point," he said. "Ultimately, the decision came down to Portland. I chose Portland because it is a very special community and it is an outstanding place to do business."

His admiration for the city is evident. "Portland is a vibrant and welcoming community," Mike said. "The downtown area is a desirable place to live, work, and visit."

More than anything, Mike wants The Point to be a gathering place where friends, families, and neighbors can come together. "I enjoy creating a place where people can slow down, connect with one another, and enjoy a great meal," he said. "My family and I are proud of what we've accomplished so far, and we're excited about the future."

Mike and his family invite everyone in the community to stop by, experience the improvements, and enjoy a delicious meal at The Point.

[facebook.com/ThePointPortlandMichigan](https://www.facebook.com/ThePointPortlandMichigan)

104 W. Grand River Avenue

(517)647- 4400

Tu-Th 8am - 9pm

F & S 8am - 10:30pm

Sun 8am - 9pm

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# MIPITCH

## BUSSINESS PITCH COMPETITION

Have a big idea? Let's hear it!



### Frequently Asked Questions



#### What is MI Pitch?

MIPitch is a local business pitch competition for entrepreneurs, startups, and problem-solvers with big ideas that live and/or have a business in Montcalm or Ionia Counties.



#### What types of business ideas are eligible?

Ideas can range from pre-launch or a side-gig all the way to established businesses looking to grow or launch a new product. Home-based, e-commerce, and brick-and-mortar are all eligible.



#### Is there a fee to enter?

No! It's completely free to apply and participate.



#### How do I apply?

Scan the QR code or visit:  
<https://forms.gle/ZrknSKGQTfGcPu2w5>



#### Why should I participate?

Gain visibility, refine your idea, and get feedback from experienced judges and business leaders. Plus, connect with other entrepreneurs.



#### Do I need a business plan?

No formal plan required, just a clear idea and how it could work.



#### Who can apply?

Anyone with a business idea, new startup, or plan to grow an existing business in Montcalm or Ionia Counties is eligible.



#### What can I win?

Cash prizes, business support, and resources to bring your idea to life.



#### When is the deadline?

Applications are due by August 9<sup>th</sup>



#### When is the event?

Finalists will pitch live on  
**September 17th**  
 Open to the public!



#### How are finalists chosen?

A committee of local leaders selects finalists based on idea strength, growth potential, and community impact.



#### What should I expect as a finalist?

Coaching, support, and a chance to pitch live. You'll have 7 minutes to present your idea and answer questions from judges.



#### What if I've applied before?

You're welcome to apply again, especially with a new or improved idea.



**HAVE AN IDEA?**  
**SUBMIT TODAY!**

Learn more & submit at  
<https://www.rightplace.org/events/mipitch-2026>

