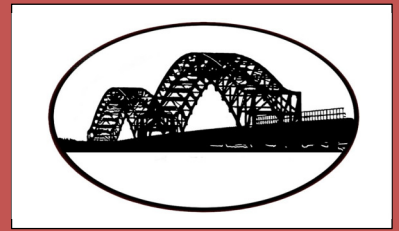


The Portland Business Journal

Summer Edition 2011

A Publication of the Portland Economic Development Commission



Portland Named One of America's Best Small Towns

The secret is out! Portland is one of the 100 best small towns in the United States! Ranked at number 88, Portland was recognized as offering quality schools, a stable tax base, beautiful scenery, and a convenient location.

Portland is one of five Connecticut towns recognized by Money Magazine in its' annual "Best Places To Live" issue. The other Connecticut towns are Tolland at number 37, South Windsor at number 38, Simsbury at number 39 and Cheshire at number 73. The top city on the list is Louisville, Colorado, a community in the Rocky Mountains more than twice the size of Portland that is a hub for jobs in technology, energy and aerospace.

More than 3,000 communities were surveyed to determine the top 100 small towns in America. Money Magazine uses information compiled by Onboard Informatics, a national real estate data company, to rank towns of under 30,000 people. The magazine considered several factors in developing the rankings, including median family income, job growth, home affordability, safety, school quality, health care, arts and leisure, and diversity.



Businesses Impacted by Irene Must Register by November 3, 2011

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, does not provide assistance to businesses. However, businesses with damage from Tropical Storm Irene have until November 3, 2011 to register their damages and business losses with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Although businesses are not eligible for FEMA grants, FEMA will connect business owners with the Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Program and provide contact information for other state and federal programs providing storm assistance to local businesses. Information provided to insurance companies and local emergency personnel is not transferred to FEMA and so, business owners must be sure to register with FEMA before November 3, 2011.

Businesses may register by phone at 1-800-621-FEMA, or on-line at www.disasterassistance.gov. Business owners will need to provide an EIN, current and predisaster address, phone number, insurance policy information, and a description of business losses due to the storm.

Business of the Month Program

Ever wondered how the Commission selects the “Business of the Month”? The “Business of the Month” is selected based on nominations from customers and members of the community.

Is there a business in Portland that offers exceptional service, a quality product, unbeatable pricing? Is there a business that generously donates their goods and services to help make Portland a great community? These are the businesses we love to honor!

Nominating a business is easy. Just send a note or e-mail indicating the name of the business and a brief description of why they should be our next, “Business of the Month”. Nominations may be sent to EDC Consultant Mary Dickerson at marydickerson@yahoo.com or c/o The Portland Town Hall, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480. All nominations will be read at the monthly Commission meeting and Commission members will select the most deserving “Business of the Month”.

Winners receive a sign to be displayed in front of their business and a press release is sent to the local newspapers and media outlets. Nominating a business is a great way to say thank you to our business owners and their staff!

Friend Us On Facebook!

Want to keep up with the news in the Portland business community? Then friend us on Facebook!

The Economic Development Commission has entered the world of social media and established the “**Portland Connecticut Marketplace**” page. The page offers information about our “Business of the Month”, local businesses, business promotions, and town and community events. Just click “Like” and stay up to date will all the latest business news.

Get Involved!

The Portland Economic Development Commission meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are held at the Portland Library, 20 Freestone Avenue. Business owners, residents, and those interested in promoting Portland’s business community are encouraged to attend.



Inner Circle Family Martial Arts Center Celebrates Grand Opening

Inner Circle Family Martial Arts Center celebrated its Grand Opening on Thursday, September 29th. The business, located at 143 Marlborough Street offers karate classes based on traditional Okinawan Shorin Ryu combined with modern Cordone Ryu. Every student is encouraged to achieve personal excellence in a variety of areas, both in and outside of the dojo, with the full support of the staff.

The program also incorporates monthly seminars from experts in other styles to augment their training. In addition, a variety of other classes including cardio-kickboxing for women, zumba, gymnastics for boys and girls (ages 5-13), private lessons, karate & gymnastic birthday parties and more are offered. For more information on classes or programs, call Inner Circle Family Martial Arts Center at (860)-342-2381.

Veterans Business Programs Offer Free or Low Cost Assistance

Business owners or those who are starting a business and are veterans of US military service have a number of resources available to assist them with developing their businesses. Programs range from simple assistance in starting a business, such as developing a business and marketing plan, to more complex professional assistance, such as legal or accounting services.

Most veterans business programs are sponsored by federal or state government agencies, or educational institutions. Many provide opportunities for networking and mentoring. A list of no or low cost assistance programs and their web links appear below:

Veterans Outreach Business Centers:

www.usa.gov/vetcenter

SBA Office of Veterans Business Development:

www.sba.gov/vets

National Veteran-Owned Business Association:

www.navoba.com

Veteran and Military Business Owners Association:

www.vambo.org

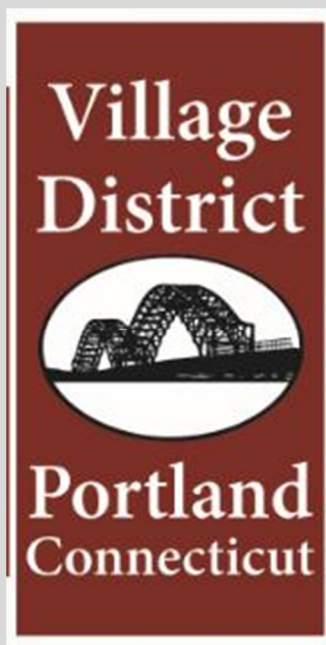
Veterans Business Network:

www.veteransbusinessnetwork.com



New Banners Coming to the Village District

The Streetscape Project in the Village District is expected to be completed by the end of October. In anticipation of the addition of new banner poles, the EDC has designed and purchased new banners. The banners will be affixed to poles from the bridge to the Post Office and help to better define our designated Village District. A sample of the new banners appears below:



Thinking About a New Business or Business Expansion?

Before you invest too much time or money, visit the Planning Office at Town Hall. The Planning Office can provide you with zoning and permit requirements and help you find an appropriate location for your business. Once you have a business plan and a location in mind, Tuesday nights are a great time to meet with the Development Team at the Town Hall to discuss plans for a prospective new business or to expand your existing business!

Our Development Team can give you an overview of the approval process and provide you with the technical information required to complete your project. To schedule a meeting with the Development Team, including the Fire Marshal, Building Official, Planner, Director of Public Works, Sanitarian, and Economic Development Consultant, contact Deanna Rhodes, Planning & Land Use Administrator at (860) 342-6720.



The **Portland Business Journal** is a quarterly publication of the **Economic Development Commission**. Issues are published in March, June, September, and December and are available at portlandct.org. If you have ideas for future articles, notices for meetings or events for the **Portland Business Journal**, please contact Mary D. Dickerson, EDC Consultant by e-mail at: [marydickerson @yahoo.com](mailto:marydickerson@yahoo.com).