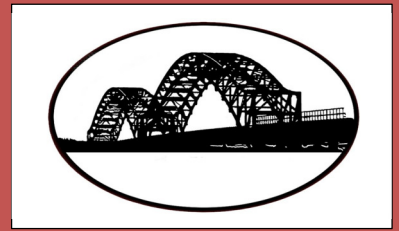


The Portland Business Journal

Summer Edition 2011

A Publication of the Portland Economic Development Commission



Summer Events Scheduled in the Village District

A number of free summer events will take place in and around the Village District. Mark your calendars and make plans with family and friends to enjoy some summer fun!

Tuesday, July 5th @ 6:30 p.m.- Family Movie Showing. The Library will be showing the newly released, **Yogi Bear** on the big screen in the Mary Flood Room.

Tuesday, July 19th @ 6:30 p.m.- Portland Library will present a drumming event with **Bob Bloom!** With a variety of instruments and beats, Bob will lead the group in a hands on drumming experience that they won't soon forget! This program will be held on the Portland Town Green.

Tuesday, July 26th @ 6:30 p.m.- Portland Library presents **Riverside Reptiles with Naturalist, Brian Kleinman.** Explore the world of snakes and amphibians through hands on experiments and expert training. This program will be held on the Portland Town Green.

Saturday, August 6th @ 5:00 p.m.- The Friends of the Portland Library will present the **4th Annual, Shakespeare Festival** featuring, *Measure for Measure*. This festival will be held on the Portland Town Green, *in case of rain, the program will move to the Brownstone Intermediate School.*

Tuesday, August 9th @ 6:30 p.m.- Portland Library and the Portland Parks and Recreation Department are proud to present the popular Beatles tribute band, **Ticket To Ride** for a concert and family picnic on the Portland Town Green. **The Rain date for this event is Tuesday, August 16th at 6:30 p.m**

Arrigoni Bridge Work Now Underway

The much anticipated Arrigoni Bridge reconstruction project began on June 6th. The project will be completed in three phases and is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2012.

The Middlesex Corporation of Littleton, Massachusetts was awarded the \$16.9 million contract. Much of the project will be completed using a work platform suspended below the bridge. The platform will allow works to replace the concrete and steel of the bridge deck. Bearings, expansion joints, and sidewalks will also be replaced and the bridge pedestals will be repaired.

Safety barriers have been erected on the bridge deck, reducing the number of travel lanes from four to two. Pedestrian traffic will also be impacted, as only one sidewalk will be open at a time. Traffic delays can be expected, especially during peak commuting hours. Updates on the project and alternate routes are available from the Connecticut DOT website at www.ct.gov/dot/Arrigoni. Specific questions, comments, or concerns should be sent to DOT.Arrigoni@ct.gov.

The *Brownstone Bottle Shop* is Second Village District Building to be Transformed by Local Resident

When the Brownstone Bottle Shop, located at 220 Main Street, held its Grand Opening on May 23rd, many were stunned by the change in the buildings appearance. The building owner, Portland resident John Sullivan, completed a dramatic renovation of the property before the opening. In addition to a total interior renovation, a driveway was added to the north side of the building to allow for ample customer parking in the rear. The landscaping, including new sod and window boxes, and window awnings, have created one of the most attractive buildings in the Village District.

Mr. Sullivan is no stranger to dramatic renovations. Last year, he purchased an office building at 254 Main Street and quickly transformed the bland façade. The addition of bright blue awnings and attractive landscaping was immediately noticed by those traveling Main Street. The two renovations are wonderful examples of the potential of many older buildings.

Owners of *Wheeler Farm Gardens* Enjoy Their Last Season

Bill and Evelyn Larson, owner of Wheeler Farm Gardens located at 171 Bartlett Street are saying goodbye to their long-time customers. The greenhouse and garden center opened in 1968 and quickly gained a following offering a quality product and exceptional service. The addition of an authentic Japanese Garden and an assortment of friendly and colorful animals made it an attraction for even those who never developed a green thumb.

The garden center opened on May 7th with a small assortment of plants, shrubs, and their famous hanging geraniums. Once the stock is sold out, the store will close as the owners undertake a much deserved retirement.



Did You Know?

Small businesses are responsible for more than half of innovations developed during the 20th Century, including the zipper, the helicopter, and the personal computer

Source: The National Telecommunications & Information Administration

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”.

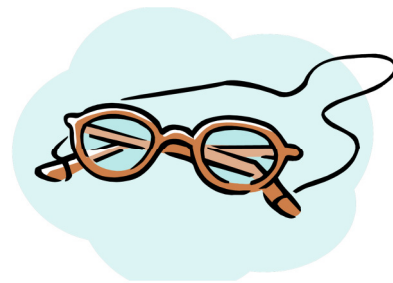
Winners receive a sign to be displayed in front of their business and a press release is sent to the local newspapers and media outlets. Nominating a business is a great way to say thank you to our business owners and their staff!

Dr. Louis Neumann Honored as a Community Partner

Louis R. Neumann, OD, of Portland, was honored as a member of the EDC's “Community Partners Program” for 2011 at the Commission's May meeting.

An optometrist, Dr. Neumann specializes in vision exams and the treatment of vision disorders, as well as prescribing and fitting corrective glasses and lenses.

His offices are located at 511 Main Street, the office may be reached at (860) 342-3224. The “Community Partners Program” recognizes local businesses for their charitable contributions to the community.



Did You Know?

66% of shoppers say summer or spring are the seasons they spend more money (excluding holidays).

--WSL Strategic Retail, June 2006

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Portland's business community represents a diverse spectrum, ranging from industry to technology, and from retail to tourism. The Economic Development Commission, or EDC, represents a partnership between citizens, town officials and the business community to foster and promote the economic growth of our community.

Economic development is a process that takes great vision, teamwork, and follow through. The participation of business owners, community members, and town government is essential to our success. The EDC meets the second 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.

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.