

Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2008

Farmers Market Opens May 17

May 17 is the opening day for Farmers Market & More in downtown Port Austin.

According to Market Manager, John Pridnia, this year's market will operate for 24 consecutive Saturdays, with October 25 being the official closing date.

"The Market is going to be bigger and better than ever!" added Pridnia. He has 355 registered vendors and anticipates well over 100 will participate each week.

In order to keep things running smoothly, adequate volunteer workers are needed every Saturday. Time slots include in the morning (from 6:00 to 8:00 a.m.) and in the afternoon from (1:00 to 2:00 p.m.). If you could help out at either time, please contact Pridnia by the Friday before to let him know you are available.

The morning shift includes managing traffic and parking, assisting in unloading, and set up. The afternoon shift involves assisting in putting away equipment and supplies and making sure the area is cleaned up.

If you or someone you know is interested in setting up a booth at the Market, please contact John Pridnia for a registration form. His cell phone number is 989-768-0123.

Port Austin's Farmers Market is one of the largest in the state of Michigan. Featuring fresh produce, baked goods, fish, honey, syrups, jams, candies, flowers and plants, arts and crafts, outdoor furniture, antiques and collectibles, jewelry, used books and much more – it attracts thousands of people to the Village. Scheduled throughout the season are special displays, demonstrations, children's activities, puppet shows, live music and dancing. In addition, every Saturday, Knoblock Riding Stable provides free horse and wagon rides around town.

Spread the word to your family, friends and customers – don't miss the Port Austin Farmers Market & More!



EVENTS – We need the details!!

Thanks to all of the individuals and organizations that provided information for the 2008 Schedule of Events for the Visitor's Guide.

Now we need your assistance again...this time we need the details! Let us know all you can about your event – the time, place, whether it is free or there's a cost, what is going on, who is the sponsor, etc. If you only know SOME of the details right now – that's okay – just update us when you know more. Right now, for most events, we have only the date it is taking place. ANY additional information is helpful.

We will put the details on the chamber website www.port-austinarea.com and also be sure that we promote it in the newsletter, in email reminders, etc.

The Chamber office gets many calls from people wanting to know the details about upcoming events – the more information we have the better it is for the caller, for us – and for you or your organization. Callers appreciate not having to make extra phone calls to get the information they are looking for. Please email pacofc@airadv.net – or call 989-738-7600.

Harbor Festival and Water Trails Events Planned for June 6-7-8

An expanded Port Austin Harbor Festival will take place on Saturday, June 7 this year. It coincides with the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail Festival which is being held in Port Austin this year on June 6, 7 and 8.

Both of these events will be headquartered in the Port Austin Harbor and Veterans Waterfront Park areas.

YOUR support and participation is encouraged in order to make both of these events a success. EVERYONE is encouraged to get involved in some way. Examples: “specials” on restaurant menus, “coupons” or special discounts at retail stores, window displays, sponsoring or chairing an event, donating items for contests or giveaways, etc.

Showcasing our harbor is an important element of the festival, according to Chamber president, Dave Dybowski. “We hope to attract thousands of people to town that weekend to participate in the many activities we have scheduled. We want people to go down to the harbor area and check things out.”

That weekend is a “Free Fishing Weekend” in the state of Michigan. People of any age will be able to fish without having to purchase a license. Dybowski is hoping to attract lots of participants and spectators of all ages at a free Fishing Clinic on Saturday. Various stations will be set up to talk about and demonstrate equipment, techniques, live and artificial bait, reading the water, ethics, knot tying and cleaning and filleting fish.

The Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail group will give a demonstration on kayaking on Saturday also.

A diving demonstration, headed by Chris Roth, is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Roth will also do a presentation on Shipwrecks in Lake Huron.

Other events in the planning stages are a navigation seminar, geo caching, a wooden boat display, a downtown historical walking tour, a dog trainer and a non-motorized boat race on Bird Creek.

Young children are invited to a puppet show on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Civic Center. It is called “Mermaids, Pirates & Storms: A History of the Port Austin Lighthouse,” presented by S&D Puppetry. It is sponsored by the Port Austin Community Players and is free.

The Tip of the Thumb Water Trails group will set up on Friday at Veterans Waterfront Park, where many of them will be camping. The Kayakers have a number of activities planned specifically for their festival including sunrise/sunset paddles, group paddles, a scavenger hunt, a bonfire and entertainment. If you are interested in participating in the group’s activities, please contact Chris Boyle at cboylelaw@yahoo.com Pre-registration is required.



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

There are many things you can do to help make this year’s Harbor Festival a success, as well as add to the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail Festival events. Some suggestions are listed below:

Come up with a “special” (on your menu if you serve food – or single out a product or service)

Come up with a “coupon” which offers some sort of special or discount on a product or service

Offer to sponsor or co-sponsor an event.

Donate a prize for a contest (note: prizes do not need to be elaborate - we are looking for both merchandise and certificates to use for door prizes and for contest winners)

Volunteer to chair or work on an event

PLEASE contact the Chamber by May 1 to let us know what you would be willing to do so we can complete our promotional materials. Coupons, flyers and donated merchandise and certificates should be in by June 1. Thanks!

CHECK OUT THE CHAMBER WEBSITE: www.portaustinarea.com

As a Chamber member, your business information is automatically included in your member category on the Chamber's website at www.portaustinarea.com

This listing includes your business name, physical address, mailing address, phone numbers, fax number, email address, website address, name of contact person, etc. If any of this information is missing from your listing or needs to be changed, please feel free to contact the Chamber office with the information to be added or edited.

Photos and a business description can be included next to your business name for a nominal fee (\$30 for initial set up). Plus, you can add additional photos and descriptions for \$5 each (up to 10 photos and descriptions).

For an example – go to the website – Click on “Attractions” – then click on “Lighthouses.” The Port Austin Reef Light has a photo next to its name. Plus, when you click on the name, you go to a page that is just on the lighthouse itself, with a photo and information. Click on “image gallery” to the right, and it will take you to a page with additional photos at the lighthouse.

For business examples - click on “Directory” – then “Lodging.” Econo Lodge, Fort Tranquil Sands and The Shores all have photos. Fort Tranquil Sands and The Shores also have additional photos in their “image gallery.”

If you are interested in adding photos to the Chamber website, please email the office at pacofc@airadv.net



A very special thank you to Knoblock Riding Stable for providing free horse-drawn wagon rides for special events and every Saturday at Farmers Market....a very popular attraction for all ages. THANK YOU!

Newspaper Ads in Macomb and Oakland County to Continue

Michel Ricou has agreed to chair the “special newspaper ads” program. The first ad will run the first week of May.

Started by Rene Nichols last fall, the ads were successful in promoting area events in November, December and January and were embraced by those businesses and organizations that participated. At a cost of only \$20 per business for each ad, participants felt that it was money well-spent.

You should be receiving details about this program in the next few days. The cost to Chamber members will be \$150 TOTAL and is due by April 14.. This will eliminate having to work month by month to contact advertisers.

For more information, you can reach Michel at ricou@centurytel.net - or Rene at bluesprucemotelportaustin@msn.com - or Steve at sschmidt73@hotmail.com



Is it a Deal????

Because of the overwhelming popularity of the “Is It A Deal - Or No Deal?” extravaganza during the Winter Chill Thrill --- there will definitely be a repeat! THANK YOU to all who helped make it a success!

And please note - the “Port Austin Beauties” will be decked out in PURPLE next time - so be on the look out for possible outfits. The Port Austin Community Playhouse has a designated spot for the purple dresses - so start looking!

TIDBITS

Mark Your Calendar - April 2008

April

7 Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at 5:30 p.m. at the Civic Center

19 Free Antique & Collectible Appraisals – at The Bank 1884

22 The Bards of Bird Creek Poetry Reading, at the Port Austin Township Library – everyone welcome -

25 “Don’t Drink the Water” – spring comedy at the Port Austin Community Playhouse. Runs April 25, 26, 27 & May 2, 3, 4

26 Spring Clean-up at the Huron County Nature Center

COMING SOON:

*Don’t forget that Farmers Market & More opens for the season on Saturday, May 17

*Spring Breakout Class Car Show is May 16 – 18

*Annual Bocce Ball Tournament is June 17 & 18

An added note – if you have a “regularly scheduled” event (bingo, cards, karaoke, your organization’s meetings – whatever) ---please let us know the days, times, etc. We frequently receive inquiries concerning events not on the Visitor’s Guide calendar. Any information we can offer is appreciated by callers.

Huron City Museums

Huron City Museums is looking for part-time workers at the museums this summer. If you are interested in applying, please contact Patty Finan: mpfinan@centurytel.net

Also, Patty is looking for some volunteers for several events - please contact her if you could donate a few hours of your time.

Historical Society

The Port Austin Area Historical Society is sponsoring the Kelly Miller Circus on August 14. They wanted to let area businesses know that representatives from the circus will be making contacts in the area soon to get sponsors for tickets.

Greater Port Austin Area Chamber of Commerce

Phone: (989)738-7600

E-Mail: pacofc@airadv.net

Web: www.portaustinarea.com

Office hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

2008 Chamber Board Members

President:	Dave Dybowski - 553-4535
Vice President:	Michel Ricou - 738-8729
Treasurer:	LaNette Wiese - 874-4500
Secretary:	Lori Babcock - 550-7936
Trustee:	Laura Mayes - 738-5136
Trustee:	Steve Schmidt - 738-5235
Trustee:	Pam Gabriel - 738-5254

Please Update Your E-Mail

If you do not receive Chamber information via e-mail and have an e-mail address please contact the office so that we can add you to the list. Contacting members by e-mail is a very efficient and a cost effective way of keeping our members informed with up to date information.



Thanks to everyone who helped out on this year’s Chamber Easter Egg Hunt at Gallup Park!