



**PRESS RELEASE:** Small Business Saturday in Downtown Erie

**Date:** Saturday, November 29, 2014

**Location:** Erie Downtown Partnership District (Lake to 14<sup>th</sup> Street; Holland to Sassafras)

**Interview Opportunity Available on Saturday, November 29, 2014 between 10AM & Noon:**

- 1) Debbie Bliley, Impromptu at the Renaissance Center – 1001 State Street
- 2) Danielle Randall, experience Children's Museum – 420 French Street
- 3) Jan Niebauer, Ralph Miller Jewelers - 28 West 8<sup>th</sup> Street

**Erie Downtown Partnership Promotes Small Business Saturday in Downtown Erie**

The Erie Downtown Partnership is excited to be hosting its second annual Small Business Saturday initiative! The long weekend after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping period of the year as people get ready for the holiday season. And this Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> the Erie Downtown Partnership is asking you to spend it Downtown!

You may be familiar with the national Small Business Saturday campaign that promotes shopping at small, local, brick and mortar businesses the Saturday after Black Friday. With such a concentration of small businesses in Downtown Erie, it's the logical spot to spend this day. Look for the Small Business Saturday window signs and balloons at your favorite local retailers and restaurants.

"In a time where you can buy virtually anything online, shopping Downtown is about the experience and the atmosphere. It's an activity you do to spend time with friends and family and to enjoy the holiday season." said John Buchna, CEO of the Erie Downtown Partnership.

"We're not here to boycott national retailers or shopping malls. Some people get a rush out of the crowds at the Malls and Big Box stores; the competition to be first in line, the heavily discounted electronics, and the early morning camp outs for this year's hot item. But, many of us appreciate the historic storefronts, the brisk stroll along the downtown streets, the unique and personal gifts, and the cozy pubs and eclectic coffee spots. You might not find Tickle Me Elmo or the latest Xbox Game, but you will find hand-blown glass décor by local artisans, attractive clothing at boutique style shops, a jersey of your favorite local sports star and tickets to your favorite musical."

To see all the participating businesses, visit [www.eriedowntown.com](http://www.eriedowntown.com) and go to SHOP, DINE and PLAY.

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