

PORTAGER

A Natural Place to Move



A Message from Mayor Patricia M. Randall

My boys never received an allowance while living at home, probably because I never received one growing up. Comparing farm chores – feeding and watering livestock, milking cows, bailing hay, hauling wood, collecting eggs, mucking a stall, tending a large vegetable garden, etc. – to suburban chores didn’t even warrant consideration. Thank goodness they never asked for it (they knew me too well).

Learning the value of money and a consistent income flow is important. So, as soon as they could peddle an adult-sized bike, they were scouting around for a part time job. They each learned valuable life skills at each job they had, as I observed from afar. A part-time position working in an Italian tux shop taught my oldest son two skills on his first day on the job, which I had been unable to do for years: the proper way to hang pants on a hanger and the correct position pants belong on the waist benefit him to this day. Sub sandwich maker, ice cream scooper, retail clerk, landscaper (a.k.a. mulch mover), waiter, etc. provided a plethora of knowledge and maybe even motivation to do something else in the future.

Three sons and numerous jobs over the years all had one thing in common: their employers were all small, locally owned businesses. My sons depended upon small businesses to fill their gas tanks, provide spending money and ultimately add to their college funds.

The City of Portage has more than 2000 small businesses, based on the number of personal property tax submissions. In the United States there are over 30 million small businesses. We are encouraged to shop local, eat local, and create an environment that encourages and supports small businesses. There are multiple reasons for this, but seven rise to the top:

- » Stimulate the local economy: for every dollar spent, seventy-three cents stays local
- » Create more jobs by hiring local talent
- » Generosity with local charities: small businesses donate 250% more than large businesses. (Donations to our Portage Zhang Senior Center is a testament to our “Mom and Pop” shops.)
- » Better customer service (value customers with a personalized approach)
- » Nurture innovation and growth (it’s survival of the fittest)
- » Support the American dream by aspiring to, then achieving the highest of individual goals

We recognize the contribution our small businesses make to our community and are grateful that they have chosen Portage to pursue their dreams. During our Council goal-setting retreat this year we decided to resurrect the Small Business Committee to better understand how we can continue to support our business owners in this changing environment. This sub-committee, comprised of Council members Jihan Young and Nicole Miller, will be a conduit to the full council. There will be greater outreach to our local business owners, with identifying their needs being the number one adjective. This council is committed to supporting, retaining and recruiting small business in our community.

I am proud of the men my sons have become and I have gratitude for the many small business owners who hired them, trained them and paid them. The lessons they learned is beyond measure. Please support our local business community and maybe someday you will recognize your child or a neighbor’s kid behind the counter. How great is that!

– Patricia M. Randall

Signage Rules in Portage City Council to Consider Fee for Violations

The City of Portage is committed to upholding the appearance and maintenance of its neighborhoods, public spaces, and infrastructure. To safeguard against blight caused by unauthorized signs, Portage enforces regulations to preserve the aesthetic appeal and functionality of its streets and surroundings. While businesses have the right to promote their offerings through signage, it’s crucial to note that posting signs in the city’s right-of-way is prohibited.

What exactly is a right-of-way? Typically, it refers to the strip of land between the curb and sidewalk, designated as public property. Any signs placed in this area or on other specified “No Sign Zones” like medians, park property, or roadways are considered illegal.

The city’s regulations extend to prohibit signs, bills, advertisements, and notices from being affixed to both



city-owned and privately-owned telecommunications equipment, street light poles, traffic signal systems, traffic control cabinets, or sign poles. Aside from causing damage to city infrastructure, these unauthorized signs can also

pose safety hazards by distracting drivers and ending up in unintended places such as gutters, storm sewer grates, streets, or sidewalks. Moreover, using tacks and staples to hang these signs can create safety risks for utility workers.

In the coming weeks, the Portage City Council will consider revising the city’s sign ordinance to include the ability for the City Administration to levy a fine to businesses and individuals who violate the ordinance.

Just like graffiti and litter, sign blight can create a negative perception of our community. To maintain Portage’s reputation as a clean and welcoming place, we urge everyone to refrain from posting illegal signs in public rights-of-way and on telecommunication equipment.

If you want to learn more about sign regulations or obtain a permit to install a sign legally, please visit portagemi.gov/178. To report an illegal sign, you can go to reportit.portagemi.gov.

Let’s work together to keep Portage litter free and ensure it remains *A Natural Place to Move!*

Healthy Neighborhoods Create Great Communities

Be a Neighborhood Steward

The adage goes that fences create good neighbors, but in truth, good neighbors themselves make for good communities. Enhancing the quality of life in your neighborhood and fostering neighborly relations can be achieved through various simple gestures, making Portage *A Natural Place to Move!*



- » Maintain lawns and swimming pools. One of the most frequent complaints the city receives in the summer pertains to lawn maintenance. City ordinances require that lawns be no longer than eight inches. In addition, the Code of Ordinances requires that swimming pools be clean and kept free of floating material, sediment, scum, and debris.
- » Remove or properly store trash and debris. The city regularly investigates complaints regarding the outdoor storage of refuse and trash. Please ensure that all such items are properly disposed of in an approved trash

- receptacle or otherwise removed from the property.
- » Regularly maintain painted building surfaces such as walls, windows, and trim; repair siding and roofing; and clean rain gutters.
- » Observe local regulations, including building and zoning codes. Do you have an idea for a summer project? Check with the Department of Community Development to determine if a permit will be required for your project. Staff are available to help residents bring a concept to reality.
- » Remove inoperable vehicles or store them in a garage. Park all vehicles on an improved driveway surface. The third most common complaint received during the summer months concerns parking and inoperable vehicles. Questions about where a vehicle may be parked or stored or driveway expansions can be directed to the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.
- » Do not block driveways, mailboxes, or **sidewalks** with cars, trucks, RVs, boats, or landscaping equipment. **It is also illegal to park vehicles in the street for more than 48 hours, as regulated under Michigan Vehicle Code as adopted by the city.**
- » Keep pets on a leash or confined to a secured yard. Clean up after pets and curtail excessive dog barking.
- » Avoid playing loud music or operating power tools during early morning or late-night hours.

- » Store refuse and recycling containers in a conspicuous location after collection. City ordinance does not permit garbage containers to be stored at the curb.
- » Assist elderly or disabled neighbors with these tasks that may prove challenging for them, like gutter cleaning, leaf raking, or moving garbage containers to and from the street.

The City of Portage has established community quality, housing, and property maintenance codes to achieve and maintain the livability and appearance of the community. If you have a neighborhood issue or concern that you wish to report, visit reportit.portagemi.gov or contact the Department of Community Development at 329-4477.

Desirable neighborhoods are important building blocks for a great community. Neighborhood quality starts with the efforts of its residents. Be a neighborhood steward and you will find that the example you set will rub off on your neighbors!

The City of Portage has an outstanding Housing Assistance program that provides funding to qualified homeowners for improvements and repairs! Call the Department of Community Development at 324-9280 for more information.

Enjoy Safe Outdoor Fires in Portage



As the weather warms up, it’s the perfect time to gather around a cozy outdoor fire with friends and family. Whether you’re roasting marshmallows or simply enjoying the warmth, outdoor fires can be a delightful experience. To ensure everyone’s safety and enjoyment, here are some important guidelines to follow:

- » Recreational fires are permitted at various type locations, including single-family dwellings, churches, and schools for special events.
- » Before starting an outdoor fire, be sure to obtain a permit as outlined in Section 34-94 of the Portage Code of Ordinances and Section 307 of the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC). The Portage Fire Division conducts site inspections to ensure safety and issues two-year permits to property owners. (You may use commercially manufactured fire containers without a permit but be sure to follow the remaining guidelines.)

- » Choose an approved fire pit location, ensuring it is 36 inches or less, 25 feet away from any structure and property line, and made of non-combustible construction materials.
- » Keep a responsible adult in charge of the fire until it’s completely extinguished.
- » Keep fire piles small, no larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet high.
- » Always have a garden hose connected to a water supply nearby.
- » Be mindful of wind speeds; fires are prohibited when winds exceed 10 mph.
- » Wrap up your fires before midnight for everyone’s safety and comfort.
- » Fires are for recreational or cooking purposes only, avoiding burning yard waste, construction materials or trash.

Remember, as a permit holder, you are responsible for compliance with regulations and addressing any concerns from neighbors. Let’s keep our community safe and happy and ensure that everyone enjoys outdoor fires responsibly and safely. So, go ahead, gather ‘round, and make some memories by the fire!

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Portage produces an Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for review by Portage Water System customers, pursuant to requirements of the Federal “Safe Drinking Water Act.” The City of Portage welcomes the opportunity to demonstrate the excellent level of water quality delivered to Portage residents and utility customers.

The 2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report can be viewed at portagemi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5689. To receive a paper copy of the report or have questions about the annual review, please call the Department of Transportation & Utilities at 329-4422.



A Citizen’s Guide to Stormwater Management

What Is Stormwater and What Pollutes It?

Rain falls and snow melts across hard and impervious surfaces like driveways and sidewalks that do not allow water to soak into the ground. The water flows to storm sewers or catch basins which direct it to a natural water body such as a wetland, river, pond, or lake. Stormwater carries salt, grass clippings, sediment, fertilizer, oils, pet waste, and other materials left on surfaces into catch basins.

Stormwater is different from the greywater from toilets and sinks which is taken to a treatment plant before discharging into our natural water bodies.

What Else Can Pollute Our Waterways?

Fecal coliform bacteria is a serious concern. We commonly hear about a strain of bacteria called E. coli, an indicator of the presence of disease-causing bacteria, which inhabits the digestive system of humans and animals but can also be found in sewage. Every so often, sanitary sewers have been incorrectly connected to storm drains, which then cause sewage to enter waterways. During major storms, leaks and cracks occur that allow stormwater to flow into our sanitary sewer system and overwhelm the treatment plan causing sewage overflows. Correcting these problems is time-consuming and expensive, but together, our community works actively to restore them.

Common Stormwater Pollutants

1 PESTICIDES

Pesticides are toxic chemicals that are harmful to the watersheds and environment when not used or disposed of properly.

2 LITTER

By not disposing of trash properly, it will eventually become litter and make its way into storm drains and contaminate local and distant waterways.

3 MOTOR OIL

When oil leaks are not fixed, the toxic oil will find its way to our watershed, and often harms plants and animals it meets.

4 PET WASTE

Pet waste carries bacteria, viruses, and parasites to our water that can threaten the health of humans and wildlife.

5 SOAP/DETERGENTS

Washing cars in our driveway creates soapy runoff that picks up pollutants and eventually goes untreated to rivers via storm drains.

The City of Portage is part of the Kalamazoo Stormwater Working Group which is a collaborative effort of outreach and education in the Kalamazoo County area. Visit the website at protectyourwater.net/kswg to learn more.

For more information on the city’s Storm Water Management Plan and to take our survey, please visit the Storm Water Management web page at portagemi.gov/306.

5 Simple Ways to Protect Our Watershed

1. Wash your car on the lawn (or take advantage of car washes, which send water to the sanitary sewer and the wastewater treatment plant). The oils and dirt you wash off your car can harm aquatic life and animals if it flows directly into the storm drain. Grass acts as a filter for these pollutants and you will water your lawn at the same time!
2. Check your vehicles for oil and fuel leaks. Rain will wash the grease and oil drippings from your driveway into storm drains which flow straight into our waterways.
3. Limit your fertilizer and pesticide use and make it a habit to sweep up your grass clippings so that they do not deposit into a catch basin. Pesticides and fertilizers are some of the biggest pollutants in our water bodies.
4. Clean up after pets! Parasites, pathogens, and bacteria from pet waste can easily wash into catch basins and discharge into rivers and lakes without being treated.
5. Remember: *Only rain down the drain!* Never allow anything but natural rainwater to flow into a catch basin. Please use a trash can. Even if it is a minor inconvenience for you, it benefits the people and creatures who share Michigan’s rivers and lakes.

Flying Drones Safely in Portage

The city is experiencing an increase in the use of drones for recreational and commercial flying, sometimes resulting in incidents involving the unsafe operation of drones. While the city does not restrict drone use by the public, all drone pilots are reminded that safe flying is the law, and the penalties can be severe.



Drone pilots must at minimum:

- » Possess the required FAA certifications and drone registrations
- » Receive authorization before each flight via LAANC
- » Be considerate of park users and other visitors to public spaces
- » Refrain from interfering with Public Safety operations
- » Fly the drone in a safe manner that does not endanger personal safety or property
- » Fly below the designated ceiling for the area of operation.
- » Refrain from flying over people
- » Refrain from flying over private property without the owner’s permission

Federal Aviation Administration regulations can be found at faa.gov/uas.

Whether you are flying for fun or work, know the rules to help you fly safely.

Flower Planting Volunteer Opportunities

Join us in beautifying the City Centre and the PCBP Trailhead with vibrant summer blooms! We’re calling for volunteers to help us with two crucial tasks that will create a stunning display for residents and visitors alike to enjoy.

Flower Planting Days

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 11, and Wednesday, May 15, through Friday, May 17, from 9 AM to 12 PM. We need your green thumbs to plant annual flowers and mulch the flower beds at City Centre and the PCBP trailhead. Don’t forget to bring along your trowel, gloves, and bucket if you have them, although we’ll have extras on hand. Registering in advance is encouraged at kalamazooinbloom.org/events,

Spring Collection Reminders

The **Brush & Bagged Leaf Collection Program** runs May 6 - 31. View collection dates and complete program details at portagemi.gov/280.

Reminders

- » The May collection includes the pickup of leaves and ornamental grasses in biodegradable paper bags
- » Place brush at the curb by 7 AM on Monday of the designated week but not more than 72 hours before 7 AM on Monday
- » A small amount of debris may remain at the curb following brush collection; please assist with the final cleanup

where you can also find details on parking and meeting locations for each day. Check-in and on-site registration will begin at 9 AM. Water and snacks will be provided by Kalamazoo in Bloom!

Adopt-a-Bed

For those with a green thumb and a bit more time to spare, consider joining our Adopt-a-Bed program. Volunteers in this program will “adopt a bed” in the Portage City Centre area and care for it throughout the season by weeding and deadheading as needed. Kalamazoo in Bloom gardeners will handle the watering, and as a thank you, bed adopters will be recognized with their names displayed on a flower bed sign all summer long.

To sign up for either of these rewarding opportunities or to get more information, visit kalamazooinbloom.org/events or call Kalamazoo in Bloom at 548-6232.

Brush & Leaf Drop Off Day is Saturday, June 1 from 9 AM to 1 PM at the Oakland Drive Compost Facility. Portage residents may drop off leaves bagged in biodegradable paper bags and brush. Brush and leaves must be separated. Staff from the Department of Public Works will be on-site to direct residents to the appropriate location to deposit materials. The compost facility is located on Oakland Drive, just south of West Osterhout Avenue. Visit portagemi.gov/811 for more information.



YOUR BACKYARD IS BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Portage Parks & Recreation Events, Camps & Classes

1,000 Acres. 20 Parks. One City.

To find out more and register online, visit mypark.portagemi.gov and click the REGISTER NOW! button.

Yoga 4 Life

Join personal fitness trainer Josie Moorlag in this monthly yoga class for adults of all experience levels. Yoga is an excellent way to relax, refocus, improve your strength, balance, flexibility, and help manage pain. Students are asked to bring their yoga mats and water and wear comfortable exercise clothing. Adults age 18+. Maximum of 20 participants.

- » Tuesdays, May 7 - 28, 7 - 8 PM
- » Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane)
- » \$59 per participant/session (Registration Required)

Self-Guided Bike Expeditions

Celebrate Kalamazoo Area Bike Week and enjoy the many benefits of cycling during National Bike Month. Pick up a FREE copy of Bike Expeditions during normal business hours. at Portage Parks & Recreation (320 Library Lane) and enjoy self-guided bike tours at your leisure. This program launches Friday, May 10, and continues all year long. Expeditions include The Dry Prairie Loop, The Pioneer Trail, The Flight Tour, and Plank Road.

- » Begins Friday, May 10
- » FREE (No registration required)

Nature Hike: Frequent Fliers

Celebrate Migratory Bird Day by taking a stroll (1 to 3 miles) through Eliason Nature Reserve. This program includes a presentation from a biologist from the Air Zoo, with a focus on birding vocabulary and bird anatomy. Learn about avian flyways, the best migratory “pit stops” in our area, and ways to support our avian friends during their epic journeys. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars, notebooks, and pencils, and wear appropriate attire for the weather, including waterproof footwear.

- » Saturday, May 11, 2:30 - 3:30 PM
- » Eliason Nature Reserve (1614 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » FREE (Registration Required)



Mayor’s Ride

In collaboration with the 2024 Kalamazoo Bicycle Show, the Mayor’s Ride will depart from Bronson Park and tour around Kalamazoo where you will hear future plans for bike infrastructure in the county. For more information about this program, visit kalamazoo.org/Community/Events-Meetings/Bicycle-Show.

- » Saturday, May 11, 10:30 AM
- » Bronson Park, 200 South Rose Street, Kalamazoo
- » FREE (No registration required)

Explore Archery for Adults

Aim for the target! This four-week introductory archery program is for adults interested in learning basic archery skills and safety using the USA Archery method. Bows and arrows will be provided for those who don’t have them. Space is limited, so don’t wait to sign up. Adults 18+. Maximum of 12 participants.

- » Wednesdays, May 15 - June 5, 6 - 7 PM
- » Schrier Park (850 West Osterhout Avenue)
- » \$59 per participant (Registration required)

Smart Cycling

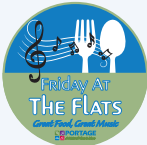
Ride smarter, learn from the pros, and gear up for a great summer full of safe cycling. Learn the basics of safe, smart cycling from League Certified Instructors, with a curriculum certified by the League of American Bicyclists. This course, taught by riders with extensive experience, will provide instruction on the following topics: basic bike fit, inspection, maintenance, safe and legal riding in traffic, skill building, bike safety, and crash prevention. Participants must be 18 years or older and bring their own bike and helmet. This program involves bicycling with instructors on roads that have bike lanes, as well as in parking lots. An online portion of this course must be completed before the in-person session. This course is also a prerequisite to become a League Certified Instructor.

- » Saturday, May 18, 9 AM - 3 PM
- » Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue)
- » \$50 per participant (Registration required)

Adult Pickleball Beginner Clinic

See what all the hype is about! New Pickleball players will learn how to play the game with a few basic game strategies and drills. Participants must bring their own paddle. Pickleballs will be provided. Adults 18+. Maximum 45 participants.

- » Thursday, May 23, 5:30 - 7 PM
- » Ramona Park (8600 South Sprinkle Road)
- » \$40 per participant (Registration required by May 22)



Friday at the Flats

Friday at the Flats is back at the Celery Flats Pavilion! Join us on the fourth Friday of every month, May through August, for dinner and experience a range of food trucks and live, local musicians. Seating is limited, but lawn space is plentiful, so bring a blanket or chair. Be sure to stop by the Portage Arts & Crafts Market across the street at the Celery Flats Historical Area (see article below). Connect with your family and friends at Celery Flats through food, live music, and fun.

- » Friday, May 24, 4:30 - 8:30 PM
- » Celery Flats Pavilion (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)

Scalin’ Up for Summer

Portage Parks & Recreation kicks off the summer with the hit program, Scalin’ Up for Summer. Get an up-close encounter with various scaly creatures from reptiles to fish. This event has something for everyone! Explore the world of fishing and boating and learn about aquatic conservation. Learn fun facts about your favorite reptiles and their ideal habitats and participate in fun activities and crafts. Scalin’ Up for Summer is one of our favorite events of the season, and we think it will be yours too!

- » Saturday, June 8, 10 AM - 1 PM
- » Celery Flats (7335 Garden Lane)
- » FREE (No registration required)



Ready to Get Your Summer On? Ramona Park Beach Opening Day: May 24!

8600 South Sprinkle Road (½ Mile South of Centre Avenue)

Ramona Park Beach, located on the scenic shores of Long Lake, offers a sandy swim area with lifeguards, kayak, canoe, and paddleboard rentals, with concessions, picnic areas, beach volleyball, a playground, changing rooms, and more! Vehicle permits for entry into Ramona Park can be obtained on-site near the park entrance during regular beach hours.



Hours of Operation: 10 AM - 8 PM

- » Memorial Day Weekend, May 24 - 27
- » May 31 - June 2
- » June 7 - August 25
- » Labor Day Weekend, August 30 - September 2

Beach Area Rental & Admission Rates

- » City of Portage Residents **FREE!** (Proof of residency required)
- » Non-Resident Daily Permit \$10
- » Non-Resident Annual Permit \$45
- » Group Bus Daily Permit \$50
- » Beach Lounge Chair Rental \$5 for 2 hours
- » Beach Games \$5 for 2 hours (Kan Jam, Ladder Ball, Spikeball)

Kayak, Canoe & Paddleboard Rentals

Open daily on beach operating dates, 11 AM - 6 PM

All watercraft (life jackets included):

- » \$12 for first hour
- » \$5 each additional 30 minutes
- » \$36 flat rate for 4 - 6 hours

Market Days Ahead! Portage Farmers Market Opening Day – May 5

Mark your calendars! The Portage Farmers Market is back for its 9th season! We pride ourselves on offering you the freshest food and handmade products, rain or shine! Whether you’re looking forward to seeing familiar faces or excited to discover new flavors and experiences, the market has something for everyone.



Come support more than 30 vendors, including local farmers offering fruits, vegetables, meat, mushrooms, and eggs; specialty food producers with delicious baked goods, locally-produced cheese and syrups; and artisans selling

beautifully hand-crafted creations. The market runs every Sunday from 9 AM to 1 PM, May 5 through October 13, at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue). Make the Portage Farmers Market part of your Sunday routine!

Portage Arts & Crafts Market – May 24

Beautiful artwork, handmade crafts, lively music, and a stroll through the park in beautiful weather – is there any better way to kick off the summer season? Join us at the Portage Arts & Crafts Market on Friday, May 24 from 4:30 to 7 PM at the Celery Flats Historical Area (7335 Garden Lane) just across Garden Lane from Friday at the Flats. Grab dinner from local food trucks, listen to some tunes from area musicians, and find something beautiful and unique to take home with you.

Follow us on social media for market updates at Facebook [@PortageMarketMI](#) and Instagram [@PortageMarket](#).

May is National Bike Month

The City of Portage is proud to participate in the League of American Bicyclists National Bike Month. “Bike to Work Week” takes place May 13 to 19 and “Bike to Work Day” is on Friday, May 17. Watch our social media pages [@CityofPortageMI](#) for more details.

More than 100,000 people use the 25 miles of off-road trails in the Portage trail system each summer and the city also offers 38 miles of bicycle lanes, making Portage a great place to walk and ride. With the increasing use of these trails, trail etiquette becomes even more important for all users:

- » Bicyclists should stay to the right of the trail, unless passing others, making sure children on bikes are skilled enough to control the bike and don’t veer to the left.
- » Bicyclists should slow when approaching slower trail users, call out “passing on the left” and give time for users to move aside. In-line skaters should shorten their stride when encountering slower moving pedestrians.

- » Walk no more than two abreast to allow room for passing.
- » Walk your pet using a leash a maximum 6’ in length and be sure to pick up after them.
- » When stopping, move off to the shoulder of the trail to allow other users clear access. However, often the land adjacent to the trail is private property, so please don’t veer off the trail route.

Visit mypark.portagemi.gov to stay up to date on Portage Parks & Recreation bicycling programs, bicycle laws, and the [BIKEPORTAGE](#) bike rental station on the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park Trail just north of the Celery Flats Pavilion.

LOVE TO RIDE
KALAMAZOO COUNTY

We're on a mission to get the world on bikes, and we'd love to have you along for the ride. With **Love to Ride**, you can track your bike miles, see your carbon savings, set goals, and find help and support to ride more often. Visit www.lovetoride.net/kalamazoo to learn more and download the Love to Ride app.

PORTAGER

YOU HAVE MORE
FRIENDS
THAN YOU KNOW

Portage Zhang Senior Center Events, Activities & Classes

Explore More. Have Fun. Live Well.

Find us at 203 East Centre Avenue | [mypzsc.portagemi.gov](http://www.mypzsc.portagemi.gov) | To find out more or to register, call 329-4555

Experience a vital, vibrant community offering a wide variety of services and activities that match the needs of active older adults. Membership at the PZSC is open to anyone over the age of 50. Portage residency is not required. All events are held at the Portage Zhang Senior Center unless otherwise noted.

National Senior Health & Fitness Day

Get ready for a day filled with fun, fitness, and community connection! National Senior Health & Fitness Day is a great opportunity for older adults to prioritize their well-being and engage in activities that promote physical activity and healthy living. This event showcases the work of local organizations dedicated to improving the health and vitality of seniors in their communities. From low-impact exercises to health screenings, information workshops and lectures, and a social event to wrap up the day, we've got something for everyone.

- » Wednesday, May 29
- » FREE (Registration Required)

Sponsored by



Fitness Demo Schedule

- 11:00 - 11:30 AM Line Dancing
- 12:00 - 12:30 PM Body Rebound
- 12:00 - 1:00 PM BeMoved Dance Fitness
- 1:00 - 2:00 PM Cardio Drumming
- 1:00 - 1:30 PM Chair Yoga
- 1:30 - 2:00 PM Tai Chi
- 2:00 - 2:30 PM Mat Yoga
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM Tap Dancing
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM Agile Advantage
- 3:00 - 3:45 PM BARRE
- 4:00 - 4:30 PM Qigong
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM Lifetime Enhance Fitness
- 5:00 - 5:45 PM BARRE

Educational Lectures Schedule

- 12:00 - 12:45 PM Safe Exercise/Injury Prevention
- 1:00 - 1:45 PM Cardiovascular Health
- 2:00 - 2:45 PM Diabetes Education
- 3:00 - 3:45 PM Managing Stress
- 4:00 - 4:45 PM Nutrition

A Social Event Celebrating Your Healthy You

- 5:00 - 7:00 PM "Being Your Best Self"

PZSC Cars & Cocktails Fundraiser Car Show

Join us for an exciting evening at the PZSC Cars & Cocktails Car Show! We welcome anyone with cars, trucks, or motorcycles to register for this event, which is open to the public. All proceeds will benefit the annual Veterans Day Breakfast at the Air Zoo. Enjoy two cash bars, performances, bottled water, pop, food, and snacks for a small fee. We are grateful to Lest We Forget Our Vets, Inc, and Aetna for supporting this event. Parking for attendees is available on Brown Street, the PZSC overflow lot behind Dairy Queen, and the First Reformed Church parking lot. PZSC main parking is reserved only for car show participants. To register a vehicle visit [pzsccarsandcocktails.eventbrite.com](http://www.pzsccarsandcocktails.eventbrite.com) or call 548-4052.

Sponsored by



- » Friday, May 17, 4 - 7 PM
- » FREE and open to the public to attend
- » \$5 entry fee per competing car (Registration required)

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Sponsored by Absolute Homecare and Medical Staffing

Absolute Homecare and Medical Staffing is partnering with the PZSC to offer an American Red Cross Blood Drive. When registering, specify the "Portage Zhang Senior Center" as your location. Walk-in appointments are also available. For any questions, contact the American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan at 353-6180.



- » Friday, May 24, 10 AM – 4 PM
- » Register at 353-6180 or online at [redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)

Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Office

The Secretary of State Mobile Office will return to the Portage Zhang Senior Center to provide services to PZSC members on Friday, May 31. Appointments will be available between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM. Book a visit to complete your Secretary of State transactions, including renewing your driver's license, transferring a title, or applying for or renewing a disability placard.



- » Friday, May 31, 10 AM - 3 PM
- » Secretary of state fees vary (Registration required)



7900 South Westnedge Avenue
Portage, Michigan 49002-5160
[portagemi.gov](http://www.portagemi.gov) | (269) 329-4400

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ECRWSS

POSTAL CUSTOMER

Portage City Hall and all other
non-emergency city offices will
be closed on:

Employee Training Day

- » Friday, May 24

Memorial Day

- » Monday, May 27

*In the event of a police, fire or medical
emergency, please dial 9-1-1.*



Portage City Council

Portage City Council meetings are held twice a month on Tuesdays at 6 PM at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue) in Council Chambers and are always open to the public.



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The City Manager

The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city. Citizens are encouraged to contact the City Manager with concerns or complaints about city services by visiting [reportit.portagemi.gov](http://www.reportit.portagemi.gov) or by calling Complaint Resolution at 329-4404.

Televised City Meetings

City Council, Planning Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings can be viewed live on Spectrum channel 995 and AT&T channel 99. All meetings can be viewed via live streaming at [portagemi.gov/205](http://www.portagemi.gov/205).

MAY 2024

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|----|---------|---------------------------------|
| 2 | 7:00 PM | Planning Commission Meeting |
| 13 | 7:00 PM | Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting |
| 14 | 6:00 PM | City Council Meeting |
| 16 | 7:00 PM | Planning Commission Meeting |
| 28 | 6:00 PM | City Council Meeting |

The Portager

The *Portager* is the official publication of the City of Portage, used to inform residents of city services and events, as well as city projects that have significance to Portage citizens. The newsletter is published monthly and delivered to every mailbox in the 49002 and 49024 zip codes.

This month's front and back cover photo features Stuart Manor in the Celery Flats Historical Area.

PORTAGER Editor
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